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The Tech Awards names honorees

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Innovators in the technology industry from the United States, Namibia, the United Kingdom and India were honored Wednesday night at The Tech Awards in San Jose.

The signature event of The Tech Museum of Innovation, was sponsored by Santa Clara-based **Applied Materials Inc.** (NASDAQ:AMAT) and awarded \$250,000 to five technologists, educators, scientists and entrepreneurs who are using technology to improve our world.

“Through The Tech Awards program, we are committed to accelerating global innovation by investing in and recognizing technology-based solutions that are changing the world,” said Peter Friess, president of The Tech. “In addition to honoring the Laureates and their work with these awards, we will also be honoring them in a new Tech Awards gallery in the museum. The interactive exhibits and content in the gallery will be designed to provoke discussion about the challenges facing our world, and will use the Laureates’ stories and inventions to inspire an interest in science, math and engineering among all visitors that might lead to future humanitarian solutions.”

The Tech Awards 2008 cash prize recipients are:

Intel Environment Award

Biomass Energy Project, Cheetah Conservation Fund: Namibia-based Cheetah Conservation Fund uses technology to convert an invasive bush species into clean fuel while restoring habitats. Cheetah Conservation Fund’s Bush Project is a biomass processing plant that uses a high-pressure extrusion process to convert bush into a clean and economically viable alternative to existing products such as firewood, coal, lump charcoal and charcoal briquettes used for cooking fuel and barbecues.

www.cheetah.org

Accenture Economic Development Award

DESI Power: Decentralised Energy Systems India: DESI Power helps poor villages in India build power plants and launch micro-enterprises to alleviate poverty. DESI Power uses nineteenth century technology -- biomass gasification through agricultural waste -- to expand the supply of electric power in more than 100 villages in Bihar, India. www.desipower.com

Microsoft Education Award

Digital StudyHall: Digital StudyHall, based in Lucknow,

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India, deploys DVD technology to extend the reach of skilled teachers into underprivileged classrooms in India and Bangladesh. Digital StudyHall records classroom lessons given by high-quality teachers and distributes the videos to teachers in disadvantaged schools in rural areas and urban slums.
dsh.cs.washington.edu

Katherine M. Swanson Equality Award

Build Change: Build Change designs and trains builders and homeowners to build earthquake-resistant houses in developing countries using locally available skills and materials. The designs are affordable, sustainable, easy to build and culturally appropriate, and ensure that each homeowner has access to affordable technology to build a house that will not collapse, injure or kill their families in an earthquake, regardless of their income level. www.buildchange.org

Fogarty Institute for Innovation Health Award

K1 'Auto Disable' Syringe, Marc Koska, Star Syringe, Ltd.: United Kingdom's K1 "auto-disable" syringe etches a locking ring in the syringe barrel so that once the plunger is fully depressed, it locks in place and can't be used again. The simple, single-use syringes reduce millions of cases of Hepatitis B and C and HIV. The K1 syringe costs the same as standard models and its design is openly licensed to manufacturers. To date, more than one billion K1 syringes have been made, saving an estimated 3 million lives. www.starsyringe.com

In addition to the 25 Laureates being honored, Professor Muhammad Yunus, pioneer of microcredit and founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, received the 2008 James C. Morgan Global Humanitarian Award, sponsored by Applied Materials, which honors individuals whose broad vision and leadership are helping to address humanity's greatest challenges.

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