

DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge Kickoff event

Today, I have chance to join DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge kickoff event. The event is well organized and provided me require information, experience sharing from past success team, chance to meet with some friends and sharing idea.

About DifferenceMaker and Idea Challenge. DifferenceMaker is a UML program help student have chance to make IDEA become a real product. Through activities of the program such as Idea Challenge, student who have good idea will be supported by providing finance, mentor and logistic to really implement the idea. started 5 year ago, there are many team success with the program. Today two teams which win the prize in the pass and continue to implement their idea come to share with us about their experience. The idea challenge is a key event of DifferenceMaker help student bring in idea and learn how to develop idea become a feasibility plan, present plan to judges who are experience technical and business person will give them feedback and evaluate their idea plan. It is the first step. DifferenceMaker will organize booth camp in summer to help winning team implement idea by training them and connect them to the potential investor. Beyond competition event, idea challenge is a training course to help student necessary skill to prepare and present idea plan. The training activity include workshops and mentor from UML faculties.

Sharing experience from two success team. eENABLE and invisaWear sharing their experiences. Both have good idea, one is use 3D printing to print plastic hand which can

help disability people can touch and bring thing. Other group have idea to produce personal security device which people can wear and in the emergency case easy to connect to security center for help. The most valuable advice I receive from them is spend time with workshop because workshop is training activity to help them prepare for the challenge. I have curious about how they spend time for project and raise a question if they work full time for project or not? One team said they work fulltime, other team part time.

I have chance to make new friend both from our class and outside class. I have two ideas before go to event: Wearable device can detect smoke from cigarette help people can quit smoke and personal assistant can help Kid who is neglect and forgot doing homework in school. In Idea Hack Activity and Discussion, I share idea of wearable device can detect cigarette smoke with team and they like the idea.

I got a lot of information today help convince me going to DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge is unique experience in my student life where I can learn other thing than technology. But it also seems very challenge because it need good idea and good team, spend a lot of time to understand how Idea work and prepare for challenge. I will continue to seek for team mate from class and do exercise with detect cigarette smoke device to help smoke people quit smoke to understand how it work.