

- Technological innovations

Tech innovations secure major equity-free grants in Startup QC

BusinessMirror · 6 Nov 2024 · B3

THE **Quezon City Government** announced through a statement that it awarded a total of P6 million in equity-free grants to six local technology startups under the “Startup QC” program to support and empower homegrown innovators as they create impactful solutions for various sectors.

The first and largest local government unit (Lgu)-run startup program in the Philippines, the program culminated in a “Demo Day” featuring tech-driven solutions aimed at addressing the most pressing challenges across a variety of sector.

The finalists surpass expectations with a remarkable diversity of innovations, tackling issues in creative industries, youth empowerment, education, disaster risk reduction, sustainability, finance, and information technology.

From an initial pool of 58 applicants, the final awardees were selected after a selection process, underwent group mentorship and product development workshops, and received needs-based coaching with industry practitioners.

One standout finalist is “Nyha Robotics,” a team that first made waves as awardees in the recently launched “Startup QC” competition among students. While a newer entrant, “Nyha Robotics” stood alongside seasoned entrepreneurs and experts in hopes of advancing their cause to make robotics education more accessible to children.

Other notable startups from this cohort include “Callback,” which aims to professionalize the casting process for cultural workers, and “Kwentoon,” a startup that seeks to enhance youth literacy and promote Filipino contemporary arts through storytelling digital platforms.

Another set of groundbreaking startups include “Lithos Manufacturing,” “Pasajob” and “Revup Finance,” each driving innovation in their respective fields.

According to the LGU, “Lithos” tackles climate resilience with a compact, portable water filtration system that provides safe drinking water to remote or disaster-affected areas. “Pasajob,” branded in the Gcash app as “Gjobs,” accelerates job placements through a referral-based system that rewards users with referral fees. Meanwhile, “Revup Finance” revolutionizes SME financial operations by cutting invoicing and payment processing times by 80 percent.

These startups exemplify the diverse range of solutions emerging from the “Startup QC” program.

The Demo Day marked the culmination of an intense and inspiring journey, where these startups once again presented their business pitches.