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## Microsoft Announces Imagine Cup 2006 Winners

Italy team named software design champions; torch passes to Korea for Imagine Cup 2007.

**DELHI, India — Aug. 11, 2006 —**

Microsoft Corp. today announced the winners of Imagine Cup 2006, after a week of intense competition among finalists chosen from a pool of more than 65,000

students from over 100 countries. Giorgio Sardo, Massimo Paternoster, Silvia Perrone and Andrea Sossich from Team Even .ctor from Polytechnic of Turin, Italy, celebrated their first-place finish in the worldwide Software Design Invitational and were awarded a \$25,000 cash prize. The Imagine Cup, Microsoft's premier competition for technology students, provides a forum to encourage creative and technological innovations among university students worldwide.

"These projects demonstrate the power of software to address real-world problems, and I'm so impressed by the high levels of technical innovation that these students achieved in their work," said Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, who met several student teams in Redmond, Wash., earlier this year as they prepared for the India competition. "This year's Imagine Cup participants all share a commitment to improving people's lives that is very inspiring. They represent the next generation of business and technology leaders, and their creativity and passion are reasons for us all to be optimistic about the future."

The 42 software design finalist teams created a software application using Microsoft® technology and Microsoft .NET Web Services based on the Imagine Cup competition theme: "Imagine a world where technology enables us to live healthier lives."

A total of 181 students from 72 teams representing 42 countries were ultimately selected to participate in worldwide Imagine Cup finals in six categories: Software Design, Algorithm, IT, Short Film, Interface Design and Project Hoshimi (Programming Battle). The student teams were asked to undertake a series of challenges relating to multimedia or technology depending on the invitational.

The winners were announced in a gala awards ceremony earlier this afternoon during the Imagine Cup World Festival, a celebration drawing the Imagine Cup competitors, mentors and other key attendees including a keynote address from Kapil Sibal, cabinet minister of science and technology for the government of India. Speaking at the event, Sibal said, "I am so delighted to be amidst some of the brightest young minds from across the globe. In them I see the future, the next phase of technology revolution, and the desire to make the world a better place not just for themselves but for others too. And the role of governments and businesses is to make sure we provide them with those opportunities. Imagine Cup is one of those platforms, and I am glad India played host and hopefully not only inspired them but also learned from them."

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- [Imagine Cup Virtual Press Room on PressPass](#)

The following are the top three finalists by invitational in finishing order:

#### **Software Design**

- **1st place: Italy.** Even .ctor: Giorgio Sardo, Massimo Paternoster, Silvia Perrone and Andrea Sossich
- **2nd place: Brazil.** Team Trivial: Carlos Eduardo Monteiro Rodrigues, Ivan Cordeiro Cardim and Madson Menezes Costa
- **3rd place: Norway.** Team NTNU, Jan-Kristian Markiewicz, Gøran Hansen, Hans Olav Norheim and Jonas Follesø

#### **Algorithm**

- **1st place: Poland.** Piotr Marek Mikulski
- **2nd place: Poland.** Przemysław Dębiak
- **3rd place: Poland.** Tomasz Blajek

#### **IT**

- **1st place: Austria.** Andreas Tomek
- **2nd place: Romania.** Valerica Greavu-Serban
- **3rd place: France.** Daniel Boteanu

#### **Short Film**

- **1st place: Canada.** Team Forest: Sam Chow, Nick Haffie-Emslie, Ryan Marr and Meg Majewski
- **2nd place: Poland.** Team Skylined: Jacek Barcikowski and Julia Górniewicz
- **3rd place: USA.** Team LCL: Scott Lynch, Zach Lynch and Cam Crosson

#### **Interface Design**

- **1st place: Brazil.** Team Virtual Dreams: Roberto Sonnino and Eduardo Sonnino
- **2nd Place: China.** Team Frontfree Studio-MISG: Wang Guojing and Sang Yingshuo
- **3rd place: India.** Team Avengers: Mohit Bhargava and Mitushi Jain

#### **Project Hoshimi (Programming Battle)**

- **1st place: France.** Team Atomnium: Manon Gaucher and Flavien Charlon
- **2nd place: Republic of Serbia.** Team R.A.F: Igor Kabiljo and Uroš Rajkovic
- **3rd place: France.** Team Lya: Laure Portet and Régis Hanol

The Imagine Cup, now in its fourth year, is a competition designed to provide an outlet for students to explore technological and artistic interests outside the classroom. It challenges students to imagine a better world enabled by their own genius, creativity and energy, and provides opportunities for participation in the future of technology, software and computing. Teams develop innovative projects that offer practical applicability and present real-world solutions to real-world problems.

Korea will host the Imagine Cup 2007 in Seoul.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

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