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Microsoft Announces Imagine Cup 2006 Winners

Microsoft Corp. announced the winners of **Imagine Cup 2006**, after a week of intense competition among finalist chosen from a pool of more than 65,000 students from over 100 countries. **Giorgio Sardo, Massimo Paternoster Perrone** and **Andrea Sossich** from **Team Even .ctor** from **Polytechnic of Turin, Italy**, celebrated their first-place 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 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 visited 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 to be optimistic about the future.

The 42 software design finalist teams created a software application using Microsoft® technology and Microsoft .NET 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 Hoshi (Programming Battle). The student teams were asked to undertake a series of challenges relating to multimedia or technology depending on the invitational.

Source: www.microsoft.com

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