

Grameen Gazette #15

Grameen Gazette, the Newsletter from **Grameen Australia** – the organisation empowering people to change their lives through the implementation of innovative Microfinance and Social Business Projects.

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SOCIAL BUSINESS DAY 2015

We Are Not Job Seekers We Are Job Givers

**Professor Muhammad Yunus,
Nobel Peace Laureate**



*Master of Ceremonies for SBD15, Prometheus Siddiqui
Grameen Australia Projects Manager*

The large Australian delegation including university students, academics and the Board and key staff from Grameen Australia joined over 1,600 delegates from 30 countries including Ambassadors from France, Sweden, US, China, Britain and a senior government representative from Malaysia in Dhaka for Social Business Day 2015 (SBD), under the theme **'We Are Not Job Seekers, We Are Job Givers'**.

Professor Yunus opened the 5th SBD with the words "Human Beings are go-getters – that's the essence of human beings". He called on the audience to see the label unemployed as 'casting a spell' that takes away dignity and the sense of possibility. He challenged the audience to redesign their thinking processes to see people as go-getters, as the way to rid the world of unemployment permanently.

**Professor Yunus asked the audience to focus on
Three Big Zeroes**

- 1) Zero Poverty
- 2) Zero Unemployment
- 3) Zero Net Carbon Emissions

The Tools to drive this fundamental change are:

- 1) Young People
- 2) Technology
- 3) Social Business
- 4) Good Governance



Grameen Australia Boldly Represented at Social Business Day

Grameen Australia was proud to take centre stage in key sessions during the day.

Social Business Movement around the World

Duncan Power, Joint CEO of Grameen Australia took to the stage with student Ibrahim to formally announce the launch of the *Japan Automechanic Training School* with the first group of 10 trainees commencing their studies earlier in 2015.

The School is focused on providing international quality training to youth aged 16-25 to overcome abject unemployment within this age group. It has been established as a Social Business with profits from the Automechanic Workshop funding the activities of the School. Duncan Power is currently based in Dhaka to assist in overseeing the development of this innovative Social Business, with its importance being recognised and highlighted in a recent article in Bangladesh's leading national English daily newspaper, The Daily Star. (<http://www.thedailystar.net/business/building-auto-mechanics-future-88393>)



Duncan Power also joined a panel session where he outlined how the Japan Automechanic Training School was applying Professor Yunus' tools to achieve the Three Big Zeroes.



The students from the School entertained the audience with a traditional dance.



The networking breakout session provided the students with the chance to share their stories with SBD participants of overcoming disadvantage and adversity through acceptance as students at the School.



Social Business: The Roadmap Forward

Grameen Australia Chair, Peter Hunt, joined a panel session with leaders from innovative global organisations including Grameen Credit Agricole, Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, Permanent Secretariat of the World Summit of Nobel Laureates and Journalists, Foundation for Yunus Social Business Taiwan, Yunus Centre at Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand and Yunus Social Business India.



Peter discussed his personal journey from the corporate world to serving as Chair of Grameen Australia, describing how he chose to serve humanity rather than feed his ego. Professor Yunus agreed that the deepest happiness comes from giving happiness to others.

