

DTU Students Reach Second Round of Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015

Always innovating in the field of software design and reaffirming their brand in the IT community by winning big prizes, the EEM team, consisting of DTU's Lu Gia Vien, Tran Van Dung, Nghiem Vu Lam, and On Van Trong Duc, reached the second round of the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015. This contest is organized by Microsoft Vietnam and aims at finding outstanding Vietnamese teams, which will participate in the September 2015 International Microsoft Imagine Cup in Seattle, USA.

The Microsoft Imagine Cup is an international contest. Kicked off in Vietnam in November 2014, it has attracted a lot of students from universities and colleges nationwide. It is organized with three competition formats: World Citizenship, Games, and Innovation. The themes of the contest are around: Business, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and Information access; University education; Medicine; People with disabilities; Environmental protection; Natural disasters, Climate change, and weather; and so on. Teams can choose one out of three topics for their participation. After competing in the second round and in the National Finals taking place from March 20th to 31st, 2015, the Organizing Committee will choose three First Prize teams in the three topics of the Vietnamese contest that will continue to the next online round, and 35 teams to participate in the International Finals organized in September 2015 in Seattle, USA.



The EEM team won the First Prize at the DTU INNOVATION CUP 2014

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prizes of NCT Group and 120 Products of high quality and feasibility will receive big prizes. Among them at the National Rounds, winners in the first round will receive a prize from Microsoft, and prizes in the second round consist of 30 prizes of NCT Group and 120 Imagine Cup T-shirts. At the National Finals, there are First prizes (four tablet computers and memorial cups), Second prizes (4 Microsoft Lumia mobile devices), and Third Prizes (4 Microsoft Lumia mobile devices). Furthermore, all prizes are accompanied by one BizSpark package worth 13,500 USD for the winning team if that team founds a technology company after the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015. The International Prizes (for each of the contest topics) comprise: a First prize (50,000 USD), a Second prize (10,000 USD), and a Third prize (5,000 USD).

In Vietnam, the National Preliminaries were a knock out contest of 127 ideas, creating a “risky” - but not therefore less interesting - arena. 41 selected teams continued to the second round, among them one from DTU - this is the EEM team consisting of Lu Gia Vien, Tran Van Dung, Nghiem Vu Lam, and On Van Trong Duc with their Elements game product. The content of the game is a story taking place in the city Little Earth deep within the earth, with five sources of energy: Fire, Earth, Water, Wood, and Air. These five elements are distilled into five types of stone found everywhere around, and which are the source of life in the city. However, as the number of inhabitants increases, the natural resources are being depleted, leaving the city on the brink of wipe-out. The City Council then creates an armored suit that uses the power of those stones to send a young boy on a quest to recover the stones for Little Earth. Carrying this great responsibility, the boy overcomes many difficulties to protect his hometown.



MIC's specialists present about Game programming

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With many different game scenes, the player leads the main character over obstacles and through challenges to reach the goal. The player has to reason and analyze and use the strength of the magical stones to overcome the situations and challenges of the game. With novel and unique game play that has not yet appeared on the market, Elements has a high feasibility for broad expansion, serving its players.

“With the knowledge base in information technology received at DTU, and having attended many a course at the DTU Microsoft Innovation Center, we have enjoyed the tremendous support of the experts here to learn more about programming and about how to release games on different platforms, to understand the indispensable tools to develop games, programming languages, how to program as well as how to create physical effects in the ‘Swing Copters’ game on the Windows Phone platform... explains Tran Van Dung - student and member of EEM. “The support of the Microsoft Innovation Center has helped the EEM team create many game products of a quality to win big prizes, such as the Detective Hyde game, which got the First Prize in the DTU INNOVATION CUP 2014, and Elements, which continued to the second national round in the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015. Creating Elements, we not only aimed at the player to practice reason and logic when solving the puzzles; we wanted to teach the player much more, such as how environmental devastation and destruction directly affect people’s lives.”

Before participating in the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2015, the EEM team already got a First Prize in the DTU INNOVATION CUP 2014 organized by the DTU Microsoft Innovation Center from October 15th to December 15th, 2014. With their motivation and passion for coming up with unique and novel ideas in the development of mobile application and game software, boosting the development of the mobile market, the EEM team expects to get even bigger prizes at the large-scale technological arenas in Vietnam and abroad.

Officially founded on June 9th, 2014 at No 3 Quang Trung, Danang, the DTU Microsoft Innovation Center has been developing many projects, including the creation of software for Microsoft, the development of students and lecturers' creative ideas and solutions based on the Microsoft technological platform, and helping Vietnam's students in general and DTU students in particular get access to the newest technologies from Microsoft. Most recently, the Microsoft Innovation Center successfully organized the contest Programming Applications and Games on Mobile Devices on the Windows Phone Platform - DTU INNOVATION CUP 2014 (having taken place on December 20th, 2014). Duy Tan University was the place to be also for the 2014 Microsoft

Programming on Mobile Applications Contest (HACKATHON 2014) that took place in the Central Region for the first time (May 17th and 18th, 2014). These contests aim at supporting unique and novel ideas for societally meaningful mobile application and game software development, thereby boosting the development of the mobile market. Currently, apart from giving guidance to fourth-year (university) and third-year (college) students who come for training in the framework of their graduation projects, the Center is also the place to be for intensive practice according to the regulations of the Boards of the DTU Information Technology Faculty and International School. Three projects of the DTU Microsoft Innovation Center are currently being developed: Photo Backup, Tflat, and Game Sport 42. These are software projects with copyright belonging to DTU - Danang, Vietnam, that can be installed on mobile devices. From this prestigious address, people that are passionate about technology can participate in the many contests with national and international level that Microsoft organizes yearly, such as Mobile Hackathon, Microsoft Image Cup, Microsoft Office Specialist, etc. Contact details of the DTU Microsoft Innovation Center are: Phone: (0511) 3827111, email: microsoft@duytan.edu.vn, <http://mic.duytan.edu.vn>

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