



Agroforestry and Carbon Expert Fairventures Social Forestry secures 1.15 million Singapore Dollars at the Liveability Challenge 2022

STUTT GART (JUNE 13, 2022) – Fairventures Social Forestry, a developer of scalable agroforestry-based climate solutions, has won the Liveability Challenge 2022 (TLC) and secured S\$ 1.15 million funding in total. TLC is the largest sustainability solutions challenge in Asia and sponsored by Temasek Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Temasek, the Singapore’s state-investment company.

Fairventures Social Forestry’s victory marks the first time in TLC’s history that a nature-based solution has won the grand prize of S\$ 1 million, awarded by Temasek Foundation. Fairventures also secured additional prizes from participating funds, namely a S\$ 100,000 investment from PlanetRise, an investor focused on climate protection projects, and a S\$ 50,000 investment from Quest Ventures, a leading Asian venture capital firm. The company thus won three of the seven prizes on offer. “We are very excited to have won three of the awarded prizes, including the grand prize. A fantastic recognition of our business model and hard work over the years,” says Robert Bürmann, CEO of Fairventures Social Forestry GmbH. The German-Indonesian agroforestry and carbon expert faced competition from five other finalists offering nature-based solutions, decarbonisation, and agritechology. Each finalist of the “grand finale” was selected out of more than 400 applications from over 60 countries.

“We are happy to support Fairventures’ system to conserve forests and restore degraded land with agroforestry plantations to provide a sustainable income to local farmers and returns for impact investors under a blended financing framework. The long-term partnership with local stakeholders will improve the livelihoods of local communities and create positive social and ecological impact. On the ground, this will translate to prevention of environmentally harmful activities, such as illegal logging or unsustainable land clearing practices,” said Mr Lim Hock Chuan, Head Programmes at Temasek Foundation, at the event.

“We really like the fact that there is a sustainable business model, not only in working with local communities but also in thinking about revenue sources, from crops, timber and carbon credits. The project demonstrated that it could deliver off-takers and revenue,” said Steve Melhuish, serial entrepreneur, CEO of Planet Rise, founding partner at Wavemaker Impact and one of the TLC judges, at the event.

The Stuttgart-based climate solutions expert intends to use the prize money to finance the important first project phase including legal structuring, setting up the necessary infrastructure on-site, and carrying out an initial test planting season. This is a critical next step in the further scaling of Fairventures Social Forestry’s business and its positive impact to sustainably manage 100,000 hectares of land in the coming 10 years.

“We would like to especially thank Temasek Foundation, Planet Rise and Quest Ventures for their strong support, Eco-Business for organizing the event and our employees for their focus and commitment, every day,” Robert Bürmann continues.

About Fairventures Social Forestry

Fairventures Social Forestry (FSF) is a global leader in large-scale reforestation of degraded land and the conservation of biodiverse forests. FSF establishes economically viable systems and offers responsible investment opportunities in forest-based climate solutions at scale that benefit the environment, local communities and investors. Fairventures was founded as a spin-off from the NGO Fairventures Worldwide gGmbH in 2018. Read more about [Fairventures Social Forestry](#).

About Temasek Foundation

Temasek Foundation supports a diverse range of programmes that uplift lives and communities in Singapore and beyond. Temasek Foundation’s programmes are made possible through philanthropic endowments gifted by Temasek, as well as gifts and other contributions from other donors. These programmes strive towards achieving positive outcomes for individuals and communities now, and for generations to come. Collectively, Temasek Foundation’s programmes strengthen social resilience, foster international exchange and regional capabilities, advance science, and protect the planet. Read more about [Temasek Foundation](#).



About Eco-Business

Established in 2009, Eco-Business is Asia Pacific’s leading media organisation on sustainable development. Its independent journalism unit publishes high quality, trusted news and views in multimedia formats on business and policy developments around the world with a sustainability and ESG-focused lens. Eco-Business is headquartered in Singapore, with a presence in Beijing, Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Bangalore, Zurich, New York, and correspondents in major cities across the world. Read more about [Eco-Business](#).

About Planet Rise

Planet Rise was co-founded by Steve and Liz Melhuish in response to growing climate change. Steve has 28 years’ experience building tech businesses in Asia and Europe. This included co-founder and former CEO of Asian unicorn PropertyGuru, used by 40 million people monthly in 5 countries and recently IPO on NYSE. Planet Rise was founded in 2019 to invest family funds and time helping climate and social impact startups focused on making the world a better place. The Planet Rise portfolio today comprises 20 greentech startups in Asia. Steve is also Founding Partner with Wavemaker Impact, South East Asia’s first climatetech venture build fund launched in 2021. Read more about [PlanetRise](#) and [Wavemaker Impact](#).

About Quest Ventures

Quest Ventures is a top venture capital firm in Asia. Since 2011, Quest Ventures has focused on an overarching ‘digital economy’ strategy across Asia, and is a top venture capital firm in artificial intelligence, e-commerce and marketplaces, entertainment, finance, food, insurance, logistics, media, property, sports, and the Islamic digital economy. Portfolio companies include industry leaders such as 99.co, Carousell, Carro, Glife, Hepmil, Oddle, Shopback, VulcanPost, Xfers, and Yummy Corporation. Read more about [Quest Ventures](#).

Contact Person

Robert Bürmann

Chief Executive Officer

T: +49 176 45.79.54.28
E: robert.buermann@fairventures.earth
W: www.fairventures.earth

Fairventures Social Forestry GmbH

Hasenbergstrasse 31, 70178 Stuttgart, Germany
Registered seat: Stuttgart - Local Court of Stuttgart: HRB 767746
Managing Director: Robert Bürmann, Paulus Schüller

Images and Captions



Mr Lim Hock Chuan, Head Programmes, Temasek Foundation (left), presenting the grand prize of The Liveability Challenge 2022 to Tisha Ramadhini (centre) and Paul Schüller from Fairventures Social Forestry.



Images: Jonathan Ho / Eco-Business.