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SMU wins third place in Facebook Global Hackathon Finals 2014

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The SMU team from the School of Information Systems clinched the second runner-up position in the Facebook Global Hackathon Finals 2014. (From left to right: Suresh Subramaniam, Abhilash Murthy, Alayne Pang Hui Xian, Xu Mengxiang)

In February last year, four students from Singapore Management University (SMU)'s School of Information Systems - comprised of Suresh Subramaniam, Alayne Pang Hui Xian, Xu Mengxiang, and Abhilash Murthy - won the Asia Pacific Facebook Hackathon.

This win earned the team the opportunity to represent the Asia Pacific region in the Facebook Global Hackathon Finals 2014, which was held on November 13 and 14 at Facebook's headquarter in California, USA.

 A total of 17 teams from around the world participated in this global competition. Team London emerged the winner of the hackathon with their winning idea, App Chef, which allows users to create and test applications, and subsequently submit them to the app store directly from the phone.

The first runner-up position went to Team Cal Hacks, who created an app called Gravity that lets users transmit data and contacts via proprietary vibration-encoding.

Lastly, Team SMU clinched the second runner-up position with their idea, Telepathy, which is a smart chat assistant that provides useful information to chat participants in a messaging application. Telepathy aims to enhance conversations with minimal effort and distraction by saving users the hassle of repeatedly switching between apps to search for information during a conversation.

The top three winning teams won a cash prize of US$2,000, US$500 and US$400 respectively.