



Updated: 07/01/2012 04:21 | By Channel NewsAsia



Fancy a mobile app that can help you find a parking space?

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SINGAPORE: You may soon be able to use a smartphone application to find and reserve a parking space before you head out to the city.

It is just one of six urban prototypes which have surfaced at the recent "UP Singapore Hackathon".

They'll be showcased at this year's World Cities Summit, which kicks off on Sunday.

"Surepark" aims to solve the problem of finding a place to park, a daily headache in densely populated Singapore.

The app seeks to let you know how many lots are available in a major building, predict how many will be free at your estimated time of arrival and help you reserve a lot in advance.

"Whenever I'm driving, there's always a lot of traffic. This will organise traffic. Everyone will know where

they are going, save time, save CO2 emissions, (and) save frustration," said Dhoo Gurvail Singh, co-inventor of "SurePark" and managing director of CWB Solutions.

Heriyono Sim, co-inventor of "SurePark" and solution architect at Infolab, said: "We can actually partner with shops inside the shopping mall and allow them to post certain deals, real time deals to these customers who have just arrived, so they know what to eat next, what to do next with their family... It really makes it such a complete and convenient package."

Another interesting app, "Grandate", proposes to act as a one-stop portal to help you plan a date with your grandparent.

The inventors plan to equip it with "age-friendly" info, so you know if the place you're going to has wheelchair access, for example.

Jayne Yeo, co-inventor of "Grandate" and assistant manager of corporate communications at the Manpower Ministry, said: "We wanted to create an app that would help promote inter-generational bonding and also promote a more active lifestyle for the elderly."

"I guess I'm guilty of not spending time with my grandmother as well. I only see her during Chinese New Year. And I wouldn't know where to bring her, so personally this app would address the problems that I have," she said.

A new app called "ClimateRight" hopes to help you cope with freezing office temperatures by providing feedback to your building management.

Desmond Hinkson, co-inventor of "ClimateRight", said: "It wouldn't just be the office, it could be shopping malls and cinemas, on the bus, train... all those places where the temperature is controlled... We could make a big difference both in the cost of energy and the amount of energy being used, and maybe have a better experience."

The winner of the UP Singapore Hackathon will be announced at the World Cities Summit.

The winning team stands to get up to S\$250,000 in seed funding from the Media Development Authority of Singapore to help develop its prototype.

— CNA/cc

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