We are witnessing the destruction of the old media order—and the noisy, thrilling invention of something new. As traditional media organizations face wrenching change, a host of emerging models from around the world that thrive on connection and community now promise previously unimagined opportunities to inform and engage people as active, change-making citizens.

Ashoka’s new News & Knowledge Entrepreneurs program is seizing on this seismic moment, assembling what amounts to a global incubator for the information realm, a community of innovators in places you don’t typically hear from. They’re people like Sanjana Hattotuwa, a Sri Lankan whose organization Groundviews combines multiple media platforms with encryption technology to allow pretty much anyone to send and receive news without fear of government interference; and Jocelyne Compaore, whose laptop-wielding “synthesizers” record and distribute the news, stories, and opinions of rural villagers in Burkina Faso.

Under-the-radar leaders like Hattotuwa and Compaore, as well as better-known Ashoka Fellows like Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, are doing work that matters now — and seeding tremendous value for the future. They are touching people in unexpected ways, typically refashioning the relationship between storyteller and audience and, not least, creating the effective and efficient information flows that are foundational to democratic society.

Support from Ashoka’s News & Knowledge Entrepreneurs program helps these entrepreneurs speed and amplify the impact of their ideas. Just as important, Ashoka invests in collaborative activities that target the media world’s most urgent opportunities:

• Advancing news and civic literacy
• Inventing sustainable capital and legal structures for media
• Promoting institutional transparency
• Raising the bar for citizen journalism
• Seizing on new technologies
• Reporting in conflict areas
• Ensuring press freedom

The moment for this effort is undeniably right. We see promise that new technologies, new business models, and new participants will, by exploding the old order, make the creation, distribution, and application of information even better—more inclusive, more transparent, and of far higher quality. It is a rare opportunity to invent, to transform a crucial field, to contribute to future history.

Learn more: www.knowledge.ashoka.org
Transforming Global Challenges with Creative Solutions
Ashoka supports innovations in news and knowledge by sourcing, supporting and convening innovative leaders and solutions in the field. To provide global solutions, Ashoka seeks to elect at least 10 Fellows working in media and journalism, hold 2-3 global collaborations, and support Ashoka’s existing News and Knowledge Entrepreneurs program.

Contributions of any amount are welcome and important to the sustainability of the Global Fund for Innovations in News and Knowledge.

Investments in this fund go directly to supporting Fellow stipends, organizing and holding global collaborations, and supporting Fellows in the refinement and expansion of their work. Including a portion of programmatic and leadership administration expenditures, the average costs for some of these activities are as below:

Providing a 3-year Fellow Stipend and Fellowship support: $100,000
(Actual stipend amounts vary greatly depending on geographic location and the Fellow’s personal financial needs)

What is an Ashoka Fellow Stipend?
A Fellow Stipend is a highly personalized form of financial support provided to Ashoka Fellows at or near the launch stage of their work. This financial support is available to the Fellow for up to three years and is accompanied by Fellow Support Services to assist Fellows in refining their work, bringing their models to scale, and gaining publicity and support in the public arena.

Organizing and hosting a global collaboration of Ashoka Fellows, citizen sector and business leaders: $45,000

What is an Ashoka Collaboration?
Ashoka Global collaborations bring together leading Ashoka Fellows along with top business, government and/or citizen sector leaders and advisors to:

* Allow Ashoka Fellows to share best practices, identify all aspects of a particular problem or solutions, and work together across sectors and regions to further their models
* Provide access to new networks, resources, funders and mentors
* Refine and partner in their approaches, business models, and strategies to develop new innovations and scale existing models