Profile of Tan Chee Sing

1. What is your current occupation?
I am currently a freelance designer. I have previously worked in Architect's and Builder's offices.

2. What is your educational background?
I was trained in Architecture, with a Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) & Master of Architecture degree from the National University of Singapore.

3. How did you learn of the challenge?
I was looking for crowdsourcing design competitions on the web one day, and learned of the Wazoku Crowd challenges by chance. Out of the many challenges listed on the Wazoku Crowd website, the "Safe and Desirable Female Toilets in Refugee Camps" challenge caught my attention as it is more of a design challenge which I have more confidence in participating in. Furthermore, Wazoku Crowd is an established crowdsourcing platform, therefore I have more confidence in participating in the challenges listed on its website. I am confident that my efforts will not go to waste, as it is more unlikely that the organizer of the challenge does not conclude a challenge even after it is over.

4. What motivated you to respond to the challenge? Why did you want to help the IRC improve the facilities in their camps?
As a designer, I always believe that Design is a skill that can benefit everyone. Design is much more than creating beautiful and functional products for people who can afford them. Design is about creating new ways of improving lives for people, including the underprivileged. As such, I find the "Safe and Desirable Female Toilets in Refugee Camps" challenge an interesting one. Unlike tents design, toilets in refugee camps are always overlooked and most of the time they are not "designed" for improvement and better security.

As such, I wanted to help think of ways to improve the security and make people (especially women and girls) feel safe when they are using the toilets in refugee camps. To me, both physical comfort and a sense of security are equally important when using toilets in refugee camps.

5. Approximately how much time did you invest in creating your response to the challenge? (this does not need to be a precise answer – you can state your answer in hours or days or weeks. It is simply to

get a feel for the level of effort necessary to win).
There are three main parts to my effort in submitting 3 proposals to the challenge :

- - Conceptualizing ideas (It took about 2 weeks to conceptualize and test out various ideas which I thought are interesting or with potential. I also imagined that I am a woman / girl using the toilet in a refugee camp with no one but myself to rely on in case of emergencies. What kind of things can help me fencing off the potential intruders?)
    - Turning ideas into proposals (It took about 3 weeks to prepare 3D modelling, rendering, line drawing, presentation sheet and write up for the 3 proposals that I had submitted for the challenge)
    - Refining the proposals (It took about 1 week to refine the 3 proposals, to add or omit some contents, and to finalize it for submission)

6. How did you feel when you found out that you were a winner?
As my proposals are non-typical because I always see and design things differently from others, I had hoped that one of my proposals would be selected as one of the winning solutions or honorable mentions. I had expected that many solutions from other participants will be awarded too since there are over a hundred solutions submitted for the challenge and some of the solutions are well elaborated. When I realized that my solution was selected as one of the 7 winning solutions out of over a hundred solutions submitted, I was overjoyed.