



Regional Forum on Strategies to Enhance Innovation and Management Capacities of Startups and SMEs

18-19 July 2018

Manila, Philippines

Luna Function Room, Mezzanine Area of the World Trade Center
Pasay City

Organized by

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Jointly with

Technology Application Promotion Institute (TAPI),
Department of Science and Technology, Republic of Philippines

Background

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) play a key role in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) are considered critical for strengthening the National Innovation System (NIS) of a country to effectively harness the STI for sustainable development. Strengthening of NIS would require countries to enhance their capability to develop and harness innovations, particularly in new and emerging technologies as well as to build an innovative and vibrant small and medium enterprises (SME) sector.

The SMEs play an important role in ASEAN economic integration because between 89 to 99 percent of the firms in ASEAN Member States are SMEs.¹ However, they face many challenges in accessing finance, technology, and international markets which could impact their future growth and sustainability. SME competitiveness depends crucially on the speed with which new products can be brought to the market place and new cost-saving improvements made in the production system. Creation of innovative technology-based startups and SMEs and their ability to exploit new technologies and innovations primarily depend on the national STI policy, strategies and programmes, institutional and financial support mechanisms, and overall capacity of the National Innovation System.

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/southeast-asia/ASEAN%20SME%20Policy%20Index%202014.pdf>

The Regional Forum seeks to bring together international and national experts to deliberate on key issues, challenges and opportunities that are critical for commercializing innovations and facilitating creation of technology-based start-ups and SMEs. The Forum would assess new and emerging policy frameworks and tools, institutional/infrastructural support systems, national/regional collaboration networks and platforms, innovative business models, case studies and best practices for the development of innovative start-ups and SMEs.

Agenda / Programme

The programme will comprise of experts, international resource persons and panel discussions on: (a) National Innovation Systems - challenges and opportunities for sustainable development; (b) Support mechanisms for innovative entrepreneurs and technology-based startups; and (c) Financing of technology-based entrepreneurs, innovative start-ups and SMEs.

Objectives

- To facilitate dialogue among APCTT member countries' policy makers, STI/SME stakeholders on innovation commercialization, technology-based entrepreneurship and startups, and the innovative capacity of SMEs;
- To understand the gaps and barriers in policy and support mechanisms, and identify critical issues and challenges for mitigating the barriers for accelerating development of innovative startups and SMEs;
- To share and discuss experiences, successes and best practices on strategies for creation of innovative startups and SMEs;
- To enhance knowledge of stakeholders on the tools and practices in the areas covered by the Forum;
- To brainstorm ideas on developing national/regional collaboration strategies for promoting innovative startups and SME development; and
- To explore opportunities for cross-country partnerships, collaborations and sharing of resources for capacity-building of regional stakeholders.

Expected outputs and outcome

- Presentations on critical issues and challenges, potential areas of cooperation, and sharing of national experiences, good practices and lessons learnt;
- Enhanced knowledge on good policy, support mechanisms and practices from the region;
- Feedback on possible strategies and approaches to address the key challenges in enhancing the innovation management capacity of SMEs and startups;
- Promoting cross-country partnerships to foster innovative SMEs and startups;
- Enhanced regional networking of startups, SMEs, government nodal institutions, technology transfer/promotion agencies and entrepreneurs; and

- Evolving policy recommendations based on the comments and feedback from the participating stakeholders.

Participants

- STI/SME Policy makers from APCTT member countries to share their national policies, practices and experiences;
- Resource persons from national and international institutions will share best practices and experiences on the selected topics of the Forum;
- Senior policy makers and officials from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippines, and other relevant government departments and agencies of Philippines; and
- Key stakeholders from Government agencies, Universities, R&D institutions, academia and innovators, chambers of commerce and trade organizations, innovative SMEs and startup companies, business financing and venture capital entities, and other related agencies from the Philippines.

Tentative Programme

Day 1

Wednesday, July 18, 2018		
0900-0930	Registration	
0930-1015	Opening Session	
	Welcome Address	Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara Undersecretary, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), The Philippines
	Inaugural Address	Ms. Michiko Enomoto Head, Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
	Remarks by UN Resident Coordinator, The Philippines	Mr. Ola Almgren United Nations Resident Coordinator, The Philippines
	Background to the Programme	Engr. Edgar I. Garcia Director, Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI),

	Keynote Speaker GROUP PHOTO	Department of Science and Technology (DOST), The Philippines Prof. Fortunato T. De la Peña, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), The Philippines Emcee Ms. Maria Elena A. Talingdan Chief SRS, DOST-NRCP
1015-1030	Tea / Coffee	
1030-1300		
Session I: National Innovation Systems - challenges and opportunities for sustainable development		
<p>The session examines how innovative public policies and support mechanisms could strengthen the National Innovation Systems (NIS) of countries to achieve the SDGs. It also deliberates on the linkages between policies, support mechanisms, institutions, and programmes which could be leveraged to promote rapid technology development and commercialization through technology-based entrepreneurship, innovative startups and SMEs.</p>		
Moderator: Ms. Michiko Enomoto, Head, APCTT-ESCAP		
1030-1100	Public innovation policies and tools for strengthening National Innovation Systems – Challenges and best practices	Prof. Sunil Mani Director, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India <i>(Through Skype)</i>
1100-1130	Fostering a startup and innovation ecosystem to achieve Sustainable Development Goals	Ms. Michiko Enomoto Head, APCTT-ESCAP
1130-1200	Enhancing the competitiveness of startups and SMEs through commercializing innovative technologies	Dr. Viraj Perera Chief Executive Officer, PlaTCOM Ventures, Sdn Bhd, The National Technology Commercialization Platform of Malaysia, Government of Malaysia
12:00-12:30	National Innovation System of Philippines – Policy frameworks and strategies	Ms. Russell M. Pili Chief Science Research Specialist Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research

		and Development (PCIEERD)
12:30-13:00	Q & A	
1300-1400	Lunch	
<p>1400-1730</p> <p>Session II: Support mechanisms for innovative entrepreneurs and technology-based startups</p> <p>Government support systems are key to the transfer and commercialization of technologies as well as for the development of technology-based entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs. For the innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and firms to survive and grow, they need to have access to innovative technologies, finance, technical assistance, expert guidance, skilled work force, market linkages, and so on. Linkages with research institutions, technology business incubators, innovation networks and clusters to facilitate technology transfer and diffusion are other essential elements for their success.</p> <p>The session examines international best practices and lessons learnt in supporting innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs as well as promoting an enabling business ecosystem for these NIS actors to operate.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Jovito Rey E. Gonzales, Division Manager, Investment & Business Operation Division, Technology Promotion and Application Institute (IBOD-TAPI), The Philippines</p>		
1400-1420	Government policy and support mechanisms for the growth of technology-based entrepreneurship, start-ups and SMEs in the Philippines	Ms. Maria Corazon H. Dichosa Executive Director Industry Development Services, Department of Trade and Industry, The Philippines
1420-1440	Technology Business Incubators for nurturing innovation-based startups – Strategies and best practices	Dr. Viraj Perera Chief Executive Officer, PlaTCOM Ventures, Sdn Bhd, The National Technology Commercialization Platform of Malaysia, Government of Malaysia
1440-1500	Knowledge networks for promoting technology-based startups and SMEs	Dr. Satyabrata Sahu Coordinator, APCTT-ESCAP
1500-1515	Q & A	
1515-1530	Tea / Coffee	
1530-1550	Managing innovation and commercialization in startups	TBC University of the Philippines Institute

	and SMEs	for Small Scale Industries
1550-1610	Fostering regional cooperation to promote technology startups in Asia and the Pacific	Dr. Krishnan Srinivasaraghavan Coordinator, APCTT-ESCAP
1610-1630	Managing Intellectual Property to promote startups' competitiveness	Mr. Kyungjin Hyung Deputy Director, Korea Technology Finance Corporation (KOTEC), Republic of Korea
1630-1700	Supporting innovative entrepreneurs and startups – Policy interventions, support mechanisms and best practices	Prof. Sunil Mani Director, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India <i>(Through Skype)</i>
1700-1730	Q & A	

Thursday, July 19, 2018

0900-1040

Session III: Financing of technology-based entrepreneurs, innovative startups and SMEs

In a National Innovation System, provision of finance is vital for promoting technology-based entrepreneurship, innovative startups and SMEs. Governments need to establish enabling policy environments to facilitating fiscal incentives, government finance, venture capital and private equity for innovation commercialization and technology-based startups. Different forms of financial support (e.g. public funding schemes, soft loans, risk capital, venture capital, private equity and angel investment) are required to incubate and commercialize innovations.

The session deliberates on innovative financing strategies and options for incubating and commercializing innovative technologies through technology-based entrepreneurship, startups and SMEs. The experts will share knowledge and good practices from different countries on the innovative funding mechanisms.

Moderator: Dr. Viraj Perera, Chief Executive Officer, PlaTCOM Ventures, Sdn Bhd,
The National Technology Commercialization Platform of Malaysia,
Government of Malaysia

0900-0920	New and innovative mechanisms for financing tech-based startups and SMEs – International perspectives	Dr. Shigehiro Shinozaki Financial Sector Specialist (SME Finance), Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department Asian
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		Development Bank, Manila, The Philippines
0920-0940	Financing support system for innovative startups and SMEs in the Philippines	Mr. Generoso S. David Department Manager Program Management Department II Landbank of the Philippines
0940-1000	New and emerging models of business angel/venture financing for start-up companies and SMEs	Mr. Kyungjin Hyung Deputy Director, Korea Technology Finance Corporation (KOTEC), Republic of Korea
1000-1020	Seed support system for startups in Technology Business Incubators – Best practices	Ms. Katrina Rausa Chan Director QBO Innovation Hub DTI International Building Makati City, The Philippines
1020-1040	Q & A	
1040-1100	Tea / Coffee	
1100-1300	Session IV: Panel Discussion and Policy Recommendations	
	Moderator: APCTT	
1100-1130	Wrap-up and summary of Technical Sessions I, II and III (10 minutes each)	Session moderators
1130-1230	Open Forum: Policy recommendations on roadmaps for regional cooperation	
1230-1300	Closing Session	
1230-1250	Certificate Distribution	
1250-1300	Closing Remarks	Engr. Edgar I. Garcia, Director, TAPI-DOST, The Philippines Ms. Michiko Enomoto Head, APCTT-ESCAP
1300-1400	Lunch	
	Emcee Dr. Ruby R. Cristobal Chief SRS, DOST-SEI	
1400-1730	Visit to the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) and the National Invention Contest and Exhibits	