

# Global Cleantech Innovation Programme

## The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

<https://www.unido.org/>

The Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement are the world's commitment to safeguarding the global commons. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), with its unique mandate to support inclusive and sustainable industrial development, has partnered with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to address the most pressing global environmental challenges of our time. Through fostering innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems, UNIDO and GEF seek to promote affordable and scalable solutions enabling our partner countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies.

### Innovation ecosystem

The GCIP promotes an innovation and entrepreneur ecosystem by identifying and nurturing cleantech innovators and entrepreneurs; by building capacity within national institutions and partner organizations for the sustainable implementation of the cleantech ecosystem and accelerator approach; and by supporting and working with national policy makers to strengthen the supportive policy framework for SMEs and entrepreneurs.

Through this cleantech ecosystem and accelerator approach, the GCIP catalyzes investment to support and accelerate startup entrepreneurs towards the development and commercialization of their innovative ideas.

Partnerships and close collaboration with all national stakeholders are critical to maximize synergies and share knowledge and best practices that can help in enhancing the contribution of cleantech startups towards climate change mitigation, while increasing productivity and generating growth and wealth.

### The GCIP accelerator

A key component of the GCIP is the annual competition-based accelerator, which identifies the most promising innovators and entrepreneurs across a country. A selected number of startups in a GCIP country participate in a rigorous, competitive national acceleration programme that trains, mentors, promotes, and connects them to potential investors, customers and partners. As the best cleantech companies progress, they are continuously developed and assessed.

The accelerator consists of an Official Launch, Investor Connect, National Academy, Business Clinic, and Mock Judging. In addition, the selected startups are continuously mentored and trained and

access to capital and showcasing opportunities are facilitated on a regular basis in order to enhance their business skills and to connect them to potential business partners, financiers and investors.

A tailored mentoring programme is provided through an elite group of general and specialist mentors and trainers drawn from industries, universities, and professional institutions, as well as business leaders from within the country and abroad.

### Technology solutions

The GCIP started with four technology categories namely Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Waste Beneficiation, and Water Efficiency; in 2016, the Green Building category was added to expand the scope of environmental challenges addressed. The 2017 accelerator has expanded to include two new categories, Transportation as well as Advanced Materials and Chemicals.

GCIP is planning a transition to an impact-focused accelerator in order to leverage innovation and entrepreneurship to provide solutions to protect our global commons. Existing technology categories will evolve in to impact categories to accelerate transformative clean technology solutions and integrated approaches for energy systems, sustainable cities, healthy oceans and sustainable fisheries, food systems, and landscape restoration.

GCIP also supports identification and development of demand-driven solutions that can address the most pressing environmental challenges at the national levels. Through National Innovation Challenges, innovators are invited to propose technology innovations that can address a particular problem with high-impact potential. This approach allows direct market access for the technologies, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in impact scaling.

### Innovation and entrepreneurship policy frameworks

An integral part of GCIP is the development of an enabling environment for cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship, and GCIP employs a cross-sectoral and multi-tiered approach with a view to building a sustainable "ecosystem" for innovative entrepreneurship in small businesses. This entails supporting national partners to strengthen the institutional capacities of government agencies focused on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) development, clean technology and innovation.

# Grassroots innovation in Malaysia

## Malaysian Foundation for Innovation, Malaysia

<https://www.yim.my>

The Malaysian Foundation for Innovation (YIM) organises a wide range of activities in both Peninsular and East Malaysia all year round that provide avenues of awareness and ideas to develop grassroots innovations which are then used to improve the lives of communities at the bottom of the pyramid. These innovations should be designed to suit the local context of the targeted communities, and create value for them.

These focused activities or grassroots innovation movements bring together various stakeholders such as Government ministries, their relevant agencies, funders, universities, industry specialists and practitioners to meet with the inclusive audience of each event or activity to interact, connect and develop the innovations together. The feedback from the inclusive communities further provide base data to the Government for developing science, technology and innovation policies that relate back to the target audience. Collaboration between these stakeholders may also contribute to the sustainability of the solutions.

Over the years, YIM has organised various events for different inclusive communities. These include:

- The nationwide Innovation Walk (Jejak Inovasi)
- World Innovation Forum
- School Club Innovation Toolkit
- YIM Ideation programme.

The projects have attracted keen interest amongst students and innovation enthusiasts. Overall, the efforts have proven to be successful in enhancing appreciation and nurturing creative skills in science, technology and innovation subject matters at academia, industry and society levels.

For example, the YIM Innovation Walk helps to identify innovators from all strata of Malaysian society. Grassroots Innovation Workshops are organised to develop knowledge and skillsets necessary for continuous innovation growth and facilitate communication between potential funders and investors. They further help to promote awareness and pave the way forward for the market diffusion of grassroots innovations.

### Mainstreaming grassroots innovations

YIM's Mainstreaming Grassroots Innovation (MaGRIs) programme is a project that focuses on upscaling and accelerating the development and diffusion of potential grassroots innovations in Malaysia via collaboration with various parties from government, industry, grassroots community and youth.

The MaGRIs programme provides an environment to develop grassroots innovators with potential innovations and groom them to become community role models. New methods to stimulate grassroots commercial activities into mainstream commercial activities are often uncovered while grassroots innovators leverage through opportunities to mainstream their innovations into mainstream commercial activities. Often, academic and industry collaborators are roped in to support the MaGRIs programme activities.

From innovation development to commercialisation with market diffusion to inclusive communities, the programme even has its own MaGRIs Ambassador originating from the same communities, sharing community success stories and creating engagement with this targeted community. Since MaGRIs was inceptioned in 2016, more than 13,000 people have engaged with the programme.

### Publications on SMEs competitiveness

#### Exchanging Value - Negotiating Technology Licensing Agreements: A Training Manual

The manual provides an introduction to some of the basic issues that arise in technology licensing negotiations and offers useful insights into how they may best be handled. In a highly competitive and dynamic marketplace, technology licensing is a useful option for companies seeking to maintain their competitive advantage and a healthy balance sheet. It covers a wide range of basic issues that arise during technology licensing negotiations and offers useful insights into how they may best be handled in practice.

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#### Globalization and Performance of Small and Large Firms

The report examines whether and how globalization has differential effects on small and (or versus) large firms and aims at identifying policy issues to be addressed to achieve stronger and more resilient economic growth in East Asian countries. Globalization in this research is broadly defined to include trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) liberalization, trade (exports and imports), international capital flows, outsourcing and traded intermediate goods. The research conducted 10 country studies for 8 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, namely, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

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