

Selected Innovation programmes and funds in Asia and the Pacific

ASIA-PACIFIC

UNDP Asia-Pacific Innovation Fund

<http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/ourwork/development-impact/innovation/about-innovation-fund.html>

UNDP Asia-Pacific Innovation Fund was launched in early 2014 with the support of UNDP Innovation Facility. By signaling UNDP's strong commitment to innovation, the Fund has supported prototyping of new approaches to address various development challenges across the region. This has included new ways of looking at development problems, solutions outside of traditional project cycles, partnerships with non-traditional partners, and inclusive and collaborative engagement with citizens that enhances the reach and impact of our projects.

Through an iterative prototyping process, the Innovation Fund allows for rapid testing and improvement of proposed solutions through feedback loops, which raise the possibility for a fit solution and the impact thereof. It also encourages an inclusive and collaborative approach to project/program design and implementation, as the solutions are co-created with beneficiaries and stakeholders. Solutions that prove effective are given the support to be scaled up, in tandem with support for monitoring and communicating progress throughout.

ASEAN

ASEAN Science and Technology Innovation Fund

<http://astnet.asean.org/astif/>

The ASEAN Science and Technology Innovation Fund finances proposals that support the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025. The APASTI 2016-2025 Vision is a science, technology and innovation-enabled ASEAN, which is innovative, competitive, vibrant, sustainable and economically integrated. The proposals should address the challenges and development gaps in the following areas:

1. Energy and water
2. Food and biotechnology
3. Biomedical and healthcare
4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
5. ICT applications
6. Relevant enabling innovation for science and technology

INDIA

Atal Innovation Mission

<http://niti.gov.in/content/atal-innovation-mission-aim>

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self-Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) is Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Its objective is to serve as a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

The Atal Innovation Mission shall have two core functions:

- Entrepreneurship promotion through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization, wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs
- Innovation promotion: to provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated

Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE)

<http://meity.gov.in/content/innovation-promotion>

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) is implementing a scheme titled "Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE)". Initially launched in 2008 the scheme has been revised and extended till March 2017. As per the scheme provision, 27 centres are being supported at academic institutions across India. TIDE has a multipronged approach in diverse areas of Electronics, ICT and Management.

It aims to assist institutions of higher learning to strengthen their Technology Incubation Centers and enable young entrepreneurs to initiate technology startup companies for commercial exploitation of technologies developed by them. DeitY is providing financial and policy support for strengthening technology incubation activities on the premise that this would in the long run result in indigenous development of products and packages in the ICT sector.

Multiplier Grant Scheme (MGS)

<http://meity.gov.in/content/innovation-promotion>

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) is implementing Multiplier Grants Scheme (MGS). MGS aims to encourage collaborative R&D between industry and academics/ R&D institutions for development of products and packages. Under the scheme, if industry supports R&D for development of products that can be commercialized at institution level, then government will also provide financial support that is up to twice the amount provided by industry.

Aspire Fund

https://sidbi.in/Aspire_Fund.php

The Aspire fund provides support to various Angel / Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) for investing in start-ups / early stage enterprises in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, forward backward linkage with multiple value chain of manufacturing and service delivery, accelerator support in the agro-based Industry verticals and sectors which would galvanize the rural economy.

TIFAC-SRIJAN Scheme

https://sidbi.in/TIFAC_SIDBI_Revolving_Fund_for_Technology_Innovation_SRIJAN_Scheme.php

This programme aims at facilitating development, demonstration and commercialization of technology innovation projects pertaining to new product or process de-

velopment to encourage and promote development of capabilities in MSMEs to innovate and to bring high-risk innovations to the market for opening up opportunities for business linked with innovations. The programme supports MSMEs towards development, up-scaling, demonstration and commercialization of innovative technology based projects by providing developmental loans at flexible terms & interest rate to encourage / promote development / innovation of new technology / process / product and its commercialization.

MALAYSIA

Enterprise Innovation Fund (EIF)

<http://www.mprc.gov.my/finance/enterprise-innofund-eif>

Enterprise Innovation Fund is a grant scheme which funds the development or improvement of new or existing products, processes or services with elements of innovation. The project must have economic value and improves the societal well-being of the community. The Fund aims at increasing the participation of micro-businesses, individuals in innovative activities and encourage technological innovation of new or existing products, process or services for commercialization.

MOSTI Social Innovation (MSI)

<https://www.yim.my/mosti-social-innovation-msi-fund/>

The MOSTI Social Innovation (MSI) project was launched with the objective of improving the well-being of the society through the implementation of project, services, capacity and skill building or innovation output using the existing technology that can be implemented sustainably. As a start, the implementation of MSI involves outreach programmes to the grassroots level and scaling up innovative ideas from the outreach programme with the objective of "humanising innovation". Innovators can submit their project ideas to the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) for the MSI grant. MESTECC functions as a one-stop centre for innovators to submit their innovations with proof-of-concept. The innovation projects will be matched with its agencies and collaborators to facilitate and monitor the projects.

PHILIPPINES

Innovation System Support Fund (ISSF)

<http://region6.dost.gov.ph/innovation-system-support-fund-issf/>

The Innovation System Support Fund (ISSF) is a major technology transfer and commercialization program under Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) which provides assistance for the upgrading of existing production facilities

of MSMEs/organizations as well as acquisition of other critical requirements in the production line. Primarily, it aims to improve product quality and productivity in order to ensure market competitiveness. Under this modality, the beneficiaries refund the total cost of the assistance to the government for three years without interest. The SETUP focuses on key sectors such as food processing, furniture, gifts, decors and housewares, agriculture/aquaculture and marine, metals and engineering, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and pharmaceuticals and health products.

VIET NAM

National Technology Innovation Fund

<http://natif.vn/en.html>

The National Technology Innovation Fund (NATIF) is affiliated with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of Viet Nam. The Fund functions in granting and lending capital to implement scientific and technological projects proposed by organizations or individuals. NATIF mainly supports enterprises, organizations and individuals whose conduct activities to innovative technology applications, commercializing the results of scientific research and technological development to bring to the market new products and services that have high technological content and high added value. ■

Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries

A Technology Bank for least developed countries (LDCs) was launched in Gebze, Turkey on 4 June 2018 – a major milestone in helping LDCs to use science, technology and innovation. The call for the bank to be established originates with the Istanbul Programme of Action, which began at the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs in 2011. The Technology Bank is tasked with strengthening the knowledge capacity of the world's LDCs so that they can foster development of their innovation ecosystems to attract outside technology, generate homegrown research, and promote their integration into the global knowledge-based economy.

The Technology Bank is starting its work by conducting science, technology and innovation reviews in Guinea, Haiti, Sudan, Timor-Leste and Uganda. It is also facilitating digital access to research in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, and Tanzania.

For more information, access:

<http://unohrlls.org/technologybank/>