



Asia Policy Forum 2017

**Collaborative Policies to
Enhance the Social Economy**

5th June 2017

Leading Partner

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About the Report

This report is a summary and analysis of the Asia Policy Forum 2017 “Collaborative Policies to Enhance the Social Economy” held in Bangkok on 5th June 2017 in partnership with the BMW Foundation, Credit Suisse, British Council, Credit Suisse and UNESCAP. The event brought together 89 policymakers and practitioners from 21 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America, hosted in the United Nations Conference Centre for the first time. It explored various policy themes and collaborative efforts as well as developments in different social economies in Asia. The programme and speakers' profiles are provided in Annex A and Annex B, respectively.

For video and photos from the event and other resources, please visit <https://avpn.asia/asiapolicyforum>.

For more information, please contact us at policy@avpn.asia.

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Foreword



In line with AVPN's mission to build a vibrant and high-impact philanthropy and social investment community across Asia, our Asia Policy Forum has evolved into an annual convening that facilitates greater sharing and learning opportunities for policymakers in Asia on ways in which governments could foster the social economy. Building on the success of the 2016 inaugural Asia Policy Dialogue in Hong Kong that brought together more than 70 delegates from 19 countries, Asia Policy Forum 2017 in Bangkok on 5th June welcomed 89 policymakers and social economy leaders from 21 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe as well as North America, hosted in the United Nations Conference Centre for the first time. We deeply appreciate the generous partnership with BMW Foundation, Credit Suisse, British Council and UNESCAP that made the event a resounding success.

This event report provides a summary and analysis of the sharing and presentations by delegates at Asia Policy Forum 2017. The delegates discussed various initiatives and programmes, opportunities and challenges in establishing their respective social economies. In addition to providing a snapshot of what was shared, the report captures key insights from the discussions of the day, distilled along the 5 policy realms where policymakers could make lasting impact, namely: Leadership & Alliances, Legislation, Market Building, Capacity Building and Capital Mobilisation. We hope that this report will be a useful resource for policymakers in Asia aiming to build a thriving and sustainable social economy in their countries, as well as for champions looking to communicate the vast potential of the social economy in maximising social good in Asia.

Going forward, Asia Policy Forum plans to broaden and deepen its local engagements given the contextual nature of policymaking and the need to forge organic partnerships by private, public and civic sectors to develop the Asian social economy with its distinctive characteristics. AVPN will also leverage on its extensive membership network to further cross-fertilisation of ideas between policymakers and practitioners in the Asian philanthropy and social investment community. We look forward to collaborating with interested partners as Asia Policy Forum grows.

Naina Subberwal Batra

CEO, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN)

For some years now, we have applied venture philanthropy principles in our collaborations with nonprofits and social enterprises. Often it has been not so much our financial support as the deployment of our non-financial resources – the know-how of the Foundation's staff or the spirited advice offered by members of our Responsible Leaders Network – that has helped our partners succeed. To build a vibrant and effective philanthropy and impact investing landscape, it takes, however, more than the efforts and commitment of individual investors and organisations. It requires strong intermediaries, and it requires a dialogue involving also, and especially, the “conventional” private sector and public authorities. Thanks to our partnership with AVPN, a rapidly growing and dynamic network, and the establishment of the Asia Policy Forum, we see ourselves well on the way towards contributing to these goals!

The BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt promotes responsible leadership and inspires leaders worldwide to work towards a peaceful, just and sustainable future. Through our activities, we aim to advance the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Barbara Müller

Senior Manager, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out the most ambitious set of global targets to eradicate poverty and address social and environmental problems that have ever been agreed. The fact that the SDGs were unanimously adopted by all 193 member states of the UN is in itself a major achievement that sent a powerful signal about the urgency of the problems the world faces.

However, governments need to do more if we are to have any chance of realising the vision that has been agreed. Although change will not ultimately come from the top, governments will play a critical role in creating (or not) the conditions in which social innovation can occur. The Asia Policy Forum, which the British Council is proud to have co-founded, plays an important role in supporting governments to build a favourable environment for social entrepreneurship and social investment.

Tristan Ace

Global Social Enterprise Partnerships and Development Manager, British Council

Less than two years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the most ambitious, all-encompassing agenda to guide the advancement of humankind for the next 15 years. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are three dimensional in nature and aim to positively impact economy, society and environment.

Meeting this challenge will require enterprises, investors and economies to become more 'social'. There is a renewed recognition that the public sector must work effectively with the private sector to deliver development returns, and governments in Asia have demonstrated global leadership through the implementation of innovative and experimental policies.

In order to capitalise on this movement, collaboration will be critical. Governments, private sector, philanthropy and multi-lateral organisations must cooperate so that we can become greater than the sum of our parts.

UNESCAP was delighted to host the AVPN Asia Policy Forum in partnership with the BMW Foundation, Credit Suisse and the British Council. We believe that governments have a key role to play in fostering a social economy and that Forum's such as this will be critical to share knowledge of effective practices to advance the social economy at scale.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to AVPN for their vision and commitment to this agenda and look forward to exploring further collaboration opportunities in the future. I would also like to thank our partners the BMW Foundation, Credit Suisse and the British Council for their leadership on this agenda. This partnership provides a unique opportunity to leverage our collective expertise, resources, networks and platforms to advance the social economy in Asia, and support governments to meet the ambitions of the SDGs.

Jonathan Wong

Chief of Technology and Innovation United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

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What is Asia Policy Forum

Asia Policy Forum (APF) is a collaborative effort between influential policymakers, venture philanthropists, impact investors, social entrepreneurs and other key players operating in the social economy in Asia. It offers a convening platform and presents practical learning opportunities for policymakers and policy advocates looking to build an enabling environment for the social economy to flourish. APF includes an annual forum held alongside the AVPN Annual Conference which brings together practitioners and experts from the public and private sector, civil society, as well as multilateral and intergovernmental institutions to support learning and community-building. APF also includes local and sub-regional capacity building activities such as workshops, roundtables and webinars on topics of

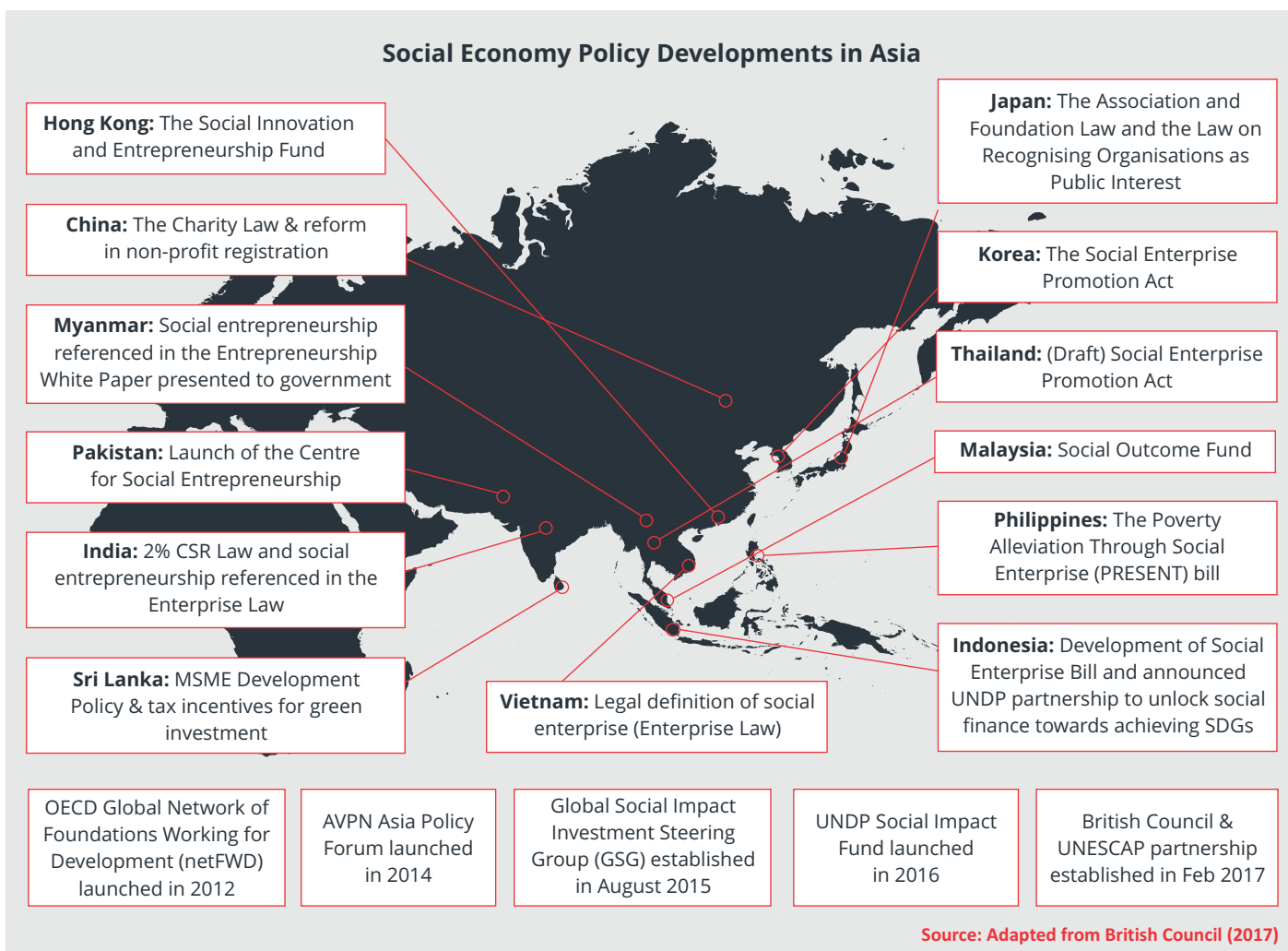
interest in the social economy policy environment. This is supported by a comprehensive database of original case studies, toolkits and carefully curated external resources exclusively for APF participants.

APF has its roots as a study tour for Asian policymakers to Europe in 2014 before it became a regular event in Singapore in 2015, and Hong Kong in 2016. APF 2017 was held in Bangkok at the United Nations Conference Centre for the first time on 5th June 2017 alongside the annual AVPN conference. Although in its early years, APF is helping to create a community of leaders who are transforming the role of governments in building a thriving social economy.

Bangkok 2017: Collaborative Policies to Enhance the Social Economy

2017's theme is "Collaborative Policies to Enhance the Social Economy". The role of business in the society is evolving rapidly, with increasing attention paid to sustainable economic development and the need for responsible business conduct. In this context, social entrepreneurship, social investment and philanthropy are playing a more central role in influencing the ways in which business is done across Asia. In order to encourage and incentivise collaboration between mainstream business and social entrepreneurs, governments can play a critical role. The social economy

is an arena where collaborative policy approaches can demonstrate how to break down silos and capitalise on the synergies where different parts of society work with each other. APF will be a platform to showcase such policy initiatives across Asia, sharing experiences from case studies and bringing together the diverse perspectives from various levels of government and the private and third sectors. This will help advance the learning from best practices to catalyse the development of an effective and enabling policy environment for the social economy throughout Asia.



Worldwide interest in the social economy has been on the rise. Policy developments aimed at nurturing various social economy actors as well as harnessing the potential of the social economy have emerged across Asia. It is evident that social impact and sustainable development need the full force of effective policies. Using a

systems-level approach to the social economy and encouraging interactions between policymakers and social economy champions, policy decisions can catalyse the growth of socially impactful investments and related forms of capital.

APF's Systemic Approach to the Social Economy Policy Landscape



Source: AVPN (2017)

As the understanding and contexts of the social economy vary widely from country to country, it can be helpful to frame the questions and perspectives to navigate the ways in which policy interacts with the social economy. This is the intent of the AVPN Policymakers Toolkit for Social Economy in Asia, which will be developed for 2018 discussion. This approach underlies the discussions in APF Bangkok 2017. We challenge individuals and organisations with vested interest in social economy policy to consider:

- How well do we understand the full potential and implications of the social economy's role in achieving national objectives?
- Have we effectively and sustainably engaged stakeholders in private and civic sectors who can impact policy?
- Have we deepened our understanding on how approaches taken in social economy policy design/ planning and execution depend greatly on local context and development priorities?
- How can we encourage thoughtful and results-based thinking about different ways policies can impact critical parts of the social economy?

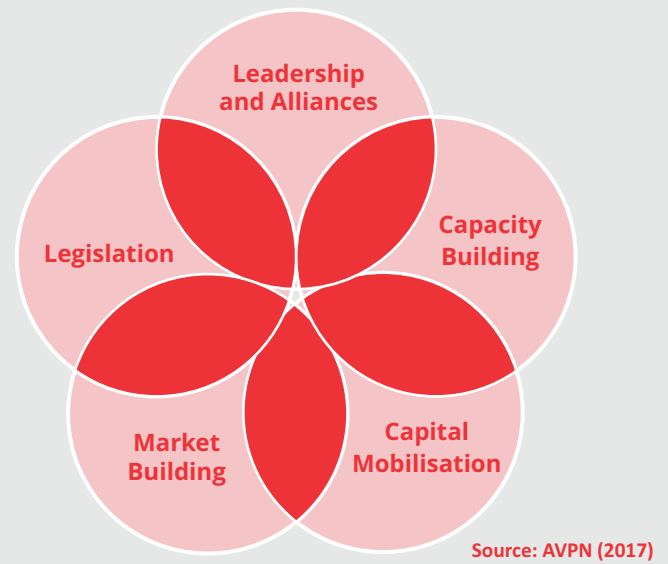
This kind of understanding can complement other development diagnostic tools and policymaking best practices.

Five Areas for Policymaker Impact

Deriving from the 4 framing questions above, AVPN has further distilled 5 interdependent areas for policy impact in fostering a high-impact and sustainable social economy, namely:

- Leadership and Alliances
- Legislation
- Market Building
- Capacity Building
- Capital Mobilisation

5 Policy Impact Areas in the Social Economy



Source: AVPN (2017)

Presentations and sharing by delegates at APF Bangkok 2017 underscored the significance and pertinence of all 5 areas in both global and Asian contexts. The proceedings of APF Bangkok 2017 are presented in this report along the 5 areas (reported in detail in Section 3), where we have highlighted key insights in each area that may lead to actionable opportunities for policymakers in respective countries.

2. Setting The Context: Why the Social economy is relevant to Governments and policymakers.

APF Bangkok 2017 saw evident and unanimous consensus about the relevance of the social economy globally and in Asia in particular. While policymakers may approach each country's social economy from different angles, the imperative to harness private resources for social good was well articulated by all. Be it a trajectory towards inclusive growth, an outcome-focused approach for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or a paradigm shift in social services provision, these are ways that the social economy becomes relevant – by laying out a sustainable whole-of-society pathway to harmonise various stakeholders' goals and agendas towards inclusive and resilient development.

Social economy is a viable trajectory towards inclusive growth

The need for inclusive growth has become more imperative as global wealth gap expands. By building an impactful social economy, policymakers have a different way to prioritise economic growth and social and environmental objectives. The social economy redefines traditional economic trajectories and opens up an alternative path where there is no conflict between growth and inclusivity.

“Profits are not profits if people are not benefitting.”

Dr. Sathit Limpongpan, Chairman of the Thailand National Reform Steering Committee on Economics

From Thailand's perspective, social enterprises (SEs) embody inclusive growth and innovation by marrying business and inclusivity, thereby contributing to the country's effort to escape the middle-income trap.

Cutting across multiple sectors, notable SEs in Thailand are tackling a wide array of societal challenges, including Siam Organic (sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods), Learn Education (improving access to and quality of education), Abhaibhubejhr Hospital (accessible and affordable healthcare) and Buddy Home Care (taking care of an ageing population). In this light, the social economy is an integral part of the economy that not only contributes to economic growth but also meets social needs.

Similarly, in the Philippines, the social economy is increasingly recognised as a mechanism to achieve inclusive growth. While the country continues to enjoy stable GDP growth, growth has been concentrated in certain sectors and inequality is largely persistent.

Local policymakers are therefore looking towards actors in the social economy for innovative ways to alleviate this challenge. Inclusive growth is the prevailing momentum in the country that drives social economy policies.

“The push for social economy policies is to achieve growth which is inclusive.”

*Senator Paolo Benigno 'Bam' Aquino IV,
Senate of the Philippines*

Indonesia is currently implementing the national creative economy strategy, which serves as a key part of building the social economy. In particular, the creative economy strategy envisions the elimination of divisions along economic and human development lines. The social economy takes one step further to ensure the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed across various segments in the society.

Social economy constitutes an effective outcome - focused approach towards achieving the SDGs

The social economy also presents an outcome-focused approach to attain the SDGs. On 1st January 2016, the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic UN Summit — officially came into force. Building on the Millennium Development Goals, the SDGs encompass a comprehensive and far-reaching set of universal goals and targets covering the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

Social economy actors are regarded as crucial to effectively achieve the SDGs. **Around the world, implementation of development objectives has not always been effective and outcomes have been inadequate.** The social economy is well-positioned to revitalise funding for SDGs through facilitating strategic interventions that will redirect the country's resources to not only enable economic growth but also effectively address social challenges.

“Social entrepreneurship is a strategic intervention which will redirect South Africa's trajectory, enabling growth and addressing social challenges.”

Dr. Vuyo Mahlati, Deputy Chair and Principal Consultant, Africa Financial Group

Echoing this view, Sri Lanka has formulated a **12-thrust National Policy for Sustainable Consumption and Production where social economy actors are seen as catalysts for the success of this policy.** The social economy in India plays a role in solving the implementation challenges in education policies resulting from rampant communication bottlenecks and redundancies within government.

Social economy introduces an innovative paradigm shift in the mainstream economy and social services

Traditionally, governments have played a major role in providing social services, which often puts a severe constraint on limited public budgets. Over the last couple of decades, a paradigm shift in social services provision has been in motion. Governments around the world have come to understand they have the opportunity to create social good with different strategies, where the enormous potential of the social economy is increasingly recognised. The social economy is seen as one of the answers to the need for austerity. It has demonstrated early evidence in effectively coalescing a large group of people around solutions to social challenges and execute them in commercially viable ways to achieve sustainable impact. Policymakers are seeing that working with the social economy can lead to creativity and cost-effectiveness, a sentiment which was palpable at the APF Bangkok 2017.

“Increasing accumulation of private wealth means the social economy is an attractive partner of the government.”

Paul Carttar, Senior Advisor, The Bridgespan Group

Consequently, there is a growing consensus among delegates that governments must step in to foster the social economy. **Various social economy elements including venture philanthropy, impact investment, CSR and SEs must no longer situate themselves outside the broader political agenda. The role of the government is therefore to create an enabling environment for these elements to thrive.**

In Hong Kong for example, the social economy is increasingly recognised as agents mobile and adaptable enough to fill the gaps which the government cannot. The sustainability index created by the Stock Exchange of Thailand is another example of integrating impact into the mainstream economy.

“The social economy is the only set of agents mobile and adaptable enough to fill the gaps which the government can't.”

Stephen Wong, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Public Policy Institute, Our Hong Kong Foundation

Further, the public sector needs to lead the way in mainstreaming the social economy. Once internal alliances have been formed within the public sector to demonstrate system-wide commitment to the social economy, the private sector will have more incentives to integrate a socially- and environmentally-driven approach to the core of their businesses. Many delegates expressed that SEs should be the norm of the economy; they should be able to function as a normally regulated enterprise to produce greater social returns as they make profits.

“Once the public sector collaborates internally on the facilitation of a complete ecosystem for social enterprises, there are endless possibilities in innovation, social and environmental awareness as well as development.”

*Kiatchai Sophastienphong,
Vice Minister for Finance, Thailand*

Delegates at the APF Bangkok 2017 spoke of key ways in which governments can stimulate and grow the social economy. Firstly, governments can work towards creating an investment-friendly climate, thereby incentivising private capital interest in the social economy. Secondly, governments can create a more enabling regulatory space for SEs, impact-driven businesses and capital providers to further their work. These, coupled with a myriad of other policy innovations (see Section 3), will be able to spark systemic change and shift the economy towards one with a stronger social orientation.

With a palpable alignment on the importance of the social economy, policymakers and social economy advocates discussed in depth about various ways that policy can innovatively and effectively impact the social economy at both national and city levels.

Delegates were also invited to brainstorm on policy innovations for pressing issues of the day including ageing, education and rural livelihoods. The sharing was then distilled along the 5 interdependent policy impact realms:

Policy Impact Realm	Definition	Examples
Leadership and Alliances	Establishing leadership within government and building alliances within and outside government to take ownership over social economy agenda.	Policy statements, cross-ministry committees, public private sector alliances, engaging global partners, etc.
Legislation	Policies that introduce legislation and regulations that impact the social economy, including but not limited to fiscal and monetary policy measures.	Certification system, legal framework and recognition, legal structure, philanthropy regulations, social investment regulations, small business regulations, etc.
Market Building	Policies that create market opportunities for social businesses to improve their revenue opportunities and market outreach.	Social procurement, trademarking, consumer platforms, advocacy campaigns, data collection and analysis, etc.
Capacity Building	Policies that build up the capabilities and knowledge of key stakeholders in social economy to create greater social impact.	Investment in building centres for excellence, capability development of social entrepreneurs, knowledge development, incubators and accelerators, etc.
Capital Mobilisation	Policies that unlock or mobilise capital that can fund social economy initiatives and stakeholders, across a continuum of capital instruments.	Government-funded social investment funds, matching incentives for social investment, tax incentives, government grant programmes, unlocking CSR capital, etc.

3. Leadership and Alliances

One key element of the social economy is the working partnership between the public, private and civil society sectors. While the social economy has sometimes been framed as a movement involving all sectors in the society, delegates at the APF Bangkok 2017 emphasised the need for new ways of thinking and new instruments to broaden people's mindsets to include the "social" as much as "economy". **Two key instruments to orienting mindsets are taking leadership and building alliances.**

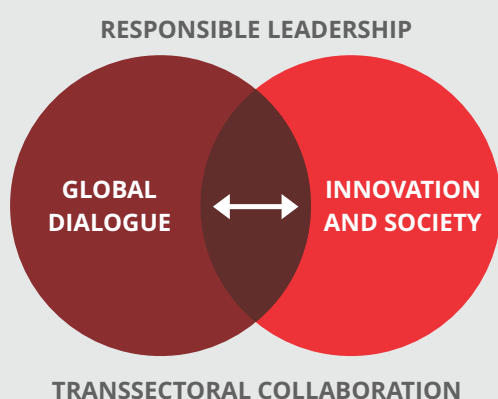
There is a growing recognition that it is not enough to build the social economy as a separate or adjacent segment. The social economy must be firmly embedded in the intersection of the public, private and civil society sectors, and not marginalised as a niche sector. Breaking down silos and building effective alliances are therefore paramount as the social economy can only thrive when a cross-sectoral strategy is used.

"Our partnerships need to be cross-functional and support every part of the ecosystem."

*Markus Hipp,
Director, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt*

Leadership needs to transcend traditional boundaries

A Responsible Leadership Model



Source: BMW Foundation(2017)

Traditionally, the public, private, and civil society sectors have been viewed as separate factions with potentially conflicting interests and agendas. Governments had historically viewed social economy actors in a separate sphere.

However, non-traditional ways of thinking have started to take root in recent years. Increasing private wealth and boundless potential for innovations have made the social economy more appealing to governments. In light of the increasing complexity of the challenges we are facing, the ability to listen to different perspectives is important. It is therefore imperative for leadership to transcend traditional boundaries, particularly between governments, businesses and the civil society.

A widely shared sentiment among delegates at the APF Bangkok 2017 was that governments need to venture beyond the public sphere and start working with non-traditional allies. In some cases, they might need to outsource leadership by identifying leaders and champions in other sectors and letting these actors take the lead. In the education sector in India, for example, delegates discussed how the government could 'insource' private sector innovations and 'outsource' to universities to test and scale.

"We cannot consider ourselves operating in silos. There is a need for leadership which transcends the traditional distinction of governments, businesses and civil societies."

Tristan Ace, Global Social Enterprise Partnerships and Development Manager, British Council

Delegates spoke at length about cases of **innovative government leadership** in action. We saw more examples of **governments leading the social economy movement across Asia**, by directing policy focus to the sector in order to mobilise social, human, and financial capital. In Myanmar, a white paper has been released by the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association focusing on developing social entrepreneurship. Malaysia launched the Social Outcome Fund in March 2017.

The Poverty Reduction through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Bill has been drafted and submitted to the Senate of the Philippines. In Thailand, the Ministry of Finance has taken the lead by formulating the Social Enterprise Promotion Act (SEPA).

Authentic alignment is a prerequisite to alliance building

Delegates at the APF Bangkok 2017 shared the view that effective and enduring alliances are key to achieving a vibrant and impactful social economy. Different sectors have begun to understand each other more deeply and come to a more robust conclusion that each has something to offer which is material to aligned long-term goals. Cross-functional partnerships and collaboration are increasingly viewed as fundamental to the social economy ecosystem. The belief that everyone wins when they collaborate with each other strongly resonated at APF.

Various governments are setting precedents by successfully testing and launching creative social economy policies at different policy levels. At the national level, the Thai government has established a partnership with university students to form the Thailand Social Innovation Platform which seeks to strengthen the ecosystem by connecting SEs to the SDGs. In India, employing public-private partnerships to tackle urban healthcare challenges, as carried out by initiatives such as BMJ, a provider of medical knowledge, healthcare solutions and clinical decision support, has borne fruit.

At the municipal level, the Seoul Metropolitan Government has engaged Pan-Impact Korea, a private intermediary, to design and implement social impact bonds (SIBs). Pan-Impact Korea has since been working closely with Korea's Ministry of Interior to scale SIBs at the national level, signifying the increasing openness among Korean policymakers to working with non-traditional partners. The Shenzhen government has cultivated a social innovation culture in partnership with NGOs, universities, the media and corporate giants such as Tencent. These precedents allow for broader adoption of best policy practices and create champions who will pioneer and lead the Asian social economy movement.

Delegates also pointed out critical elements that allow multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration to succeed. **While understanding and respect for others' points of view is the key starting point, sustaining a partnership also requires authentic alignment of goals. Without these two factors, collaboration may morph into futile cooptation.** As social issues are multi-faceted, and the language used by different sectors can be a barrier to alignment, the stakeholders involved should have a clear and unblinkered vision of the outcomes and corresponding metrics to encourage alignment.

Within the public sector, the need for a whole-of-government approach to building the social economy was reiterated by many delegates. **Internal alliances between different parts of the government ensure timely policy formulation as well as enable more effective implementation.** When governments reach a consensus around supporting the social economy, the private sector will also have more incentives to make social and environmental impact the centre of their business models.

“When the public sector collaborates internally, the private sector will have more incentives to integrate a more social and environmental approach to the core of their businesses.”

*Kiatchai Sophastienphong,
Vice Minister of Finance, Thailand*

“Sustainable collaboration starts with understanding and respect for others' points of view and authentic alignment of goals.”

Paul Carttar, Senior Advisor, The Bridgespan Group

4. Legislation

Across the board, there was a consensus among delegates that the development of a social economy is not tenable without an enabling legal framework. Repeatedly, delegates reaffirmed the need to ensure that regulations are support mechanisms rather than barriers to the social economy.

Notable was Indonesia's recognition that bureaucracy must see tangible reform before any substantial progress can be made for the social economy. In the Philippines, legislative initiatives raised during APF ranged from the microfinance law, to the Go Negosyo Act which provides mentorship for enterprises across the country, to the pending PRESENT Bill and Islamic Financing Bill, all of which seek to lay the foundation for building up the capacity as well as broadening the availability of financing options for social economy actors. South Korea also shared its journey to implement SIBs whereby legislation played a central role.

Legislation creates long-term stability for a sustainable social economy

When laying the groundwork for social economy legislation, delegates pointed out the importance of two things. First, that there is a large number of players in the social economy,

and secondly, those players are making decisions independently of government in an ever-evolving landscape. Therefore, in forming legislation, the crux lies in ensuring that **policymakers strive to create enduring support structures which create long-term predictability in the policy environment for the social economy.** In other words, **regulations must be seen as a fundamental platform for sustainable policies** that nurture the social economy.

“We need to make sure regulations are not barriers but a fundamental platform for long-term sustainable policies.”

Paul Carttar, Senior Advisor, The Bridgespan Group

Diverse legislations represent various pathways towards common goals

As the social economy has evolved and developed in many different ways across Asia, so has the local context shaped the broad range of legislations that we see today. Sharing at the APF Bangkok 2017 highlighted the multitude of legislative approaches that policymakers have taken to reach the common goal of building a thriving social economy ecosystem. Delegates concurred that it is not tenable to replicate legislative solutions wholesale from one geographic context to the next.

Thailand's Social Enterprise Promotion Act Journey

NOV 2014 TO FEB 2015

APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL REFORM COUNCIL

- Report of SE study by members of commission
- Draft Act by Council of State staff

APR 2015

APPROVAL OF CABINET

- Official call for comments and recommendation from all relevant government agencies for consensus
- Public consultation and Approval by the National SE Board
- Report and approval from the National Joint Committee

MAR 2017 and beyond

APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (NLA)

- Detailed investigation and Act drafting by members of commission of the NLA

Source: Khun Nuttaphong Jaruwannaphong cited by the Ministry of Finance, Thailand (2017)

Thailand is one of the more notable Asian countries that has undertaken the legal empowerment approach towards building its social economy. Through the drafted SEPA, which aims to provide a more encompassing legal definition, improved certification, and tax incentives to SEs, Thailand hopes to revitalise its engagement with the social economy and encourage a new generation to take ownership of this effort. It envisions a social economy where the sustainability of SEs will transform profit-oriented enterprises into those that will create social good.

“Social enterprises need a law that will not only encourage the public to set their minds on transforming their current businesses or developing new businesses into socially and environmentally altruistic enterprises, but to also pave legal pathways that will assist them in becoming more sustainable, so that they may thrive in the short term as well as in the long term.”

*Kiatchai Sophastienphong,
Vice Minister of Finance, Thailand*

Philippines approaches the social economy from a largely bottom-up perspective with an emphasis on market, mentorship, and money. Existing and pending legislations in the country therefore focus on 'getting the market to move' through channelling various types of capital (the microfinance law, the Islamic financing bill) and providing advisory services (the Go Negosyo Act), thereby creating a more conducive market for SEs.

In the case of South Korea, legislation was a prerequisite for the Seoul Metropolitan Government to unlock private capital for social impact through SIBs. The SIB Legislation Task force was established at the end of 2013, bringing together private sector experts and government officials. In March 2014, Seoul enacted the country's SIB legislation, paving the way for the launch of the first SIB aimed at supporting children with borderline intellectual functions residing in child welfare facilities in the city.



5. Market Building

While the role of legislation is crucial in promoting the social economy, delegates broadly supported the need to go beyond legislative interventions. Many envisioned a hybrid economy where market mechanisms are part of the creation of social impact. Market building through preferential procurement and government-led incentivisation was recognised as one of the important tools for policymakers. Delegates also noted that the movements of the market vis-à-vis the social economy can affect the stance of policy.

“If the market embraces the social economy then the social economy becomes much easier to achieve. If we get the market to move, policy will follow suit.”

*Senator Paolo Benigno 'Bam' Aquino IV,
Senate of the Philippines*

Preferential procurement should be implemented as a market-building policy tool

Delegates were forthcoming in showing support for the use of preferential procurement from SEs as both a practical and strongly symbolic display of government leadership. **Increasing government participation in the social economy was seen as a high-impact strategy that policymakers could employ.**

Indeed, Thailand has already included such provisions for favourable conditions to be granted to SEs in public procurement processes within its developing SEPA.

“If we want to truly develop our social economies, governments should be required to procure from social enterprises and ethical companies.”

*Dr. Sathit Limpongpan,
Chairman of the Thailand National Reform
Steering Committee on Economics*

Government incentives are catalysts for market-driven change

Across the board, delegates emphasised the need for government incentives to catalyse market-driven change.

When governments promote and take steps to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, social economy market opportunities will flourish.

Encompassing a wide array of sectors, Sri Lanka's Sustainable Consumption and Production Policy is another demonstration of the importance of market building in the social economy policy framework.

“The government should embrace entrepreneurship and the market will move.”

*David Galipeau,
Chief, United Nations Social Impact Fund*

Incentivising the private sector to incorporate impact into their everyday operations was also widely seen as one of the important steps towards a sustainable social economy. Policymakers can encourage regular businesses to integrate social elements into their business models and their supply chains. Social impact can be maximised when corporations are involved in fostering social good. As the case of Thailand highlights, the production and consumption of green, clean, and recyclable products, and the employment of disadvantaged and physically challenged people are some of the examples where market building policies can make a difference.

Further, corporates can be incentivised to partner with the government and the civil society sectors to bring about positive change. In the case of India, Unilever has been working with the Mumbai government to build public toilets, thereby contributing significantly to the city's fecal sludge management efforts. In Thailand, the government is designing incentives for large corporations to establish SE spin-offs that can impact entire supply chains.

Policy Example to Support Market Building

Sri Lanka's Sustainable Consumption and Production Policy



Industry, Energy and Tourism

- Resource-Efficient Cleaner Production made compulsory by 2025 for environmentally sensitive sectors
- Establish green finance schemes and environmental incentives
- Establish incentives for R&D and eco-innovations
- New National Energy Policy by 2018
- Action plan for energy self-sufficiency by 2020
- Administrative and legislative framework for Sustainable Public Procurement in the state-owned industrial, energy and transport sector by 2020
- Promote eco-tourism

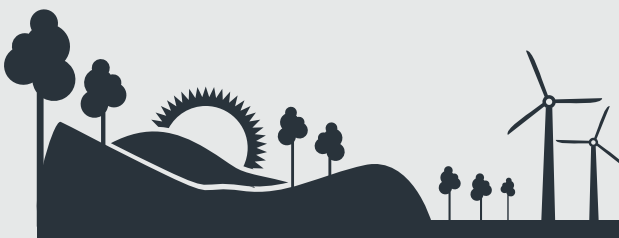
Air, Water and Sanitation

- Disincentivise irresponsible practices that lead to air pollution
- Promote water efficient technologies
- Mainstream climate and disaster resilience into the management of water and sanitation



Food and Health

- Incentivise efficient use of land, water, fertilisers, pesticides and energy in sustainable food production and safe food processing systems
- Minimise the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilisers
- Promote organic agricultural and farming practices
- Strengthen value chains to reduce post-harvest losses
- Practise green procurement in the food production



Source: Adapted from the National Enterprise Development Authority, Sri Lanka (2017)
(drafted by SWITCH ASIA SCP Sri Lanka)

Delegates consistently underscored the ability of the social economy to uniquely leverage private capital for social good. In the US for instance, innovative financial frameworks (e.g. crowdfunded retail impact investment mobile apps) have successfully unlocked financial capital for social impact, with many policymakers now turning their attention to the real purpose of capital and how public finance and the capital markets can interact most beneficially. Tax incentives and SIBs were highlighted as two prominent ways governments can mobilise capital for the social economy.

Tax incentives enable social enterprises to maximise impact

An essential part of Thailand's draft SEPA is the inclusion of tax incentives. If enacted, SEs in the country will have the right to receive special corporate tax incentives and benefits as well as apply for financial assistance during the start-up phase. Thailand recognises that SEs cannot flourish with only the standard regulations for commercial companies as certain tax incentives for start-ups do not cover all forms of businesses. Tax incentives, together with other financial assistance, regulated certification processes, and a clear legal definition are therefore designed to create the ecosystem required for SEs to thrive and maximise impact.

“The tax incentives would enable social enterprises to create more impact. The more impact they can create, the greater the benefits will be economically and socially.”

*Dr. Sathit Limpongpan,
Chairman of the Thailand National Reform Steering
Committee on Economics*

Similar to Thailand, Sri Lanka has introduced fiscal incentives to promote green industrial activities and imports of advanced technologies. Green finance schemes and other environmental incentives have also been put in place to develop enterprises that focus on energy solutions and environmental innovations.

Social impact bonds unleash private financial capital for social good

Pay-for-success mechanisms such as SIBs have become a prominent area of interest among policymakers worldwide as it presents an innovative way of mobilising social impact capital and bringing cross-sector partners together. First launched in the UK in 2010, SIBs bring together government, private service providers and investors to implement programmes that achieve pre-defined outcomes. The private sector funds and delivers services, sometimes in partnership with social purpose organisations. Governments only pay back private sector funders if the outcomes are met, and therefore, SIBs help to manage risks for all partners and deliver cost savings for the government.

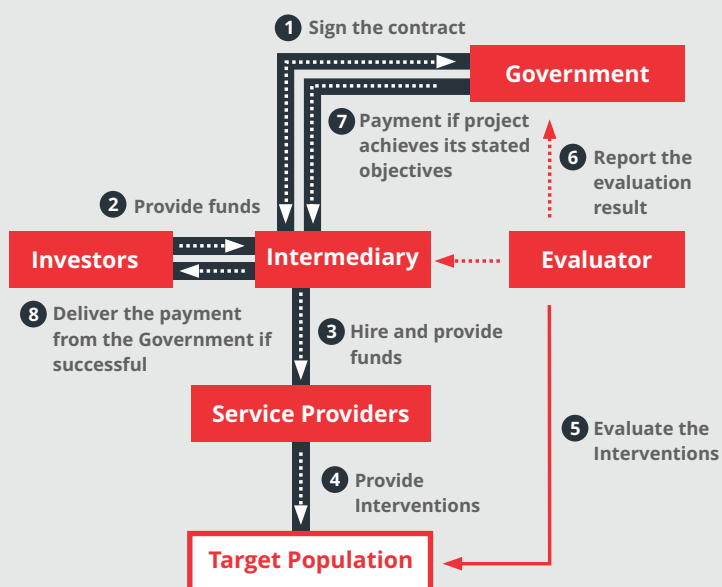
The Seoul City Council passed the SIB legislation in 2014 and in 2015, launched the country's first SIB targeting children with borderline intellectual functions that reside in the city's welfare facilities. Between March and April 2016, Pan-Impact Korea, having been appointed as the official intermediary, secured the required investment amount from private investors and selected Daekyo as the service provider. The implementation of the SIB has been studied by other local governments and the Ministry of Interior with a view to emulating across the country.

“Governments spend tax-payers' money only if pre-defined goals are met. The participation of well-qualified intermediary and service providers is key to the success of social impact bonds.”

Teana Young-A Kim, Senior Manager, Pan-Impact Korea

Sharing at APF underscored the prerequisite conditions for SIBs to succeed. Traditionally, the government budget system operates on an annual basis. In the case of SIBs, payment for the services provided is only determined and made after outcome evaluation, which could take more than a year and requires adjustment to budgeting and forecasting processes. A legislative framework specific to the technicalities of SIBs is needed to put in place this new mechanism. Selecting a well-qualified intermediary who has the capability to advise the government, mobilise investors, and appoint capable service providers is also key.

Comparing Seoul's Social Impact Bond with Current Public Welfare Policy



- 1 Government enters a contract agreement with an intermediary
- 2 Intermediary raises capital from independent Investors
- 3 Intermediary hires and manages service providers
- 4 Service providers provide interventions
- 5 Independent evaluator measures the outcomes
- 6 Evaluator delivers the outcomes assessed
- 7 Government makes payments to intermediary based on the result of the program's success
- 8 Intermediary delivers the payment to the investors

Current Public Welfare Policy: Expenses paid in advance

- Spend the budget regardless of the performance outcome
- Belated response to social problems: The problem solving expenses increase
- Above points deepen the tight budget problem
- Government takes all the risks
- Bureaucratic approach where government is at the center

Social Impact Bond: Pay for success

- Spend the budget only if social outcomes are improved
- Focus on preventive measures: Save potential social costs that otherwise would have been incurred
- Provide solution for limited budget problem in long term
- Risks are distributed among voluntary investors who are entitled to financial returns if it is successful
- Realise innovation through private-public partnership

Source: Pan-Impact Korea (2017)

A competitive open bidding process would ensure the project is implemented by the best service provider who is most likely to meet the pre-defined targets. While delegates showed enthusiasm for the potential of SIBs, some concerns were articulated. The difficulty of quantifying social costs, a critical step in designing the most common kind of performance success metrics, remains a challenge. Raising capital from investors in Asia might not be as easy as demonstrated in Western countries on account of the limited track record of SIBs in the region.

Sensitising mainstream financial institutions and corporates to funding social impact is critical

Subsidies and charitable funding are not the route to sustainability, asserted many delegates. While the increasing interest by social investors is positive, **only when financial institutions become more open to funding SEs so that they become independent of government and philanthropic support, can a sustainable social economy be formed.** This idea is a factor that the latest draft of the SEPA addresses with stated rights for SEs to apply for and receive loans from Thai banks, and that development funds in countries such as the UK and South Korea are targeting.

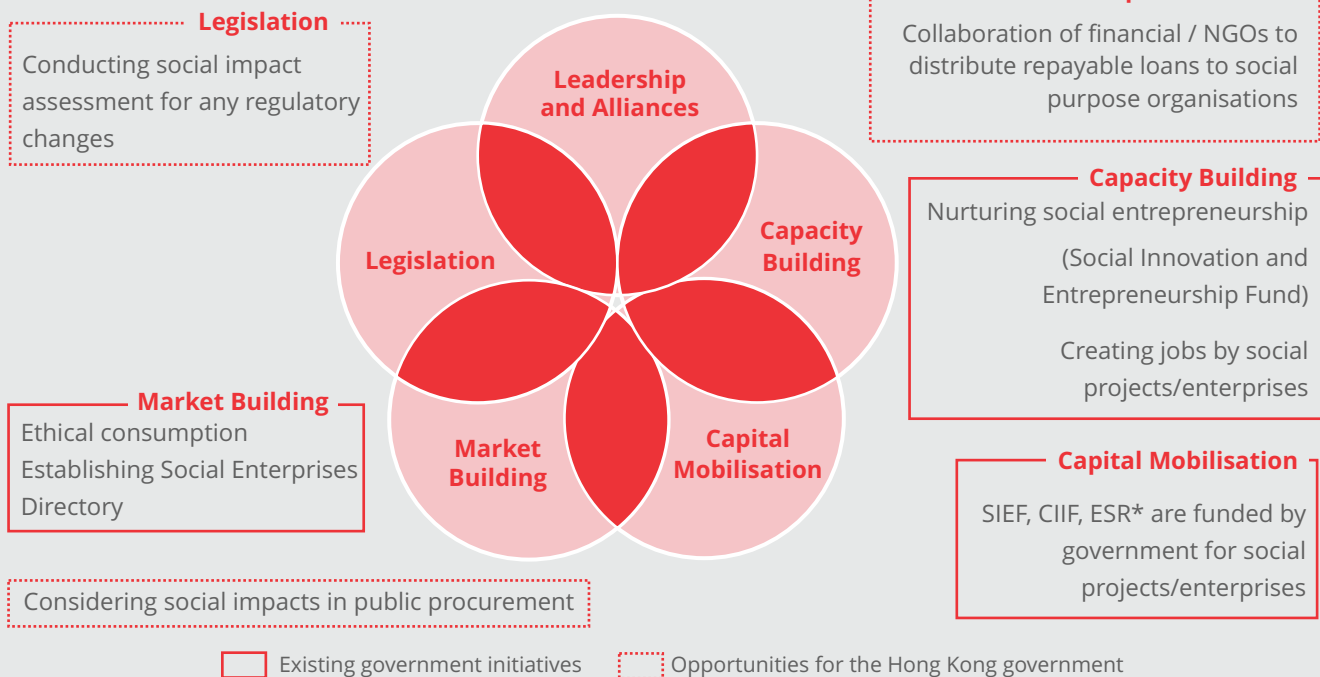
“Financial institutions must be more open to funding social enterprises. The issues they are addressing are often too narrow.”

*Markus Hipp,
Executive Director, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt*

Policymakers thus have an important role to play in sensitising financial institutions to the financing needs of SEs. While market mechanisms need to be in place for an enduring social economy, government interventions are often required to incentivise the funding market.

Further, as AVPN's **Social Investment Landscape in Asia** report points out, corporates' potential to contribute to the social economy is yet to be realised across Asia. **Policymakers have the opportunity to institute policies and programmes to unlock more corporate funding to support SEs.** An example could be to include social economy funding as a policy-recognised option for CSR spending. In addition, policymakers need to pay heed to creating an attractive investment climate to incentivise investors to invest in local SEs. This is an important component in Thailand's draft SEPA.

Policy Initiatives and Opportunities for the Hong Kong Government in the Social Economy



* Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund, Community Investment and Inclusion Fund and Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme respectively **Source: Our Hong Kong Foundation (2017)**

While delegates broadly supported market building and efforts to mobilise capital, they appreciated that capacity building is another crucial step towards building an enduring social economy. **There is a growing recognition that governments, as enablers of social economy actors, should nurture these actors to become effective then eventually step away and let social economy actors take the helm.**

Thailand's SEPA aims to address this through attracting high-quality professionals to join SEs and bolster the talent pool, while the Philippines' Go Negosyo Act strives to provide mentorship for enterprises across the country. SE certification systems, access to data and encouraging the growth of impact assessment skills and deployment, were all raised as important policy tools that can build up the capacity of social economy actors.

“One must begin knowing that one day, you have to step away. Everything is about capacity building and being an enabler rather than being someone who pushes.”

M.L. Dispanadda Diskul, Deputy CEO,
Mae Fah Luang Foundation

Certification aids capacity building

While the merit of SE certification remains contentious in the social economy discourse, Thailand envisions it beyond simply screening and accrediting the enterprises but is a key part of building capacity of the social economy.

The certification process, as detailed in the draft SEPA, allows the Thai Social Enterprise Office (TSEO) to evaluate and keep track of the social impact being created by SEs that register. Further, SEs will be required to regularly submit their financial reports. They will receive specialised assistance throughout their journey to obtaining certification.

“If, for example, they achieve 80% of all criteria, they should be supported to achieve 100% and then become certified. This is good capacity building for both the certification organisation and the social enterprise community.”

Kiatchai Sophastienphong,
Vice Minister of Finance, Thailand

Access to data and support for impact assessment help social economy actors make informed decisions

While governments collect data on a regular basis, delegates recognised that much of this data is not made freely available to social economy actors who need it most. By opening up this data pool, agents in the social economy will benefit from efforts saved in studying the market and cost saved in data collection and research. **The provision of such data could go a long way in enabling social economy actors to make informed decisions** that benefit the ecosystem as a whole. Some delegates suggested that data provision should be clustered around the SDGs in order to focus the efforts of SEs, while others recommended support for academic research that caters to the needs of SEs as well as their R&D efforts. Indonesia, for example, has implemented various forms of R&D support as part of its creative economy strategy.

Not only a tool for decision-making, improved data access was appreciated as a way to increase the

awareness about the potential of the social economy and help people understand the substantial outcomes it creates. Through greater awareness of the areas which are seeing improvement, political weight can be placed in the right areas so that policymakers target the most pertinent issues that can benefit from the social economy.

Delegates also stressed the importance of government support for impact assessment. While impact measurement needs to be implemented by social economy actors, governments can step in to aid in the development of the capacity of social economy actors to do so, articulate indicators and design robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. Thailand, for instance, is working on a standardised social impact assessment framework which is to be built into the certification process.

To this end, the Thai government is looking into deriving relevant elements from international frameworks such as IRIS metrics developed by the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) and UNDP's standards based on the SDGs.

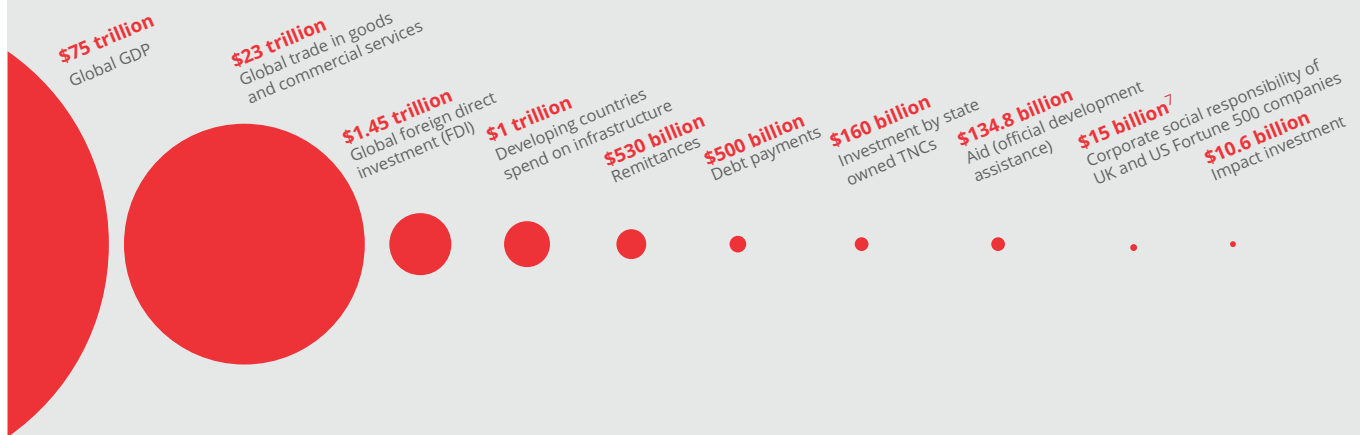


Taking the Asian social economy to new heights

In light of the current scale of CSR activity and impact investment relative to global trade, investment, remittances, aid and debt, early data shows that the social economy still accounts for only a small fraction of global capital flows.

A sentiment echoed by many delegates was that the **goal of the social economy is to be the economy**. This expression is in harmony with others who spoke of “thinking big”, the need to identify synergies, authentic alignment of goals and the significant role of policymakers in directing innovations. Mainstreaming the social economy was reiterated by many as one of their top priorities going forward.

Relative scale of global trade, investment, remittances, aid, debt, CSR activities and impact investment



Source: British Council (2015)

“We can't look at initiatives in a vacuum. We need to stop treating the social economy as a niche economy. It should be the goal of the economy.”

*Senator Paolo Benigno 'Bam' Aquino IV,
Senate of the Philippines*

Breaking silos and strengthening collaboration were also emphasised as areas that need deeper focus. Delegates from Africa noted that the social economy was not only a standout necessity to help them address their social challenges but also a key way for them to pursue collaborative opportunities both within Africa and worldwide.

Similarly, delegates spoke of the bright future they saw developing from the combination of a distinctly Asian lens and creative government leadership. Overall, the principle that collaboration has to be the backbone of the social economy strongly resonated with delegates at the APF Bangkok 2017.

“We have to start to break silos and collaborate.”

Doug Miller, Founder Chairman, AVPN



What's next for APF?

Following APF Bangkok 2017, AVPN looks to broaden and deepen our capacity building offerings for policymakers across Asia. Recognising the contextual and collaborative nature of social economy policies, customised engagements will be implemented in various forms including workshops, webinars, and case studies specific to local economies and specific issue areas of interest. Curated resources to aid the social economy policy formulation and implementation process are also an area of focus.

Bringing a policy lens to the social economy is another strategic thrust for AVPN. Building on AVPN's strength in convening various stakeholders and bringing together multiple perspectives on key issues, initiatives and engagement opportunities for policymakers will be integrated into AVPN's existing conference, summits, roundtables and other activities that engage other stakeholders in the Asian social economy. We aim to better connect private sector champions and advocates to policymakers through such activities.

The cross-fertilisation of ideas is instrumental to sparking synergies and collaborations, thus benefitting the broader ecosystem and ultimately the Asian social economy.

Conclusion

APF 2017 emphasised the need for collaborative, purposeful and contextual policymaking for the achievement of an impactful and sustainable social economy. Firmly embedded in this are the key ingredients of innovative and creative leadership and authentically aligned alliances, legislation, market building, capital mobilisation and capacity building. Well-designed and earnestly implemented policies in these areas can go a long way in catalysing the development of the social economy.

For alliances and partnerships to bear fruit, different sectors have to reach a consensus on their common purpose. Equally crucial is the need for all stakeholders to collaborate authentically and strategically towards commonly understood outcomes. These outcomes should be firmly rooted in deep understanding about the unique opportunities, challenges, and goals all stakeholders share for their respective countries or municipalities. A distinctive approach that suits the needs of this region, an Asian lens, has to be appreciated, as opposed to wholesale replication of policies from other parts of the world.

Building on AVPN's **Social Investment Landscape in Asia** report, which provides a holistic guide to the social economy landscapes in 14 Asian economies, future APF offerings will emphasise the Asian perspectives based on specific cases in this region. This will facilitate the deeper learning between countries and help to surface impactful collaborative practices that will become the focal point for policymakers and social economy leaders to take the Asian social economy to new heights.

Registration

8.30am – 9.00am

Introduction

9.00am – 9.15am

Ms. Susan Stone

Chief of Division, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP

Mr. Doug Miller

Chairman & Ms Naina Subberwal Batra, CEO, AVPN

Keynote Remarks

9.15am – 9.30am

Dr. Sathit Limpongpan

Chairman, National Reform Steering Committee on Economics, Thailand

Setting the Stage and Defining Objectives

9.30am – 9.45am

Mr. Tristan Ace

Global Social Enterprise Partnerships and Development Manager, British Council

Ms. Patsian Low

Director, Asia Policy Forum, AVPN

Coffee Break

9.45am - 10.15am

Plenary: How Social Economy Policies Benefit from Cross-Sector Collaboration

10.15am - 11.30am

Policy initiatives that support the social economy can take a variety of forms, guided by the local development context, social economy maturity, the policy area affected, the desired outcome and the role that policy will play. This plenary will share illustrative examples from select countries and multilateral organisations on exciting policy developments, the rationale and implications of these policies, different approaches, and the response from other sectors. Their sharing will illustrate the importance of cross-sector engagement and collaboration by governments and how that can challenge the status quo and improve the outcomes of social economy policies.

PANELLISTS

Mr. Paul Carttar

Senior Advisor, The Bridgespan Group

Mr. David Galipeau

Chief, United Nations Social Impact Fund

Senator Paolo Benigno 'Bam' Aquino IV

Senate of the Philippines

Mr. Ricky Joseph Pesik

Vice Chairman, BEKRAF (Indonesia Agency for Creative Economy)

MODERATOR

Ms. Karen Wilson

Consultant, Statistic and Development Finance, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

Thailand Showcase & Discussion

11.30am - 12.00pm

A dedicated session to understand the evolution of social funding and social economy policies in Thailand, recent developments, response from other sectors, and upcoming opportunities.

PRESENTER

Mr. Kiatchai Sophastienphong

Vice Minister for Finance, Ministry of Finance, Thailand

MODERATOR

Mr. Martin Hart-Hansen

Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Thailand

Sri Lanka Showcase & Discussion

12.00pm – 12.25pm

A dedicated session to understand the evolution of sustainable development policies in Sri Lanka and recent developments that affect the social economy and other sectors, and upcoming opportunities.

PRESENTER

Mr. Lakshman Wijeyawardena

Director, National Enterprise Development Authority, Sri Lanka

MODERATOR

Mr. Tristan Ace

Global Social Enterprise Partnerships and Development Manager, British Council

Partner Remarks

12.25pm – 12.30pm

Mr. Markus Hipp

Executive Director, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

Networking Lunch

12.30pm - 1.30pm

Breakout Discussions on Social Economy Policymaking at National and City Levels

1.30pm – 1.45pm

1. National: Interagency and multi-sectoral partnerships for effective social economy policies

Speakers from different countries share their experience in **mobilising engagement and resources across different government agencies and multiple sector stakeholders to drive social finance and social economy policies forward.**

SPEAKERS

Mr. Rajen Makhijani

Country Director, Tata Centre for Development, University of Chicago

M.L. Dispanadda Diskul

Deputy CEO, Mae Fah Luang Foundation, Thailand

DISCUSSION HOST

Mr. Mark Koenig

Deputy Director and Urban Governance Specialist, The Asia Foundation Thailand

Participants reflect on how results obtained and lessons learned by others can be of benefit to their own context, and discuss how different approaches/processes/instruments may have been used, or how else policy outcomes could have been more impactful.

#LeadershipAllianceBuilding | #CapitalMobilisation | #Legislation

2. City: Enable successful implementation and scale-up of social investment initiatives

Speakers from different countries can share their experience in implementing and scaling up municipal-level social investment policy initiatives.

SPEAKERS

Ms. Teana Young-A Kim

Senior Manager, Pan-Impact Korea

DISCUSSION HOST

Ms. Sally Uren

CEO, Forum for the Future, UK

Participants reflect on how results obtained and lessons learned by others can be of benefit to their own context, and discuss how different approaches/processes/instruments may have been used, or how else policy outcomes could have been more impactful.

#CapitalMobilisation | #MarketBuilding

Coffee Break

2.45pm - 3.15pm

Breakout Discussions on Social Economy Policy Initiatives Impacting Social Issues

3.15pm - 4.30pm

1. Living with an ageing population

Learn about innovative social economy/social finance work being done in communities that are living with an ageing population. Participants will discuss best ways for social economy/social finance policies to play a role and how other sectors have responded in collaboration.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Stephen Wong

Deputy Executive Director and Head of Public Policy Institute, Our Hong Kong Foundation

Ms. Seiko Adachi

Executive Head, Shinkokai Social Welfare Foundation

DISCUSSION HOST

Mr. Ken Ito

Project Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University

Participants are also invited to question the approaches, rationale, opportunities and challenges, and reflect on learnings or applicability to their own countries/sectors.

#LeadershipAllianceBuilding | #MarketBuilding

2. Education and Livelihoods in rural communities

Learn about innovative social economy/social finance work being done in developing education and livelihood opportunities in rural communities. Participants will discuss best ways for social economy/social finance policies to play a role and how other sectors have responded in collaboration.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Rajen Makhijani

Tata Centre for Development, University of Chicago

Mr. Ichiro Miyazawa

Programme Specialist in Literacy and Lifelong Learning, UNESCO

DISCUSSION HOST

Mr. Tawan Dheva-Aksorn

CEO, Aksorn Education, Thailand

Participants are also invited to question the approaches, rationale, opportunities and challenges, and reflect on learnings or applicability to their own countries/sectors.

#LeadershipAllianceBuilding | #MarketBuilding | #Legislation | #CapacityBuilding

Global Dialogue: Perspectives from Africa

4.30pm – 5.00pm

A dedicated session to understand the evolution of social economy in different countries in Africa.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Lee Karuri

Chairman, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Foundation

Dr. Vuyo Mahlati

Deputy Chair and Principal, African Financial Group

MODERATOR

Mr. Andrew Muirhead

Senior Advisor, AVPN

Discussion Highlights and The Road Forward: Empowering Policymakers to Build Social Economy

5.00pm – 5.45pm

We will hear Discussion Hosts report back the highlights from group discussions. We also invite reflections from the audience on the areas of developments that policymakers wish to explore, to build better policy environments for social finance and social economy to thrive.

MODERATOR

Ms. Barbara Muller

Head of Responsible Leadership Programme (Asia),
BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

Ms. Patsian Low

Director, Asia Policy Forum, AVPN

CLOSING REMARKS

5.45pm – 6.00pm

Mr. Jonathan Wong

Science, Technology & Innovation Adviser, UNESCAP

Networking Dinner

6.00pm - 8.00pm

Mr. Andrew Muirhead | Senior Advisor, AVPN

Mr. Andrew Muirhead has been involved in the philanthropic sector since 1993, after a banking career. After a period as CEO of a major corporate foundation, Andrew travelled extensively to understand different approaches to social investing across the world. In 2008, he became Founding Chief Executive of Inspiring Scotland, raising an initial Venture Philanthropy (VP) Fund of £100M to build a portfolio of social ventures tackling youth unemployment. Inspiring Scotland now has 9 Funds, addressing a range of social challenges.

A former non-executive Director of European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA), Andrew joined AVPN as Executive Vice Chair at the end of 2013, he remains a senior advisor there. Other current engagements, including providing fundraising support to a number of social ventures, and supporting those creating VP funds in various parts of the world, from Asia to the Balkans. He is also engaged in spreading VP networks in other parts of the world.

Ms. Barbara Müller | Senior Manager, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

Ms. Barbara Müller studied sinology and economics at the University of Hamburg and the Chinese People's University in Beijing. While a student, she worked as a freelancer for a German daily newspaper and subsequently at today's German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg. Later, she headed the China office of the Cologne Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the office of the German-Chinese Association. She joined the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt in 2002 to advance the expansion of the Foundation's Asia programs. From 2011 until 2016, she directed the Foundation's communications and media activities.

As a board member of Magic Bus Deutschland e.V., she supports the Indian organisation Magic Bus, an NGO that uses sports programmes to empower children and youth in the areas of education, health, gender equality, and livelihoods.

Mr. David Galipeau | Chief, United Nations Social Impact Fund

Mr David Galipeau joined the UN in 2010 managing innovation, knowledge and digital portfolios for different agencies. He is now with UNDP and has founded the United Nations Social Impact Fund (UNSIF), which brings together venture philanthropists, family trusts, foundations, corporations, governments and private sector investors to chart a new course toward creating a SDG-aligned 'blended financing' platform - balancing both social and economic performance.

UNSIF collaborates with the global ecosystem of entrepreneurs, innovators, philanthropists & financiers to facilitate financing for SDG-aligned investments that combine traditional development projects with next-gen technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, drones, and material science.

Prior to joining the UN, David started his career in Canada and then in Europe for over 20 years where he held senior management positions within the strategy, digital and business development with Top-3 global corporations. Left to continue his education and become an 'dotcom' entrepreneur in the late 90's, David founded three start-ups thereafter. Two were successfully acquired in 2000.

M.L. Dispanadda Diskul | Deputy CEO, Mae Fah Luang Foundation

M.L. Dispanadda Diskul or Duke is a Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage based in Thailand.

Duke leads rural development teams of the foundation through the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship (CSE) and the Knowledge and Learning Centre (KLC) in improving livelihood of people in rural communities through expense reduction and income generation, as well as training interested organizations on hands-on and practical approaches to sustainable development and social entrepreneurship. He also oversees all operational aspects of the Doi Tung Development Project, the foundation's large-scale social enterprise comprises of 5 business units and with an annual revenue of approximately USD 15 million.

Duke received Master's Degree in Business Administration from Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand in 2005 and a Bachelor Degree in economics from Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA in 1997.

He is a member of the Schwab Foundation's Social Entrepreneur (2009), The World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader (2013) and Asia 21 Young Leader (2013).

Mr. Ichiro Miyazawa

Programme Specialist in Literacy and Lifelong Learning, UNESCO

Mr. Ichiro Miyazawa is a programme specialist in literacy and lifelong learning at the UNESCO Bangkok Office. For the last 20 years, he has been engaged in educational development for disadvantaged children and youth in Asian and African countries, such as Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lao PDR, Tanzania and Kenya. He has been in the UN system (UNICEF and UNESCO) for the last 16 years.

He has strong expertise in designing and implementing innovative programmes of IT, Community Learning Centres, literacy, non-formal/alternative education, lifelong learning, education statistics, and teacher education. Recent initiatives are Mobile Based Literacy Programme for Women in Pakistan, Tablet Based Bilingual Literacy for Out-of-School Children of Myanmar and Thailand, and Mobile Gamification Application for Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, he recently supported ASEAN countries to adopt ASEAN Declaration on Education for Out of School Children and Youth at ASEAN Summit. The Declaration is closely in line with SDG 4 (Education). He also published a booklet on Innovative Finance for Out of School Children and Youth in 2016.

He holds a M.Ed. from Columbia University, NY, USA, where he majored in literacy and national development. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Science and Technology from Keio University, Tokyo Japan. He has strong passion in education and lifelong learning.

Ms. Karen Wilson

Consultant, Statistic and Development Finance, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

Ms. Karen Wilson has been working at the OECD since 2009 where her work has focused on innovation, entrepreneurship, and finance including angel investment, venture capital, social impact investment and also the role of the private sector in development finance. Karen is a Senior Fellow at Bruegel, an international economics think tank based in Brussels, an Associate Fellow at Said Business School at Oxford University and a Visiting Lecturer at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga.

Karen was a Senior Fellow at the Kauffman Foundation from 2008-2012. In 2004, she founded GV Partners, a research and consulting firm focused on entrepreneurship. Earlier, Karen worked with international venture capital firm, Index Ventures, and before that was part of the senior management team at the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Global Initiative at Harvard Business School. Her earlier experience includes investment banking and consulting.

She received, with honors, a Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics and Management from Carnegie Mellon University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Mr. Ken Ito

Project Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University

Mr. Ken Ito works for AVPN as Regional Head (East Asia). He has a bachelor degree in economics and MBA in International Management from The American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) in the United States. Ken spent ten years in the private sector, with his last position at GE Capital. He subsequently joined the Institute for Strategic Leadership (ISL) to launch the Centre for Social Innovation, to promote social innovation through its leadership training programs.

Ken joined government committee on social impact measurement which is organized by Cabinet Office as chairperson. He has been leading Japanese government committee under METI to promote SIB as a chairperson. He has been involved in the design of three SIB pilot programs in Japan in 2015.

Mr. Kiatchai Sophastienphong

Vice Minister for Finance,
Ministry of Finance, Thailand

Mr. Kiatchai Sophastienphong is Thailand's current Vice Minister of Finance. He has graduated from the prestigious University of Cambridge with Masters (MA) and Bachelors (BA) in Economics. Upon graduation, Mr Sophastienphong embarked upon his eclectic career firstly as a Manager of the Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand (IFCT) and later, a Financial Analysis at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He also has financial expertise in handling International Banking, Investment Banking, Strategic Corporate Services and Trade throughout his time with the Bank of Asia (BOA) and Siam City Bank (SCIB).

In more recent years, Mr Sophastienphong furthered his career in economics and finance, holding many high-level positions. His experience encompasses positions such as Senior Director of the Financial Institution Policy Department at the Bank of Thailand (BOT), Senior Financial Economist at ADB, Senior Financial Sector Specialist (South Asia) at the World Bank as well as TCC Holding Co. Limited.

Mr. Lakshman Wijeyawardena

Director, National Enterprise
Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Mr. Lakshman Wijeyawardena is the Director at National Enterprise Development Authority of Sri Lanka, a Government entity that supports the development, growth and competitiveness of the Sri Lankan enterprises. He is also the Programme Director at the coordinating secretariat for Science and Technology and a visiting lecturer at Wayamba University, Sri Lanka.

Lakshman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and earned his Master of Science degree in Aquaculture from Asian Institute of Technology. Throughout his career he has supported the establishment of numerous SME incubators in the country and has built capacity of many business development service providers. A passionate promoter of entrepreneurship among university students and graduates, he has also helped many Sri Lankan universities to build in entrepreneurship into their programmes.

Mr. Lee Karuri

Chairman, Kenya Private Sector
Alliance (KEPSA) Foundation

Mr. Lee Karuri (Kenya), Chairman of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Foundation, where he brings together the business sector in Kenya to participate in social investment. A successful business leader and entrepreneur, Founder Director of Dimensions Architects and Founder Chairman of Home Afrika, a publicly listed property investment Company in Kenya. He also serves as Chairman of the Mwangaza Trust and is a former Chairman of the Danish Advocacy Fund in Kenya.

Mr. Mark Koenig

Deputy Director and Urban
Governance Specialist,
The Asia Foundation Thailand

Mr. Mark Koenig is the Deputy Director and Urban Governance Specialist at the Asia Foundation. Mr. Koenig has been working on governance issues in Asia for more than 8 years. In his current position, he leads regional efforts to expand the Foundation's programming and research on urban governance. Mark has been working to design and support the implementation of urban governance programming in countries including Mongolia, Cambodia, Nepal and Myanmar. Across his portfolio he has a particular focus on using flexibility and political economy strategies to support public policy processes. Mark holds a BA from the Johns Hopkins University, and an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Mr. Markus Hipp

Director, BMW Foundation
Herbert Quandt

Mr. Markus Hipp studied philosophy and Catholic theology in Munich from 1989 to 1994. Upon graduation, he spent two years as a lecturer in German and philosophy at the Czech universities of Budweis and Brno, before taking up positions in the marketing and publishing industry in Munich and in Augsburg. In 1998, he joined the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart as assistant to the executive director.

In 2000, he became the Foundation's deputy chief executive for Central and Eastern Europe, before being appointed to establish the Berlin office of the Robert Bosch Foundation in 2002, which he directed until August 2006.

Since then he has been director of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt. The married father of four also holds a number of honorary posts in other organizations. He is a member of the advisory council of the Association of German Foundations in Berlin, a member of the board of trustees of the Breuninger Foundation, a board member of the Paretz Foundation as well as a founding director and member of MitOst e.V., an association for language and cultural exchange in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Since 2008 Markus Hipp is an elected member of the city council of Ketzin, Brandenburg. From 2011 to 2017 he was a board member of the European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA).

Mr. Martin Hart-Hansen

Deputy Resident Representative,
UNDP Thailand

Mr. Hart-Hansen was appointed Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP Thailand Country Office in April 2015.

Mr. Hart-Hansen comes from a position as Policy Specialist in the UNDP Executive Office, where he served for almost 4 years under UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, covering the Asia-Pacific region, UNDP's Crisis Prevention & Recovery portfolio, liaisons with donor countries including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, UK, Japan and Korea as well as UNDP's relations with the Office of the UN Secretary-General, the UN Departments of Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations.

Before joining the Executive Office, Mr. Hart-Hansen served as Special Assistant to the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Nepal. He has also served with UNICEF in Bhutan, India, the Maldives as well as with the treasury department of largest Danish telecommunications company TDC.

Mr. Hart-Hansen holds Master's and Bachelor's Degrees in Economics from the University of Copenhagen.

Senator Paolo Benigno 'Bam' Aquino IV

Senate of the Philippines

A world-renowned social entrepreneur turned senator, Senator Paolo Benigno 'Bam' Aquino IV is a staunch advocate of empowering every Filipino family with education and entrepreneurship. He is currently the deputy minority leader and Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology of the 17th Congress of the Philippines.

In his first three years in the Senate, he passed 17 laws - many in support of small local businesses and youth empowerment. His laws range from protecting children in disasters, mandating entrepreneurship and financial literacy training in our schools, and putting up support centres all over the country for Filipinos who wish to earn money through businesses -our Negosyo Centres.

He continues to support the growing network of over 450 Negosyo Centres so that every Filipino can get the support they need to start a business and have a stable source of income. As former Chairman of the Committee on Education for the last 8 months, he co-authored and sponsored the Affordable Higher Education for All Act, which has now been passed on third reading at the Senate.

He has championed this bill to offer free tuition in all our state universities and colleges (SUCs), including our university, so that more Filipinos can earn a college degree and get better jobs. He also co-authored the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act, which passed the country's first anti-political dynasty provision in our laws, to enjoin the youth to take part in nation-building through the government.

Ms. Patsian Low

Director, Asia Policy Forum, AVPN

Ms. Patsian Low is the Director for the Asia Policy Forum and brings with her over 20 years of work experience from private and civic sectors, crossing the fields of social finance, social entrepreneurship, impact philanthropy and non-profit leadership. She is committed to building APD into a platform for Asia's policymakers to identify how they can build stronger social impact funding ecosystems.

Patsian recently ended her tenure as Senior Vice President in DBS Bank, where she was head of DBS Foundation and DBS CSR, leading their work in championing social entrepreneurship. Prior to this, Patsian was the Director of the Philanthropy division in Singapore's National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC), which promotes and engages philanthropy from different donor sectors. Patsian had previously started her own social incubation business, after she left a 14-year banking career spanning New York, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Patsian has also conducted training across Asia in Social Entrepreneurship, Assessing Social Impact, New Social Trends, Microfinance, and Human Capital Development. She has contributed to and co-written research papers and case studies on the same topics. She also serves on the board of several small but growing non-profit organisations.

Mr. Paul CarttarSenior Advisor,
The Bridgespan Group

Mr. Paul Carttar is an independent consultant, as well as Senior Advisor to and co-founder of The Bridgespan Group. From 2010 to 2012, he served as the initial Director of the US Social Innovation Fund (SIF), an Obama Administration initiative that has mobilized more than USD 1 billion of public and private funds to grow non-profit organizations with evidence of impact. Prior to the SIF, he was an executive partner with New Profit and head of programs for the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. He also has significant business experience with global consultants Bain and Co. and senior executive in two private, venture-funded healthcare companies. His areas of specialisation are social innovation, enhancing the effectiveness of philanthropy, and scaling solutions that work.

Mr. Rajen MakhijaniTata Centre for Development,
University of Chicago

As a development sector professional, executive coach, award nominated screenwriter of four movies, and TEDx speaker, Mr Rajen Makhijani brings an inter-disciplinary understanding and perspective to pressing issues in development. He has served Fortune 500 and local corporates, multilaterals, foundations, UN bodies, governments and on ground NGO's through his career at global consulting firms including McKinsey & Company, H&S, and now as a part of the University of Chicago.

He is the Country Director of the Tata Centre for Development and International Innovation Corps housed at the Harris School of Public Policy of the University of Chicago. He oversees the Implementation, Research and Executive Education/Training activities for large scale changemakers in India, most notably the government at Central, State and Municipal levels, on Health, WASH, Energy & Environment and Education. Previously, he was the Global Head of the Talent & Leadership practice for Dalberg Development Advisors. He is an MBA from IIM Calcutta, and completed his B. Com from University of Mumbai. He is a Sir Dorab Tata Scholar, Citibank Leadership Awardee and winner of 'Wings of Excellence Award' by the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, among others.

Mr. Ricky Joseph PesikVice Chairman, BEKRAF
(Indonesia Agency for Creative Economy)

Mr. Ricky Pesik has worked in advertising for 23 years, and managed to help the agency, Satucitra, gain a reputation as one of the respected local advertising companies in Indonesia by winning various awards in many advertising festivals. While managing the business, Ricky also dedicated his time as General Secretary for Indonesia Advertising Agencies Association (P3I) Jakarta Chapter since 2004 and as the Vice Chairman from 2012 – 2015.

Ricky is also actively involved in developing Citra Pariwara to become the biggest and most prestigious national advertising festival, serving as Chairman and Co-Chairman for the last 8 years. He succeeded in setting a high standard to push Indonesia's creative works to shine at international competitions. He also took the role as Vice Chairman for a reputable forum to discuss the changes and growth within communication landscape – Asia Pacific Media Forum (APMF) in Bali— in 2012 and 2014.

Throughout his career, Ricky sat on the judging panel for several international award shows. In 2010, he was appointed as judge at Spikes Asia. In 2012, he was selected as the first Indonesian to judge at Cannes Lions; the biggest world creativity festival. And again, in 2014, he was the first Indonesian to sit as a judge in Asia Pacific Effie Awards.

On 27 July 2015, Ricky Pesik was inaugurated as the Vice Chairman (Deputy Head) for Indonesian Agency for Creative Economy (BEKRAF).

Ms. Sally Uren

CEO, Forum for the Future

Ms. Sally Uren is Chief Executive at Forum for the Future with overall responsibility for delivering Forum's mission to accelerate progress towards a sustainable future by catalysing transformational change in global systems. This involves advising leading global organisations, including businesses such as Unilever and Kimberly Clark, and Foundations, such as the C&A Foundation, as well as leading multi-stakeholder collaborations designed to address complex challenges in systems as diverse as food, energy and apparel.

Sally is currently directly involved in Net Positive, a coalition of eighteen leading businesses, all working to define the next wave of corporate sustainability; Cotton 2040, a multi-stakeholder collaboration designed to mainstream sustainable cotton, and Tea 2030, a global project featuring innovation platforms intended to deliver a sustainable global tea industry. Sally is also helping build Forum's new School of System Change - a global community of change agents who will drive system-level change.

Dr. Sathit Limpongpan

Chairman, National Reform Steering Committee on Economics, Thailand

Dr. Sathit Limpongpan currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Economic Reforms in Thailand. Dr Sathit graduated with an LLB from Thammasat University, Thailand, a Barrister-at-Law of Thai Bar Association, an LLM from Tulane University, USA, on a

Thai government scholarship, a Masters of Economics from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University and a PhD in Development Administration from National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA). He is notable in economics, law and administration. Prior to his role as the Chairman of the Committee on Economic Reforms, he was Chairman of the Stock Exchange of Thailand, Permanent Secretary for Finance, Chairman of the Office of Insurance Commission, Vice Chairman of the Office of Securities and Exchange Commission, Director of the Bank of Thailand and Chairman of Government Pension Fund.

Ms. Seiko Adachi

Executive Head, Shinkokai Social Welfare Foundation

Ms. Seiko Adachi is the serves as the Executive Head of Shinko Fukushikan. Shinko Fukushikan is a non-profit organisation operating thirty-nine elderly care and ten childcare facilities in Japan. As a pioneer in the field of assisted living, the organization has created an innovative business model by offering comfortable, home-like, and yet affordable nursing homes by renovating pre-owned company dormitories.

With more than thirty years of experience, and the first ISO-9001 recognition in elderly care business the country, Shinko Fukushikai has created sustainable living environments for both the aged and the young, and provided employment for the marginalized.

Ms. Adachi is the daughter of Founder – Masue. Ms. Adachi joined the Shinkokai Corporation in 1998 and was appointed to Executive Head in 2010. She graduated from University of Wisconsin, USA, with a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and Gerontology

Mr. Stephen Wong

Deputy Executive Director
and Head of Public Policy
Institute, Our Hong Kong
Foundation

Mr. Stephen Wong received a B.A. Degree in Economics from the University of Chicago, Phi Beta Kappa, and an M.A. Degree in East Asian Studies (Whitney and Betty MacMillan Centre for International and Area Studies) from Yale University. Since then, he worked for a number of global financial institutions, including as an Executive Director in UBS (London) and a Managing Director at RBS. Mr. Wong joined Our Hong Kong Foundation as Senior Consultant in May 2015, and was appointed Deputy Executive Director and Head of Public Policy in November of the same year. He is now Deputy Executive Director and Head of Public Policy Institute.

Mr. Wong's public service includes various advisory roles appointed by the Hong Kong Government, including Committee Member of the Financial Services Development Council, Sub-committee Co-opt Member of the Sustainable Development Council, and Member of Investment Committee of the Beat Drugs Fund. Mr Wong is also active in community service. He is Chairman of the Clean Air Network and Vice Chairman of the Budget and Allocation Committee of the Community Chest. Mr. Wong is also a part-time Lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong for the Master of Social Science in Global Political Economy, and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Hong Kong University SPACE for the Institute for China Business.

Mr. Tawan Dheva-Aksorn

CEO,
Aksorn Education

Mr. Tawan Dheva-Aksorn is the CEO of Aksorn Education Public Company Limited, one of the largest K12 education companies in Thailand and South East Asia. Aksorn offers a variety of educational products and services serving the growing needs of schools, educators, and students across Thailand.

Tawan is passionate about creating classrooms where educators are learning coaches and students work together to arrive at core knowledge while developing necessary working skills. Tawan travels regularly around Thailand to meet with educators and education leaders as well as students and parents to learn about their needs. He also travels extensively around the world to search for new ideas and solutions to apply to the context of Thai classrooms.

He is regularly invited to speak at various events about improving education on a large scale.

As CEO, Tawan focuses on Aksorn's future direction, business strategy, product development and strategic partnerships.

Ms. Teana Young-A Kim

Senior Manager,
Pan-Impact Korea

Prior to joining Pan-Impact Korea, Ms Teana Young-A Kim worked as an investment consultant of the family office ran by one of the major Investment Banks in Korea. Teana mainly focused on providing investment opportunities to high net worth individuals. In 2014, Teana fatefully happened to lead the task force team to find means to diversify HNWI's investment portfolios and company's CSR activities by considering impact investment. In the course of progress, she found the first SIB to be issued in Asia. Teana was fascinated by this innovative product-so called SIB, which pursues not only financial but also the social outcomes as well. She soon joined the establishment of Pan-Impact Korea to make SIB happen in Korea which was driven by key players in domestic social economy and capital markets.

Mr. Tristan Ace

Global Social Enterprise
Partnerships and Development
Manager, British Council

Mr. Tristan Ace is a development professional with more than a decade of experience working in more than 20 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Tristan has managed a variety of programmes and projects for the British Council, as well as donors including the EU and the World Bank.

Tristan is passionate about the role that social enterprises can play in building fair, inclusive and just societies and has a particular interest in the role that social enterprise can play in strengthening civil society and the role that governments can play in driving innovation in policy that support social entrepreneurship more broadly. He is currently based in Hong Kong where he leads the British Council's efforts across Asia to support the development of social enterprise and social investment. Prior to this, Tristan was based in Beijing and before that he spent four years in Myanmar, where he launched one of the first social enterprise programmes after the democratic transition. Tristan regularly speaks at forums and conferences on themes relating to social enterprise, social investment and social innovation in Asia and the UK.

Dr. Vuyo Mahlati

Deputy Chair and Principal,
African Financial Group

Dr. Vuyo Mahlati is the Deputy Chair and Principal of African Financial Group. She is the President of the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA) and serves on the Global Board of International Women's Forum.

As a social entrepreneur, she founded and is leading Ivili Loboya Wool Processing Facility, the first commercial producer of indigenous cashmere in Africa.

She is a member of the National Planning Commission that released South Africa's National Development Plan 2030. She holds a PhD from the University of Stellenbosch and an M.Sc from London School of Economics.



	Leadership & Alliance Building	Capacity Building	Capital Mobilisation	Market Building	Legislation & Regulatory Frameworks
Definition	Establishing leadership within government and building alliances within and outside government to take ownership over social economy agenda.	Policies that build up the capabilities and knowledge of key stakeholders in social economy to create greater social impact	Policies that unlock or mobilise capital that can fund social economy initiatives and stakeholders, across a continuum of capital instruments	Policies that create market opportunities for social businesses to improve their revenue opportunities and market outreach.	Policies that introduce legislation and regulations that impact the social economy, including but not excluding fiscal and monetary policy measures.
Our current situation					
Best practices and innovative ideas to consider					
What are likely feasible next steps?					
What do we need for these steps?					

Country Context Thought-starters

What is the role of social economy in my country?	
What are the policy areas affected by social economy?	
How visible should government be in social economy?	
How mature is the social economy ecosystem?	
How has the government engaged the private and third/civic sector in the social economy?	
Which social economy policy tools and initiatives have been introduced? How successful are they?	



AVPN is a unique funders' network based in Singapore committed to building a vibrant and high impact philanthropy and social investment community across Asia. As an advocate, capacity builder, and platform that cuts across private, public and social sectors, AVPN embraces all types of engagement to improve the effectiveness of members across the Asia Pacific region.

The core mission of AVPN is to increase the flow of financial, human and intellectual capital to the social sector by connecting and empowering key stakeholders from funders to the social purpose organizations they support. With over 380 members across 28 countries, AVPN is catalysing the movement towards a more strategic, collaborative and outcome focused approach to philanthropy and social investing, ensuring that resources are deployed as effectively as possible to address key social challenges facing Asia today and in the future.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt

The BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt promotes responsible leadership and inspires leaders worldwide to work towards a peaceful, just and sustainable future. Through our activities, we aim to advance the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

We INSPIRE leaders, through our leadership programs and encounters, to take their social and political commitment to the next level – across communities, cultures and countries. We CONNECT leaders through our global BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders Network, a diverse, collaborative and joyful community that drives positive change. We INVEST in impactful organizations while encouraging leaders to embrace venture philanthropy and impact investing as effective tools for social change.



The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries, bringing international opportunity to life. Through our Global Social Enterprise programme, we promote the development of social enterprise and social investment to help address entrenched social and environmental problems and deliver positive change in our communities and societies. Our work draws on UK expertise and is delivered across 28 countries with local and international partners. Together, we provide social entrepreneurs with access to training, mentoring and funding opportunities and promote social enterprise education in schools and universities. We also convene policy dialogues, organise study tours and conduct research to share knowledge and best practice in scaling social enterprise and social investment.

It is a systemic approach designed to help foster a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future and build collaboration, opportunities and trust between the UK and other countries.



The long-term success of our business is dependent on the existence of a sound social environment and stable economy. In addition to our core banking activities, we are committed to being a reliable partner and making a targeted contribution to economic and social development in the regions in which we operate.

We have therefore entered into long-term strategic partnerships with selected non-governmental organizations to help bring about lasting change. In emerging and developing economies, we regard education and microfinance as effective tools to promote economic growth and social change and as a means of helping people help themselves and focus our grant-making on these two areas.

The financial support and expertise we give to charitable projects and initiatives worldwide is complemented by the volunteering efforts of our staff.



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region. Made up of 53 member states and 9 associate members, with a geographical scope that stretches from Turkey in the west to the Pacific island nation of Kiribati in the east, and from the Russian Federation in the north to New Zealand in the south, the region is home to 4.1 billion people, or two thirds of the world's population.

Established in 1947 with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States.

ESCAP provides a forum for its member States that promotes regional cooperation and collective action, assisting countries in building and sustaining shared economic growth and social equity. In addition, ESCAP gives stronger participation to the smaller and often left out voices of the region, the least developed countries, the small island States and landlocked States.



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