



Asia Policy Forum 2018

Insights from
Flagship Events

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Asia Policy Forum (APF) engages the policy perspective, which is critical to the work that AVPN and its members are doing to build the social economy



ABOUT APF

A collaborative effort that offers a convening platform, a community of potential partners, and practical learning opportunities to support governments, policymakers and policy influencers to build an enabling environment for the social economy.

AVPN SOCIAL ECONOMY POLICY FRAMEWORK

Our work is based on the premise that policy can create impact in the social economy in 5 major ways



HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Join the AVPN community as a Member
Identify cross-sector partners to collectively mobilise impact capital

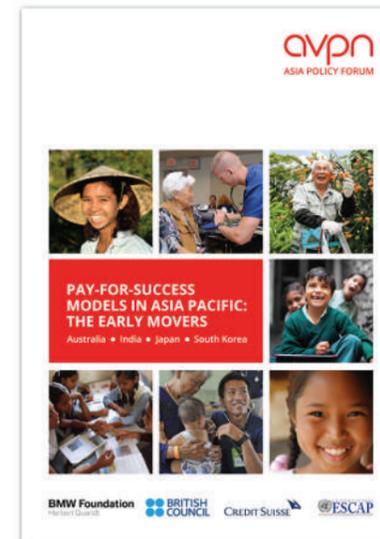


Build Capacity with AVPN Resources
In-house digital policy resources, webinars, and physical workshops



List and Respond on APFx
Actionable cross-sector collaboration opportunities on policy programmes that create greater impact

In-house Curated Digital Resources



As Asia's first practitioner-oriented case study series on the Pay For Success ("PFS") model, this series offers insight into the experiences of the early movers' of this innovative impact funding tool, all of which engage AVPN members in creating impact.

The report seeks to:

- Highlight PFS instruments across 4 Asia-Pacific markets
- Provide learnings for effective multi-sector engagement

Download the report: www.avpn.asia/apf-resource/pfs-models-in-apac



By Commission / Bespoke Comparative Analysis

AVPN can draw on rich policy information across 14 Asia-Pacific markets to provide insights, comparative analysis on gaps, opportunities & best practices. For AVPN members and policy makers, this is a useful first step to understand the ecosystem within which to create impact.



To view more resources, www.avpn.asia/asiapolicyforum/resources

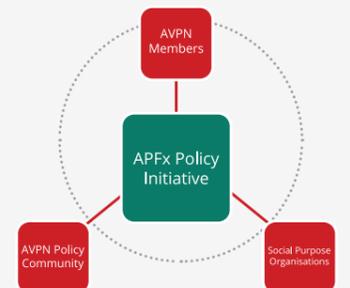
Comparative Social Economy Policy Analysis Report for Malaysia, commissioned by AVPN Member

APF Exchange (APFx) Digital Platform for Member-Policy Collaboration

A one-stop digital platform for AVPN members to identify collaboration opportunities with the policy community and other cross-sector stakeholders on actionable policy initiatives and programmes on the ground.

Key Features include:

- Search criteria to match AVPN member interests with SDGs, causes, and markets
- Informative background on partners involved, problems to be addressed, solutions and desired outcomes
- Clearly defined action opportunities for AVPN members and partners
- Online to offline outreach and engagement opportunities with policy agencies



Contact the AVPN policy team at policy@avpn.asia to find out how you can participate.



The AVPN Conference in June featured a two-part Policy Showcase as 2018's Asia Policy Forum flagship convening, which focused on the theme "Policy Innovations to Maximise Impact". It cast a spotlight on the theme of "innovation" in how policy practitioners have engaged with partners and stakeholders to create social economy policies. Ranging from the set-up of national innovation systems to sector-driven innovative entrepreneurship to poverty reduction strategies, the sessions featured speakers across six Asian markets, representing government agencies, intermediaries, and think-tanks. The eight speakers shared lessons learned in developing the social economy in their countries, while also crowdsourcing ideas through discussions with Conference attendees.

The broad-ranging policy sessions at the AVPN Conference made apparent the need for a

deeper-dive into local context and subnational policy levels like states, cities and districts, particularly for large and diverse markets like India, China and Indonesia. This will help AVPN members and policymakers address practical and outcomes-based opportunities and challenges in actionable ways.

"Systems Thinking is critical as no one stakeholder can address issues alone."

Rohan Sandhu, Associate Director, International Innovation Corps, University of Chicago

AVPN therefore piloted this local APF extension in India at the end of 2018. Set against the backdrop of the newly launched Aspirational Districts Programme by the Government of India, it was an opportune time to explore district level public-private co-investment opportunities. Through a curated convening, the India Policy Forum was structured around experiences and initiatives in the areas of Health, Livelihoods, and Education. Speakers highlighted the complexity of development needs, which necessitate the use of empirical, real-time, quality data to decipher where resources are best allocated. Presenters also identified the challenges in negotiating the use of data between stakeholders, and the opportunities that may arise for the social investment community to collaborate with policymakers to scale evidence-based solutions. Held at the UChicago Centre in Delhi on 5 December 2018, the half-day agenda convened 92 delegates and over 20 speakers from across India.

"Policy innovation is extremely difficult to do as bureaucracy is inherently un-innovative."

Markus Dietrich, Director Asia and Policy, Inclusive Business Action Network

This report summarises insights learned over these flagship policy events of 2018. It addresses common threads of how innovation in both policies and policy approaches can drive inclusive economic growth, and how governments can collaborate with the social investment community to break out of silos and operate with impact despite rigid bureaucratic structures. 2018 has unveiled innovative and passionate policymakers and AVPN members that are committed to mobilising cross-sector resources for social impact, as the report will show.



Policy Innovations to Maximise Impact



Throughout the AVPN Conference we identified numerous opportunities and challenges that the policy sector is facing to mobilise impact resources effectively. These insights were particularly fruitful as they were held within the context of issue areas and thematic areas that AVPN members and policymakers were deeply concerned about.

Collective action by public and private stakeholders is needed to address key development causes

An example of an issue on which such insights surfaced in the Conference is on tackling the effects of climate change, which poses a serious threat to Asia's economy, its people, and its ecosystems. **Collective action in managing the forest ecosystem is needed to minimize the effects of climate change on the livelihoods of both the urban and rural population.** With half of the world's population living in cities, a figure projected to increase to 75% by 2050, Asia has become the home for majority of the urban population. Managing rapid urbanization requires governments in Asia to intensify their

efforts across sectors to mitigate its negative ramifications.

"The best way to address climate change is by working collaboratively."

Zhang Ruiying, Executive Director, China Foundation Center

Another example is the issue of **hunger reduction and food security**. Processed food has been increasing its market share at a fast pace in developing countries in the recent years. Multinational food corporations and major players in the agricultural value chain possess timely knowledge about the consumer trends in their respective markets. For instance, think tank leaders and policymakers in India have agreed to

work with large multinational corporations in the search for collective solutions to fight hunger.

Despite a sense of general agreement in support of cross-sector collaboration, delegates from different sectors expressed both reasonable and practical doubt arising from the operational difficulties in doing so. Ultimately, it was agreed that successful cross-sector collaboration can only happen when stakeholders leverage on one another's strengths.

"Corporates know their customers better than governments know their citizens, that's where the private sector can help a lot."

Dr. Rajan Sankar, Programme Director, Nutrition Tata Trusts, India

Groundbreaking efforts in common language lead to ecosystem change

Another common question raised by delegates was the lack of a common language amongst stakeholders to drive aligned objectives. The shared solution is openness and transparency during the process of collaboration. Although different sectors think in different frameworks, all sectors demand transparency in establishing long-term trust.

On the issue of forest ecosystem management, for instance, delegates from both USAID and CLSA Capital suggested that incorporating financial returns as one of the metrics to measure project outcomes can increase understanding among stakeholders and consequently strengthen cross-sector collaboration. Measurable and evidence-based outcomes can break the communication barriers among different sectors.

However, cross-sector collaboration that is not

driven by common objectives and actionable platforms cannot deliver social impact at the maximum scale. In some cases, industry leaders need to step in to shift the paradigm and come up with innovative ways to align stakeholders together. British Asian Trust (BAT), a philanthropy organization focusing on poverty reduction in South Asia, launched a \$10 million development impact bond (DIB) with a diverse group of stakeholders in support of a common project outcome - increasing education levels for 300,000 children in India. The DIB is a major collaborative effort that aligns all stakeholders along a set of predetermined outcomes, with cross-sector collaboration being the driving force behind the financing model.





Increasingly, there is a need to frame discussions so that stakeholders across sectors can be engaged and continually updated in view of the unprecedented scale of social issues and globalizing forces. For example, the traditional design for education programmes in the context of developing and developed countries is shifting to systemic solutions. More attention is now focused at the policy level where education institutions can be encouraged to help students develop skills needed to thrive in the modern economy. As an illustration, the Singaporean government has taken the initiative to drive skills development for job-training through an initiative called Skillsfuture, which funds the resources needed to upskill the labour force.

From education-related discussions at the Conference, it is clear that the conversation around education is transitioning from a focus on attaining competency to developing expertise. Framing the conversation about education imperatives along these lines opens up the possibility for engagement of traditional and non-traditional stakeholders in the education space for the convergence towards a common language spoken.

Policy Innovation has transformative potential to amplify social impact beyond traditional designs

Government support can be innovative in how policies create enabling environments for delivering social impact. For example, delegates consistently underscored the benefits of innovative financing mechanism with participation from both public and private sectors to leverage private capital for social good. The Conference talked about an initiative in Sabah, Malaysia, where there is work to establish innovative water payment mechanisms that can lead to a sustainable water protection solution. As the largest owner of forests in the region, the government is an important partner to innovate and scale up the impact of this work. Some next-generation solutions will require more regulatory enforcement and legislative support for forest land tenure, which can potentially magnify the impact of such water initiatives manifold.

In India, PanIIT Alumni Reach for India Foundation and the Government of Jharkhand formed a joint venture aimed to help underprivileged youths develop job-readiness skills. In this autonomous

non-profit joint enterprise structure, the state government provides access to infrastructure, while PanIIT focuses on delivering the skills development programme. **Governments in Asia have the potential to be a significant and critical force for venture philanthropy, thus it is important for the private sector to work with policymakers and play to their strengths.**

Policy Innovation is needed to mobilise multinational corporations (MNCs) and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to build a socially conscious consumer market

While legislation and capital mobilisation are crucial angles for promoting policy innovation, delegates broadly supported the need to go beyond technical policy interventions to systemic actions that can influence how impact is created in the social economy. **Delegates envisioned a hybrid economy where market mechanisms kickstart the creation of social impact, while shifts in consumer and value-chain behaviour will provide the longevity for sustained impact as the whole-of-economy can participate, including the retail and micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sectors.** The discussions touched on the private sector's positive response to incentives for businesses to engage in social issues. An example would be tax breaks for businesses to engage in socially impactful behaviour, which is an often debated (and sometimes adopted) strategy.

Several other policy strategies that can encourage the convergence of MSME growth and social impact were also explored during Conference proceedings. For large companies and more capital-intensive value chains that can influence shifting consumer and industry trends, impact-sensitive procurement and government-led campaigns were also widely recognised as tools that may be effective. Other innovative ideas raised for policy engagement with other sectors include incentivising open-data strategies that can help businesses optimise their operations and strategies for impact.



“Scale is not about scaling an organization, it’s about scaling impact.”

*John Rendel, Founder,
Promoting Equality in African Schools*

Policy Showcase Highlights



The two-part Policy Showcase was the highlight of the Policymaker Experience at the AVPN Conference 2018. In partnership with UNESCAP, British Council, iBAN, BMW Foundation and Credit Suisse, the Policy Showcase was curated in response to the kinds of policy initiatives AVPN stakeholders had expressed interest in hearing more about.

The showcases featured eight speakers across six markets in Asia, coming from government agencies, intermediaries and think-tanks. These speakers shared lessons learned from policy innovations and experiences in developing the social economy in their respective markets. They also had the opportunity to crowdsource ideas through discussions with the audience.



Policy Innovation in cross-sector collaboration

"Don't collaborate for the sake of collaboration, we need to collaborate to innovate."

*Dr Melissa Foo, Vice President,
Agensi Inovasi Malaysia*

Collective leadership that inspires cross-sector collaboration was highlighted by Dr. Niederlander who introduced BMW Foundation's philosophy of cultivating responsible leadership across different sectors to tackle social issues today. Hongjoo Hahm, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programmes at UNESCAP and Liza Green, Corporate Citizenship at Credit Suisse similarly

stressed the importance of cross-sector collaboration in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while engaging policymakers as critical stakeholders in achieving the UN SDGs.

While introducing Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (AIM), Dr. Melissa Foo explained the organisation as having a mandate to align private investors' funding approaches with policymakers' social development strategy to strengthen cross-sector collaboration and to help social organizations solve their funding problems.

By collaborating with private funders, AIM has the potential to mitigate the risk-averse mindset of the government and incentivise innovation at a larger scale. The Malaysian government understood that social innovation involves a diverse range of stakeholders and the "balance of power" of creating social change is unequal, suggesting strong government support for cross-sector collaboration. By adopting this approach, the government agency aims to address the issue of imbalanced participation in building the social economy to form a better ecosystem for impact investing in Malaysia.

"If funders and fund recipients aren't aligned in their thinking, change will not happen in line with how we want to see the social sector develop."

*Dr. Melissa Foo, Vice President,
Agensi Inovasi Malaysia*



Legislative support for new technology from the policy community

Across the board, there was a call for legislation and regulations to act as support mechanisms rather than barriers to innovations for social impact. Delegates emphasised the role of policymakers in creating an enabling legislative environment to unleash the potential of technologies that deliver social impact. For example, the private sector in South Korea leveraged blockchain technology to simplify payout calculations for social impact bonds (SIBs), potentially increasing the scale of funding for social impact.

"Pan-Impact Korea's core technological advancement is the Smart Contract, which greatly simplifies the payout calculation and the steps of transferring shares among investors involved in the SIB using blockchain as the platform."

*Jae-Hoon Kwak, Chief Executive Officer,
Pan-Impact Korea*

However, due to the emerging nature of blockchain technology, the Korean government has yet to put in place appropriate governing frameworks for blockchain technology. Jae-Hoon Kwak, CEO, Pan-Impact Korea, expressed hope that the policy community will adopt a more positive and constructive approach towards understanding how support for new and emerging technology can lead to social impact.



Policy Innovation in Market Building

While legislation can be the most direct tool for policymakers to shape the social investment landscape, **market building through preferential procurement and government-led campaigns can catalyse market-driven change in the field of social investment.** In the Philippines, poverty reduction remains a top priority on the government's social development agenda. To this end, the Philippine Board of Investments (BOI) shared how their support for inclusive businesses (IB) is a viable market-driven solution for reducing poverty and developing their social economy.

"Inclusive Business involves doing business with and for the poor."

*Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes,
Assistant Secretary for Investments Promotion,
Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines*

Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes, Assistant Secretary, Investments Promotion at BOI, shared the BOI's experience in adopting the IB approach to incentivise private companies to work towards poverty reduction goals. Incentivising more businesses to incorporate impact into their operations is an actionable approach for policymakers to build a sustainable economy that benefits citizens across socioeconomic backgrounds.

For example, the BOI worked with a multinational corporation to purchase coffee beans produced by local farmers and employ staff from local communities where the multinational corporation is situated. Through such initiatives, the board encouraged companies to source their materials locally as opposed to importing.

The success seen with this approach led to collaboration opportunities with international development agencies including ADB and UNDP to scale the IB approach.



Policy Innovation in Capital Mobilisation

The central theme across the three presentations from the first Showcase is the government's effort to adopt innovative strategies to mobilise greater impact capital. In Malaysia, AIM adopted the "Whole Society Approach", which focuses on engaging the private sector and the local communities in solving social issues. This was seen through their implementation of the "Social Finance Roadmap", which aims to catalyse social funding through the Social Outcome Fund (SOF) and the Social Impact Exchange (SIX). In addition to the benefit of attracting a larger pool of capital for the social impact programmes, it also incentivises innovation and allows the government to better understand private sector willingness to be the first movers for impact-related projects. The case of AIM also sets an example of how **governments can create the infrastructure needed to mobilise greater impact capital through innovative financing methods, as compared to following traditional grant-funding models.**

Moving into Northeast Asia, South Korea was recognized for its experience in unlocking financial impact capital from the private sector through its Pay-For-Success (PFS) financing model. Since 2014, the Seoul City Council has been using PFS models to bring together government, service providers and private investors to implement social programmes that achieve predefined outcomes. In a PFS model which aims to fund education intervention for children with Borderline Intellectual Functioning, Pan-Impact Korea incorporated blockchain technology onto the record-keeping for the SIB. This allowed the SIB to be transferable and therefore tradeable, and greatly simplified the funding processes for the service provider.



Government effort in scaling social innovation

Although governments may not be the first movers or initiators for social innovation, they play a significant role in institutionalising and scaling up social innovation programmes to a national level. Ken Ito, North Asia Director of AVPN, and Hideo Tone, Programme Manager, Toyota Foundation, shared experiences on how governments can promote social innovation given its unique position. The private and people sectors possess the expertise to innovate, implement and pilot groundbreaking solutions to complex problems, albeit on a smaller scale. Once the projects are fully implemented and have delivered their desired outcomes, the government can then intervene and scale these projects. **Ultimately, governments can create the long-term stability needed for social innovation to evolve and bring greater impact.** Before this can happen, there needs to be demonstration of successful innovation pilots.

"[Our] research includes identifying transferable prototypes which can be transferred to different environments and countries."

Ken Ito,
Regional Head, East Asia,
Asian Venture Philanthropy Network



Transparency and community involvement instill public trust that leads to impact

The relationship between government, the public and civil society in the context of social innovation triggered a deeper discussion during the policy showcase. While delegates agreed on the importance of community involvement in sustaining social innovation, transparency and accountability from the government to the public is also crucial to encouraging citizen trust in the social innovation journey. An example of such an approach by the government was shared by Ning Yeh, Counsellor in the Executive Yuan, who shared experiences on Taiwan's Open Government initiative. Designed by the Minister-without-portfolio Audrey Tang, the government provides public access to its meeting proceedings and publicises relevant data about issues that the public cares about. Initiatives like the Public Digital Innovation Space (PDIS) encourages innovation by providing a physical space for social innovation capacity building and incubation, as well as a neutral space for government to meet the public.

These initiatives on the whole illustrated the importance of opening communication channels between government and the public in order to catalyse innovation for impact. **Social innovation platforms that involve the public in the decision-making process provide collective wisdom for more impactful solutions.**

"The initiative aspires to create a culture based on trust where people from different disciplines, backgrounds and spheres can get together to discuss issues and action plans."

Ning Yeh, Counsellor,
Executive Yuan, Taiwan



Building capacity through evidence-based measurement in delivering long-term impact

Besides promoting principles of transparency and accountability, **evidence-based measurement remains essential for the successful delivery of social impact outcomes.** In line with previously shared sentiments of the need to speak the same language across impact delivery, evidence-based policy drew great attention from the delegates as a potential tool for cross-sector collaboration.

Rohan Sandhu from the International Innovation Corps (University of Chicago) shared the organisation's experience in co-designing a crowdfunding portal with the Rajasthan State Government to fill financing gaps in education infrastructure. The government crowdfunding portal identifies priority projects to scale, and invites non-government actors to partner with the government through a "transparent portal reporting system" that measures and tracks impact.

NITI Aayog, the national think tank and former planning commission in India, gave an example of how they leverage the benefits of outcomes

data for their decision-making processes with government bodies. In her presentation, Sigy Vaidhyan, Director, NITI Aayog, shared that the "SATH-E Model" for transforming the education sector in three states in India aims to be evidenced-based in their assessment and planning. Related to this, delegates also brought up tools like the School Education Quality Index (SEQI), which contains outcome measurements on learning, school access, infrastructure, equity and governance, therefore not only providing a comprehensive picture of the outcomes delivered by the education system but also a ready evaluation tool when implementing outcomes-based financing like DIBs.

"If this model can be implemented in three states, we will be able to do policy advocacy at the central government level."

Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan, Director,
NITI Aayog, India

Launch of AVPN Policy Leadership Lab



From L-R: **Jocelle Batapa-Sigue** (National ICT Confederation of the Philippines), **Meas Rathmony** (Ministry of Planning, Cambodia), **Young-Sik** (Association of Korean Local Governments for Social Economy and Solidarity, South Korea), **Kanchana Patarachoke** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand), **Fadjar Hutomo** (BEKRAF, Indonesia), **Leonardo Sambodo** (National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia), **Jeff Hou** (KPMG Taiwan), **M.A. Thajudeen** (Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise, Sri Lanka), **Chrisma Albandjar** (PT Kimia Farma (Persero) TBK, Indonesia), **Patsian Low** (AVPN), **Linda Huang** (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan), **Rachel Chan** (AVPN), **Dr. Ruijun Yuan** (Peking University, China)

With support from the BMW Foundation, the Asia Policy Forum welcomed its first cohort of 13 Fellows across Asia who represent different parts of the sector and consist of policy leaders committed to building a high-impact social economy. Ranging from 10 markets, they represent ministries, quasi-government centers, civic groups, chambers of commerce and university think tanks – each playing an important role in advancing policy engagement with social and impact investment.

Over the course of the Fellowship, the Fellows are invited to work with AVPN on their policy initiatives over one year, in which AVPN contributes cross-sector expertise and provides

opportunities or Fellows to engage with the network to realise their initiatives.

The Fellowship launch enabled Fellows to set milestones under the facilitation from Dr. Ben Chan from the Presencing Institute, and guest speaker, Corey Lien from B Corp Asia.



Learnings from Policy Workshops



Among the five major areas that policy can impact social impact investing, policy innovation in capital mobilisation was the most discussed topic in this year's conference. Tools such as Pay-For-Success (PFS) financing instruments, including SIBs and DIBs, drew great attention from policymakers and the funding community for its innovative way of bringing cross-sector partners together and potential to vastly improve the dollar-to-impact ratio of government spending.

Pay-for-Success models - Towards better philanthropic and policy outcomes

On the last day of the conference, delegates were invited to attend a half-day workshop exploring the adaptability of PFS models to Asia. Through an interactive discussion followed by group work, delegates heard frontline experiences from key stakeholders in the largest education DIB in Asia - Sietse Wouter from UBS, and Aditi Banerjee from British Asian Trust. Kevin Tan from Tri Sector Associates then facilitated participants in an exercise of designing a PFS model.

Delegates universally agreed that the **new financing instruments are not silver bullets for solving all social challenges, but a dynamic public-private partnership option can be**

structured to improve the effectiveness of government spending, scale up effective solutions and engage non-traditional partners.

In terms of rolling out such new financing instruments in different countries, Sietse and Aditi highlighted that legal complexities arising from different legal structures, the initial unease of being publicly accountable to evidence of results, and conflicting incentives amongst partners are all challenges that need to be addressed. In view of this, patience may be key in fostering successful implementation - a critical shift away from short-term thinking to long-term solutions.

"One of the major benefits of PFS is cost-saving for both the government and private funders. The implementation process, along with incorporating data digitalisation, routinely ends up costing outcome funders substantially less."

*Kevin Tan, Founder,
Tri-Sector Associates*

Roundtable: Unlocking social impact investing in Asia Pacific

In partnership with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), delegates were invited to share recent policy developments in social impact investing (SII) markets in Asia, and the roles they see the public and private sectors taking up. UNESCAP and the World Bank also discussed their interest in building up the impact investing ecosystem by either implementing policy incentives or directly making impact investments in Asia.

"There are not a lot of policies on the supply side but more on the demand side."

*Abhilash Mudialar,
Director of Research,
Global Impact Investing Network*

During this session, it was apparent that despite a positive outlook for social impact investing in Asia, the legal and policy structure to enable the growth is still nascent. Activity levels and interest are unbalanced across the continuum of capital for impact, and may be more present around the development and governance of impact organisations ("demand" for impact capital), with less policy presence to catalyse resources for the ecosystem ("supply" of impact capital). There were still many areas for policy to make a bigger impact in developing the ecosystem.

Delegates have pointed out that these opportunities are suitable for public-private partnerships to build up the social impact investment ecosystem, stressing the importance of data transparency and fostering trust as key ingredients for success. **To build a more vibrant ecosystem, a paradigm shift is needed for stakeholders to not solely focus on scale-ready investment, and better leverage and combine different financial instruments (grants, debt and equity) with non-financial support to achieve a continuum of capital for SPOs of different size and scale.** Delegates also pointed out the need to align all stakeholders along common impact objectives so that work can synergistically occur across sectors.

"Asia Pacific is moving ahead in the social investing space. For the first time, impact investing was an item in the UN resolution on achieving the SDGs."

*Jonathan Wong,
Chief of Technology & Innovation,
United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific*



Recognising the importance of localised engagement, AVPN held the inaugural India Policy Forum in New Delhi on 5 December 2018, preceding the AVPN India Summit on 6 December 2018. As a local extension activity of APF, the India Policy Forum aimed to catalyse private-policy joint efforts that bring development outcomes to Aspirational Districts and states in India. Discussions centred around the mobilisation of two forms of capital for impact:

- **Intellectual Capital:** How can data science be adopted by policymakers, funders and SPOs, and applied to evidence-based practice? What are the implications for the social investment community in mainstreaming such approaches?
- **Human Capital:** What are the on-the-ground realities during implementation and what are the complexities that surface? What are the human capital needs amongst districts and how can the social investment community support these?

The India Policy Forum convened 92 delegates, ranging from policymakers, heads of foundations, intermediaries and SPOs. National, state and district-level policymakers were represented through the NITI Aayog, state government officials, District Commissioners and Aspirational District Swasth Bharat Preraks (NNM Fellows)¹. Policymakers and social investors discussed the collaboration opportunities for financial and non-financial resources to be more effectively mobilised, so that proven development solutions for Education, Health & Nutrition, and Skills & Livelihoods can be scaled.

Key takeaways from the India Policy Forum

The importance of data has been accepted and largely encouraged by the development sector, but it was clear that **that harnessing data and leveraging data has the potential to bring about systemic change**. A strong champion for evidence-based approach to development

is no less than India's NITI Aayog, where its CEO Amitabh Kant spoke about the government's commitment to utilise data in its Aspirational Districts programme to strengthen its strategies to develop underperforming districts. Between national-level agencies, capacity builders like IDInsight, Brookings Institute and Harvard University, district officials, foundations, companies and social investors, there was lively discussion around how incorporating data at the district level can potentially lead to evidence-based collaboration between the policy and private sectors. From the lens of mobilising financial and human capital to create systemic change and greater impact, we learned about the audience's insights and concerns around **closing knowledge gaps, strengthening processes and building capacity that are needed to make the shift towards a more data-driven mindset**.

Key discussion points that arose include:

- Effective responsible ownership over data infrastructure
- Capacity building for the skills needed to adopt data-driven methodologies
- How to build on existing data infrastructure to provide stakeholders with quality, real time useable data
- How to balance being both data-driven yet not dismiss complex, high-risk projects with unmeasurable outcomes
- Granularity of data layers and their usability at district-level, village level, state, or national level

Unveiling supplementary material for policymakers

Discussions on the need for more granularity underscored the relevance of the data booklets produced by Dr. S.V. Subramanian, Dr. William Joe and Dr. Rockli Kim of Harvard University. In these booklets, indicators of child malnutrition used by POSHAN Abhiyaan were measured across 543 Parliament Constituencies, enabling policymakers

to use this as a tool to better understand the extent of malnutrition in their respective constituencies. This adds an additional layer of data to the mix, and presents an opportunity for policymakers, social investors and private philanthropists to act on this data.

Launch of Asia Policy Forum Exchange (APFx)

APFx, the latest offering by AVPN, was also launched to inspire delegates to collaborate across sectors to realise various policy initiatives that are in need of different types of resources. Using this platform, policymakers can feature actionable policy initiatives that are ready for cross-sector engagement from the wider AVPN membership. In these ways, APFx aims to provide channels in which the social investment community can mobilise their resources across sectors for maximum impact.



¹ The Swasth Bharat Preraks or the NNM Fellowship is an opportunity for India's smartest and bright minds to contribute to Nation building. These Fellows are highly qualified young professionals, who will provide inputs on strategy, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of Poshan Abhiyan in the Districts. This fellowship programme is a joint initiative from Tata Trusts and the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. <http://wcdsbp.org/>



Learnings from 2018 indicate that there is a vast scope for collaboration between policymakers and social impact investors. Recognizing the need to strengthen the critical role that policymakers play in creating an enabling environment for social economies, we aim to forge lasting partnerships between the private, public and civic sectors.

In an effort to embed the social economy into the private and civil society sectors, APF is collaborating with governments and agencies across Asia to catalyse opportunities for private and civic actors to collaborate for impact. This can lead to specific collaborations between AVPN and governments to create a policy nexus for such stakeholders to work together. For example, in Indonesia, AVPN has signed an MOU to collaborate with the National Creative Economy Agency to use our convening platform to bring

together stakeholders that can enrich the creative economy through different kinds of capital. In India, AVPN partnered with NITI Aayog in the India Policy Forum to call for state and district level policymakers to leverage AVPN's platforms to work more closely with private sector philanthropy, impact investors and CSR.

Leveraging our membership base and stakeholder network, we will continue to bring together policymakers, private stakeholders and members of civil society alike and create connections, both traditional and non-traditional to fulfill the increasing demand for impact capital.

Select Speakers and Presenters from Asia Policy Forum Flagship Events:

UN and other International Multilateral Organisations



Hongjoo Hahm
Deputy Executive Secretary for Programmes
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)



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



Karen Wilson
Private Sector Finance, Development
Co-Operation Directorate
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

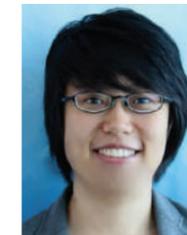


Samik Sundar Das
Senior Rural Development Specialist
World Bank

Singapore



Grace Fu
Minister
Ministry of Culture Community and Youth



Belinda Chng
Director, Policy & Programmes
Milken Institute



Brenda Lim
Deputy Director, Employment and Employability
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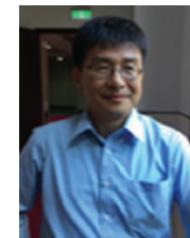


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