

THE ASIA POLICY DIALOUGE (APD) 2017

SUMMARY

Date: 30 Jun – 1 Jul 2017 (two days event)

Theme: *‘Effective public policy design for fostering social economy as a leverage for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia’*

Venue: Seoul City Hall

Organiser: GSEF and Seoul Metropolitan Government

Participants: 50~70 invitees including policy makers, elected officials, social entrepreneurs, practitioners and researchers from the Asia Pacific region.

Schedule: 30 Jun (Fri) - Seoul social economy week events and networking evening

1 Jul (Sat) - Roundtables, keynote speeches and group policy case study

Language: English

ABOUT APD

As a continuation of the previous editions of APD at the GSEF forums (2014, 2015) and the first APD event outside of Korea which took place in Hong Kong (2016) in partnership with the Asia Venture Philanthropy Network (One of the Steering Committee of the GSEF), BMW foundation and British Council that attracted more than 80 delegates from 15 different countries in the region, the 4th edition of APD 2017 will be held in Seoul as back to back event with [the GSEF-ILO SSE Academy](#) ‘Innovative ecosystem for SSE public policies – a contribution to the future of work (26 ~ 30 Jun)’.

The APD has played a key role in promoting knowledge exchanges between policy makers and practitioners in searching for the best ways of co-constructing public policies, establishing eco-systems for promoting the Social & Solidarity Economy (SSE) and social innovation to tackle various societal and urban challenges in Asia wherein social enterprises are playing an increasingly pivotal role in the provision of social services as well as serving as a catalyst for industrial innovations.

For two days, APD 2017 will offer participants from Asian-Pacific countries with diverse backgrounds to discuss regional policy initiatives for resolving imminent urban challenges through various activities and debates at the heart of one of the Asia’s most progressive cities of fostering SSE to achieve inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development.

Global Social Economy Forum Secretariat

2F, Seoul Innovation Park #21, 7 Nokbeon-dong, Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul, 122-824, Rep of Korea

T) +82 (0) 2 352 4208 F) +82 (0) 70 8299 8677 E) gsef@gsef-net.org W) www.gsef-net.org

CONTEXT

Finding the best way of designing the public policy that enables an environment in which SSE (e.g. cooperatives and social enterprises) generates substantive and sustainable impacts on tackling socioeconomic problems at both central (such as issues of unemployment and inequality) and local levels (urban challenges such as gentrification) is the underlining purpose of APD 2017.

SSE in Asia is often regarded as an alternative to social service providers supported by the states or local authorities for the benefit of vulnerable groups in society. Consequently, public policies are being constructed and implemented in a way that allows governments to shift their responsibilities to the third sector under the budgetary constraints of providing social services and tackling unemployment issues.

Nevertheless, in order for SSE to contribute to the sustainable and inclusive development, adequate public policies should be formulated to nurture the type of eco-system where actors of SSEs can thrive and serve as a catalyst for innovation rather than an outsourced provider of social services. Furthermore, it should be noted that disjointed efforts of incubating social enterprises and SSE organisations without clear strategies and connections to the mainstream economy have a limit to generate systemic changes.

One of the important questions that APD2017 seeks to answer throughout the discussions is how public policy can enable SSE to serve as one of the main sector of the economy and further, as an alternative development strategy that invigorates the structure of existing industries and bringing in social values for enhancing economy and social progress.

Sub themes of the APD are urban regeneration (e.g. housing and community), social services (e.g. women/disabled), employment (e.g. youth). Below are some of the issues/aspects that will be addressed in relation to the subthemes throughout discussions and activities of the APD 2017.

** Legal frameworks: Legal frameworks for certifying social enterprises for instance, can be crucial as it establishes and justifies various supporting programs from the public. Nevertheless, narrowly defined certification and administrative red tape can cause adverse effects.*

** Multi-sector partnership: An ecosystem should be in place where public - private – civil society collaborate to sustain and stimulate innovations. Public policies should be carefully co-constructed by inviting all major stakeholders for this end.*

** Financing: In order for SSE to create substantive social impacts at the local and national level, funding from both public and private sectors are crucial for scaling up. Related issues such as ‘measurements’ that allows investments to flow shall also be addressed.*

** Community: Role of SSE in revitalising communities and generating employments at the local level is crucial. Public policy that empowers locality and citizens can play an important role in achieving inclusive urban development.*

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ABOUT GSEF

The Global Social Economy Forum is a global social and solidarity economy (SSE) network that aims to serve as a hub for sharing visions and experiences through cross-border collaboration.

The development of the GSEF began following the Seoul Declaration, which was adopted by eight local governments and nine social economy organizations during GSEF 2013, held in Seoul on November 5 – 7, 2013 on the theme “New Discovery of Collaboration” (www.gsef2013.org). The Seoul Declaration was the outcome of the determination of local governments and social organizations who recognized the need for global solidarity in the area of social economy. Following this first successful event, GSEF2014 (www.gsef2014.org) was held simultaneously with the foundation general assembly of GSEF. It included the participation of 18 local governments and 43 international SSE organizations pursuing the expansion of knowledge-sharing and cooperative relationships among global social economy actors. The GSEF2014 inaugural meeting led to the permanent creation of an international association of SSE based on the adoption of the GSEF Charter.

The third edition of GSEF, GSEF2016 (www.gsef2016.org) took place in Montreal with the theme ‘local governments and social economy stakeholders – allies for the intelligent and sustainable development of cities.’ The C.I.T.I.E.S (international center for innovation and knowledge transfer on the social and solidarity economy) forum was officially launched at GSEF2016. The ‘Montreal Declaration’ was also adopted to affirm the commitment of participants to the promotion of the social economy. The 4th edition of the forum GSEF2018 will be convened by the City of Bilbao.

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APD 2017 PROGRAMME (TENTATIVE)

Time	30 Jun (Friday)		
	GSEF & ILO-ITC SSE Academy (26 ~ 30 Jun)		
17:00 ~ 18:00	Seoul Social Economy Week	Social Economy thematic exhibitions by <i>Social enterprises and SE organisations</i>	Seoul Square
18:00 ~ 18:40			
18:40 ~ 19:00	Walk to the Seoul City Hall (Seosomun complex)		
19:00 ~ 19:10	Networking Evening	Welcome remarks: <i>Laurence Kwark (Secretary General, GSEF)</i>	Seoul City Hall -Seosomun Complex
19:10 ~ 21:00		Networking evening: (finger food and drinks to be served)	

Time	1 Jul (Saturday) – Seosomun Complex	
09:30 ~ 10:00	Registration	<i>Registration & Networking tea time</i>
10:00 ~ 10:10	Opening Remarks	<i>Rev. Kyong Yong Song (Co-chairman, GSEF)</i>
10:10 ~ 10:30	Plenary I [Keynote]	‘Challenges and opportunities of leveraging SSE as a main policy framework for inclusive urban development’ <i>by Ilcheong Yi (UNRISD)</i>
10:30 ~ 12:00	Plenary II [Roundtable]	‘SSE as an alternative urban development model – commonalities and complexities of Asia’ (experience of 5 different Asian countries) Thailand – India – Philippines – Seoul – HK Speakers: reps from central gov, municipality, social entrepreneurs, intermediary orgs engaging with policy making process. <i>Discussant: Pascal Duforestel – (Vice President, RTES)</i> <i>Moderated by Euiyoung Kim (Prof, Seoul National Univ)</i>
12:00 ~ 13:00	Networking lunch	
13:00 ~ 14:00	Plenary Session III	‘Innovative solutions for urban challenges - SSE approaches’ (5 different Asian cities’ initiatives in resolving urban issues) Lahore, Chandigarh, Depok, Yangcheon, Quezon
14:00 ~ 14:30		<i>Discussant: Dominique Lesaffre (President, SIDI)</i>
14:30 ~ 15:00	Networking tea break	
15:00 ~ 16:30	Policy Case Study [Parallel]	Facilitated group policy case study by themes - <i>Urban regeneration (environment/housing/community), Social services (women/disabled), Employment (youth), Governance (participatory), Social Finance</i>
16:30 ~ 17:00		Presentation of group discussions: approx. 6 groups (10 participants per group) present the outcome of case study discussions and make policy recommendations.
17:00 ~ 17:30	APD Wrap up & Closing	<i>Laurence Kwark (Secretary General, GSEF)</i>