

The role of government in enhancing impact in the Social Economy in Asia – 26th May 2016

The Asia Policy Dialogue is an opportunity to be a part of the conversation between influential policy makers, venture philanthropists, impact investors, social entrepreneurs and key players in the social enterprise sector in Asia. It offers an opportunity to support governments to build an enabling environment for the social economy to flourish.

It builds on AVPN's earlier work in convening Asian government officials to explore best practices in cross-sector collaboration for social impact and the British Council's work across East and South Asia in supporting governments to develop policy frameworks to enhance the impact of social enterprises and to increase the flow of social investment to grow and scale impact. It also builds on the recommendations of a recent report Think Global Trade Social published by the British Council and the World Bank.

In recent years a number of Asian governments have begun to introduce policies and enact legislation in attempts to unlock greater resources to support the growth of the Social Economy. These include the 2% tax levied on Indonesian national resources companies to be used for corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities and most recently the Companies Bill in India which commits companies over a certain size to invest 2% of profits to CSR.

These are very exciting times for the Social Economy in Asia and governments can play a critical role in helping to unlock resources and nurture social entrepreneurs and social innovators in their efforts to address the challenges faced across the region. A positive enabling environment will help to support the philanthropy community's efforts to build more sustainable societies ensuring that economic development can benefit everyone. The last few years have seen tremendous growth in investments across the region through both large pledges made by international and national business leaders as well as major investment initiatives from leading foundations. In addition government initiatives are helping to provide support to encourage future business leaders to position social impact at the core of business strategies.

Given the scale of the challenges that are being faced across Asia, innovative and ambitious approaches will be required and a broader coalition of actors will need to be engaged. New financing models such as venture philanthropy and social investment are increasingly playing an important role in unlocking private capital and skills. These approaches are encouraging collaboration, leading to resource and risk sharing as well as the collection of more meaningful impact data. This is enabling operations at a larger scale and for longer periods which has the potential to catalyse large-scale social change.

In order to support this, a collective effort is required to align the work of private and public sectors towards achieving common goals. The Post- 2015 development agenda places collaboration among business, government, and civil society organisations at the heart of delivering on a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), intended to re-energise, re-focus, and rally stakeholders to complete the unfinished work of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

On 26th May 2016, the Asia Policy Dialogue will be convened at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the day following the 4th AVPN Annual Conference. The Dialogue is a collaborative effort by AVPN, the BMW Foundation and British Council, and is now joined by the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF). Policy makers from across Asia will gather for a knowledge exchange on how to create a more conducive eco-system for social enterprise and social investment as well as how governments can support the creation of an enabling environment for innovation to happen. This is a by-invite only closed door event.

The dialogue further aims to explore how governments can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through the promotion of social enterprise and social investment and aim to come up with a series of recommendations in this regard. It will also explore how governments can work together more collaboratively to achieve these goals.

Date: 26th May 2016

Venue: Regal Kowloon Hotel, 71 Mody Road, Tsimshatsui, Hong Kong – Luxembourg Room, Level 3

Time: 9am – 5pm

Audience: 60 pax of government officials from Asia, including Hong Kong, China, Korea, Japan, Singapore, India, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Morning session:

- 0900 – 0905hr: Welcome & introduction to agenda
- 0905 – 0940hr: 15-min speeches from guest speakers Paul Carttar (former director of Obama's Social Innovation Fund and Co-Founder of Bridgespan) and Cliff Prior (CEO of Big Society Capital) to set the tone and provide an overview on government policies and social investing eco-system relating to SDGs (with 5 mins questions)
- 0940 – 1130hr: Presentations from regional representatives on each country's programmes related to social investment or innovation (5 minutes each, estimated 12 representatives – split into 2 groups, with commentary from facilitators/guest speakers midway <before 15min tea break> and at the end)
- 1130 – 1215hr: Panel presentation on *Role of municipal governments in promoting social economy* (Proposed speakers: Korean mayor, representative from Bandung, Indonesia, and NSW, Australia representative)
- 1215 – 1230hr: Wrap up morning session

1230 – 1400hr: Lunch

Afternoon session:

- 1400 – 1445hr: Panel discussion on multi-sector collaboration success cases, focused on the *housing sector*. Speakers will reflect project collaborations between government, private sector (e.g. real estate developer) and the intermediary (organisation that brings the project together) : e.g. cooperatives of community owned housing project
- 1445 – 1545hr: Facilitated discussion in groups by Paul Carttar, assisted by partners from AVPN, British Council, BMW Foundation, GSEF on how each country can contribute towards the SDGs with multi-sector collaboration initiatives
- 1545 – 1645hr: Group will reconvene to present thoughts about each country's aspirations on policy and programme initiatives
- 1645 – 1715hr: Closing on future steps of Asia Policy Dialogue

*** Please note that there will be a welcome dinner on the evening of 25th May prior to the event on 26th May (venue tbc).**

The Asia Policy Dialogue aims to convene regularly to share insights in policies and programmes for social impact. With continued support, it will look at producing regional reports on the state of social investing and holding relevant workshops and training for government and multi-lateral stakeholders. **The discussions of the day will also be recorded and produced as a report for internal circulation amongst all delegates.**

For more information and to receive an invite to the event, please contact gsef@gsef-net.org

The Asia Policy Dialogue Team

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