



PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.:21-IP-05-GE-WSP-B-PN2100031-001

Date of Issue	27 May 2021
Project Code	21-IP-05-GE-WSP-B
Title	Workshop on Regulatory Ecosystems for Startups
Timing and Duration	28–30 July 2021 (three days)
Hosting Country(ies)	Philippines
Modality	Digital Multicountry
Implementing Organization(s)	Development Academy of the Philippines and APO Secretariat
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	12
Qualifications of Participants	Policymakers and government officials; representatives of government enterprises, public R&D institutes, and academia; and staff from NPOs working on business development, designing and implementing regulations for startups, managing startup programs of governments, regulatory reform agendas and governance, and implementing and monitoring public regulations for startups
Nomination of Participants	All nominations must be submitted through National Productivity Organizations of member countries
Closing Date for Nominations	2 July 2021

1. Objectives

- a. Review startup ecosystems and their regulatory frameworks that support and accelerate startup success.
- b. Examine existing public regulations and tools that promote startup businesses.
- c. Identify measures for scaling up startups by improving regulatory ecosystem frameworks.

2. Background

Startups refer to companies in the early stage of business development that offer new products and services. They attract talent and investment, catalyze local innovation, and create jobs. That is why they are believed to help transform national economies by driving innovation and collaborating with traditional sectors to increase productivity and competitiveness in the long run. However, the regulatory ecosystems such as institutions, processes, and tools should be designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated holistically across governments. The challenge is therefore how to design clear, coherent, efficient regulations and implement them effectively to accelerate startup success, especially under the new normal brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted the business landscape while creating new types of startups.

Nowadays, startups are more revolutionary. Artificial intelligence, for instance, has become more sophisticated, and products and services newly offered since 2010 have been potentially disruptive. That dynamism leads to market expansion for startups in unexplored areas that were not covered or managed by regulations in the past. For example, fintech startups often find meeting current regulations challenging since they are based on the brick-and-mortar banking model, while fintech companies are online and seek to expand operations through new technology like digital currency.

According to the Global Startup Ecosystems Report 2020, Asian start-ups have great potential for scaling up to the global level. In that report, four of the top 20 cities for emerging ecosystems are located in APO members: Mumbai; Jakarta; Kuala Lumpur; and Istanbul. Tokyo, Seoul, and Singapore also ranked within the top 20 hosts of global startup ecosystems. Despite the opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region, regulatory systems need to be improved to encourage the establishment of more innovative startup firms at the national level. On the other hand, regulations protecting intellectual property, privacy, employment, and funding and financing must be applied appropriately to attract and retain more startup undertakings.

This workshop therefore will examine the concept of startup ecosystems and their regulatory frameworks, identify existing public regulations and tools that promote startup businesses, and suggest proposals for scaling up startups through better regulatory ecosystem frameworks.

3. Scope, Methodology, and Certificate of Attendance

The duration of each day's sessions will be around three hours comprising presentations by experts, group discussions, and other relevant learning methods. The indicative topics of the presentations are:

Day 1:

- Introduction to startup ecosystems and global status
- Regulatory challenges of startup ecosystems

Day 2:

- What makes a nation a startup hub?
- Building new startup ecosystems
- Case studies of emerging startup ecosystems

Day 3:

- Public support systems for startups: Financial, R&D, and human resources
- Regulatory and policy proposals for startup ecosystem development
- Proposals for scaling up startups through regulatory ecosystem frameworks

The detailed program and list of speakers will be provided two weeks prior to the sessions with announcement of the names of the selected participants.

The participants are required to attend all sessions. This full participation is a prerequisite for receiving the APO certificate of attendance.

4. Financial Arrangements

- a. The APO will meet the assignment costs for overseas resource persons.
- b. The host country will meet the assignment costs of local resource persons and for a virtual site visit(s), either broadcast live or recorded as applicable.

5. Implementation Procedures

Please refer to the implementation procedures for APO digital multicountry projects circulated with this document.



Dr. AKP Mochtan
Secretary-General