Meeting Report

Expert Group Meeting on the Investors Network for New and Emerging Technologies (INNET)

26 June 2026, Online

Organized by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)

I. Opening Session

Dr. Preeti Soni, Head of APCTT, opened the Expert Group Meeting on the Investors Network for New and Emerging Technologies (INNET) and welcomed representatives of investor associations and investment ecosystem organizations from the region.

She noted that the proposed INNET reflected a clear demand from member States for stronger linkages between technology, policy and investment. She emphasized that bringing these three elements together more deliberately could help unlock the value of technologies, not only for investors, but also for sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Soni introduced INNET as a "network of networks" that would bring together investor associations to exchange insights, engage with policymakers and innovators, explore cross-border opportunities and connect more directly with emerging technology pipelines linked to APCTT's ongoing work. She clarified that the meeting was not intended to seek approval of a finalized INNET model, but to invite participants to actively shape the initiative.

II. Scene-setting Remarks

Mr. Charlie Hartono, Director for Southeast Asia, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN), delivered scene-setting remarks on the importance of coordinated leadership and cross-border collaboration in Asia's impact and investment ecosystem.

He noted that Asia and the Pacific faces significant financing needs linked to growth, poverty reduction and climate action, and emphasized that this should be viewed not only as a financing gap, but also as a major opportunity for Asia-led solutions. He highlighted that the region requires a full continuum of capital, including grants, debt and equity, to move innovations from early-stage ideas to scalable solutions.

Mr. Hartono identified fragmentation as one of the biggest barriers to impact in Asia. While capital is growing, it remains unevenly distributed across countries and markets. He observed that venture capital in emerging technologies can serve as a vehicle for cross-border technology transfer, carrying finance, know-how, intellectual property and talent across markets.

He stressed that effective technology transfer depends on coordinated interaction among technology, policy and capital. In this context, he stated that INNET could become a connective platform that helps convert intent into action and isolated partnerships into a more coordinated ecosystem based on trust, shared accountability and better information flows.

III. Presentation of the Proposed INNET

Mr. Soohyung Kim, Economic Affairs Officer of APCTT, introduced the proposed Investors Network for New and Emerging Technologies (INNET) as a regional "network of networks" bringing together investor associations across Asia and the Pacific.

He noted that APCTT already works with member States, technology transfer offices, research institutions and policymakers, but that investors and investor associations have so far been less directly connected to APCTT's technology transfer work. INNET was therefore presented as a mechanism to bring the investor community into the broader technology transfer ecosystem.

It was clarified that INNET would not function as an investment advisory body or direct investment facilitation mechanism. Rather, it would focus on information sharing, policy dialogue, trusted connections, technology pipeline visibility and regional exchange.

Mr. Kim highlighted that INNET could provide value to investor associations by offering early visibility into technology opportunities from member States and research institutions, trusted entry points into new markets through APCTT's neutral United Nations platform, structured channels for engagement with policymakers, and opportunities to exchange market intelligence and best practices among investor associations.

He invited participants to share their views on what would make such a network valuable, what concerns might affect participation, and how INNET should begin in terms of activities and level of involvement.

IV. Guided Discussion

1. Value of a regional investor network

Mr. Sumeet Shetty, Vice President, Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA), emphasized that curated deal flow would be one of the most important value propositions for investor communities. He noted that investor associations are connected with their domestic ecosystems, but often lack systematic information on technologies, ventures and investment opportunities in other countries.

He suggested that INNET could add value by providing curated deal flow, co-investment and multi-party investment opportunities, regulatory and market entry intelligence, peer benchmarking across countries and technologies, and climate and deep-tech investment opportunities. He also noted that IVCA's Climate and Sustainability Council could benefit from such a platform for sharing climate and sustainability-related opportunities and intelligence.

Ms. Alwyn Joy Rosel, Executive Director, QBO Innovation, the Philippines, expressed support for these points and emphasized the importance of deal flow, local market intelligence and information on high-potential innovations across countries. She noted that INNET could help investors understand emerging technologies, innovation trends and technology transfer developments in different markets, while also supporting the startups and innovation communities they work with.

2. Trust-building and differentiation from existing networks

Mr. Johnathan Lee, Cradle Fund, Malaysia, welcomed the intention of INNET to encourage collaboration, deal flow and investment, while noting that meaningful cooperation and co-investment would require time and trust. He emphasized that trust is unlikely to emerge through online meetings alone and suggested that physical meetings, conferences and face-to-face exchanges would be important.

Mr. Lee also referred to previous regional initiatives, including the ASEAN VC Council, and noted that some cross-border venture capital collaboration already takes place informally within ASEAN. He therefore raised the question of how INNET would differentiate itself from existing investor networks.

In response, **Dr. Soni** noted that INNET is not intended to replace or duplicate existing investor networks. Rather, APCTT envisages INNET as a United Nations-convened platform that can connect different networks, widen information flows and support interaction among investor associations, policymakers and technology-related institutions. She emphasized that the network should develop organically, with activities shaped by the needs of participating organizations.

3. Investor concerns in cross-border investment

Mr. Weiquan Wang, Deputy Secretary General, Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA), shared perspectives from Chinese investors, particularly in relation to overseas investment in clean energy and related sectors.

He highlighted several key concerns that investors assess before entering a new market, including policy and regulatory risks, foreign exchange regulations and the ability to repatriate capital, the credibility and financial condition of target companies, legal risks and due diligence requirements, and the size and growth potential of the target market.

Mr. Wang suggested that INNET could invite broader stakeholders, including government officials, investors and project owners, to share concerns, interests and relevant information. He also proposed that future activities could include seminars or workshops on specific issues such as foreign exchange regulation, market size and country-level investment conditions, as well as face-to-face discussions, study tours and the preparation of guidelines or catalogues for investors.

4. Broader regional perspectives and participation

Participants noted that INNET could be particularly useful for organizations that are not already part of regional investor networks outside their own country. The network could help investor associations gain broader regional perspectives on technologies, best practices, deal flow and investor ecosystem development.

APCTT noted that INNET could provide broader regional intelligence beyond existing subregional investor networks. Given APCTT's ESCAP-wide mandate and links with member States, the network could help provide information on less familiar or under-connected markets across Asia and the Pacific.

5. Suggested initial activities and opportunities for engagement

Participants suggested that INNET should begin with low-friction, practical activities that can help build familiarity and trust among participating organizations. Initial steps could include sharing basic information on participating organizations, their mandates, areas of expertise and possible areas of support, as well as establishing a communication channel among the initial group.

It was further suggested that APCTT invite additional country-level investor associations and relevant stakeholders to participate in future discussions. Participants also proposed organizing regular online exchanges around agreed topics, complemented by in-person engagement where possible. Thematic exchanges could focus on issues such as foreign exchange regulations, market entry conditions, regulatory frameworks, market size and emerging technology pipelines.

Mr. Johnathan Lee suggested that upcoming technology and investment-related conferences in Malaysia and Singapore could provide opportunities for INNET participants to meet physically, including the Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology, the Singapore FinTech Festival and the Cradle Live ASEAN Summit.

Ms. Aakriti Bamniyal, Senior Vice President, IVCA, noted that IVCA organizes the Green Return Summit, its flagship climate-focused event, planned to take place in Mumbai in November. She indicated that the Summit could provide an opportunity for relevant INNET stakeholders to convene or hold a side discussion, depending on the agenda and level of interest.

V. Key Takeaways from the Discussion

Participants emphasized that INNET should provide practical value through curated deal flow, market intelligence, regulatory information, peer benchmarking and visibility into emerging technology pipelines.

Participants noted that investors often face difficulty accessing reliable information on policy, regulation, market entry conditions and company-level risks in other countries. INNET could help provide a more structured and trusted channel for such information.

The discussion underscored that deal sharing, co-investment and deeper collaboration require trust, which must be developed gradually through sustained interaction, including face-to-face engagement.

Participants emphasized that INNET should complement, rather than duplicate, existing investor networks. Its added value could lie in APCTT's neutral convening role and reach, access to policymakers and links with technology transfer institutions.

Participants also suggested that INNET begin gradually, starting with information sharing, member mapping, communication among participating organizations and thematic exchanges before moving towards more complex collaboration.

VI. Closing and Next Steps

APCTT thanked participants for their constructive inputs and willingness to contribute to the further shaping of INNET.

It was noted that the meeting served as an initial "pre-INNET" discussion with potential founding or pioneer participants. APCTT stated that the inputs received during the meeting would be reflected in the further development of the INNET concept.

The following next steps were identified:

- APCTT will reflect the inputs received during the meeting in the further development of the INNET concept.
- APCTT will invite additional investor associations and relevant stakeholders from other member States to join follow-up consultations.
- APCTT will initiate information sharing among the initial group of participants and explore the establishment of a communication channel for continued exchange.
- APCTT will prepare and circulate a draft terms of reference for INNET.
- APCTT and participants will explore possible first activities, including information sharing, thematic online exchanges and potential in-person engagement alongside existing regional events.
- Participants will share information on relevant upcoming events that may provide opportunities for INNET-related engagement.

The meeting concluded with appreciation to all participants for their time, inputs and continued interest in the proposed network.

List of Participants

- Mr. Charlie Hartono, Director, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN)
- Mr. Weiquan Wang, Deputy Secretary General, Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA), China
- Mr. Sumeet Shetty, Vice President, Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA), India
- Ms. Aakriti Bamniyal, Senior Vice President, Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA), India
- Mr. Johnathan Lee, Senior Vice President, Cradle Fund, Malaysia
- Ms. Alwyn Joy Rosel, Executive Director, QBO Innovation, the Philippines
- Dr. Preeti Soni, Head, APCTT
- Mr. Soohyung Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, APCTT
- Mr. Pankaj Kumar Shrivastav, Programme Management Officer, APCTT
- Mr. Mayank Kumar Raj, Programme Management Assistant, APCTT
- Ms. Moushumi Das, Team Assistant, APCTT