APCTT
Asian and Pacific Centre
for Transfer of Technology
ESCAP

STEPI 과학기술정책연구원
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY INSTITUTE

CONCEPT NOTE

Inaugural Meeting of the Asia-Pacific TTO Network

Jointly Organised by
Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Republic of Korea
and
Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

17–18 November 2026, Seoul, Republic of Korea

1. Background

Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) play an important role in translating research outputs into technologies, products and services with practical and commercial applications. Across Asia and the Pacific, however, TTOs operate at different levels of institutional development and continue to face challenges related to research–industry linkages, technology valuation and licensing, access to technology and patent information, and technology demonstration and commercialization.

A capacity-building needs assessment conducted by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of UN ESCAP in 2025 indicated a strong demand for capacity building for TTOs and research institutions. There was a need identified for practical and demonstration-based learning, peer exchange and face-to-face regional cooperation.

While various organizations provide training on technology transfer, there remains limited opportunity for TTO practitioners across the region to engage with their counterparts on a regular basis, exchange institutional practices and develop practical cooperation. Institutional knowledge and operational experience accumulated in one country are therefore not always readily accessible to TTOs facing similar challenges elsewhere in the region.

In this regard, APCTT is bringing together a regional community of practice - **Asia-Pacific TTO Network** - connecting TTOs and related institutions across Asia and the Pacific. The Network will provide a platform through which participating institutions can learn from each other, identify areas for cooperation and shape regional capacity-building activities based on their needs.

2. Inaugural Meeting of the Asia-Pacific TTO Network

APCTT, in collaboration with the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), will convene the inaugural meeting of the Asia-Pacific TTO Network on **17–18 November 2026 in Seoul, Republic of Korea**.

The meeting will launch the Network as a Community of Practice for continued cooperation among participating TTOs. It will provide an opportunity for TTO practitioners to understand each other's institutional structures, operational practices, capabilities and challenges, while gaining exposure to the technology transfer ecosystem of the Republic of Korea.

The meeting will therefore combine:

- peer exchange among participating TTOs;
- presentation and discussion of regional capacity-building needs;
- exposure to the Korean technology transfer policy and institutional ecosystem;
- identification of opportunities for peer learning and institutional cooperation; and
- discussion on priority activities of the Network.

3. Expected Outcomes

The meeting is expected to result in:

- establishment of the Asia-Pacific TTO Network;
- an initial baseline of structure of participating TTOs, including their institutional arrangements, capacities, operational challenges and areas of expertise;
- identification of priority areas for regional TTO capacity building;
- identification of potential peer-learning and institutional cooperation opportunities among participating TTOs; and
- discussion on activities of the Network.

Information collected through the institutional presentations and discussions will also provide an initial evidence base for the design of subsequent capacity-building activities.

4. From the Inaugural Meeting to a Regional TTO Capacity-Building Programme

The inaugural meeting is designed as the starting point of a longer-term regional programme. The Asia-Pacific TTO Network is envisaged to serve as the common platform through which participating institutions identify needs, exchange experience and develop practical cooperation. Activities under the programme will be progressively developed based on priorities identified by Network members.

The programme is expected to develop around three mutually reinforcing areas:

- Peer Learning and Capacity Building: The Network will facilitate practical learning among TTO practitioners through activities such as e-learning modules, case clinics, and peer exchange visits.
- Institutional Demonstration and Cooperation: Participating institutions will have opportunities to observe operational models and technology transfer practices in other countries. Practical cases generated through these activities will be documented and shared through the Network.
- Policy and Institutional Development: Experience and evidence generated through the Network will contribute to a better regional understanding of the institutional and regulatory conditions affecting technology transfer.

Over time, this may support regional policy dialogue, comparative analysis and knowledge products on strengthening TTOs and technology transfer systems in Asia and the Pacific.

5. Event Information

Organizer

- Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), United Nations ESCAP

Co-host

- Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI)

Supported by

- UN ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA)
- Hanbat National University (HNU)
- Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology (KICT)

Dates and venue
17–18 November 2026; Seongdong Youth Startup Irum Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea and online

Participants
TTO practitioners and institutional representatives nominated by Member States and partners

Tentative Programme

Day 1 – Tuesday, 17 November 2026

Network Launch, Peer Exchange and Priority Setting

Time	Session	Content
08:30–09:00	**Registration**	Registration of participants
09:00–09:25	**Session 1: Opening and Introduction**	• Welcome remarks, Dr. Jiwoong Yoon, President, STEPI (5 min); • Opening remarks, Ms. Preeti Soni, Head, APCTT (15 min); • Congratulatory remarks, Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Officer in Charge, ESCAP-ENEA (5 min);
09:25–09:30	**Group Photograph**	
09:30–10:50	**Session 2: Understanding the Korean Technology Transfer Ecosystem**	• National policy and institutional framework for technology transfer, Dr. Soo J. Sohn, Head, Division of System Innovation, STEPI • Technology transfer in a public research institute, Ms. Sun-Nyeong Kang, Principal Researcher & Patent Attorney, Department of Technology

Time	Session	Content
		Commercialization, Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials (KIMM) • Technology transfer in a university setting, Mr. Sungju Park, Investment Team Leader & Technology Transfer Agent (TTA), YONSEI TECHNOLOGY HOLDINGS Inc. • Case Introduction: Startups incubated by the Seongdong Youth Startup Irum Center.
10:50–11:00	**Coffee Break**	
11:00–12:20	**Session 3: Practitioners' Exchange I – Institutional Models and Practices**	Short presentations by participating TTOs, using a common template, on their institutional set-up, principal activities and results, and a case worth sharing, followed by moderated discussion on common features and differences across national systems (in alphabetical order by country name).
12:20–13:20	**Lunch**	
13:20–14:50	**Session 4: Practitioners' Exchange II – Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation**	Short presentations by participating TTOs on key operational challenges, the expertise they can offer and the support they seek, followed by moderated discussion to identify common challenges, complementary expertise and potential areas for cooperation (in alphabetical order by country name)
14:50–15:00	**Coffee Break**	
15:00–15:35	**Session 5: Regional Capacity-Building Needs and Priorities**	Presentation of findings from APCTT's capacity-building needs assessment and consultations; discussion to validate priority needs, identify topics for regional learning, and obtain feedback on proposed capacity-building activities
15:35–16:50	**Session 6: Launch of the Asia-Pacific TTO Network and First-Year Workplan**	Introduction of proposed Network facilitation arrangements and indicative activities; discussion on priority topics, case clinics, mentoring, peer exchange visits, institutional partnerships and continuous communication; consultation on priority tasks for the first-year workplan
16:50–17:00	**Closing of Day 1**	Summary of key conclusions and briefing on Day 2 institutional visits

Day 2 – Wednesday, 18 November 2026

Institutional Demonstration Visits

Time	Institution / Activity	Focus
09:30	**Departure from hotel**	
10:00–12:30	**Hanyang Institute for Entrepreneurship**	• Achievements and Lessons Learned from technology commercialization and start-up creation • Q&A
12:40–14:00	**Lunch**	
14:00–15:00	**Transfer**	
15:00–16:30	**Seoul Bio Hub of Korean Institute of Science and Technology**	• Achievements and Lessons Learned from technology commercialization • Q&A