

# Impact Harvest Forum

## Nurturing Impact through Accelerators: Seeding and Scaling up Inclusive Businesses

14.00-15.30, 24 May 2024

Meeting Room H, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

**Track:** Nurturing the Environment

### Background

Private sector adoption of inclusive and sustainable practices stands as a linchpin in scaling the delivery of low-cost essential services and lifting people out of poverty at scale. Towards this end, it is imperative to ensure that innovations emerging from the startup and enterprise ecosystem prioritize impact, while likewise supporting existing SMEs in their transition towards impact-driven practices.

Business development support services that incorporate impact into their methodologies are crucial for unlocking the social and environmental potential of inclusive and impactful businesses. However, in the Asia-Pacific region, existing business support has predominantly favored tech-based startups and scalable ventures, traditional SME development support, leaving a gap in appropriate capacity building, policy support, and knowledge transfer for impact-driven startups and inclusive businesses.

This session aims to explore the pivotal role of incubators and accelerators and business support organizations in the development of inclusive and impact businesses and aims to identify concrete actions and partnerships that will potentially strengthen their capacity to embed impact into their programmes, and the enterprises they work with.

### Objectives

- To explore the demand for impact by business and identify best practice of incubators, accelerators and business support organisations that nurture impact.
- To identify gaps in the capacity of incubators, accelerators incubators, accelerators and business support organisations to nurture impact.
- To identify opportunities and concrete actions that can be taken by governments to strengthen the ability of incubators and accelerators to nurture impact.

### Participants / Target Audience

The session is open to entrepreneurship ecosystem actors: incubators & accelerators, business support organisations, government agencies, investors, private sector organizations, development partners.

### Facilitators

- Mr. Kyaw Myat Soe (Speaker, Supporting Facilitator), Director and Co-Founder at Impact Hub Yangon
- Mr. Songhour Thav (Lead Facilitator), Entrepreneurship Support Lead at Impact Hub Phnom Penh
- Mx. Anh Nguyen (Facilitator), M&E and Research Specialist at Impact Hub Phnom Penh
- Ms. MacKenzie King (Facilitator), Regional Partnerships Lead at Impact Hub Asia-Pacific



## Expected Outcomes

- Entrepreneur support organizations & government agencies gain insights into the specific demands for impact incubation and acceleration services.
- Concrete capacity gaps and action points are identified by attendees to strengthen the offer of appropriate support services for inclusive and impact business.
- Participants co-create a list of actions that will serve to enable impact-embedded business support, including how government can support the impact entrepreneurship ecosystem alongside incubators and accelerators and business support organisations.

## Programme

Time	Duration	Activity	Description
14:00	0:10	Introduction to the session	Presentation about the landscape in Asia-Pacific about enterprise support for inclusive and impactful businesses.
14:10	0:20	Fireside Chat	<p><b>To what extent are entrepreneur support organizations currently able to provide business support services that nurture impact?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is currently transferable and useful about acceleration programs for startups towards inclusive businesses?</li> <li>• What are some key gaps in current incubation, acceleration, and business support programs (or the ecosystem at large, i.e. investment) that need to be addressed in order to provide appropriate support for impact enterprises?</li> </ul> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Arielle Molino, Chief Convener, Polinate Impact</li> <li>• Mr. Sujit Jagirdar, Chief Innovation Officer, T Hub</li> </ul>
14:30	0:45	World Cafe	<p><b>Key Questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent are entrepreneur support organizations (incubators / accelerators and business support organisations) able to provide impact support?</li> <li>2. What are the challenges that incubators, accelerators and business support organisations face in providing impact support?</li> <li>3. How might policy be used to strengthen the potential of incubators, accelerators, and business support organizations to provide impact-embedded business support services?</li> </ol>
15:15	0:10	Share back	
15:25	0:05	Closing	<i>Launch of the Inclusive Business Coaching Toolkit, Close and Next Steps</i>

