



Business Incubation in Asia

infoDev's Business Incubator Initiative

With financial contributions from the Governments of Japan and Finland and through a partnership with the Government of India, infoDev has supported more than 70 business incubators in countries worldwide. This has led to the establishment of five regional networks in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and Northern Africa. infoDev services include:

- Financial and technical assistance
- Knowledge-sharing and networking
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Research on challenges and opportunities

What incubators in Asia say

"Information exchange is crucial to successful business incubation... A sharing, cooperative mentality and business practice among incubators allows the entire system to work together to increase the benefits of all incubators, while effectively raising public awareness."

KIAsia, Thailand

"Informal interaction with incubator managers and start-up companies from other regions adds tremendous learning value and provides new benchmarks for improving performance."

TREC-STEP, India

The iDisc website will be a crucial tool to facilitate the knowledge sharing process for Asia, as well as other regional networks. More information can be found on www.iDisc.net/asia.

Incubator Activity in the Region

There are more incubators in the Asia region (East, South and SE Asia) than in any other region in the world (estimates range from 1,500 to 2,000 in Asia compared to 3,000 to 4,000 globally) and in some countries incubators have been around since the late 1980s. With the diversity and size of the region it should be no surprise that incubators are not distributed evenly, instead concentrating in India, China, and East Asia economies, with only smaller numbers in SE and other South Asian economies.

infoDev has given renewed dynamism to incubation in the region, fostering significant innovation and learning in the industry, with the development and implementation of new models and services that enhance incubation's relevance and impact, and with its capacity building and networking activities. A number of organization are pioneering new ways for incubation with impact in rural areas, including: development of new products and services to address rural needs; taking incubation to villages by incubating community training and learning centers; incubating entrepreneurs in the cities for opportunities in villages and supporting grass roots innovation. These developments complement more traditional incubation where infoDev has had an impact also – IndiaCo for example has floated on the Mumbai stock exchange, a significant achievement. With a rich desire to improve and learn from each other, all incubators in the region are poised to benefit from the emerging infoDev Asia regional network.

How to get involved

- ✓ Get to know about activities on www.infoDev.org/businessincubation
- ✓ Latest advice and event updates on www.iDisc.net
- ✓ Regional network and developments, e-mail the infoDev team at infodev@worldbank.org and Mr. Julian Webb, Asia Regional Facilitator for infoDev, at julian.webb@creedaprojects.com.au

infoDev's incubator network in the region covers activities in South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific. Currently *infoDev* supports the following business incubation programs in Asia, which have partnerships with various organizations with different stakeholders including government agencies, financial institutions and venture capitalists. The incubation activities in the region are coordinated by *infoDev's* Regional Facilitator for Asia, Mr. Julian Webb.

Country	Incubator & Mission	Contact Information
China	<p><i>Shanghai Technology Business Incubation Association (STBIA)</i> Capacity building grant to conduct a thorough evaluation of tenant ICT capacity, utilization and best practices, and create an evaluation framework for incubators needs.</p> <p><i>Joint grantees: The Tianjin Women's Business Incubator (TWBI) & Yangling Business Incubator Center (YBIC)</i> Operational grant to facilitate training of incubator staff, develop model enterprises and install ICT in the center.</p> <p>TWBI received a second grant in order to enhance and expand the outreach of its business incubation services and to assist a new generation of ICT-enabled small enterprises in the country.</p>	<p>Mr. Wang Rong, Director, e-mail: stic@stn.sh.cn, Website: www.incubator.sh.cn</p> <p>Ms. Wang Yan, Manager, TWBI, e-mail: tjwbi@public.tpt.tj.cn Website: www.twedc.com</p>
India	<p><i>IndiaCo.com Private Limited</i> Operational grant to support IndiaCo in assisting early stage companies by providing business infrastructure and office space, mentorship, and assistance in raising capital.</p> <p><i>Society for Research & Initiative for Sustainable Technology and Resources (SRISTI)</i> Capacity building grant to build and scale-up and ICT enabled virtual incubator model for scaling up grassroots innovation by linking them with investment and enterprise.</p> <p><i>Telecommunications and Computer Networks Group (TeNeT)</i> Capacity building grant to organize an international conference on rural ICT initiatives, create a rural databank covering 100 villages, and develop training modules for grassroots agencies and entrepreneurs.</p> <p><i>Tiruchirappalli Regional Engineering College – Science & Technology Entrepreneurs Park (TREC-STEP)</i> Operational grant to develop regional competencies to assess, network and utilize global performance standards, markets and opportunities through start-ups.</p> <p><i>Vellore Institute of Technology – Technology Business Incubator (VITTTBI)</i> Capacity building grant to develop incubation capabilities in enhancing value-added services by raising awareness, reaching out to innovators, and closer cooperation with regional, national and international actors.</p>	<p>Mr. Rahul Patwardhan, CEO, e-mail: rahul@indiaco.com Website: www.indiaco.com</p> <p>Prof. Anil Gupta, Chair Professor of Entrepreneurship, e-mail: anilg@iimahd.ernet.in Website: www.sristi.org</p> <p>Professor Ashok Jhunjunwala, e-mail: ashok@tenet.res.in Website: www.tenet.res.in</p> <p>Mr. R.M.P. Jawahar, Executive Director, e-mail: jawa_ts@yahoo.com Website: www.trecstep.com</p> <p>Dr. P. Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, e-mail: vc@vit.ac.in Website: www.vittbi.in</p>
Indonesia	<p><i>Broadband Network Service (BNS)</i> Capacity building grant for BNS to consolidate its operations to provide quality, self-sustaining ICT services by enhancing its organizational infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Koperasi Starcall Wartelnet</i> Operational grant to build up the institutional, managerial and technical capacity of KSW to foster an additional 60 pre-qualified SMEs.</p>	<p>Mr. Kurnia Tugiono, Chairman, e-mail: kurniat@bns.co.id Website: www.bns.co.id</p> <p>Mr. Eddie Cendana, Project Manager, e-mail: eddie@starcallwartlenet.com Website: www.starcall.com</p>

Malaysia	<i>Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)</i> Operational grant to help in promoting business innovation and private sector development by improving their performance of business incubation activities.	Mr. Shukri Hashim, e-mail: shukri@webmail.bip.utm.my Website: http://web.utm.my/bip
Mongolia	<i>InfoCon Co.</i> Planning grant to create a business incubator that will facilitate dynamic exchange, foster R&D, and promote the knowledge and use of ICT among Mongolian businesses.	Ms. Tseteg-Ulzii Yadamsuren, Project Coordinator, e-mail: batpurev@infocon.mn Website: www.infocon.mn
Nepal	<i>IT Professional Forum</i> Planning grant to build local capacity in targeted business communities, to raise awareness and to promote the appropriation and utilization of ICT by local entrepreneurs.	Mr. Suresh Regmi, President, e-mail: skregmi@yahoo.com Website: www.incubation.org.np
Philippines	<i>UP-AFI Joint Experimental Facility – AYALA Foundation</i> Operational grant to develop human and institutional capacity at the community level by promoting the wider and more efficient uses of ICT for local business innovation.	Ms. Victoria P. Garchitorena, e-mail: garchitorena.vp@ayala.com.ph Website: www.upayalatechnopark.org.ph
Sri Lanka	<i>Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), South Asia</i> Planning grant to work with small scale agro processors to strengthen their market linkages through networking and introduction of simple and effective ICT. <i>Sri Lanka Technology Incubator (Pvt) Ltd. – Concept Nursery</i> Operational grant to strengthen the incubator and broaden its scope of activities to encourage entrepreneurship and stimulate the adoption and consumption of ICT in Sri Lanka.	Mr. Jayantha Gunasekara, e-mail: jayantha@itdg.slt.lk Website: www.rensrilanka.org Ms. Thusitha D. Pilapitiya, CEO, e-mail: info@conceptnursery.com Website: www.conceptnursery.com
Thailand	<i>Kenan Institute Asia (KIASia)</i> Planning grant to do significant research and planning to conceive, formulate and refine a business plan to establish business incubators at five vocational schools throughout Thailand. This was followed by a second grant to implement the model <i>National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)</i> Capacity building grant to strengthen the Thai business incubation system by fostering networking and collaboration along the supply chain of entrepreneurial support in Thailand.	Mr. Paul Wedel, Exec Director, e-mail: kiasia@kiasia.org Website: www.kiasia.org Dr. Janekrishna Kanatharana, e-mail: janekrishna@nstda.or.th Website: www.nstda.or.th
Vietnam	<i>Center of Research and Consulting on Management (CRC)</i> Two grants to fill the current gap in Vietnam for support for entrepreneurs in pre-seed and seed stages through training, research applications links, developing business plans and providing infrastructure.	Mr. Pham Minh Tuan, e-mail: crc@hut-fem.edu.vn Website: www.hut.edu.vn