



# Regional: Digital Entrepreneurship in Asia for Economic Resilience and Post-Pandemic Recovery

Project Name	Digital Entrepreneurship in Asia for Economic Resilience and Post-Pandemic Recovery
Project Number	54301-001
Country	Regional
Project Status	Proposed
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth
Drivers of Change	Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development
Sector / Subsector	Industry and trade - Small and medium enterprise development Information and communication technology - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements
Description	The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support the development of knowledge products on digital entrepreneurship in developing Asia through a series of detailed comparative case studies of: (i) effective teaching of digital entrepreneurship skills and attitudes; ii) effective nurturing and operation of digital entrepreneurial ecosystems; and (iii) effective integration of digital entrepreneurs in industrial supply chains better understand the potential and nurturing of digital entrepreneurship in Asian economies and how their potential could be better harnessed to advance productivity in the digital economy.
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digitalization of almost all aspects of life, including work-from-home, online shopping, remote education, movie streaming, and videoconferencing. Information and communication technology (ICT) thus enabled organizations to continue operating under lockdowns and amidst social distancing. The post-COVID-19 new normal will be more digital and thus reinforce the ongoing digital transformation of the economy. Digital entrepreneurs were already a growing force in the world economy before the outbreak. Furthermore, accelerated digitalization due to COVID-19 will bring digital entrepreneurship even further to the fore. But there is a lack of capacity to nurture digital entrepreneurship and unlock its promise for development. Too little is known about the state of digital entrepreneurship in developing member countries (DMCs). There have been few efforts to facilitate policy learning across countries regarding what works' in terms of nurturing digital entrepreneurs and digital entrepreneurial ecosystems. This scarcity of knowledge contributes to the current lack of conducive institutional, policy, and regulatory environment for digital entrepreneurship in many economies in the region.</p> <p>Small businesses have been hit hard by COVID-19, but those that have effectively leveraged digital technology have broadly managed to weather the pandemic better. For example, stores that could not serve customers in person due to social restrictions turned to online sales. Digital entrepreneurs have thrived during the pandemic and they are likely to play a large role in the more digital post-COVID world. ICT can often substantially reduce the cost of starting a business, which opens up fresh entrepreneurial opportunities for women and the poor.</p> <p>Strengthening digital entrepreneurship can thus help Asian economies recover from COVID-19 and serve as an engine of inclusive growth. Although governments and the private sector in many Asian countries have already begun to respond to digital opportunities, much remains to be done. In particular, there is sizable scope for more and better policy-relevant knowledge which can help stakeholders build dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystems. The proposed TA will help address these knowledge gaps with the ultimate objective of fostering many more Gojeks, Byju's, and even Alibabas.</p>
Impact	Remaining poverty and inequalities for developing Asia's population affected by economic crisis reduced Quality jobs generated amid improved business environment for digital entrepreneurs, companies, and MSMEs Women's resilience to external shocks strengthened through improved access to job skills and support for women's entrepreneurship
Outcome	Capacity of DMCs to nurture and unlock the productivity potential of digital entrepreneurs improved.
Outputs	Updated metrics and public data on digital entrepreneurship enhanced. Innovative research and assessment on digital entrepreneurial ecosystems promoted Knowledge sharing and capacity building on digital entrepreneurship strengthened.
Geographical Location	Regional
<b>Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects</b>	
Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	
<b>Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation</b>	
During Project Design	
During Project Implementation	
<b>Business Opportunities</b>	
Procurement	RFQ; Direct purchase as applicable

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Responsible ADB Division	ERMR
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	25 Sep 2020
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	01 Oct 2020

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/54301-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/54301-001/main</a>
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