



Citypreneurs Policy Dialogue on Open Data and Data Protection
15 November 2021, 15:00pm to 16:30pm (Korea time, GMT +9)
Concept Note

Background

"Urban Innovation Challenge: Citypreneurs" (hereafter Citypreneurs) is an international platform for startups with innovative solutions to solving urban challenges and helping achieve the 2030 Agenda. Since 2017, UNESCAP and UNDP have served as conveners of the Citypreneurs Policy Dialogues, bringing together young entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers to foster public-private collaboration and policy development. While previous discussions have sourced solutions to a specific city context, the 2021 iteration – under the umbrella of the Impact Collective program¹ – seeks to accelerate impact by addressing a number of urban settings across Asia and the Pacific.

Policy and regulation are integral to forming an enabling environment that promotes innovation and fosters the emergence of innovative agents for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Innovation ecosystem stakeholders in past Citypreneurs events have identified government policy and regulation as one of the key enablers for entrepreneurship in Asia and the Pacific.² With a supportive policy framework, startups can promptly respond to the latest challenges arising at the local or global level. A good example is the innovative solutions developed during the outbreak of COVID-19.

Given the shortage of masks caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, the Korean Government released an open API for mask sales data so that developers could create apps to notify people about the inventory statuses of pharmacies nationwide. In addition, information on a patient's movement was made public so that citizens could easily check the latest locations of infections on map apps

¹ A special iteration of Citypreneurs, "Impact Collective" is an online investment and acceleration program for SDG-driven startups looking to scale in Asia and the Pacific. In collaboration with Citypreneurs co-hosts (UNESCAP, UNDP, WeGO, WFUNA) and others, the program is pioneering a community-driven investment model (democratized capital allocation) that impact industry leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs and user communities are given the chance to influence which startups receive investment. The aim of this community-driven approach is to foster a community of impact stakeholders across sectors, achieve significantly enhanced diversity and transparency in the decision-making landscape for sourcing inclusive solutions with greater financial performance, as well as help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. For more details, visit: <https://impactcollective.earth/>

² <https://www.citypreneurs.org/seoul-2019>



and avoid visiting related areas.³ In China, a color-coded health rating system was also developed to track people through the use of big data and artificial intelligence for facial recognition and infrared temperature detection techniques. Additionally, the federal government of the United States and a coalition of leading research groups have prepared the COVID-19 Open Research Dataset (CORD-19). This dataset provides the global research community with over 51,000 scholarly articles to develop text and data mining tools to generate insights on COVID-19 responses.

Data has become the most valuable resource in today's rapidly growing digital economy. Yet data-driven innovation and the institutional adoption of analytics are not without challenges, as seen in the dilemma between open data adoption and data protection. While data could be used to improve customer services and develop new products, there are growing concerns around the misuse of personal data and invasion of privacy.

On one hand, a strict regulatory framework would constrain innovation and business expansion. For instance, in contrast to the booming telemedicine market in China, telemedicine products and services (e.g., remote patient monitoring services) cannot be commercialized in the Republic of Korea.⁴ On the other hand, a lack of data protection regulation would leave the public vulnerable to data breaches and loss of control over personal information. To avoid the leaking of individuals' identities, the Korean Government has changed the methods of disclosing information about confirmed COVID-19 patients' activities so that individuals cannot be identified when places associated with infection clusters are discovered. The Personal Information Protection Committee in Japan also released guidance on the use of contact tracing mobile apps to protect personal information and privacy.⁵

Objectives

This Policy Dialogue will explore how policymakers strike a balance between open data and data protection in Asia and the Pacific, with a focus on COVID-19 related responses, to showcase effective policy interventions and regulations that promote innovation for the SDGs while addressing potential concerns.

³ The Korean Government strictly regulates the sharing of personal information. After the outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in 2015, authorities are allowed to publish patients' information to protect the country amidst times of crisis and emergency.

⁴ In view of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Korean government temporarily allowed remote treatment and the nation's first telemedicine treatment application was launched by a digital healthcare startup called Medihere.

⁵ https://www.ppc.go.jp/files/pdf/information_20200501.pdf



Format

The online event will be held over a 90-minute period. Policymakers in Asia and the Pacific will take part in a Davos-style panel to share national experiences, including good practices and lessons learned, around the theme of open data and data protection. Key actors of social entrepreneurship (e.g., community leaders, experts, investors, and entrepreneurs) will be invited to present their experiences and propose recommendations to policymakers. The highlight of the event will be an interactive dialogue between different stakeholders.

The presentations and discussion will be facilitated by a moderator, based on the following guiding questions:

For policymakers

- What are the effective policies and regulations your country has implemented to promote innovation while safeguarding personal data? How to ensure these policies are responsive during emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How does your government strike a balance between open data and data protection?

For entrepreneurs / businesses/ investors

- How does the current data policy and regulation in your country/city support or hinder your business development? What can be improved?
- What kind of policies do you think would support innovation while guaranteeing data protection?
- How do data policy and regulation impact entrepreneurship and innovation? What are some opportunities for change?
- What types of SDG data would be beneficial in supporting business and how would it need to be shared / presented?

For all panelists

- To harmonize data privacy laws and provide greater protection to individuals, the General Data Protection Regulation has been put in place across Europe. How would a similar regulation in Asia and the Pacific affect the innovation ecosystem in your respective countries?



- What would facilitate the adoption of a regional/global data protection regulation? What would be the opportunities and challenges you anticipate throughout this process?

Programme

Time	Programme Item
15:00 - 15:05	Opening
15:05 - 15:45	Part 1 : Discussion on open data frameworks and data privacy
15:45 - 16:25	Part 2 : Discussion on collaborative data sharing between government, the private sector and achieving the SDGs
16:25 - 16:30	Closing