SIDE EVENT

“Partnership for Online Platforms & Sustainable Development”

Venue: Meeting Room A, 1st floor UNCC
Date: Friday, 30 March 2018
Time: 11:00-12:30 Presentation and Panel Discussion; 12:30 – 14:00 Networking Lunch – Reception Hall
Organizers: Side-event hosted by UN ESCAP Trade and Investment Division (TID) and The Asia Foundation.
Lunch and networking session hosted by Google Asia-Pacific

Background

The event on Partnerships for Online Platforms & Sustainable Development will consider the ways in which online platforms can be leveraged to support attainment of the SDGs. The event will share experiences and recommendations on how to realize the opportunities of online platforms. The side-event will showcase some emerging regional online platforms, such as the SDG Helpdesk and the POPS platform. This side-event is hosted by ESCAP in partnership with The Asia Foundation.

The event will also feature the launch of The Partnership for Online Platforms and Sustainable Development (POPS). The Partnership for Online Platforms and Sustainable Development (POPS). The Asia Foundation is establishing POPS as an Asia-wide network led by regional experts and entrepreneurs dedicated to exploring the capacity of digital entrepreneurship and online platforms as drivers of inclusive growth and sustainable development in Asia.

Scope

Online platforms have the potential to be key drivers of sustainable development and inclusive growth. Over one billion people in the Asia-Pacific will be served by online platforms by 2020\(^1\); this presents a unique opportunity to utilize online platforms to address pressing economic, social and environmental issues. These platforms can be leveraged to connect small and medium enterprises to larger global markets; to promote the financial inclusion of women and vulnerable groups; and to support access to information, innovation, healthcare and education. Platforms will be particularly integral in the supporting the attainment of Goal 17 of the SDGs on Partnerships.

Key Questions

\(^1\) The Asia Foundation (2017) *Six Stories, Six Paths to Development Online Platforms as Drivers of Inclusive Growth*
• How can online platforms be leveraged to support the Sustainable Development Goals?
• What policies and programs are needed to realize the opportunity?

**Tentative Programme**

11:00AM: Presentation of POPS by John Karr, Senior Director, Technology Programs, The Asia Foundation

11:30AM: Panel discussion followed by question and answer session with audience.

12:30PM: Lunch and networking session, hosted by Google Asia Pacific

**Panelists/discussants**

- Sahib Anandsongvit, CEO, Seekster
- John Karr, Senior Director, Technology Programs, The Asia Foundation
- Mari Pangestu, POPS Advisory Council, Former Minister of Trade & Creative Economy, Indonesia

**Moderator**

- Jonathan Wong, Chief, Technology and Innovation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP

**For more details and information contact**

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