



The Innovation Partnership Programme of Viet Nam

IPP Viet Nam

<http://ipp.vn>

The Innovation Partnership Programme (IPP) is an Official Development Assistance (ODA) program financed jointly by the governments of Viet Nam and Finland. IPP is in its second phase running through 2014–2018. IPP supports Viet Nam's overall goal of becoming an industrialised middle-income knowledge economy by the year 2020. The program's objective is to boost sustainable economic growth in Viet Nam through the increased production and export of innovative products and services.

IPP targets long-term benefits for the Vietnamese economy and innovation system. The program works with key national and international partners to scale up practical innovation and entrepreneurship training as well as to improve local support mechanisms and programs for Vietnamese new innovative companies. It connects key actors in the ecosystem to build a strong foundation for Viet Nam's next-generation entrepreneurs and promotes innovation and business partnerships between Viet Nam and other countries, particularly Finland.

Support and services

IPP supports Viet Nam's overall goal of becoming an industrialised middle-income knowledge economy by 2020. The program's objective is to boost sustainable economic growth in Viet Nam through the increased production and export of innovative products and services.

IPP is an initiator, facilitator and connector with the aim of strengthening the Vietnamese innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem. It fosters new activities, connections and collaboration regionally, nationally and internationally. IPP works with key local and international partners to develop and scale up practical innovation and entrepreneurship training and to improve local support mechanisms and programs for Vietnamese new innovative companies. The program connects key actors in the ecosystem to build a strong foundation for Viet Nam's next-generation entrepreneurs and promotes innovation and business partnerships between Viet Nam and other countries, particularly Finland.

IPP runs the following activities in 2015:

- *Grants and an Innovation Accelerator program* for two types of innovation projects: new innovative companies that are targeting international growth and startup support organisations such as incubators and accelerators. IPP's support for innovation projects in 2015 tests and showcases mechanisms for working with Vietnamese young companies and their supporters, helping them develop, overcome challenges and reach their goals faster.
- Practical innovation and entrepreneurship training for individuals that are interested in becoming innovation experts, trainers, coaches and mentors. IPP runs its first *Training of Trainers Program* for 12 Vietnamese nationals from different backgrounds in 2015.
- Design and testing of a *Core Curriculum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship*. This curriculum is an open-source material bank that all interested parties can use and further develop for their own needs.

From 2016 until the end of the program in 2018, IPP focuses on key activities to further support the ecosystem:

- *Grant, coaching and network support for innovation ecosystem developers*: a grant call for startup support organisations such as incubators and accelerators is organised in early 2016.
- *Support for Vietnamese universities and other educational organisations* for the development of their innovation and entrepreneurship training and related offering, including a ecosystem. A call is organised in April 2016. As part of collaboration, IPP will introduce its core curriculum and organise a second Training of Trainers Program for the organisations selected for support.
- Continued support for most in drafting of key policies and laws related to innovation and support for growth entrepreneurship.
- Frequent events, active communications and strategic network building (especially strengthening Finnish-Vietnamese innovation and business networks).

Global Design Database

Via a single, intuitive interface, the Global Design Database enables free, simultaneous searches of more than 1,540,000 industrial designs registered under the WIPO-administered Hague System and/or in participating national collections. The newly expanded database accommodates searches using different national classification systems alongside the Locarno Classification.

The Global Design Database enables simultaneous searches across the international industrial designs registered under the WIPO-administered Hague System and, in addition to the three new collections, the national collections of Canada and New Zealand. The Database will continue to expand as more national collections are added in the coming months.

For more information, access:

<http://www.wipo.int/designdb/>



Innovation assets

InnoSupport, Germany

<http://www.innosupport.net>

Local assets are in the heart of regional innovation. Local assets might include R&D capacity (e.g., universities, research organizations, private inventors and so on), human resources (e.g., talented people, skilled workforce and so on), financial capital in support of entrepreneurship and innovation (e.g., innovation support funds, community programmes, venture capitalists, business angels and so on), legal and regulatory environment, physical infrastructure and so on. The following sections aim to describe each of the innovation assets that form the local innovation environment of a community or a region.

Human resources

Human resources are one of the most important that drives innovation process forward in local communities. At the same time, the human factor is the most important element of the innovation potential in the company. The development and the successful implementation of innovation are mostly considered as creative processes. The so-called human factor in the innovation process is constituted by the following elements – creative personality, creative environment, team work, system for creating and managing knowledge. On a larger scale when talking about human assets at regional level, local communities constantly strive to attract and retain innovation companies by investing in the skills and technical knowledge of the workforce. In addition, skilled labour is considered as such an important asset that many communities have made it the central theme of their regional marketing efforts. At the heart of improving local skills and labour capacities lies the education and lifelong learning systems development. Economic developers must account for all three factors – available workforce, specialized or skilled workforce, and quality of educational institutions – when evaluating local assets for innovation.

Universities and research institutions as root of innovation and ideas

Universities are key pillars in every local innovation system. Universities and research centres are considered as creators, receptors and very often interpreters of innovation and ideas. They are the most important source of human capital and resources. As a key component of social infrastructure they are considered as the key asset of regional innovation and essential to long-term economic growth. R&D investments at universities create opportunities for partnerships between education and industry that can significantly benefit all social economic actors in a certain local community and environment.

Financial capital for innovation

Innovation and entrepreneurship require access to capital to flourish in local environment. Transforming ideas into products and services require significant resources. Very few companies, private researchers or even universities have the ability to finance the entire innovation development process. Some regions which are generally more technologically developed have little trouble in retaining entrepreneurs and start-ups because of the significant presence of both risk investors and other financial institutions. On the contrary less developed and more isolated areas must seek different solutions with providing businesses with access to capital, such as forming public-private partnerships, local innovation funds, business angels and so on.

Legal and regulatory environment

National and regional government authorities create the necessary legal and regulatory framework, develop the infrastructure, foster the financial sector to participate in the innovation process and facilitate the development of R&D and technology by forming development policies at both local and national levels. The importance of taxation and regulations can attract or deflect businesses from a certain region or community. Innovation is less likely to develop in areas with very heavy administrative burdens for SMEs and employment systems. The lack of incentives for investments and innovations is another barrier which will hinder the development of successful and sustainable local innovation system. In addition, an inadequate regulatory environment is particularly unfriendly for small businesses.

Industrial base

In order to develop an effective economic development strategy, it is necessary to take into account the industrial base of the region, including key business entities, main products and services, traditional business models, market advantages and so on. Regional potential is best served by first building and supporting the areas of traditional strength (e.g., industry, tourism, services and so on).

Physical infrastructure

Physical infrastructures such as transportation and communication, telecommunication networks, public utilities, or access to natural resources are key assets in achieving ks. Public utilities, or access to natural resources are key assets in achieving local environment which will be beneficial for innovation.