

1-InnoCERT Certification Programme

SME Corporation Malaysia

<http://www.smecorp.gov.my>

1-InnoCERT certification programme is initiated by SME Corp. Malaysia to promote and develop innovative companies in Malaysia as endorsed by the Jawatankuasa Tindakan Penyelarasan Inovasi Negara and the National Innovation Council, chaired by the Prime Minister on 29th October 2009. It is aimed at fostering innovative enterprise through harnessing and intensifying home-grown innovations and R&D.test

The main objective of the certification is to encourage entrepreneurs to venture into high technology and innovation-driven industries. With more SMEs participating in such activities, it will eventually lead to them being more competitive and would help in Malaysia achieving its objective in becoming a high income nation by the year 2020.

The certification awarded under the Programme identifies and verifies innovative companies through an internationally-recognised innovation standard (OECD Oslo Manual V3) and the certification process is developed from similar process practised in Korea's Innobiz (Innovation SME) Certification Programme. Certified companies under the programme will be given a fast-track access when applying for incentives to fund and market their products and services as offered by the government.

Application criteria for SMEs

1. SMEs incorporated under the Companies Act 1965 / Registration of Business Act (1956) and fulfil the new definition of SMEs (Guideline on New SME Definition (click));
2. At least 60% of the equity held by Malaysians;
3. Valid business; acquire business license from the Local Authority and operating in a valid business premise;
4. At least two (2) years in business (able to provide 2 years Audited Financial Statement); and
5. Product and services must be commercialised for at least two (2) years.

1-InnoCERT certification process

The 1-InnoCERT certification process involves a two-stage assessment. Potential innovative companies are required to conduct an On-line Self-Assessment (www.1-innocert.my) to gauge on their readiness to be certified as a 1-InnoCERT company. Upon completing the self-assessment, the on-line system will generate a Technology Innovation System Evaluation Index, ranging a score from 0 to 1,000. A scoring of higher than 700 is an indication that

the company's internal innovation system and processes is ready to comply with the requirement.

Companies with difficulties in scoring higher than 700 can attend regular sessions of pre-certification training to understand the 1-InnoCERT criteria, and on how to become more innovative. Upon reaching a score of more than 700, the company can apply for an on-site innovation audit to be conducted at their premise. On-site innovation audit is compulsory to ensure that companies applying for the 1-InnoCERT certifications are indeed innovative and complies with the requirement of the 1-InnoCERT criteria.

Upon a successful passing of the on-site audit, the company can then officially apply to be certified as a 1-InnoCERT certified company. However, the approval is subject to acceptance by the 1-InnoCERT Approval Committee, which oversees the overall certification Program. Please take note that minimal fees are chargeable for the 1-InnoCERT certification (RM5,000.00 for first time certification and RM3,000.00 for renewal of certification).

1. The 1-InnoCERT Innovation assessment criteria consist of 4 criteria:
 - Innovation Ability;
 - Commercialisation of Innovation Ability;
 - Management of Innovation Ability; &
 - The Innovation Outcome.
2. 1-InnoCERT is currently available for 8 evaluation sectors:
 - Manufacturing;
 - Non-Manufacturing and services;
 - Biotech;
 - Professional Design;
 - Software / ICT;
 - Agriculture;
 - Environment (sustainable development, renewable energy, etc); &
 - Construction.
3. 1-Innocert's Innovation Assessment adapts the Korean Innobiz innovation evaluation system which is based on an internationally-recognised innovation assessment standard i.e. the Oslo Manual by OECD and the European Commission (Eurostat), 2005. The Oslo Manual provides guidelines for collecting and interpreting innovation data in an internationally comparable manner.

Terms and conditions

1. Logistic charges in addition to the standard on-site audit fee is applicable for companies located outside of the Klang Valley area, and the quantum of the additional logistic charges shall be determined on a case to case basis.
2. The standard on-site audit fee and additional logistic charges are payable to SIRIM QAS International Sdn. Bhd.
3. Both the standard on-site audit fee and additional logistic charges are not refundable.
4. SME Corp. and SIRIM Berhad reserves the rights to:
 - alter the Self-Assessment result to reflect the actual state of innovativeness of the company, as per the 1-InnoCERT certification criteria;
5. The information provided by the company for this self-assessment is true and without prejudice.
6. The information and assessment results will not be alterable after they have been submitted for On-Site Audit.

Benefits of the programme

- Facilitate access to financial incentives and wider market opportunity.
- Complimentary arrangement for Business Matching with international companies, MNCs and GLCs
- Opportunities and invitation to local and International innovation related programmes.

Online Patent-Search to Procure Medicines

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the research-based pharmaceutical industry today launched a new online tool designed to help procurement agencies better understand the global patent status of medicines.

The Patent Information Initiative for Medicines (Pat-INFORMED) is a unique resource where patent holders provide information about patents covering approved medicines through a free, open access database. This new public database became operational today, along with a platform where procurement agencies can make direct enquiries to companies.

Pat-INFORMED is a partnership between WIPO and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations, IFPMA, the global trade association representing the research-based pharmaceutical industry. Pat-INFORMED originated in the industry's efforts to add clarity to patent information about medicines. WIPO's globally recognized expertise in the organization and public dissemination of patent data will make an important contribution to the accessibility of patent information. WIPO is hosting the database and providing the resources to ensure its continued development, while IFPMA is working closely with the 20 leading research-based biopharmaceutical companies that have backed this initiative to help ensure a consistent and coordinated approach.

Pat-INFORMED also offers procurement agencies a direct communication channel for follow-on enquiries to participating companies. Each of the participating companies, currently 20, has agreed to engage in discussions with official procurement agencies that are seeking more detailed information about granted patents on specific products.

So far, Pat-INFORMED houses information on over 14,000 individual patents, for 600 patent families and 169 INNs, unique names that are globally recognized and used to identify pharmaceutical substances or active pharmaceutical ingredients within medicines that cover a wide range of conditions. Pat-INFORMED features patent information for small molecule drugs within oncology; hepatitis C, cardiovascular, HIV, diabetes, and respiratory therapy areas; and any products on the WHO Essential Medicines List that are not within these therapy areas. In a second phase, the initiative will extend to all therapeutic areas and explore the inclusion of complex therapeutics.

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Grassroots innovation in India

National Innovation Foundation, India

<http://nif.org.in>

The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India was set up in March 2000 with the assistance of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. It is India's national initiative to strengthen the grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge. Its mission is to help India become a creative and knowledge-based society by expanding policy and institutional space for grassroots technological innovators.

NIF scouts, supports and spawns' grassroots innovations developed by individuals and local communities in any technological field, helping in human survival without any help from formal sector. NIF helps grassroots innovators and outstanding traditional knowledge holders get due recognition, respect and reward for their innovations. It also tries to ensure that such innovations diffuse widely through commercial and/or non-commercial channels, generating material or non-material incentives for them and others involved in the value chain.

NIF has pooled a database of over 310,000 technological ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge practices (not all unique, not all distinct) from over 608 districts of the country. NIF has till date recognised 847 grassroots innovators and school students at the national level in its various National Biennial Grassroots Innovation Award Functions and annual Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Ignite Children Award functions. In collaboration with various research & development (R&D) and academic institutions, agricultural & veterinary universities and others institutions, NIF has helped in getting several hundred grassroots technologies validated and/or value added.

NIF has also set up an augmented Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab) with the help of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, for product development and strengthening in-house research. Pro bono arrangement with intellectual property firms has helped NIF file over 1040 patents, including eight filed in the USA and 28 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications, on behalf of the innovators and outstanding traditional knowledge holders. Of these, 72 patents have been granted in India and 5 in the USA. In the same time period NIF has filed 21 Design registrations for innovations of the grassroots and student innovators. In addition to this 10 trade mark applications have also been filed.

NIF has also filed applications for 71 plant varieties developed by farmers at the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority. Of these, 9 have successfully been registered.

Micro Venture Innovation Fund (MVIF) at NIF, with support from Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), has provided risk capital to 230 innovation based enterprise projects, some of which are at different stages of incubation.

NIF has received over 1500 product inquiries from 110 countries for various technologies. It has also succeeded in commercialising products across countries in six continents, apart from being successful in materialising 109 cases of technology licensing.

NIF has proved that Indian innovators can match anyone in the world when it comes to solving problems creatively. They perform better than others in generating greater sustainable alternatives by using local resources frugally. Those who see poor only as the consumers of cheap goods, miss the richness of knowledge at grassroots level and their potential as provider of ideas and innovations. The grassroots to global (G2G) model that NIF is propagating is all set to change the way the world looks at creativity and innovations at/from grassroots.

The INSPIRE Award - MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) is being revamped and executed by Department of Science & Technology and National Innovation Foundation-India to align it with the action plan for "Start-up India" initiative launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The scheme aims to help build a critical human resource pool for strengthening, expand science and technology system and increase the research & development base on the same by inviting students from all government and private schools throughout the country and enabling them to send their original & creative technological ideas/innovations on the same.

Initiatives

Grassroots Innovations Design Studio (GRIDS): Grassroots Innovation Design Studio (GRIDS) facilitates formal design inputs to the grassroots innovations at premier institutes viz National Institute of Design (NID) - Ahmedabad, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Gandhinagar, National Institute of Technology (NIT) - Srirangar and Srishti School of Arts, Design & Technology, Bengaluru.

Students' Club for Augmenting Innovations (SCAI): A nationwide student movement, comprising students from India's best management and technology institutes, SCAI provides product development, mentoring and monitoring support to innovators and traditional knowledge holders at the grassroots.

Micro Venture Innovation Fund (MVIF): One of its kind of dedicated risk fund in the world, setup with the support of SIDBI in October 2003 and operationalised in January 2004, MVIF provides financial support to grassroots innovators. It is extended under a single signature on a simple agreement of understanding without any collateral or a guarantor.

Grassroots Technological Innovations Acquisition Fund (GTIAF): Sanctioned in 2011 and operationalised in 2012, GTIAF

obtains the rights of technologies from innovators after compensating them for the same, with the purpose of disseminating and diffusing them at low or no cost for the larger benefit of the society.

Gandhian Inclusive Innovation Challenge Awards: The Award aim towards developing new solutions for three challenges -- paddy transplanter, wood stove and tea leaf-plucking machine.

Grassroots to Global (G2G): NIF has proved that Indian innovators can match anyone in the world when it comes to solving problems creatively. They perform better than others in generating greater sustainable alternatives by using local resources frugally. Those who see poor only as the consumers of cheap goods, miss the richness of knowledge at grassroots level. The G2G model propagated by NIF is all set to change the way the world looks at creativity and innovations at grassroots.

In situ incubation: NIF provides in situ incubation of grassroots technologies to the innovator at his/her place. All incubation facilities (financial or technical support, mentoring, etc.) are extended to the innovator at his place where he continues to work on his/her ideas or innovations.

Community workshops: NIF has established community workshops in different rural areas of the country at the premises of seasoned innovators so that other grassroots innovators of the region can have access to fabrication facilities locally. Also, they could learn from the experiences of seasoned innovators. This is expected to promote the conversion of an idea into a prototype faster. map/microincubator

Inverted model of innovation: The inverted model of innovation implies that children invent, engineers & designers fabricate and companies commercialise.

Innovations' exhibition at the President House and The Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE): Since 2010, the RashtrapatiBhavan has been hosting an exhibition of innovations near its Mughal Garden to showcase the creativity and ingenuity of common people. Since 2015, NIF and RashtrapatiBhavan is organizing a Festival of Innovation which comprises of roundtables on various topics in relation to Innovation in addition to the Exhibition.

ASEAN Network for Drugs, Diagnostics, Vaccines and Traditional Medicines Innovation

The ASEAN Network for Drugs, Diagnostics, Vaccines and Traditional Medicines Innovation (ASEAN-NDI) oversees the discovery and development of health technologies that will not only address health problems but also propel the health industry in ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN-NDI website offers the following features:

- Quick access to data regarding Governing bodies, Research Institutions, Collaborations, and current activities on the progress of the network via an online database greatly helps in bridging the gap between the health situations of the ASEAN member states.
- Accounts on the news involving the sectors for health are updated with the use of an online blog that is accessible to everyone.
- An online forum gives each participant an avenue for communication. Upon registration, one can contribute, update, and discuss with fellow members.

The following are potential areas of collaboration of ASEAN-NDI with partner institutions, researchers, agencies, and other health R&D innovation networks.

Strengthening cooperation of ASEAN member states in health R&D

- Promote cooperation through sharing of information and experiences to prevent and control infectious diseases;
- Assist in harmonized conceptualization of ideas and projects
- Transfer of knowledge and/or technology among member states
- Facilitate collaboration in the development and actual conduct of R&D initiatives
- Consolidate regional, multisectoral cooperative arrangements in the prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases

Development of programs and projects which address public health concerns in ASEAN

- Improve surveillance of infectious, emerging, re-emerging, and neglected tropical diseases, and even non-communicable diseases, which are becoming more prevalent in the community due to changing lifestyles
- Develop research projects to prevent and/or mitigate spread of disease through innovation in drugs, diagnostics, vaccines, and traditional medicine
- Improve access to affordable healthcare

Development of strategies to strengthen ASEAN member states' capacity and competitiveness in the development and delivery of health-related products and services

- Facilitate research and cross-country exchange of experience, products, and resources
- Promote the sharing of best practices in improving access to primary healthcare
- Establish regional support system and network to narrow the gap among ASEAN member states in addressing public health concerns in ASEAN

For more information, access:

<http://www.asean-ndi.org>