**Promoting Digital Entrepreneurs through Digital Economy Development and Transformation** (*Policymaker Programme*)

3-4 December 2024, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Policymakers play a crucial role in promoting and supporting digital entrepreneurs, particularly in the context of the country’s digital economy development and transformation. By formulating and implementing targeted policies, they can address the multifaceted barriers that digital entrepreneurs face in their businesses. These barriers may include limited access to digital technologies, access to finance, digital knowledge and skills, and business regulatory environment. Additionally, policies that provide access to credit, access to markets, business development services, digital support networks, and digital infrastructure are essential to create a conducive environment for digital entrepreneurs to thrive. By fostering an inclusive digital economy, policymakers can help digital entrepreneurs to leverage digital technologies and tools to start and/or to grow businesses, thereby enhancing knowledge and innovation, and contributing to social and economic development.

In line with these objectives, the Ministry of Digital Technologies, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development are organizing a training on "Promoting Digital Entrepreneurs through Digital Economy Development and Transformation" to strengthen the capacities of policymakers and government leaders to provide an enabling environment to promote digital economy and digital entrepreneurs through a strategic policy and development programs. This event is scheduled to take place from 3-4 December 2024, in Tashkent.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. to enhance the capacity of policymakers and senior officials in knowledge and understanding of digital economy development and transformation;
2. to focus on addressing the opportunities, challenges, and barriers facing digital entrepreneurs in their endeavours to engage in digital businesses; and
3. to provide policymakers with strategic perspectives, tools and resources, and action plans to develop and adopt policy measures for digital economy development to enable, promote, and support digital entrepreneurship that are relevant to the country economic and social contexts.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of the two-day sessions, the participants are expected to:

1. Better understand the growing importance of “digital economy development and transformation”, especially for “digital entrepreneurs” as a vehicle for socio-economic growth of the country;
2. Identify the challenges and barriers facing digital entrepreneurs in their businesses; and
3. Be able to enhance, develop, and prioritize strategic policy directions, policy measures, and prepare the “action plans” to empower, enable, promote, and support digital economy and transformation and digital entrepreneurs and their competitiveness, including in the “high potential and trending” digital businesses.

**METHODOLOGY**

* Resource Person lead the “learning and knowledge input sessions”, using PowerPoint, case studies, international practices, and examples;
* Participants contribute to the learning sessions through discussions, exchange of experience and lessons learned, outlooks, rapid assessment of digital entrepreneurs, examples, policy action plan, questions and answers; and
* Group discussion and presentation of Case Studies, Rapid Assessment and Policy Action Plan.

**RESOURCE PERSONS**

**Dr. Tanatat Puttasuwan**

Dr. Tanatat is a Financial Economist and Digital Economy Development and Transformation Expert. For over 20 years, he has worked extensively in Southeast Asia and South Asia Regions, and more specifically in assessing the state of digitalization and transformation in ASEAN, preparing Digital Economy Development Strategy and Digital Government Strategy for such countries as Bhutan, Thailand, Indonesia and Mongolia. He is also APCICT’s consultant and trainer in Digital Government, Promoting Digital Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Digital Financial Services and Governance.

Previously he served as the Senior Economist for the World Bank’s Financial, Competitiveness and Innovation Department of Asia and Pacific Region, where he was responsible for leading the Private Sector Development Programs in Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Lao PDR, including the Business-Ready Report, enabling business environment, legal and regulatory reforms, firm competitiveness and innovation.

**PARTICIPANTS**

The event should be attended by policymakers and government officials from the various ministries engaging in digital economy development and supporting and promoting digital entrepreneurs.

**VENUE**

The event will be held at the Ministry of Digital Technologies.

# **CONTACT**

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# **PROGRAMME**

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| Day 1 |
| Time | **Description** |
| 9:00-9:30 | **Opening Ceremony*** Introduction and Welcome Remarks
* Group Photo
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| 9:30-10:30 | **Session 1: Introduction to Digital Economy Development and Transformation** * Growth of Digital Economy as vehicle to socio-economic development and growth
* Digital economy and transformation in Asia Pacific and Beyond
* Digital Divide and Digital Entrepreneurship Divide in Asia Pacific
* Q&A and Discussion
 |
| 10:30-10:45 | Coffee Break and Informal Knowledge Sharing Session |
| 10:45-12:00 | **Session 2: The Need to Accelerate Digital Economy Development and Transformation*** Country Context: Strategic Vision, Socio-Economic Development
* Comparative Advantage, Sectoral Strategic Development Plan
* Comparative Digital Economy Development and Transformation
* The six pillars of Digital Economy Development
	+ - Relevancy of Digital Infrastructure, Digital Government, Business Environment and Regulations, Digital Financial Services, Human Capacities, and Digital Economy Governance
		- Impediments and challenges to digital economy development
 |
| 12:00-13:30 | Lunch Break |
| 13:30-15:00 | **Session 3: Digital Economy Competitiveness: Opportunities, Challenges, Barriers Facing Digital Entrepreneurs** * The dynamics of international competitiveness in digital economy
* Strategic Objectives on Digital Entrepreneurs: Economic Sector Analysis
* Workshop Exercise: Rapid Assessment of Development of Digital Entrepreneurs
* Group Discussion & Q&A
 |
| 15:00-15:15 | Coffee Break and Informal Knowledge Sharing Session |
| 15:15-17:00 | **Session 4: Workshop on Digital Economy Opportunities and Challenges, and Barriers Facing Digital Entrepreneurs*** Group Presentation
* Review of Impediments facing digital entrepreneurs, including international

 examples and cases* Discussion and Q&A
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| **Summary and Forward-Looking to Day 2** |

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| Day 2 |
| Time | **Description** |
| 9:00-10:30 | **Session 5: Policy Directions, Policy Measures, Priorities, Action Plans to** **Accelerate Digital Economy Development and to Promote Digital Entrepreneurs*** Policy Development – available tools and support mechanisms
	+ Prioritizing digitalization and competitiveness in relations to Country Development Vision
	+ Policy initiatives (short, medium and long terms)
	+ Rapid Assessment
	+ SWOT Analysis
* Data and Statistics for policymaking
* Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagements
 |
| 10:30-10:45 | Coffee Break and Informal Knowledge Sharing Session |
| 10:45-12:00 | **Session 6: Group Workshop: Preparation of Policy Action Plan to Promote Digital Economy and Digital Entrepreneurs** |
| 12:0-13:30 | Lunch Break |
| 13:30-15:00 | **Session 7: Group Workshop (Continued)*** Group Presentation
 |
| 15:00-15:15 | Coffee Break and Informal Knowledge Sharing Session |
| 15:15-16:30 | **Session 8: Group Workshop (Continued) & Summary of Key Learning from Days 1 & 2*** Group Presentation (continued)
* Plenary Discussion and Q&A
* Summary of Key Learnings
 |
| 16:30-17:00 | **Training Evaluation** **Closing Ceremony** |