

Business Incubation in Asia

"TREC-STEP is the main foundation on which we made our venture successful, without (it) we would not have reached this stage... such a help was very critical for realizing the venture..."

"TWBI designed its model to serve the particular needs of laid-off women workers who were impacted by the restructuring of state-owned enterprises in 1998. The organization is now generating significant social and economic impact by offering a range of services highly customized to the needs of these women".

Asia is a diverse region that has over 2,000 business incubators, mostly located in India, China and East Asia yet other countries such as Cambodia and Laos business incubators are non-existent.

Traditionally most have been technology incubators in urban settings, but in the past 5 years a growing number of innovative models have emerged, stimulated by infoDev, which are making incubation more relevant to rural communities, challenging environments and for poverty alleviation.

IncubationAsia Network

Incubation Asia, the Asia incubator network, was formed in October 2007 at the infoDev sponsored 2007 Asia regional incubation conference in Hanoi, attended by 250 participants from 38 countries. The Ayala Foundation in the Philippines is providing initial secretariat services, which are moving to India as a part of Indian Government support for the network. The network aims to address the following challenges:

- Policy maker and stakeholder awareness
- Manager Training
- Working with universities and other R&D bodies
- Technology transfer
- Internationalization of firms
- Grass roots, social and rural incubation
- Incubation in the Pacific



IncubationAsia Network covers the following countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

www.incubationasia.org

"Incubation Managers are guiding signposts. My congratulations and thanks to them. As signposts, they have taken up the great task of making the Indian younger generation a knowledge based generation. They are, truly, the people who guide our society to the future. It is my wish, that more such initiatives should come up, to make our Indian society stronger".

P.Chidambaram
India's Finance Minister



Empowering marginalized Communities

Business Incubators in Asia are characterized by supporting communities that have been traditionally marginalized from participating in the formal economy. There are some examples:

The **Rural Technology Business Incubator at IIT Madras**, leverages its technology expertise and base in Chennai to assist entrepreneurs developing rural enterprises. One example is DesiCrew, a rural BPO, providing a complete back office solution for clients with a competent rural workforce. DesiCrew was the first business in India to take BPO to the village level.



The **Tianjin Women's Incubator (TWBI)**, based in China, has created more than 4000 jobs in incubated companies, provided business information and assistance to more than 21,000 women and promoted women's incubation since its inception in 1988. There are now 3 women's incubators in China and more under consideration. The TWBI also provides micro finance and has strong links with the Tianjin Commercial Bank thereby helping bridge the finance gap which can be a serious impediment for women entrepreneurs in China. Many clients are in service industries, one of which is the Jia Le Child Care Centre and Pre-school, with 3 centers providing services for children of migrants to Tianjin and employment for more than 20 laid off women workers.



TREC-STEP the Tiruchirappalli Regional Engineering College – Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park, located in India, in the last 16 years has assisted 180 enterprises 62% in mechanical engineering, 20% in ICT and 13% in chemical industries. Of these 45% have developed innovative new products, 10% are import substitutes and 3% export. The top ten graduates have created more than 1,200 new jobs and the incubator is working on helping more of its companies to export.



NETWORK MEMBERS

- Bangladesh
- China
- India
- Malaysia
- Micronesia
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam



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