CONNECTING RESEARCH & INDUSTRY

CHAIRED BY DFAT & CSIRO

ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGES

- Gaps between supply/demand, in terms of what research is being undertaken and what is needed by small businesses; as well as gaps between policy and what is happening on the ground.
- Businesses are small scale in terms of the market and so can't attract investors (e.g. agribusinesses), and are so fragmented, it is difficult to coordinate and align them.
- Lack of trust in and among ecosystem actors.
- Mismatch between fundamental cycles of research (5-10 years) versus what is needed on ground/application (needed now)!
- Government restrictions that limit innovations (i.e. red tape and control) conflict with unsystematic system (or approach to innovation), which can be limiting or a source of tension.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Trading platform to share ideas, challenges, and IP.
- Regional collaboration networks to find commonality, scale, bring ideas together and learn from each other.
- Assessments of alignment and regular review of progress, including brokering, data collection, dissemination of data, and regular realignment.
- Tools for data collection, tools for realignment, etc.
- Involving community service organizations (CSOs, or community-based organizations) to ensure alignment with economic and social drivers and development outcomes.

GOVERNANCE FOR INCLUSIVE INNOVATION

CHAIRED BY UNDP VIETNAM & CENTRAL THEORETICAL COUNCIL OF VIETNAM

ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
• Regulations that lag behind the pace of new technologies and innovation, struggle between control and promoting innovation for development. • Limited space for experimentation, failing to learn fast. • Siloed approach and lack of policy coherence (not unique to Vietnam – silos between actors, line ministries, etc). • Governance for scale (lots of innovations happening, but reaching scale is difficult). • "Picking" winners versus "leave no one behind" – there is tension between these two options.	• Encourage mission-driven directionality – fitting the country's assets and society's interests that bring together actors to achieve SDGs, to be 'green', inclusive, and leave no one behind (to be shared by society). • Need for open minded and inclusive processes, portfolio investments, cross-ministerial bodies to engage people in finding solutions (e.g. as in Canada/Sweden) • Develop anticipatory governance, institutional capacity and foresight (e.g. institutionalized structures for scanning, to studying and exploring new issues and opportunities such as in Sweden or Ministry of Possibility in Dubai) • Experiment with more informal policy approaches to foster innovation and regulatory sandboxes

INNOVATION & GENDER EQUALITY

CHAIRED BY GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA & GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA

ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
• Social norms perpetuating gender equalities will continue in STI inequities. • Care burden limiting women from pursuing leadership roles that influence IR 4.0 • Lack of role models of women in technology. • Established mechanisms to access to capital, currently excludes women. • Gender based violence limits women from excelling in entrepreneurship.	• Highlight women role models (Note if inserting men into women's roles or vice versa is strange, if so then roles are biased). • Position technology as good opportunity, encourage inclusivity in all STI initiatives. • Increase digital literacy (women are currently disadvantaged). • Need more data on financing, forecasting, and gender-disaggregated data, as well as analyses to see impact of that data. (E.g. business case for gender equality and why it matters for productivity, for 4IR and to design for gender equality to address conscious and unconscious bias). • Improve access to capital – works with VC, investors and technology platforms – for women to make that capital flow.

BUILDING A DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

CHAIRED BY DTT TECHNOLOGY & MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
• Need for more people to be involved in formal work structures, joining with other professionals (many are involved in informal groups). • Commitment that government ministries support open data. • Mindset and awareness on open innovation (less than 2 % of knowledge is public knowledge). • Private sector use of data may face public complaints. • Understanding of how to facilitate involvement of the private sector (i.e. mechanisms to bring in private sector into knowledge systems).	• Set up consortium for a Working Group to work with MOST and others who would like to join. STI in general needs to work with IDIA and the like, to set up an office with support from Universities (like VNU & RMIT) to work with IDIA/Donors. • Make knowledge open/available and easy for public to access and participate. • Encourage crowd sourcing and crowd funding. • Do pilot studies: crowd-sourcing and crowdfunding (e.g. 'Math Hour', which won 95 gold medals at international competitions, or 'School Watch'). • Seed funding from donors (e.g. for schools' WASH programs, how can we address and scale innovations without imposing ideas from above?).

DESIGNING DEMAND-DRIVEN UNIVERSITIES

CHAIRED BY USAID & MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
• Internal capabilities to run and operate autonomous demand-driven universities. • Lack of enabling environment and facilitation role to connect players (i.e. between university, government, research, private sector etc). • Universities focus more on financial aspects not governance autonomy. • The Vietnamese education culture is rote-based learning versus project-based learning. Transition is happening, but it is not immediate. • Government attitude is sink or swim with regards to autonomy of universities.	• Platform is needed to connect all players in the innovation ecosystem. • Free up regulations to allow universities to accept funds from industry and others. • Smart education environments, smart campus, smart learning and assessments. • More management education for university leadership. • Importance of university governance and a need to improve the overall structure/quality of universities.

TOWARDS AN INNOVATION-LED ECONOMY

CHAIRED BY WORLD BANK VIETNAM & DATA61

ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
• How to balance efficiency of resource use and developing the tech frontier (pathways to new technology use). • Find new industries for employment (38% of jobs will be replaced by automation, need to build up new jobs/industries). • Disconnect between public and private sectors. Government is not knowledgeable on what is happening on the ground for private sector – need to understand their barriers. • IP environment is not strong enough (have to be protected to support STI).	• Invest in low risk STI (in "no regrets' by low-risk investors) and allow for high-risk investment. • Look to technical adoption and adaptation (customized to the Vietnamese context). Important phase in the digital journey. • Improve feedback through public/private sector (e.g. platforms, triple helix approach, communities of practice, policy sandbox, accurately predict job demand, SME monitoring and evaluations programs to test and see the impacts). • Support for IP protections. • Modernize government and e-government procurement (e-gov reforms, inclusive growth, including innovative activities, especially for women and from less favorable rural areas).