FACTSHEET: TECH FOR GOOD INSTITUTE

OUR MISSION

The Tech For Good Institute is a think tank on a mission to nurture the positive impact of technology.

Technology can play a defining role in improving the development trajectory of countries and provide new tools to help societies navigate future challenges. However, like other big shifts in our history, the transition to the digital age will require adjustment and adaptation, some of which may be uncomfortable.

We believe that critical conversations and meaningful exchanges of ideas on how to harness technology's full potential will be key in steering Southeast Asia towards a positive transformation.

At the Tech for Good Institute, we seek to bring together stakeholders from the public and private sectors to help define the new equilibrium for Southeast Asia. We are a non-profit and independent think tank founded by Grab, Southeast Asia's leading superapp.

We believe Southeast Asia's development is at a critical juncture.

Southeast Asia has made tremendous strides to improve access to and affordability of technology, and the Covid-19 pandemic has certainly accelerated digital participation.

However, we are still only at the beginning. The digital economy is bringing about changes that Southeast Asia must wrestle with. As the impact of these changes ripples across the region, especially since the onset of the pandemic, we believe the time has come to start a dialogue and debate that encourages innovative solutions tailored to Southeast Asia's context.

The Tech For Good Institute will encourage and enrich action-oriented research and dialogue on social, economic and policy trends accelerated by the digital economy in the region.

OUR APPROACH

(1) Dialogue

We aim to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances of the impact of technology in Southeast Asia, in order to establish a common ground for further policy discussions. In our first year, we will focus on facilitating conversations on the platform economy,

its role in infrastructure and ecosystem-building, and how we might navigate our policymaking approaches to maximise its benefits while mitigating risks.

(2) Research

We work to support evidence-based, insights-oriented research that leads to constructive dialogue and actionable recommendations. Our inaugural study on the Platform Economy in Southeast Asia presents data-based insights and public-private perspectives on how to support the Platform Economy's growth and manage its challenges, setting the stage for further discussions and topical deep-dives.

(3) Learning

We are committed to building communities that can benefit from the collective sharing of learnings, insights and expertise. The Institute will serve as a hub to support capacity and capability building for the public and private sectors by creating learning programmes that will help navigate the complexities that are at the intersection of tech, policy, and Southeast Asia with partner institutions and stakeholders.

OUR FOCUS

1. Create inclusive growth by shaping the platform economy to be a vehicle for sustained economic growth, providing support for the underbanked, and driving tech innovation to support job creation and productivity enhancements.

2. Promote digitalisation, digital inclusion and digital literacy, with a particular focus on those with lower household incomes, rural communities, traditional businesses and micro, small, and medium enterprises.

3. Address regional challenges collaboratively, such as investing in digital and physical infrastructure, reducing barriers to digital trade, and combating climate change.

TECH FOR GOOD INSTITUTE

OUR LEADERSHIP

A non-profit think tank founded by Grab, the Institute is led by the Executive team and an elected Board of Directors. An Advisory Board provides guidance on our mission and values. Together, they work to build a regional platform that champions growth and discussion.

Executive Director

Dr Ming Tan
Executive Director Designate,
Tech For Good Institute

Board of Directors

The Board provides stewardship, accountability and leadership on strategic and operational issues affecting the performance and long-term health and success of the Institute.

Ilaria Chan
Chairperson, Tech For Good Institute & Group Advisor for Tech and Social Impact, Grab

Keith Magnus
Chairman, Asia, Global Partner and Member of Global Management Committee, Evercore

Phillip Lee
Lead Independent Director,
CDL Holdings

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board includes an esteemed bench of technology, government and academic experts who bring a deep understanding of the region and a passion for championing the social impact of technology.

Dr Bambang Susantono
Vice President, Knowledge Management & Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank

Kai-Fu Lee
Chairman & CEO, Sinovation Ventures

Lim Siong Guan
Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy & Advisor, GIC

Pandu Sjahrir
Chief Financial Officer, Toba Bara Sejahtera & Chairman, Sea Indonesia

Sati Rasuanto
Co-Founder & CEO, VIDA

Timothy Murphy
Chief Administrative Officer, Mastercard

Dr Veerathai Santiprabhob
Chairman, Executive Committee, Mae Fah Luang Foundation

Dr Vu Tien Loc
President, Vietnam International Arbitration Centre & Chairman, Research Council of Enterprise Development Foundation

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