

The
Economist

EVENTS

Technology for Change Week Asia

**Applying technology for
the social good**

March 8th–12th 2021



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Technology for Change Week Asia

Applying technology for the social good

Societal and economic trends driven by initiatives like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, along with the crucible of the covid-19 crisis, form the backdrop for the future of technology. The UN defines poverty as a lack of access to sufficient food, education and energy. As the pandemic plunges 490m people in 70 countries back into that condition, there has never been a more urgent need to drive connectivity and digital inclusivity to facilitate resolution of these most basic of sustainable development goals.

Stakeholders today expect businesses to deliver positive social and environmental outcomes, as well as financial returns. With the current covid-19 crisis magnifying already blatant inequality, this heightens the need to “build back better” with impact-driven economies. The pandemic has sped up the adoption of digital platforms, but how can forward-thinking organisations extend these covid-19 adaptations to facilitate a shift to more digitally inclusive societies? How can we also ensure that no adult or child is left behind in this increasingly digital world?

This coming March, *The Economist* will curate the inaugural Technology For Change Week, gathering leading policymakers, entrepreneurs and managers in major corporations, big tech, finance and NGOs. Together, they will examine how technology-based and data-driven solutions can be applied to long-standing social challenges. Participants will explore how driving connectivity can address social inequality and broader hurdles to economic inclusion, which have been exacerbated by the covid-19 crisis. They will also focus closely on issues that resonate strongly across over five billion citizens in Asia: the built environment, food security and access to education and retraining.

Can businesses move beyond greenwashing to align purpose and profit to keep them competitive in a world of mission-driven consumers? How can inclusivity initiatives go beyond window dressing to technology solutions that address systemic issues? What are the barriers and how can they be overcome? How can policymakers and regulators foster an inclusive social innovation ecosystem? With its freer public attitude towards data privacy, can Asia leapfrog countries in the West in digital inclusivity? And how can the region further lead efforts to harness the power of technology for change?



Defining technology and digital inclusivity

Monday, March 8th 2021

10.00 am

Ministerial keynote interview: Driving digital inclusivity and the digital economy to boost resilience

How can territories in Asia strive to be regional and global leaders in driving connectivity and digital inclusivity across smart cities, education and reskilling to strengthen its citizens? Does buy-in for social innovation need to be driven top-down by policymakers and forward-thinking organisations, or nurtured bottom-up from smaller firms and citizens? An example from a leading policymaker will kick off the week.

S. ISWARAN, minister for Communications and Information & Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, **Republic of Singapore**

10.35 am

Panel discussion: Bytes don't kill people— Is tech a force for good?

This panel will seek to define technology and impact to kick-start a large-scale exploration of how technology is used to drive connectivity and positive change. How are business leaders, policymakers and regulators defining and using technology in the 21st century? Is tech a force for good? Is it just a tool, or does it inherently embody values and goals? What is tech doing right? What can it do better?

How do we define and measure the impact of technology? What types of technologies will have the biggest impact? Can it effectively address social inequality? How can we mitigate the problems technology itself causes, such as widening uneven access, loss of jobs through automation, cyberthreats, encroachments on privacy in the rise of 'surveillance capitalism', bias, safety, amongst others?

The current crisis is a chance to reset, evolve and reorganise for the better. How are policymakers using that opportunity to nurture tech innovation in their regions to foster inclusivity?

DANIEL EPSTEIN, founder and CEO, **Unreasonable Group** **Jennifer**

ZHU SCOTT, Executive Chairman, **The Commons Project**

Defining technology and digital inclusivity

Monday, March 8th 2021

11.40 am

In conversation with... The connectors—Private or public?

Access to technology and communication is a crucial part of inclusion. A Bain & Company report found that 40 million people came online for the first time in 2020 for a total of 400 million Internet users across Southeast Asia. To enable technological solutions to address inequality, gaps in connectivity must be closed. The private sector appears to be leading the push to increase connectivity and the accessibility of tech. Before the crisis, governments were focused on 5G. But as the covid-19 crisis has highlighted the scale of the gap, governments are going back to basics, trying to expand access and make networks more resilient, and fostering partnerships with telcos and internet platforms.

How can we incentivise regional government entities to expand access? Should all people have free internet access, and how could it be achieved? What factors stand against better digital connectivity across Asia?

CHRIS LUKOLYO, digital Country Lead, **United Nations Capital Development Fund**

2.30 pm

The debate: Is digital technology essential for scalable, world-class solutions to the most pressing social problems?

Is digital technology the best tool for creating scalable, sustainable and effective solutions to social problems? What about the nature-based solutions that are common in conservation and social enterprises?

This debate will give air time to the techno-sceptics among us, and push back on the impulse to turn first to technological solutions. Is a digital or deep tech platform always better? Do nature-based solutions avoid classic side effects of technology such as losses of jobs and privacy and the exclusion of those with poor connectivity? Can other solutions be as scalable and accessible as those facilitated by technology?

CHANDRAN NAIR, founder and Chief Executive, **Global Institute For Tomorrow**

PASCALE NGAN FUNG, professor, Director, Centre For Artificial Intelligence Research,
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Defining technology and digital inclusivity

Monday, March 8th 2021

3:30 pm

In conversation about...**The ethical adoption of digital platforms: Regulation and accountability**

A 2020 report found that more than 1 in 3 digital services consumers in Southeast Asia are new to digital adoption; 90% intend to continue their new habits post-covid. How can key business leaders and innovators maintain high ethical standards during the rapid adoption of digital platforms? What policy frameworks are needed to govern the use of technology and data? Is accessibility and inclusivity a fair trade off for data privacy infringement? And what can we learn about the ethical use of technology and codes of practice from the trailblazing innovation ecosystem in the United States?

JUSTIN ROSENSTEIN, co-founder, **Asana** & Founder, **One Project**

TIMOTHY ERBLICH, CEO, **Ethisphere Institute**

RAYMUND LIBORO, Privacy Commissioner and Chairman, **National Privacy Commission, Philippines**

4:30 pm

Action hour: Case studies

A taster of what's to come during the week, with an introduction from an editor of *The Economist*.

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Entrepreneurship: Public-private partnerships— How innovators work with governments to drive change

Farming land in Asia is limited, and the region relies heavily on food imports. How, then, can we boost sustainable access to nutrition for the region's rising populations?

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* For the full programme agenda and speaker line-up, visit techforchange.economist.com. All topics and speakers are subject to change.

Defining technology and digital inclusivity

Monday, March 8th 2021

Partnering with Goliaths: Startups driving change through corporate entrepreneurship

Ampd, a Hong Kong battery start-up, was approached by Gammon Construction Limited, a construction and engineering contractor, with a problem statement: the task of replacing the noisy, polluting diesel generators that were the standard solution for on-site energy on construction sites. A year later, the Ampd Enertainer was born as the result of a project that had needed approval from multiple stakeholders, including the government and Gammon's client developers. A compact and connected solution for storing energy in batteries, the Ampd Enertainer has cut emissions on construction sites by up to 85%.

BRANDON NG, co-founder and CEO, **Ampd**

The multilateral: Education and connectivity

Some 3.6 billion people have no internet access. The International Telecommunication Union and UNICEF have joined forces to create the Giga initiative, which aims to connect every school in the world to the internet by 2030. Last year the focus was Africa; this year it is Asia. How has the covid-19 crisis affected the initiative?

ATSUKO OKUDA, Regional Director Asia, **International Telecommunication Union (United Nations)**

5.30 pm

Virtual connectivity hour

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Smart cities

Tuesday, March 9th 2021

10.00 am **Seeding the future: Kick-off pitch from three smart city start-ups with intro from an editor of *The Economist***

ENTELE BENZ, Co-founder, **Intensel**

NEHA SATAK, CEO, **Astrome**

ASHISH JUSTIN, CEO, **Carnot Innovations**

10.25 am **Spotlight interview: Making cities smarter with Taiwanese digital minister Audrey Tang**

A decentralised “civil IoT” air-quality-sensor initiative driven by the Taiwanese people prompted the government to change air-quality monitoring, making a case that innovation can be driven from the streets in a case of civil ‘health-expedience’. Is the future of digital inclusivity driven from the ground up by citizens in Asia? What solutions have come out of the recent [Presidential Hackathon](#) and how else can we inspire citizens to drive technology for the social good?

AUDREY TANG, digital minister, **Taiwan Government**

10.50 am **Action hour: Case studies**

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Smart cities

Tuesday, March 9th 2021

Social media data: Opportunities and challenges of using public sentiment insights for decision-makers

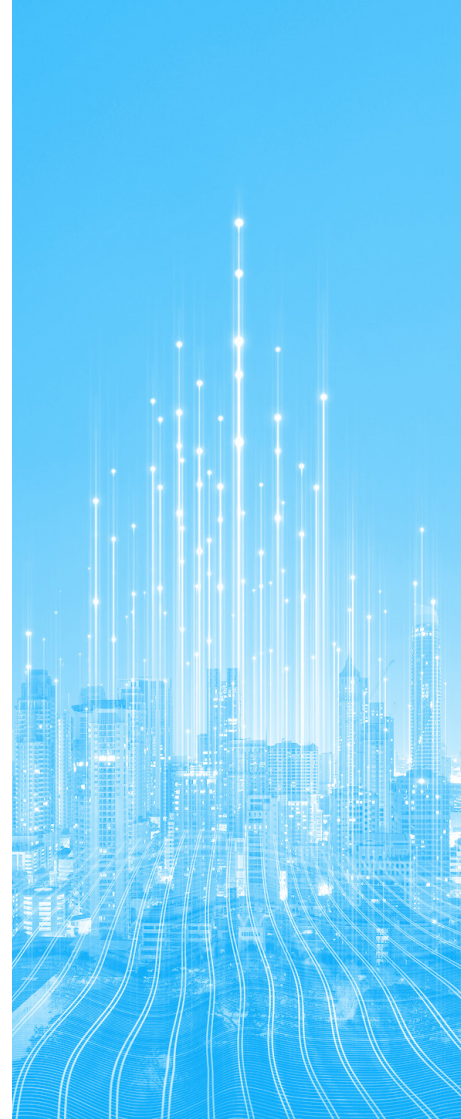
The fallout from the Cambridge Analytica data scandal raised important questions about data privacy and how companies use social media data for political and commercial gain. The optimism that once surrounded social media as a tool to empower citizens has been replaced with scepticism for platforms accused of facilitating the spread of misinformation. BrandsEye explains how it is still possible for organisations to ethically mine public data without infringing on privacy. With real case studies, they illustrate how this can empower, rather than manipulate, individual users and why decision-makers can't afford to ignore public feedback online - with reference to covid-19 vaccine hesitancy; positively influencing behaviour during Cape Town's worst drought in 100 years; and regulatory imperatives around what social media data firms can and cannot use.

NIC RAY, Chief Executive Officer, **BrandsEye**

Corporate-entrepreneurship: Driving change by partnering with startups

How can forward-thinking corporations leverage their firepower, resources and customer reach to partner with innovators to drive technology for change in smart cities?

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Smart cities

Tuesday, March 9th 2021

Challenges and opportunities in data localisation for smart cities

It is broadly recognised that while digital transformation is a top priority for governments and companies, many are still far behind. Private enterprise can help by utilising data and digital solutions to enhance people's well-being on multiple levels, such as AI solutions for social impact and flood forecasting.

In parts of Asia, including Indonesia, Vietnam and Pakistan, there is a gap in the use of such technologies and an opportunity to do good by adopting them. The Philippines has quickly made use of cloud technologies to enable companies to grow and to provide better public services. In Vietnam there is also a huge push to grow the domestic tech industry.

Mobility As A Service (MaaS): Opportunities and challenges for mobility in Asia's dense cities

The development of MaaS in the largest Asian countries is accelerating. In India and China, less than a third of people hold a driver's license, owning a car is prohibitively expensive and pollution from private transport is a significant issue. Innovations in mobility like ride-hailing have been readily adopted to solve these challenges. What other opportunities are there for technology to enable change and drive connectivity?



Smart cities

Tuesday, March 9th 2021

10.20 am

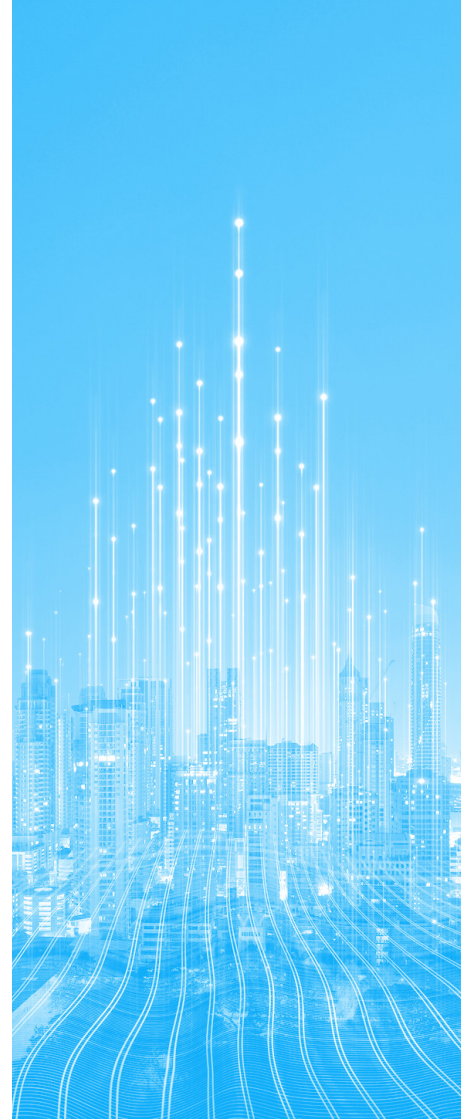
Sponsored roundtable: Smart cities in the Asia-Pacific— Can the infrastructure in place meet evolving needs? (Concurrent)

The movement of people into cities, drawn by increased opportunities for work, is an ongoing megatrend. More than half of the global population lives in cities, and that is expected to increase to two-thirds by 2050.

Rising urban density can worsen air and water quality while increasing the demand for waste management and energy. City planners must provide basic amenities like affordable housing, waste disposal and infrastructure to match growing populations. Smart cities are the smallest large unit that can implement such measures that benefit the community.

How can we integrate innovative technologies into existing infrastructure? Which second- and third-tier cities could serve as a “blank canvas” for smart city initiatives? How are the developments of real estate and infrastructure linked to the broader economic, social and environmental aims of global corporations? What are the main barriers to adopting responsible approaches to urban development, and how can they be overcome?

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Smart cities

Tuesday, March 9th 2021

11.50 am

Panel: How public-private partnerships can boost social innovation in smart cities

The construction industry contributes 39% of all energy-related carbon dioxide emissions. This creates an opportunity for public-private partnerships focused on developing smart cities to combat climate change while innovating to achieve other social and connectivity goals.

Is social innovation in smart cities usually driven at the top by policymakers and forward-thinking corporations? Or is it more of a bottom-up process, driven by smaller businesses and organisations, and by the needs of individuals? Can collaboration between the public and private sectors overcome regulatory challenges that hinder social change? What are these regulatory hurdles to social innovation? Is covid-19 breaking any of these down? What is the private sector doing to drive change, and how can that be incentivised? How can policymakers, businesses, academics and individuals work together to scale up innovative solutions that build resilience and sustainability?

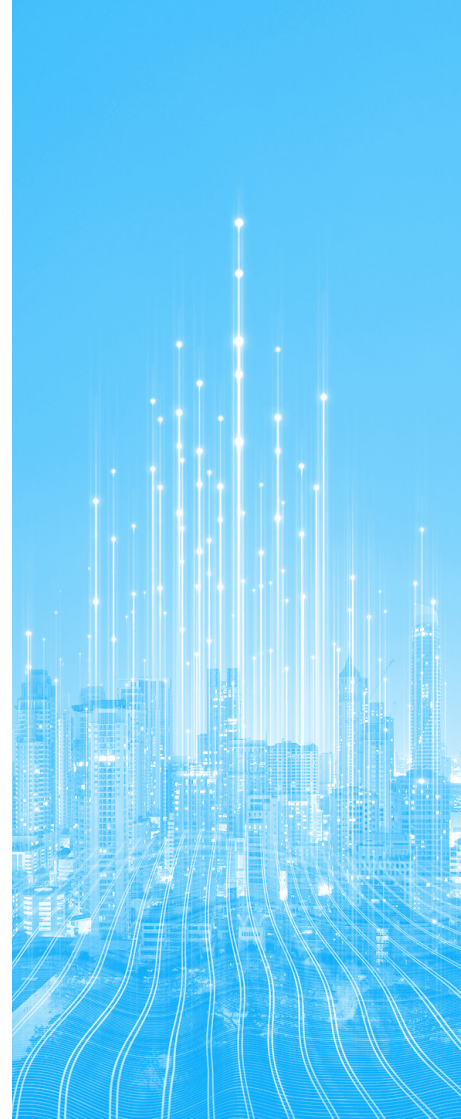
What are the high-impact solutions that we need to mitigate environmental degradation and poverty in increasingly dense cities? Members of the panel will look at solutions for Asia including retrofitting for energy efficiency, alternative transport systems and MaaS. How can leaders in Asia overcome the inertia of legacy providers and bust out of siloed government bureaus to speed up innovation?

HARUYUKI SEKI, Founder and representative director, **Code for Japan**

STEPHEN ONG, Senior Policy Adviser, **Ministry Of Science Tech Innovation Malaysia**

LIMIN HEE, Director of Research, **Centre for Liveable Cities Singapore**

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Smart cities

Tuesday, March 9th 2021

2.30 pm

Panel: Big cities, big data—Accelerating digitisation for safety and wellbeing

Given the rapid pace of urbanisation, particularly in Asia and Africa, infrastructure requirements are becoming increasingly complex. Maintaining ageing public infrastructure is a serious challenge in many countries. In recent years, bridge collapses have claimed lives in places including China, Italy, the United States, India and Taiwan, among others.

How can the internet of things be used to improve the monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure assets? Jindo Bridge in South Korea, for instance, has been successfully fitted with an inexpensive wireless system that monitors its health. And as improved electricity storage makes the use of renewable energy more feasible, can connected infrastructure increase efficiency in the use of critical resources? Are there further opportunities for technology to improve people's health, and what obstacles are there to implementing this in the era of covid?

CHARLES MOK, JP, Former Legislative Councillor, **Information Technology Functional Constituency HKSAR Gov**

LN SADANI, Founder and CEO, **Lensbridge Capital**

ALLARD NOOY, CEO, **InfraCo Asia**

LAUREN N. SORKIN, Executive Director, **Resilient Cities Network** [moderator]

3.40 pm

In conversation with—Real estate managers and investors

Leading urban developers aim to leverage the built environment to bring positive and sustainable change that fosters, rather than jeopardises, the health and prosperity of the planet and its people. Covid-19 has highlighted the need to adapt to systemic risks and opportunities, while building resilience. At the same time, social, economic, cultural and political milestones such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement along with trends like the rise of ESG investing and the Black Lives Matter movement are shaping a new paradigm of "responsible real estate", which aims to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits by implementing responsible business practices.

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Smart cities

Tuesday, March 9th 2021

4.30 pm

Taking charge—How renewable energy boosts the success of smart cities

The adoption of renewable energy from wind, solar, hydrogen, geothermal sources and biotech is experiencing a tailwind from the covid-19 crisis as governments direct stimulus efforts at green initiatives. In the area of clean energy, the UN Capital Development Fund cites cases where farmers in developing regions are buying electricity or solar panels on lease and paying with their phone. Before, loans for panels came with prohibitive or discouraging requirements or conditions. In this interview, we explore what measures might be taken to boost access to renewable energy while making cities smarter.

5.00 pm

Virtual connectivity hour

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Education and reskilling

Wednesday, March 10th 2021

10.00 am **Seeding the future: Kick-off pitch from three edtech start-ups with intro from an editor of *The Economist***

KAVISH GADIA, CEO, **Stones2Milestones**

TIMOTHY YU, Founder and CEO, **SnapAsk**

10.25 am **Keynote interview: No child left behind—Solving the connectivity gap in education**

The covid-19 crisis has highlighted how access to education is most fragile for swathes of children who cannot tap into the right communications infrastructure. Especially for those without easy access to remote learning, the effects of shutting schools for months are likely to persist for decades. As every year of education is reckoned to increase annual earnings by roughly 10%, the consequences for poor children are alarming.

How can governments mitigate these effects? How are large school networks equipping students for learning away from the classroom? Who is likely to miss out on access to 5G networks? This interview session will present a view from Indonesia.

NADIEM ANWAR MAKARIM, **Indonesia Minister of Education and Culture**

11.00 am **Action hour: Case studies**

Enablers: Bringing education to the child

There is a vast and underserved market for education that is accessible in multiple ways. How is technology enabling access for the disabled? How are applications for virtual reality headsets enabling new possibilities for learners in remote and rural areas?

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Wednesday, March 10th 2021

What digital skills will the workers of tomorrow need? Being agile and ready to solve challenges in the digital space will be key. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) often lack these skills, but need them to compete in a world of "big fish", and so do workers. Nurturing the participation of stakeholders in the digital economy is beneficial for workers, consumers and firms alike.

What are policymakers doing to promote reskilling at scale?

Reskilling the workforce as well as vulnerable populations is a key component of future economic growth and societal resilience in the emergence of crises and technological advancement. What are policymakers in pioneering governments doing to promote this at scale? How can we foster the economic inclusion of an ageing population in Asia?

Education and reskilling

Wednesday, March 10th 2021

12.10 pm

In conversation with... The upskillers: Future-proofing jobs and skill sets in the era of data, AI and automation.

"Decent work and economic growth" is the eighth sustainable development goal. In an increasingly automated world, how do we foster access to meaningful work—and meaningful pay? A special report from *The Economist* notes that in the second quarter of 2020, one-sixth of young people worldwide lost their jobs. Working hours fell by nearly a quarter for the rest, according to the International Labour Organization.

How can we create future-proofed jobs that will withstand crises? Part of the answer could lie in the use of technology in smart cities. A recent Bain & Company report cites a lack of digital talent in Southeast Asia as a hurdle to advancing the digital sector. How do we retrain Asia's ageing population to make use of these possibilities, when a lack of skills in the workforce already limits technological adoption? Investment in STEM education and training will be needed, as will multidisciplinary learning. What is the best way to make up Asia's shortage of digital skills?

DJOANN FAL, Co-founder, **GetLinks Group**

IRWIN ANAND, Managing Director, India and APAC, **Udemy**

JIADI YU, Principal Investment Officer, **International Finance Corporation**

2.30 pm

An interview with...An education minister: How the digitisation of education can democratise access in covid-19

The covid era will bring tailwinds for edtech solutions that threaten the leadership of in-person universities in higher education. Given that universities are often expensive, will this be a boon for the less wealthy? In May 2020 Dan Tehan, the Australian education minister, offered funding for short online courses in topics that were judged to be "national priorities" like teaching and engineering. Governments want to make universities more focused on employment. As universities have Educ, so too have doubts about the "return on investment". How can digitisation facilitate inclusion in education and the economy? What challenges stand in the way of democratising access?

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Education and reskilling

Wednesday, March 10th 2021

3:30 pm

Panel: How broader access to education could alleviate inequality

Failure to control the virus probably spells lower future incomes for millions of pupils. Without interventions, the long-run effect of the pandemic on these students is predictable. Well-off children typically have the tools and broadband they need to keep learning. But many poorer ones have to compete with other family members for resources—if they can get online access to learning materials at all. Some have to forgo lessons entirely. This is a problem for rich and poor countries alike. Research has shown that poorer students perform worse in online courses than face-to-face ones.

The UN Capital Development Fund says that financial health rather than inclusion is the new marker of resilience in the covid-era. How can we broaden access to education to elevate financial inclusion?

IR. ISMAIL, Director General of Spectrum Management and Standardisation of Post and ICT, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, **Republic of Indonesia**

FURUZONFAR ZEHNI, Partner, **Fresco Capital**

RUKMINI BANERJI, CEO, **Pratham Education Foundation**

4:30 pm

Virtual connectivity hour

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Food security

Thursday, March 11th 2021

10.00 am **Seeding the future: Kick-off pitch from three foodtech start-ups with intro from an editor of *The Economist***

FENG RU LIN, CEO, **TURTLE TREE LABS**

GIBRAN HUZAIFAN, CEO, **EFISHERY**

YOHANES SUGIHTONO, Co-founder, **CROWDE**

10.25 am **Keynote interview with...A food grower**

Can Asia feed five billion people or more? Connectivity is what the world's agro-industrial complex is all about. Four-fifths of the planet's eight billion mouths are fed in part by imports. Access, an existing challenge for small-holder farmers for a long time now in the region, is being aggravated by the pandemic. The focus on helping these farmers is shifting back to rudimentary needs for connectivity and financial inclusion.

The Global Food Security Index 2019 showed that Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar were particularly at risk, with public expenditure on agriculture stagnant. Singapore, ranked at the top of the overall index, dropped 11 places when a natural resources and resiliency metric is added: it is vulnerable to rising sea levels, ocean eutrophication and a dependency on imports, the latter magnified by the covid-19 crisis. The proportion of cultivated land currently equipped for irrigation is inadequate to meet global needs. Short-term nutrient deficiencies in the young, which are now exacerbated by the crisis, can have lifelong cognitive and physical effects. Can Asia adequately feed its growing population? Which regions will find this most difficult?

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Food security

Thursday, March 11th 2021

11.00 am

Action hour: Case studies

Connecting farms: Making markets more accessible to rural sellers

Decentralised supply chains could help to feed Asia and mitigate the risk of nutritional deficiencies. E-commerce platforms have seen consumer demand for online groceries in Asia increase in the covid-19 era. To boost efficiency, these platforms can give farmers and rural sellers direct access to markets. What effects will such solutions have on food security and financial inclusion? And what similar models and technologies could be mobilised to further improve market access?

The case for nature-based solutions: Food security and conservation

WWF's new Bankable Nature Solutions initiative connects private-sector investment to sustainable development projects that build climate-resilient ecosystems for people, nature and the economy, and that are financially viable enough to be scaled up and replicated. The Mekong Delta Integrated Rice and Aquaculture Bankable Project is an example of this approach, involving collaboration between WWF organisations in Hong Kong, Vietnam, and the Netherlands, and the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development. Not all plans for change need to be deeply rooted in technology, and most conservation projects are inherently social. Those that sustainably boost food security, for example, often go hand-in-hand with economic benefits like job creation.

JEAN-MARC CHAMPAGNE, Head, Environmental Finance Asia-Pacific, **WWF Finance**

Respecting the limits: Building a regenerative economy within ecological and social boundaries

The Doughnut economic model posits that the goal of social and economic activity should satisfy the basic needs of all, as long as it is within ecological planetary boundaries. How can this be achieved at scale? Is technology the solution?

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Food security

Thursday, March 11th 2021

2.30 pm

Panel: Food security—Lessons from the covid-19 crisis

The covid crisis has highlighted vulnerabilities in the global food supply chain. Analysis done by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation shows that most countries are more dependent on imports today than they were 20 years ago . Climate change threatens the greatest reduction in the agricultural potential of developing countries in Asia-Pacific . Over a fifth of the \$425m in emergency trade cash provided by the Asian Development Bank in April 2020 covered food-security deals .

Could public-private partnerships in Asia play a significant role in solving food production issues? And how can governments incentivise foodtech innovation? Singapore's government initiatives in partnership with innovators are fostering self-sufficiency in food production while borders are closed and globalisation is in retreat. Food entrepreneurs often mention the country as a regional leader in foodtech, with an abundance of industry experts, strong government support and a robust ecosystem of investors. Hong Kong, where more than 90% of the city's food supplies are imported from abroad, is similarly vulnerable.

At the same time, the Asian region is responsible for over half of global food waste, so there is a clear opportunity to be more efficient. Which countries are investing most effectively in food innovation to mitigate import dependence and drive job creation? What products will have the biggest impact, and over what time frame? And how will Asia maintain its agricultural productivity while its population ages?

CHRISTINE LOH, Professor, Institute for the Environment, **The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**

LIM CHUAN POH, Chairman, **Singapore Food Agency**

SRIDHAR DHARMAPURI, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**



Food security

Thursday, March 11th 2021

3.40 pm

In conversation with... The non-profits

Non-profit organisations play a critical role in building bridges in the food sector in Asia. How are they leveraging technological and non-technological solutions to drive inclusivity and sustainable growth where they are needed? Where are the opportunity gaps?

GOETZ EBBECKE, CEO, **Prisma**

PAUL VOUTIER, Director of Knowledge and Innovation, **GrowAsia**

4.30 pm

In conversation about... Nudging sustainability and mitigating climate change through consumer-facing products

The global food system in its current form will not be able to feed the world's growing population—projected to grow by more than two billion people by 2050—without irreversibly damaging the planet, a group of leading scientists say. Green Monday's OmniPork innovation recently raised USD\$70 million, signalling growing interest in alternative meat substitutes in Asia, where 44% of meat globally is consumed. What are the environmental, social, health, economic, technological and political implications of their production and consumption? How can firms leverage the strong B2C demand for healthier lifestyles, such as the rise in veganism, to drive positive social change, habits and business? Are consumer-facing products an especially effective vehicle to drive positive societal change? How can governments and firms use social media to gain insights into consumer sentiment that can inform policies and high-impact initiatives?

DAVID YEUNG, Founder and CEO, **Green Monday Group**

4.30 pm

Virtual connectivity hour

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Making the change: Workshops and networking

Friday, March 12th 2021

10.00 am

In conversation with... The investors Impact and ESG investing: Where is investment most needed and how can opportunities be identified?

With criticism aimed at private capital markets and growing demand for social and environmental action, investors are increasingly stepping in as saviours with a new model of socially-responsible, purpose-driven finance. Impact and ESG investors can help tackle the world's most pressing issues and can do the most good when needs and opportunities are skillfully identified. Where are the biggest opportunity gaps? Which sectors are seeing significant tailwinds? Is the term impact investing too broadly applied? What are the challenges relating to ESG integration and stewardship in different asset classes? What are the themes investors are basing their engagement efforts on (eg, climate change, decarbonisation, social issues, board diversity)? How can investors ensure that sustainability is front of mind as economies seek to "build back better" in the months ahead? Should investors in this space demand impact transparency from the companies in which they invest?

PHILO ALTO, Founder and CEO, **Asia Value Advisors** [moderator]

AKSHAY DUA, Head of Private Equity, Agriculture and Food, **ResponsAbility Investments AG**

ROSEMARY ADDIS, Executive Director, **Impact Strategist**

RONIE MAK, Managing Director, **RS Group**

11.10 am

In conversation with... Asian policymakers and government platforms investing in tech for change

In this conversation we will discuss how Asian governments are investing in technology for change and making the most of their resources to support social innovation from the top down.

DR KIM YONG-BEOM, First Vice Minister of Economy and Finance, **Republic of Korea**

DR SRIKANYA YATHIP, Secretary General, **Government Pension Fund Thailand**



Making the change: Workshops and networking

Friday, March 12th 2021

2.30 pm

Action Hour: Case Studies

Corporate Innovation & Fostering Intrapreneurship

How can forward-thinking corporations potentially outsource research and development, create a procurement funnel, have an eye on what might disrupt them and align themselves with the start up space? Through creation of an open innovation platform. What are the best practices for addressing problem statements from within business units in a sustainable and effective way?

Impact Accounting: Separating greenwashers from impact leaders

The need for impact transparency is growing, and it's moving the goal posts for businesses and investors. Many companies are externalising environmental costs that would exceed total profit if internalised. How can impact accounting statements transparently capture external impacts to inform decision-making among investors and managers? The goal is to ask companies to articulate their impact, with the aim that ultimately, companies that don't share their impact will find themselves at a competitive disadvantage.

DAVID FREIBERG, Programme Manager, Impact-Weighted Accounts, **Harvard Business School**

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Making the change: Workshops and networking

Friday, March 12th 2021

Hi, Robot: “Artificial General Intelligence” for the social good

One of the most promising areas for application of “Narrow Artificial General Intelligence” (AGI) technology at the border between traditional application-specific Narrow AI and tomorrow’s AGI is social robotics. Social robots need to interface with the physical world, the human emotional world, and the world of online information systems, and bring all these worlds together in a practical real-time way. In the medical and eldercare space, social robots can play the role of companions and nursing assistants, leveraging advanced AI methods like neural-symbolic reasoning and decentralized blockchain-based agent networks to provide the additional support needed by patients and medical workers in the age of social-distancing and COVID.

BEN GOERTZEL, CEO & Founder, **SingularityNET Foundation**

3.30 pm

Panel: Beyond greenwashing—Aligning purpose and profit by investing in technology

There is a global race among firms to make sustainability a core part of their DNA before the risks of not doing so become too costly to bear. Forward-thinking firms are transforming their social innovation efforts from corporate window-dressing to mature processes, meaningful measurements, “intrapreneurship”, robust financing and engagement with key stakeholders. How do leading organisations move beyond greenwashing to sustainable change? How do firms commit to change even during a crisis? How can companies ensure the coronavirus response doesn’t overshadow pressing issues that have come into focus? What is the return on social innovation for organisations? Are firms that don’t offer impact metrics at a competitive disadvantage?

GAËLLE LOISEAU, CEO, **Shared Value Project**

NAINA BATRA, CEO and Chairperson, **Asian Venture Philanthropy Network**



Making the change: Workshops and networking

Friday, March 12th 2021

Workshop A: Communicating the stakeholder value of impact initiatives

Workshop B: Fostering culture change to encourage impact-driven innovation

Roundtable: Seeking Innovators—Corporate Problem Statements Pitch Session

How could incumbents partner with disruptive firms to achieve positive social and environmental outcomes? Corporate leaders will outline problem statements from within their business units and have entrepreneurs propose solutions to those challenges. An interactive session that turns the typical start up pitch dynamics on its head.

4.30 pm

Virtual connectivity hour

* For the full programme agenda and speaker line-up, visit techforchange.economist.com. All topics and speakers are subject to change.



2021 Confirmed speakers



S. ISWARAN
Minister of
communications and
information, Minister-in-
charge of trade relations
Republic of Singapore



AUDREY TANG
Digital minister
Taiwan



NADIEM MAKARIM
Minister of education and
culture
Republic of Indonesia



ATSUKO OKUDA
Regional director
Asia, International
Telecommunication Union
United Nations



LIM CHUAN POH
Chairman
Singapore Food Agency



JUSTIN ROSENSTEIN
Founder, One Project and
Co-founder
Asana



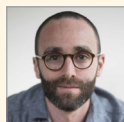
RAYMUND LIBORO
Privacy commissioner and
chairman
**National Privacy
Commission Philippines**



KIM YONGBEOM
Vice minister of economy
and finance
Republic of Korea



IR. ISMAIL
Director general of
spectrum management
and standardisation of
post and ICT
Ministry of ICT Indonesia



DANIEL EPSTEIN
Chief executive
Unreasonable Group



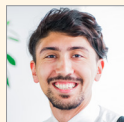
JIADI YU
Principal investment
officer, healthcare
and education Asia
**International Finance
Corporation**



DAVID YEUNG
Founder
Green Monday



ENTELE BENZ
Chief executive
Intensel



FURUZONFAR ZEHN
Partner
Fresco Capital



ALLARD NOOY
Chief executive
InfraCo Asia



CHRISTINE LOH
Chief development
strategist, Institute for
the environment
**Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology**

2021 Confirmed speakers



NAINA BATRA
Chairperson and
chief executive
AVPN



**JEAN-MARC
CHAMPAGNE**
Head of environmental
finance and bankable
nature solutions Asia
WWF-Hong Kong



CHARLES MOK, JP
Former legislative
councillor
**Information
Technology Functional
Constituency**



CHRIS LUKOLYO
Digital country lead
**UN Capital
Development Fund**



RONIE MAK
Managing director
RS Group



DJOANN FAL
Co-founder
GetLinks Group



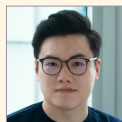
AKSHAY DUA
Head private equity,
sustainable food APAC
**responsAbility
Investments AG**



BRANDON NG
Co-founder and
chief executive
Ampd Energy



FENGRU LIN
Chief executive
TurtleTree Labs



TIMOTHY YU
Founder and
chief executive
Snapask



JENNIFER ZHU SCOTT
Executive chairman
The Commons Project



HARUYUKI SEKI
Founder
Code for Japan



RUKMINI BANERJI
Chief executive
**Pratham Education
Foundation**



PAUL VOUTIER
Director of knowledge
and innovation
GrowAsia



KAVISH GADIA
Co-founder and
chief executive
Stones2milestones



ROSEMARY ADDIS
Executive director
Impact Strategist

2021 Confirmed speakers



ASHISH JUSTIN
Co-founder and
chief executive
**Carnot Innovations
Limited**



DAVID FREIBERG
Project manager,
impact-weighted
accounts initiative
Harvard Business School



BEN GOERTZEL
Founder and
chief executive
SingularityNET



SRIVIDHAR DHARMAPURI
Senior food safety and
nutrition officer
FAO



NEHA SATAK
Co-founder and
chief executive
Astrome



IRWIN ANAND
Managing director
Udemy India



GAËLLE LOUISEAU
Chief executive
**Shared Value Project
Hong Kong**



TIMOTHY ERBLICH
Chief executive
Ethisphere



PHILO ALTO
Founder and
chief executive
Asia Value Advisors



NIC RAY
Chief executive
BrandsEye



STEPHEN ONG
Senior policy advisor,
technology and R&D
commercialisation,
Ministry of Science
**Technology and
Innovation Malaysia**



TEYMOOR NABILI
Founder
Tech For Impact Asia



LAUREN SORKIN
Executive director
Resilient Cities Network

See you in
Technology for Change Week Asia
on March 8th–12th 2021

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