

# Asian Think Tank Network (ATTN): Retrospect and Prospect

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# ATTN: Context

## Asian Think Tanks:

- Playing increasingly important roles in policy formulation and implementation, and eager to share knowledge with peers to enhance capacity for research and policy advising;

## ADB:

- Strategy 2020: good governance and capacity development, knowledge solutions, and partnerships, recognized as drivers of change;

# ATTN: Objectives

**ATTN:** an institutionalized knowledge sharing and capacity development platform among government-linked think tanks in Asia and Pacific

- Enhance systematic knowledge sharing, particularly S-S knowledge cooperation;
- Enable better policy advising; bridge the gap between research and policy;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Asian think tanks, particularly, those in low income DMCs; and
- Increase the collective voice of Asia and Pacific in international arenas.

# ATTN: Timeline

- Early 2012, ADB and Asian think tanks initiated the network;
- June 2012, TA Concept Paper endorsed;
- May 2013, TA Report approved;
- ATTN formally established in 2013 during the 1<sup>st</sup> ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum;
- Five annual forums held:
  - ✓ 30-31 Oct 2013, 1<sup>st</sup> Forum held in Beijing ([IEFI](#)),
  - ✓ 20-21 Nov 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum held in Seoul ([KDI](#));
  - ✓ 8-9 Sep 2015, 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum held in Kuala Lumpur ([MIER](#));
  - ✓ 27-28 Oct 2016, 4<sup>th</sup> Forum held in Delhi ([NIPFP & ICRIER](#));
  - ✓ 20-21 Sep 2017, 5<sup>th</sup> Forum held in Colombo ([IPS](#));

# ATTN: Membership

**Economic and development think tanks in the region, particularly those:**

- under macroeconomic agencies, such as ministry of finance, economy, and development agencies;
- with close linkages with the government's macroeconomic agencies and assisting in development policy formulation and implementation; and
- from low income DMCs.

# ATTN: Focused Areas

- ATTN focuses knowledge sharing on **inclusion, innovation and urbanization**:
- Theme of the ATTN forums:
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Forum: Innovation & Inclusion for a Prosperous Asia;
  - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum: Promoting Innovation & Inclusion for a Prosperous Asia;
  - ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum: Advancing Innovation & Inclusion for a prosperous Asia;
  - ✓ 4<sup>th</sup> Forum: Promoting Sustainable Urbanization;
  - ✓ 5<sup>th</sup> Forum: Financing for Sustainable Urbanization:

# ATTN: Networking Mode

- ATTN: a **joint initiative** of ADB and Asian think tanks;
- ADB currently serves as ATTN secretariat, and provides financial and technical support;
- In a long run, it is expected that ATTN can be operated largely by the participating think tanks.

# ATTN: Achievements

- 5 annual development forums organized;
- e-news disseminated;
- proceedings published;
- website built and updated ([www.adb-asianthinktanks.org](http://www.adb-asianthinktanks.org));



# ATTN: Evaluation & Feedback

- ATTN Members' feedback during New Delhi Forum;
  - ✓ 100% strongly agreed and agreed forum objectives support the aims of ATTN;
  - ✓ 95% strongly agreed and agreed forum objectives achieved;
  - ✓ 96% found forum content substantive;
  - ✓ 92% saw the knowledge shared useful;
  - ✓ 92% indicated they will pursue linkage with each other;
  - ✓ 96% assessed the overall forum quality as good or excellent;
  - ✓ 100% expressed that ADB should continue to support ATTN;

# ATTN: Prospect

