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 1st ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum;
- Five annual forums held:
  - 30-31 Oct 2013, 1st Forum held in Beijing (IEFI),
  - 20-21 Nov 2014, 2nd Forum held in Seoul (KDI);
  - 8-9 Sep 2015, 3rd Forum held in Kuala Lumpur (MIER);
  - 27-28 Oct 2016, 4th Forum held in Delhi (NIPFP & ICRIER);
  - 20-21 Sep 2017, 5th 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\(^{st}\) Forum: Innovation & Inclusion for a Prosperous Asia;
  - 2\(^{nd}\) Forum: Promoting Innovation & Inclusion for a Prosperous Asia;
  - 3\(^{rd}\) Forum: Advancing Innovation & Inclusion for a prosperous Asia;
  - 4\(^{th}\) Forum: Promoting Sustainable Urbanization;
  - 5\(^{th}\) 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);
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