



**Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations
(CoNGO)
2020 Regional Committee in Asia-Pacific (RCAP)**

**A Paradigm toward an Equitable and Sustainable Future through
the Public-Private Partnership in the Asia-Pacific**

Paper Submitted by the
Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI)

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the new Agenda emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all. Following this Agenda, the world generated grateful outcomes in the past four years. According to the World Bank, the share of the world population living in extreme poverty declined to 8.6% in 2018. However, the pace of poverty reduction is decelerating. In fact, the number of under-nourished people increased from 795 million in 2015 to an estimated 821 million people in 2017. Unfortunately, both new and known challenges continue to mount. To date, the world is struggling to cope with COVID-19, a world-wide pandemic that caused chain reactions of unprecedented proportions, and industries and markets are all facing the gravest of challenges.

While Asia and Pacific region is home to 60 percent of the world's population of some 4.3 billion, it consists of both some of the largest and smallest population nations in the world, including the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This diversity is accompanied by unequal living status within and among the countries which delays the progress toward sustainable development. To minimize the inequality, cooperation between public and private sectors is much more important than ever.

The Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), a regional Non-Government Organization aiming to increase regional business interaction and to enhance regional economic growth, is continually building partnership and gathering joint efforts among the private sector across the Asia-Pacific region.

CACCI has been collecting best practices within the region for betterment of achieving the SDGs. One of the practices worthy for duplication is the long-term investment from International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF), which is one of the strategic partners of CACCI in achieving its objective in promoting the interest of the private sector in the region. It integrates resources from public and private resources to provide capacity building, financial services, and technology to partner countries in Asia-Pacific.

The TaiwanICDF has identified several development issues for Asia-Pacific, including food insecurity, malnutrition, economic recession, declining use of renewable energy, disparity in quality of education across the region, and insufficient actions for environmental protection. To combat those challenges in more concrete ways, the TaiwanICDF categorizes those issues into three core components for its regional strategy: including sustainable agriculture, economic growth, and human capital development.

Sustainable Agriculture

Most SIDS in the Pacific and South-East Asia are suffering from food insufficiency by limited arable lands and unbalanced diets resulted from high cost of food imported. To deal with those concerns, TaiwanICDF improve food security and crop diversification through better accessibility and availability by enhancing small farmers' production. It also dispatches nutrition specialists to enhance local participation and promote nutrition awareness from school to community and home. For instance, TaiwanICDF provided a stable source of vegetable and fruit seedling, promoted new agricultural skills, and held nutrition workshops through the horticulture projects in Palau and Marshall Islands. As a result, 8 out of 17 elementary schools in Palau established school farms to provide free vegetables and fruits for school lunch two times a week since 2014, where 900 students were benefited from the project.

Economic Growth

To enhance economic growth, TaiwanICDF worked with like-minded private sector to invest in small-medium enterprises (SMEs) development with provision of Science-Technology Innovation (STI) in agribusiness, as well as, home-based working environment to generate higher households' incomes and improve equality for beneficiaries. To illustrate, TaiwanICDF and its partners from the private sector established four smart greenhouses to support the agribusiness development in Indonesia with 60 farmers and 80 extension agents of National Agricultural Training Center trained, and 18 farmers' groups have benefitted from the program. The project area is able to produce quality agricultural products with stable production, which empower them to negotiate a higher price to generate more profit.

To support with a better and affordable environment for income generation and household living, the TaiwanICDF provided around 350 households in Marshall Islands with more efficient or renewable energy through loans. In Myanmar, the TaiwanICDF mobilized private sector resources and provided solar PV mini-grid system from villagers as well as raised energy-saving awareness and system management skills to enhance local resilience. Since 2016, more than a thousand of Burmese households have had power for better standard of living.

Human Capital Development

In terms of human capital development, the TaiwanICDF offers International Higher Education Scholarship Program, Professional Workshops, Healthcare Personnel Training, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to regional participants. All these programs taking place in Taiwan are conducted by academic institutions, industries, corporates, and medical centers, introducing cutting-edge knowledge, information technology, skill, and market demands to global participants. Since 1996, more than 2,500 participants and students from Asia-Pacific have joined those programs and obtained opportunities for better jobs and living standards.

Partnerships for Sustainable Future

To increase the impact of sustainable development, resources from public and private need to be synergized. Among the regions, one of the best practices to mobilize resources is to create business opportunities from sustainable development and share those opportunities and goals with the corporates emphasizing the value of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In 2019, the TaiwanICDF, in partnership with CACCI, jointly held an Asia-Pacific Agribusiness Development and Matching Forum where around 90 government and business representatives from 9 Asia-Pacific countries shared and matched the needs and opportunities for the sustainable development.

Sustainable development requires active participations from all stakeholders. Through public and private partnership, real-time information will be disseminated, sustainable awareness will be raised, and resources will be integrated. While the world is slowly heading toward sustainable development, quick actions must be taken to overcome challenges and crisis, such as weathers extremities and COVID-19, to ensure that we are on track for 2030 Agenda. CACCI, along with its key strategic partners such as TaiwanICDF, believe that we all need to learn from the best practices and paradigms worthy replicating to other countries. We are here to urge civil society, nations and private sector to stand together and jumpstart efforts to achieve a more sustainable future.

Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI)

7F-2, No. 760, Sec. 4 Bade Road, Taipei 10567, Taiwan

Tel: (886 2) 2760-1139; Fax: (886 2) 2760-7569

Email: cacci@cacci.org.tw ; Website: www.cacci.biz