



UNCTAD STI Park Development Project
Workshop on Sci-Tech Park and Incubator Operation and Management
Jointly organized with Wuhan Industrial Institute for Optoelectronics

22 July - 02 August 2024

Wuhan, China

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are key drivers enabling and accelerating the global transformation towards prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economies in developing and developed countries alike. Well-developed and dynamic STI parks play an important role in increasing knowledge and technology flows, supporting technology diffusion and promoting innovation. STI are also critical for countries to recover fully from Covid-19 pandemics and build a better future. STI parks have been operationalized in a wide variety of economic and development contexts to stimulate innovation growth and increase competitiveness. As outlined in UNCTAD's Technology and Innovation report 2018, many parks have experienced a disappointing outcome. While many projects in this area achieve some level of success as commercial ventures, their results are often more limited in terms of their main developmental objectives. Many developing countries are seeking advice on how to develop their own range of STI parks, incubators and accelerators. However, often they face serious capacity bottlenecks in terms of policy formulation and policy implementation as evidenced in the STIP reviews undertaken with assistance from UNCTAD. The UNCTAD project *Science, Technology and Innovation Parks for sustainable development: building expertise in policy and practice in selected Asian and African countries*, funded by 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund will provide practical and hands-on opportunities for successful STI park operators in developing countries to share with their peers in other developing countries their experiences and insights about policies for the creation and management of STI parks and similar initiatives such as incubators and accelerators. It aims at building expertise and enhancing capacity to formulate coherent and integrated policies and institutional frameworks in four beneficiary countries by providing them opportunities for South-South collaboration to learn from other developing countries that have used STI parks, incubators and accelerators successfully.

Objectives

This workshop aims at enhancing beneficiary countries' capacity to design, implement, and manage STI parks. Through an intensive on-site field training courses lasting ten working days in China, participants will engage in a comprehensive program combining visits to successfully operating STI parks and lectures on establishing, developing, and managing STI parks. These activities aim to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective STI park management, encompassing aspects such as policy coherence, financial sustainability, outreach, tenant relations, incubation processes, and the assessment of innovation outcomes.

By bringing together seven policymakers and practitioners from each beneficiary country, the workshops will foster mutual learning and contribute to post-project sustainability. This will be achieved through the creation of national expert networks among the participating countries, facilitating ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange. The diverse mix of participants, including representatives from various ministries, STI parks, and research institutions, is intended to promote the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships, which are essential for the successful implementation of STI park strategies within each beneficiary country.

Participation

The training will take place from 22 July 2024 to 2 August 2024, in Wuhan, China. The working language of the training will be English.

Seven participants per beneficiary country are expected. The expected composition of the participants for each set from each country is as follows:

- Three Deputy Director General or Director-level Policymakers
 - One from Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation
 - One from Ministry of Industry
 - One from Ministry of Investment
- One senior professor specializing in STI park development at a university
- One senior researcher specializing in STI park development at public research institutions
- One manager of an STI park
- One manager of an incubator/accelerator