

# CONCEPT NOTE

## Expert Webinar on Youth-Driven Innovations for Sustainable Development

*A Knowledge Dialogue with Contributing Authors of the Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor (Q1 2026)*

<b>Organizer</b>	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), UNESCAP
<b>Format</b>	Moderated Panel Discussion (Online)
<b>Audience</b>	Open; policymakers, researchers, youth innovators, and development practitioners across Asia and the Pacific
<b>Duration</b>	60 minutes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Date / Time</b>	2 July 2026 (Thursday), 14:00 – 15:00 India Standard Time (IST)

### 1. Background

Youth represent both a critical constituency for sustainable development and a growing source of technological innovation across the Asia-Pacific. As digital technologies reshape economic and social systems, the ability of young people to engage with and deploy these technologies carries significant implications for the region's development trajectory. In this context, APCTT publishes the Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor, a flagship regional publication on technology intelligence and policy. The Q1 2026 edition, themed "Youth-Driven Innovations for Sustainable Development," brought together seven original contributions spanning technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, social enterprise, digital infrastructure and the metaverse across dimensions.

The webinar aims to convene contributing authors in a live dialogue to translate research findings into actionable insights for policymakers and practitioners.

### 2. Rationale

The Q1 2026 Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor is an important contribution to the regional knowledge base, but a written publication is one-directional. A structured webinar creates space for real-time exchange, enabling stakeholders to probe findings and engage beyond the journal's readership. The webinar will adopt a moderated panel discussion format, enabling direct dialogue among contributing authors and substantive engagement with participants on cross-cutting themes.

Two broader considerations support convening this webinar:

- **Knowledge Diffusion:** The seven articles represent a diverse body of evidence across technologies and country contexts. A live dialogue enables this knowledge to reach audiences who engage more readily with discussion than with journal articles.

- Policy Dialogue: The findings carry direct relevance for national policies on youth entrepreneurship, technology transfer, digital infrastructure, and sustainable development. A panel format can help bridge the gap between research and policy application and implementation.

### **3. Objectives**

The webinar seeks to achieve the following:

- Facilitate a live, thematic dialogue on the key findings of the Q1 2026 Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor with a broad regional audience.
- Enable direct exchange between contributing authors and stakeholders, including government officials, researchers, development practitioners, and youth innovators.
- Surface cross-cutting themes, policy implications, and opportunities for regional cooperation across the seven contributions.

### **4. Central Theme and Guiding Questions**

Youth across the Asia-Pacific are increasingly recognized not merely as beneficiaries of technology transfer, but as active agents generating innovations with significant potential for sustainable development. Yet existing technology transfer mechanisms were largely designed for corporate, governmental, and research actors. This webinar examines that gap, drawing on the perspectives presented in the Q1 2026 edition of the Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor.

The panel will be structured around the following guiding questions:

1. Are existing technology transfer mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific equipped to capture, validate, and scale innovations originating from youth? What structural reforms are needed to make these mechanisms more responsive to youth-led models?
2. What institutional, financial, and policy conditions determine whether a youth-driven innovation moves from prototype to meaningful scale? What does the evidence from the Asia-Pacific tell us about what works?
3. Across emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, virtual reality, and the metaverse, which of these hold the greatest transformative potential for youth-led sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific, and what are the most significant barriers to adoption at scale?
4. How do we ensure that youth-driven digital innovations do not replicate or deepen existing inequalities, particularly for youth in rural, low-income, or underserved settings?
5. What steps can governments, regional bodies, and intergovernmental organizations take to build ecosystems where youth innovation is formally recognized, resourced, and integrated into regional technology transfer frameworks?

6. How can technologies such as blockchain and augmented reality reshape trust, transparency, and accountability in technology adoption, and what does this mean for equitable technology transfer and diffusion in the Asia-Pacific?

The following three contributing authors from the Q1 2026 edition of the Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor will compose the panel: Dr. Goksu Aslan, Dr. Samer Abaddi, and Dr. Ravi Sharma. Participants are encouraged to read the relevant articles in advance, available through the Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor, to enable a more substantive and informed discussion.

## 5. Agenda

The webinar will be held online and is expected to run approximately 60 minutes. The session will be structured as follows:

Segment	Description
<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Brief welcome by APCTT, framing the Q1 2026 Tech Monitor and the purpose of the session (approximately 3 minutes).
<b>Presentation 1 – Dr. Goksu Aslan</b>	Drawing on Questions 1 and 5, Dr. Aslan will examine whether existing technology transfer mechanisms are equipped for youth-led innovation and what institutional steps are needed to build enabling ecosystems (approximately 10 minutes).
<b>Presentation 2 – Dr. Samer Abaddi</b>	Drawing on Questions 2 and 3, Dr. Abaddi will address the conditions for scaling youth-driven innovations and the transformative potential of technologies such as large language models and virtual reality (approximately 10 minutes).
<b>Presentation 3 – Dr. Ravi Sharma</b>	Drawing on Questions 4 and 6, Dr. Sharma will address equity in digital innovation and how blockchain and augmented reality can reshape trust, transparency, and equitable technology transfer and diffusion in the Asia-Pacific (approximately 10 minutes).
<b>Open Discussion and Q&amp;A</b>	The floor is opened primarily to the audience for questions and direct engagement with the panellists (approximately 30 minutes). The moderator facilitates the exchange and draws on the guiding questions as backup to sustain discussion where needed.
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Summary of key discussion points and next steps by APCTT.

## 6. Target Audience

The webinar is open to all interested participants and is specifically targeted at:

- Policymakers and government officials responsible for science, technology, and innovation policy, as well as youth-focused development programmes across Asia-Pacific member states.

- Researchers, academics, and think tanks engaged in the study of technology transfer, digital innovation, sustainable development, and youth entrepreneurship.
- Representatives of intergovernmental organizations, development banks, and United Nations entities working on regional technology and development agendas.
- Private sector actors, technology enterprises, and startup ecosystem stakeholders with interests in youth-driven innovation.
- Civil society organizations and youth networks active in sustainable development and technology access advocacy.

## **7. Expected Outcomes**

The webinar is expected to generate the following outcomes:

- A structured policy conversation drawing on cross-cutting themes across the contributions, generating insights that go beyond what the written articles individually address.
- Strengthened connections among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners working on youth innovation and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific.