

APEC STARTUP NETWORK

Connecting APEC Startup Ecosystems

Background

The APEC Startup Network was established under the Jeju Initiative and is managed by the APEC SME Innovation Center. Endorsed at the 31st APEC SME Ministerial Meeting (Jeju, Republic of Korea, 2025), the initiative seeks to accelerate economic growth and strengthen the entrepreneurial landscape of the APEC region by fostering cross-border connections and innovation

Our Goals

The Network aims to build a connected and collaborative startup ecosystem across APEC economies, drive innovation and digital growth, and promote sustainable APEC regional growth

Who We Connect

Startups | Incubators | Accelerators | VC Firms | Investors
Government Agencies | Universities | Industry Associations

Why Join the Network

Join the Annual APEC Startup Innovation Forum

Connect with policymakers, investors, and startups through annual forums that strengthen innovation capabilities by exchanging policy trends, innovative ideas, and best practices

Upcoming Highlights: “Empowering APEC Startups: Strategic Pathways to Global Markets” (Seoul, 9 December 2026), Two upcoming APEC Startup Forums (Republic of Korea, 2027)

Access Network Opportunities

Take part in APEC-wide collaborative activities, connect with key stakeholders, and enhance visibility through official listing on the platform

Upcoming Highlights: Be featured in the network directory and build connections with the APEC startup ecosystem and be part of ongoing information exchange and collaboration

Facilitate Information Exchange and Collaboration

Engage with a growing network of APEC startup ecosystem stakeholders to identify common ground for collaborative initiatives and share information among members

Upcoming Highlights: Participate in follow-up activities such as startup business meetups, IR pitching sessions, VC matchmaking, joint exhibitions, and startup fairs

About Us

The APEC SME Innovation Center (Operated by KOSME*), established under the Daegu Initiative (2005), facilitates the implementation of the Priority Activities of the APEC Startup Alliance.

* KOSME: Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (Website: <https://www.kosmes.or.kr/sbc/SH/EHP/SHEHP001M0.do>)

We have two major goals:

- 1) To help APEC member economies exchange information on SME and startup innovation
- 2) To establish cooperative networks among APEC members for SME and startup innovation

To reach these goals, we:

Organize Forums, Workshops and Seminars to Strengthen SME Innovation Capabilities

Facilitate policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and best practice sharing across APEC economies, including the annual APEC Startup Alliance Forum

Provide Innovation Consulting Support for SMEs in APEC Economies

Deliver tailored consulting through expert dispatch, business diagnostics, and cross-border collaboration to support SME and startup growth

Operate the APEC SME Innovation Center Website

Serve as a central hub for sharing SME innovation data, policy insights, best practices and startup ecosystem resources across APEC economies

Join the APEC Startup Network

Open to All APEC Startup Ecosystem Stakeholders

Be part of a growing APEC-wide network connecting startups, investors, and policymakers across APEC economies. Expand your reach, build strategic partnerships, and unlock new opportunities through cross-border initiatives and collaboration.