

IAF BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Entrepreneurship Around the World (5-GTS.1)

Author: Dr. Sindhu Paramasivam

Asia Pacific Oceania Space Association-APOSA, India, sindhu005@e.ntu.edu.sg

Ms. Runggu Prilia Ardes

Asia Pacific Oceania Space Association-APOSA, Indonesia, rungguprilia@gmail.com

Ms. Aleena Joseph

Asia Pacific Oceania Space Association-APOSA, India, aleenakalayil@gmail.com

Mr. Chawalwat Martkamjan

Asia Pacific Oceania Space Association-APOSA, Thailand, cmartkamjan@gmail.com

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN EMERGING SPACE NATIONS OF ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Abstract

The rise of private actors has propelled the growth of the space industry at an exponential rate. The NewSpace framework has been a key enabler for the entry of many nations into the industry. While NewSpace has brought down the cost of entry and provided easier access to space, still entrepreneurs (also referred to as “astropreneurs”) in emerging space nations are facing many challenges to set up and develop their businesses. This paper aims to systematically analyze the NewSpace support ecosystem available in various emerging space nations of the Asia Pacific (APAC) region and to voice out the challenges in different segments of the NewSpace ecosystem. The first section presents the review of the policy and legal frameworks at the national and regional level, different partnership mechanisms, public procurement, and support schemes, along with suitable examples from the emerging space nations in the region. The next section highlights the future drivers of the industry, information on past investment deals, types of investment (public/private/mixed), and the involvement of public institutions in various APAC nations. Support systems such as incubation centers, startup accelerators, and programs in APAC countries will also be studied. Also, additional supports such as access to facilities, access to the global supply chain, mentorship, and more importantly, an active NewSpace community will also be summarized as it can be impactful on the journey of an astropreneur. The final section spotlights the challenges faced by the astropreneurs in the region, including the identification of gaps and challenges from the current ecosystems. A dedicated effort will be undertaken to map the startups across the region on the space value chain and to gather interviews from different stakeholders to support the findings. At last, this paper will briefly provide strategic policy recommendations to enhance the current ecosystem. For an astropreneur to thrive in an emerging space nation, not only a national governance framework and access to investment opportunity are the necessities but also other support systems as outlined go hand-in-hand.