

## **“Development Implications of Digital Economies” (DIODE) Workshop Report (Yogyakarta, 25-26 May 2017)**

Report of the first workshop of the ESRC GCRF strategic research network, “Development Implications of Digital Economies” (DIODE), held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

### **Themes**

The following research themes relating to digital economies and development emerged from presentations and discussions during the first day of the workshop, and from individual-identified areas for research priority during the second day.

#### ***Cross-Cutting Digital Economy***

##### **Digital Platforms and Development**

- Micro impacts on platform labour: earnings, livelihoods, capabilities
- Micro impact on platform users: development value; inclusion/exclusion
- Digitality: how the designed features of platforms inscribe values and power, and shape outcomes
- Macro impacts: de-institutionalisation and re-institutionalisation; impacts on growth and inequality

##### **Comparative Digital Economy Policy**

- The specific nature of policy across different countries: the assessed impact of such policy on digital economy growth and equity; and the political economy underlying policy design and implementation
- Separate analysis of policy in relation to: digital labour, digital enterprise

##### **Measuring the Digital Economy in Developing Countries**

- New index of digital economy in the global South, reflecting trends in digital platforms, enterprise and labour

#### ***Digital Enterprise***

##### **Hybrid/Tribrid Digital Enterprise**

- The three-way intersection of business and social purposes, and the digital in enterprise; researching the continuum from NGO involvement in the digital economy through digital social enterprise to base-of-the-pyramid digital enterprise to hyper-capitalist platforms
- Developmental impact of tribrid enterprises including growth and inequality (inc. gender and low-income groups)

##### **Digital Enterprise**

- Innovation and product development models inc. co-creation
- Digital start-ups: lean/agile methodologies; reducing entry barriers; networks and clusters

### Value of the Data Economy

- Start-ups solely dedicated to data economy: areas of operation, value creation, challenges, eco-system
- Private / public economic value from data: intra-organisational value from new data streams
- Monetisation of platform data

### ***Digital Labour***

#### The Impacts of Digital Labour

- Micro impacts for individual digital labourers: earnings, livelihoods, capabilities
- Longitudinal impacts: career trajectories in relation to work type, income curve, capability development
- Macro impacts: change to labour market institutions; impacts on growth and inequality

### ***Specific Aspects of the Digital Economy***

#### Grey/Black Digital Economy

- Micro impact of liminal livelihoods
- Livelihood and entrepreneur trajectories
- Role of government and other institutions
- Specific domains: dark web, click farms, cyber-sex, scams

#### Digital Trade

- Definition and measurement of digital trade
- Understanding digital global value chains
- Regulation and promotion of digital trade
- Digital trade as e-commerce and impact on SMME development

#### Digital Finance

- Fintech e.g. role of blockchain and bitcoin in development
- Digital finance platforms and financial inclusion
- Analysis as part of the digital ecosystem underlying digital markets

#### Digital Fabrication and Production

- Development impact of industry 4.0
- Impact of digital fabrication inc. on localisation of production

## Concentrated Research Actions

Within the themes, three topic areas were identified with critical mass and momentum, to be taken forward for development by research sub-groups:

1. Development Impacts of Digital Work: analysing qualitative, quantitative and longitudinal livelihood impacts of digital work in developing countries (Helani Galpaya: [helani@lirneasia.net](mailto:helani@lirneasia.net))
2. Institutions and Platform Labour in the Global South: identifying ways in which labour, government and other institutions can reduce the inequalities associated with platform-enabled work in developing countries (Richard Heeks: [richard.heeks@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:richard.heeks@manchester.ac.uk))
3. The Development Value of Digital Platforms: identifying how to realise the development potential of digital platforms (e.g. finance / data platforms) for users in developing countries (Carla Bonina: [c.bonina@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:c.bonina@surrey.ac.uk))

## Workshop Timetable: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Time	Session	Authors	Title	Chair
0915	Opening Welcome			Richard Heeks
0930	Session 1	Richard Heeks (University of Manchester)	Defining and Measuring the Digital Economy in Developing Countries	MN Ravishankar
1000		Jean-Paul van Belle (University of Cape Town)	Digital Labour in Africa	
1030		Helani Galpaya (LIRNEasia)	Digital Labour in Asia	
1100	Break			
1130	Session 2	Joseph Budu (University of Ghana)	Digital Enterprise in Africa	Richard Heeks
1200		Sumandro Chattapadhyay (CIS India)	Digital Enterprise in Asia	
1230		MN Ravishankar (Loughborough University)	Development Impacts of Digital Enterprises: Some Insights from Indian Start-Ups	
1300	Lunch			
1400	Session 3	Uma Rani Amara (ILO)	How Sustainable is Crowdwor? Work and Income Security among Workers in Platform Economy	Helani Galpaya
1430		Jacki O'Neill (Microsoft Research India)	From Crowdwor to Ola Auto: Can the Gig Economy Improve Livelihoods in Emerging Markets?	
1500		Julie Chen (Chinese University of Hong Kong)	Local Phenomenon or a New Trend? Development Issues and Challenges in Digital Platform Economy in Asian Developing Countries	
1530	Break			
1600	Session 4	Nimmi Rangaswamy (IIT-Hyderabad)	Scoping the Digital in Offshored Work Processes: Digital Labour in an Indian BPO Unit	Sumandro Chattapadhyay
1630		P Vigneswara Ilavarasan (IIT-Delhi)	Enabling Rural Digital Intermediaries or Entrepreneurs in India: A Discussion	
1700		Wirawan Agahari et al (Centre for Innovation Policy and Governance)	Challenges, Prospects, and Agendas for Digital Economy in Indonesia	
1730	Next Steps / Workshop End			Richard Heeks

## Workshop Timetable: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Time	Activity	Lead
<b>Masterclass</b>		
1000	Workshop Introduction	Richard Heeks
1010	Research Topic Selection, Planning and Implementation	MN Ravishankar
1130	Break	
1200	Research Writing	Richard Heeks
1300	Lunch	
<b>Activity Workshop</b>		
1400	Workshop Introduction	Richard Heeks
1410	Research Priorities	Richard Heeks
1530	Break	
1600	Flash Research Proposals	Richard Heeks
1700	Next Steps / Workshop End	Richard Heeks

## Workshop Photograph

