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Net-zero acceleration: Strategic tri-partnership targets climate-tech scale-up in Vietnam

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In a decisive step toward shaping the future of sustainable innovation, Vietnamâ??s Ministry of Finance (MoF), in collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), has unveiled a landmark initiative aimed at mobilising capital and accelerating the growth of climate-tech startups and small businesses. Designed as a multi-dimensional platform bridging Vietnam, South Korea, and global markets, the project reflects a bold vision to transform Vietnam into a dynamic hub for climate innovation while reinforcing its pathway to net-zero emissions.

Launched on April 17, the initiative arrives at a moment of deepening strategic ties between Vietnam and South Korea, underscored by the upcoming state visit of the South Korean President. Beyond diplomatic symbolism, the collaboration signals a structural shift in how nations co-create resilient supply chains and jointly accelerate the decarbonisation of global industries. At its core, the programme positions climate-tech as both an economic opportunity and an environmental imperative.

Structured around twin pillars of market acceleration and policy transformation, the initiative is engineered to deliver impact at scale. On the market front, it will roll out targeted acceleration programmes spanning critical sectorsâ??agriculture, circular economy, and waste management in 2026, followed by renewable energy and transport in 2027. These programmes are

designed not merely to nurture startups but to catapult them into globally competitive enterprises through mentorship, strategic guidance, and access to international capital networks.

Complementing this is a robust policy and institutional strengthening agenda. The project will work closely with central and provincial authorities to refine frameworks for green investment, enhance the appraisal of climate-aligned projects, and embed net-zero objectives into Vietnamâ??s socioeconomic development blueprint for 2026â??2030. This dual approach ensures that innovation is matched by an enabling ecosystem capable of sustaining long-term growth.

The initiative also confronts a critical gap in Vietnamâ??s climate-tech landscape: the challenge of scaling innovation. While the country has made notable strides in policy and industrial readiness, startups continue to face barriers in commercialisation, market entry, and access to finance. By integrating global expertise with local insight, the platform aims to dismantle these barriers, streamline market-entry pathways, and create fertile ground for both domestic and international innovators.

A flagship component of the programme, the â??Climate Tech Catalyst: Vietnam and Beyond,â? exemplifies this ambition. Across two cohorts in 2026 and 2027, the accelerator will select a total of 30 high-potential companies, offering them a comprehensive support ecosystem that includes expert mentorship, business model refinement, investor matchmaking, and global market access. Participants will also benefit from grant funding of up to $240,000, providing critical early-stage capital to scale their solutions.

The 2026 cohort will spotlight innovations in agriculture and the circular economyâ??sectors central to Vietnamâ??s emissions reduction goals and economic transformationâ??while the 2027 cohort will pivot toward renewable energy and transport, aligning with the next phase of the countryâ??s decarbonisation journey. Strategic partners, including Vietnam Silicon Valley Capital and South Koreaâ??s MYSC, will play a pivotal role in guiding startups through this journey, leveraging their expertise in venture building and impact investment.

At a broader level, the initiative represents a sophisticated convergence of finance, technology, and policyâ??an emerging blueprint for climate-driven economic development. By aligning investment flows with innovation pipelines and regulatory frameworks, MoF, KOICA, and GGGI are not only catalysing a new generation of climate-tech enterprises but also redefining how nations collaborate to tackle the defining challenge of our time.

As Vietnam positions itself at the forefront of the global green transition, this partnership stands as a testament to the power of cross-border collaboration in unlocking sustainable growth, fostering innovation, and building a resilient, net-zero future.