ONLINE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH-EAST ASIA SKILLS FORUM
29 – 30 MARCH 2022

Information Note
BACKGROUND

The negative impact of COVID-19 in employment and incomes across South-East Asia has been significant, with greater impact of the crisis on women, young people and other vulnerable workers in terms of employment and income losses. As a result of COVID-19 South-East Asian economies face an unprecedented crisis, which requires policy responses to support a human-centred recovery, with emphasis on ensuring that hard-hit socio-economic groups such as women, young people and low-skilled and low-paid workers are supported in accessing skills and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems and transition to decent and greener jobs.

A Rapid Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods across ASEAN released in December 2020 highlighted the need to promote and coordinate regional dialogue on adapting TVET and Higher Education (HE) to the post COVID-19 future of work, including the urgent need to revamp TVET and HE curriculum to respond to the rapidly changing skills needs in South-East Asia.

Despite the current challenges, there are signs of a recovery already, with evidence of a significant rebound in economic activity and labour markets during the second half of 2021. However, the recovery during 2022 will continue to be uneven across countries, economic sectors and socio-economic groups and subject to great uncertainties, threatening to increase inequality within and between countries in South-East Asia. In this context, future policy formulation should prioritize the transition to a more inclusive and greener economy addressing existing and future skills mismatches that limit countries’ abilities to create decent and greener jobs.

As part of the policy focus on human resource development in ASEAN, on 26 June 2020, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States issued the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work at the 36th ASEAN Summit. The Declaration calls for Member States to promote policies and initiatives for lifelong learning which encompasses key stages of education and training and skills development in organizations that will meet current and future skills needs and allow occupational mobility and career development.

Thus, the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work presents a unique window of opportunity for countries in South-East Asia to prioritize the development of effective policies and strategies supporting reskilling and/or upskilling of the workforce with the ultimate objective to facilitate a sustainable transition to a more inclusive and greener future. In addition, green jobs are a high priority in ASEAN as well, as reflected by the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth at the ASEAN Summit in November 2018. In the Declaration, ASEAN Member States committed to...
initiate formulation, coordination, promotion, research and development of TVET on green skills and national TVET competency certification systems that respond to the new demand of skills and employment changes as a result of climate change.

Therefore, the South-East Asia Skills Forum aims to promote effective dialogue among policymakers, representatives of employers and workers, academia and the civil society at large on how to formulate and evaluate future policies and strategies on lifelong learning, with particular focus on innovative approaches to reskilling and upskilling the workforce and through this respond to changing labour market needs as a result of COVID-19 crisis, climate change and the impact of the fourth industrial revolution in future skills needs.

To advance in development of effective lifelong learning systems in South-East Asia that respond to future skills needs and supports recovery and transition, regional dialogue and knowledge sharing becomes fundamental. Thus, to address these challenges, the South-East Asia Skills Forum will promote knowledge sharing and policy dialogue on how the skills and TVET systems in the region might supply demand driven skills for emerging occupations as well as those necessary for supporting transformation of existing jobs.

**OBJECTIVE**

To support employment recovery and the creation of decent and greener jobs that ensure women and other vulnerable groups such as young people and low-skilled and low-paid workers benefit from economic growth, the ILO with support from the UK government is organizing a South-East Asia Skills Forum with the objective to promote regional policy dialogue and collaboration in the development of effective policies and strategies for improving lifelong learning systems. The Forum intends to provide a platform for policymakers, representatives of employers and workers and academia to discuss and build consensus on innovative and effective approaches to accelerate economic recovery and transition towards a more inclusive and greener future through improved skills and TVET systems.

For this, a series of panel discussions will be hosted during two days with participation of key speakers from different countries. The panel sessions will promote knowledge sharing and mutual understanding in developing effective lifelong learning strategies and systems -with particular focus on reskilling, upskilling and learning- that support a more inclusive and greener transition whilst ensuring greater opportunities to access decent jobs are provided to the workforce in South-East Asia.
## Welcome remarks

13:00h – 13:15h

**Moderator:** Andreas Klemmer, Director of Training, ITCILO

**Speaker:**
- H.E. Jon Lambe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyamaka, ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for ILO Office for Asia and the Pacific

### Introductory video presenting the key topics for discussion during the forum/event

13:15h – 14:25h

**Moderator:** Mr. Srinivas B. Reddy, Chief, ILO Skills and Employability Branch

**Speaker:**
- Ms. Mega Irena, Head of Labour and Civil Service Division at the ASEAN Secretariat (tbc)
- Mr. Hariyadi Sukamdani, ASEAN Confederation of Employers, President
- Mr. Ruben Torres, General Secretary at ASEAN Trade Union Council

The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment combined with the rapidly changing skills needs as a result of automation have increased interest from governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations and education institutions to promote lifelong learning. This session will look at the existing challenges and lessons learned in the past year in promoting inclusive economic recovery and shed light on the future skills needs to transition to a more inclusive and greener future.

### Young Voices

14:25h – 14:35h

**Moderator:** Young voice from ASEAN

**Speaker:** Ms. Nayab Zahra, ITU Generation Connect

### Lifelong learning to build back better: Relevant reskilling and upskilling initiatives

14:35h – 15:45h

**Moderator:** Akiko Sakamoto, Regional Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO Bangkok

**Speaker:**
- Mr. Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC
- Dr. Soon-joo Gog, Chief Skills Officer, SkillsFuture Singapore
- Mr. Tony Asper, Senior Vice President for Political and External Affairs, Federation of Free Workers, Philippines
- Mr. Datuk Hj Shamsuddin Bardan, Executive Director at the Malaysian Employers Federation
- Mr. Paul Comyn, Senior Skills and Lifelong Learning Specialist, ILO Geneva

One of the most widespread effect of the COVID-19 crisis and the fourth industrial revolution on employment is the need to upgrade the skills of the workforce. Improving access and participation of vulnerable groups (i.e. women, youth and low-skilled and paid workers) to reskilling, upskilling and learning initiatives becomes critical to build back better. This session will present good practices on the role of the TVET system and the private sector facilitating labour transitions, with particular emphasis on innovative public-private collaboration mechanisms.

### Tech-Break (Skills Development and Career Guidance)

15:45h – 16:05h

**Moderator:** Stefano Merante, TVET/Skills Development Programme Officer, ITCILO

**Speaker:**
- Mr. Antonio Fernandez, Seabery
- Ms. Azza El-Hayek, SkillLab
| 16:05h – 17:15h | **Skills for a greener future: Challenges and opportunities developing skills for a greener transition** | Cezar Dragutan, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO Manila | Ms. Chiara Riondino, Head of Unit for Vocational Education and Training, Apprenticeships and Adult learning, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission |
| | | | Ms. Rosanna Urdaneta, Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines |
| | | | Representative of TUC Green Skills at Work (tbc) |
| | | | Representative of Employers from China (tbc) |

The transition to a more innovative, inclusive and greener economy has great employment potential, creating millions of jobs in South-East Asia both directly and indirectly through supply chains in the long-term. However, without a skilled and trained workforce, the transformation to a technologically advanced and greener economy as well as the much-needed inclusive economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis might not be feasible. This session will look at effective lifelong learning approaches to ensure today’s skills will match tomorrow jobs and skills acquired today do not become obsolete in the near future.
30 March 2022 (Bangkok time, GMT+7)

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:00h –</td>
<td>Introduction to Day 2: Reflections and insights from Day 1 and introduction to Day 2</td>
<td>Stefano Merante, TVET/Skills Development Programme Officer, ITCILO</td>
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<td>13:15h –</td>
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<td>Representative of UK TVET Institution (tbc)</td>
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<td>13:15h –</td>
<td>Fireplace chat on skills for social inclusion</td>
<td>Christine Hofmann, Team Lead Skills for Social Inclusion, ILO Geneva</td>
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<td>13:35h –</td>
<td>Skills for a more inclusive and sustainable growth: How access and participation to lifelong learning facilitates social inclusion.</td>
<td>Mary Kent, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO Jakarta</td>
<td>Ms. Suharti Sutar, Secretary General, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Indonesia (tbc)</td>
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<td>13:35h –</td>
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<td>Mr. Mohd Yusuri Yusof, Executive Director, Kedah Industrial Skills and Management Development Centre (KISMEC), Malaysia (tbc)</td>
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<td>13:35h –</td>
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<td>Dr. Sheryl Lyn C. Monterola, Director at the National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development and Professor, College of Education at the University of the Philippines</td>
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<td>14:15h –</td>
<td>The future skillset of the 21st century, focus on digital skills</td>
<td>Representative of the World Economic Forum (tbc)</td>
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<td>14:30h –</td>
<td>Effective anticipation and matching of future skills: How implementation mechanisms and supporting systems might improve the impact of learning and contribute to build a more resilient workforce</td>
<td>Junichi Mori, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>Ms. Olga Strietska-Iliina, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO Geneva</td>
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<td>14:30h –</td>
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<td>Mr. Luqman Bin Ahmad, Director, Human Capital Development Division, Economic Planning Unit (EPU), Malaysia (tbc)</td>
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<td>14:30h –</td>
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<td>Representative of a UK Sectoral Skills Council (tbc)</td>
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<td>15:30h –</td>
<td>Tech-Break (Social Inclusion and Skills Anticipation)</td>
<td>Alejandro Rojas Ramos, Lifelong Learning Officer, ITCILO</td>
<td>Mr. Thadeu Luz, Demo of Hand Talk</td>
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<td>15:30h –</td>
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<td>Ms. Karine Sonigo, Skills Digitalization Specialist, ILO Skills &amp; Employability Branch, Geneva and Mr. Julien Magnat, ILO Regional Specialist, Skills and Employability, Bangkok</td>
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15:50h – 16:35h  **Case Studies: Practical application of the topics discussed in the panels**  
Stefano Merante, TVET/Skills Development Programme Officer, ITCILO  
Mr. Jordi Prat Tuca, Regional Technical and Programme Coordinator, Skills for Prosperity in South-East Asia, ILO Bangkok  
J.P. Morgan Global Philanthropy Asia Pacific (tbc)  
Ms. Glenda Quintini, Senior Economist, Employment Labour and Social Affairs Directorate, OECD

16:35h – 17:00h  **Reflections and Way Forward**  
Akiko Sakamoto, Regional Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO Bangkok  
Mr. Danang Girindrawardana, Secretary General, ASEAN Confederation of Employers  
Representative of the ASEAN Trade Union Council (tbc)

17:00h – 17:15h  **Closing remarks**  
Snehal Soneji, Programme Officer, EPAP Programme ITCILO  
Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Deputy Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
UK Government representative (tbc)

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**ABOUT THE ORGANIZER**

The *Skills for Prosperity in South-East Asia Programme* (SfP-SEA), funded by the United Kingdom government, aims to contribute to increasing national capacity to achieve sustained and inclusive growth through the enhancement of skills development and TVET systems in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The programme works with government, employers’ organizations, trade unions, educational institutions and other partners in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to facilitate review and reform of the countries’ skills development and TVET system strategies and policies. In the region, the SfP-SEA programme provides opportunities for mutual learning among the three countries, the other ASEAN nations and beyond, not only showcasing the results and lessons learned from the programme, but also facilitating the sharing of best practices in the region and other parts of the world, including relevant international approaches to skills anticipation and matching.