



ONLINE

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH-EAST ASIA SKILLS FORUM

29 – 30 MARCH 2022

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



UK Government

Skills
for prosperity
South East Asia



International Training Centre

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.

29 March 2022 (Bangkok time, GMT+7)

Time	Item	Moderator	Speaker
13:00h – 13:15h	Welcome remarks	Andreas Klemmer, Director of Training, ITCILO	H.E. Jon Lambe, United Kingdom Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ms. Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa, 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	Skills for a more inclusive and sustainable future	Mr. Srinivas B. Reddy, Chief, ILO Skills and Employability Branch	Ms. Mega Irena, Head of Labour and Civil Service Division at the ASEAN Secretariat Mr. Hariyadi Sukamdani, President at the ASEAN Confederation of Employers Mr. Ruben Torres, General Secretary at ASEAN Trade Union Council
<p>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 strengthen skills and TVET systems in ASEAN. As part of the policy focus on human resource development in ASEAN, in 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 adoption of the ASEAN Declaration prioritizes the development of effective policies and strategies supporting reskilling and upskilling of the workforce with the ultimate objective to facilitate a sustainable transition to a more inclusive and greener future.</p> <p>This session will look at the challenges, initiatives, and way forward from a regional perspective in promoting skills and TVET system development to achieve inclusive economic recovery. The session will also shed light on the future skills-related policy directions on transition to a more inclusive and greener future in ASEAN.</p>			
14:25h – 14:35h	Young Voices		Young voices from ASEAN Ms. Nayab Zahra, ITU Generation Connect
14:35h – 15:45h	Lifelong learning to build back better: Relevant reskilling and upskilling initiatives	Akiko Sakamoto, Regional Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO Bangkok	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 Employability Specialist, ILO Geneva
<p>One of the most widespread effects 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 work-to-work transitions, with particular emphasis on innovative lifelong learning policies and strategies and public-private collaboration mechanisms.</p>			

15:45h – 16:05h	Tech-Break (Skills Development and Career Guidance)	Stefano Merante, TVET/Skills Development Programme Officer, ITCILO	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	Mr. Tim Schreiber, Policy Officer, Skills for the green transition, Innovation in VET and Higher VET, European Commission Ms. Rosanna Urdaneta, Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines Mr Hiten Parmar, uYilo eMobility Programme Director, South Africa Nuwong CHOLLACOOP, Ph.D. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Research Team Leader, National Energy Technology Center (ENTEC)

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 skills and TVET system development approaches to ensure today's skills will match tomorrow's jobs, and that skills acquired today contribute to a greener future.

30 March 2022 (Bangkok time, GMT+7)

Time	Item	Moderator	Speaker
13:00h – 13:15h	Introduction to Day 2: Reflections and insights from Day 1 and introduction to Day 2	Stefano Merante, TVET/Skills Development Programme Officer, ITCILO	
13:15h – 13:35h	Fireplace chat on skills for social inclusion	Christine Hofmann, Team Lead Skills for Social Inclusion, ILO Geneva	Dr. Paul Little, Principal & Chief Executive Officer at City of Glasgow College
13:35h – 14:15h	Skills for a more inclusive and sustainable growth: How access and participation to lifelong learning facilitates social inclusion.	Mary Kent, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO Jakarta	Dr. Wikan Sakarinto, Director General of Vocational Education, Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology Mr. Mohd Yusuri Yusof, Executive Director, Kedah Industrial Skills and Management Development Centre (KISMEC), Malaysia 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
<p>The negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis in terms of income and job losses among vulnerable groups, women and low-skilled workers has been greater comparing to men and high skilled workers. To improve employability among socially disadvantaged groups and support their career progression it is necessary to enhance the inclusiveness of skills and TVET systems, so that those provide equal opportunities, help redress inequalities, and deliver social justice for all. This session will look at good practices in providing greater chances for vulnerable groups to access and participate in skills development and ultimately eliminate existing discrimination and exclusion in skills and TVET systems.</p>			
14:15h – 14:35h	Digital and green transformation of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand	Alejandro Rojas Ramos, Lifelong Learning Officer, ITCILO	Mr. Julien Magnat, Regional Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO Bangkok Ms. Karine Sonigo, Skills Digitalization Specialist, Skills & Employability Branch, ILO Geneva
14:35h – 15:45h	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	Junichi Mori, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO Kuala Lumpur	Ms. Noraliza Mohamad Ali, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Malaysian Bureau of Labour Statistics (MBLS), Department of Statistics, Malaysia Ms. Jane Rexworthy, Executive Director, People 1 st International Ms. Monica Tepfer, departamento jurídico de la Union Obrera de la Construcción de la República Argentina (UOCRA) y Secretaria de Relaciones Internacionales de la CGTRA (Confederación General del Trabajo de la República Argentina) Ms. Olga Strietska-Ilina, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO Geneva
<p>To mitigate the negative consequences of the pandemic and contribute to build back better it is essential to develop effective mechanisms and supporting systems that improve skills development and employment outcomes and through this build a more resilient workforce. This session will present concrete examples of supporting mechanisms and their impacts in learning and present key findings from past experience in different regions.</p>			

15:45h – 16:00h	Global collaboration in TVET: A UK example	Stefano Merante, TVET/Skills Development Programme Officer, ITCILO	Mr. Tony Medhurst, Principal and Chief Executive, Hertford Regional College UK
16:00h – 16:45h	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 Ms. Glenda Quintini, Senior Economist, Employment Labour and Social Affairs Directorate, OECD
16:45h – 17:15h	Way forward and future priority actions	Akiko Sakamoto, Regional Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO Bangkok	Ms. Mega Irena, Head of Labour and Civil Service Division at the ASEAN Secretariat Mr. Danang Girindrawardana, Secretary General, ASEAN Confederation of Employers Mr. Ruben Torres, General Secretary at ASEAN Trade Union Council
17:15h – 17:25h	Closing remarks		Mr. Kebur Azbaha, Counsellor and Head of Prosperity and Economics Team at the British High Commission Malaysia – UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Deputy Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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.

INFO

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

International Training Centre of the ILO

Employment Policy and Analysis

Programme (EPAP)

Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10

10127 Turin – Italy

skillsdevelopment@itcilo.org

www.itcilo.org

COURSE CODE: A3715342