Upskilling and reskilling MSMEs workers and entrepreneurs

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APEC Webinar on Managing the long-term economic effects of the flexible work arrangements 25 February 2021
ERIA Renews MoU with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

Representatives from various ASEAN countries and Japan signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today in Jakarta. The event was hosted by the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and was attended by Global Director and President of ERIA, Mr. Koji Yamada. The ceremony took place in the presence of AIPA's Chairperson, Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament, Mr. Zulkifli Hasan. Following the signing ceremony, AIPA's General Secretary, Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, delivered a speech.

As a result of the MoU, ERIA and AIPA will continue to cooperate in areas such as capacity building, research, and policy analysis. This partnership is expected to contribute to the advancement of ASEAN integration and the development of East Asia.

ERIA and AIPA are committed to working together to improve regional cooperation and integration, and to contribute to the economic and social development of the ASEAN region and East Asia.
Towards digital economies
*a spectacular acceleration across ASEAN*...

- The ASEAN region is one of the **fastest growing digital economies** in the world

- The number of **digital consumers** nearly tripled between 2015 and 2018 from 90 million in 2015 to 250 million in 2018 to 310 million by the end of 2020. The pandemic is dramatically accelerating this trend and according to some recent estimates (Facebook and Bain & Company 2020, McKinsey 2020)

- Country examples: **Indonesia’s e-commerce market is booming** at the rate of over 30% per year. **Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia are also projected to experience double-digit growth** (ERIA 2017)

- ASEAN economies are **global leader in terms of e-wallets and digital payment adoption**. At least 10% of the adult populations of Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and Singapore already use e-wallets, well ahead of those of advanced economies (BCG 2020)
... which MSMEs managers and workers need to benefit from...

- MSMEs are undoubtedly the backbone of ASEAN’s diverse and dynamic economy, accounting for 95%–99% of all business establishments and more than half of the total employment in all ASEAN Member States (AMS).

- Many ASEAN MSMEs still struggle to adopt and use digital technologies and tools (ERIA, 2019) compared with larger companies with more resources to invest in training, reskilling, and upskilling.

Source: ERIA (2019)
by acquiring new and relevant skills sets...

- Education systems need to prepare the future labour workforce with a growing set of inter-related and complementary skills including cognitive skills, socio-emotional skills, and technical skills. Non-cognitive include skills such as team-working, social empathy, leadership, and management skills.

- Collaborative partnerships amongst different actors are emerging, e.g. higher education institutions - the business sector – governments. Examples: ‘Go Digital ASEAN’ initiative – a partnership between The Asia Foundation, Google.org and ASEAN – ASEAN Digital champions taking an active role Bukalapak – Tokopedia and others training MSMEs to go online -
... to make the digital transformation inclusive!

- In the region people with best connectivity and digital skills tend to be men in metropolitan areas. **Women and rural communities are disadvantaged** (Sey 2021, The Asia Foundation 2020)

- Women are more likely to lack advanced digital skills and are generally underrepresented in STEM jobs. Which is an obstacle for them to **thrive** and become digital leaders

![Women Are a Minority in Tech Occupations in ASEAN](chart.png)

Source: Ajmone Marsan and Sey (2021)
For further reading (and watching)


ERIA (2020), ERIA video on The future of work in ASEAN, available at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWClhwI4oDPZ931pytvffTocTqFoLRRk


For those who are interested...

Feel free to join - Registration link here -> **https://bit.ly/2Zlhb4l**
Thank you!
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