



CONCEPT NOTE

'ASEAN on Point' Public Forum

Preparing ASEAN Workforce for Post-COVID-19

Tuesday, 20 April 2021

2:30 PM to 4:00 PM (UTC+7; Jakarta time) or 3:30 to 5:00 PM (UTC+8; Manila Time)

BACKGROUND

In response to the global coronavirus pandemic, the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), is co-hosting a series of public forums – 'ASEAN on Point' - to address issues of importance to the advancement of ASEAN. The forums will provide a platform to bring together representatives of diverse stakeholders to share knowledge on the latest research and insights on relevant topics on post-pandemic recovery for the policy discourse. The insights and recommendations from the forums are intended to contribute to different sectoral work in ASEAN towards recovery. The vision of these Forums is to 'Build Back Better' in ensuring the region's recovery policies result into a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable region.

The digital and technological transformation and Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) bring implications to the economies, industries and employment across ASEAN. Job creation or transformation, innovations, evolving job categories/ descriptions, intensified productivity, skills gap, adaptability of human resources and education to the changing labour market demands, life-long learning culture through up-skilling and re-skilling, and new forms of employment relations are some of the emerging issues that need to be addressed. Especially in light of the impact of COVID-19 on the ASEAN socio-economic spheres, ASEAN needs to manage the transition by preparing its human resources for the future of work. Skills development through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and life-long learning are key to building back better. With the capacity of TVET to rapidly respond to changing labour markets, it has the potential to: (i) support employment opportunities, (ii) increase competency and productivity, (iii) improve income of workers, (iv) promote enterprise competitiveness, (v) heighten job security, and (vi) support digital skills to advance in line with Industry 4.0.

In this view, ASEC and ERIA, in coordination with the Department of Education (Dep-Ed) of the Philippines who is also the Chair of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED) will be jointly organising a special episode on TVET titled 'Preparing ASEAN Workforce for Post-COVID-19'. This forum will also serve as the 3rd episode of the 2021 ASEAN and SEAMEO Month Webinar Series, the initiative spearheaded by the Dep-Ed Philippines, aimed at providing platform for sharing of regional policy responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Some of the topics to be featured in this episode include: TVET governance, quality and financing, particularly with respect to participation rates, access to formal and non-formal TVET especially in rural areas, public spending for TVET, quality of TVET and its relevance to the needs of businesses and industries in the ASEAN region.

The Forum will focus on the opportunity to accelerate the transition to an ASEAN workforce that is ready to take on the jobs that will come with Industry 4.0, highlighting the challenges faced by the TVET sector as well as discussing policy options to overcome the adverse impacts of COVID-19.

DATE AND TIME

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OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR

- Exchange views on the role of TVET in ASEAN's post-pandemic recovery, as defined in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework Implementation Plan, the Roadmap of the Declaration on Human Resources for the Changing World of Work, and the future work of the recently established ASEAN TVET Council;
- Analyse the previous, current, and future situation of TVET in ASEAN;
- Identify opportunities to enhance resilience and sustainability as well as to promote investment in the training sector;
- Provide recommendations and policy options for accelerating actions in TVET;
- Address various aspects of economic recovery in TVET in ASEAN;
- Promote a positive image of TVET as a viable career path for learners through exchange of success stories, involving a female role model

OUTCOMES

The organisers will develop a summary report of the Webinar, with a set of recommendations. It is expected that the recommendations will focus on the following:

- (1) How TVET systems can be reimagined and redesigned in the post-pandemic new normal, with particular emphasis on leveraging opportunities for accelerating digitalisation and the promotion of transferable skills;
- (2) How ASEAN could foster resilient TVET systems to enable learners and workers to continuously adapt, reskill and upskill to meet the changing demands of the Future of Work and contribute towards ASEAN's post-COVID recovery and resilience;
- (3) How TVET can work together with existing education systems to provide holistic skills development opportunities for students;
- (4) How TVET providers engage the industries that employ their graduates;
- (5) What policy measures should governments adopt to make TVET systems more adaptive to changing times;



FORMAT

Hosted by ERIA, ASEC and Dep-Ed Philippines, the Webinar will last 1.5 hours via Zoom platform with a moderated panel discussion. ERIA, ASEAN Secretariat and Dep-Ed Philippines will be represented at the forum.

PANELISTS

- Ms Rosanna A. Urdaneta, Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines
theme: Developing an adaptive, resilient, and future ready TVET systems in ASEAN
- Mr Ingo Imhoff, Programme Director, Regional Cooperation in TVET (RECOTVET)
theme: Reimagining and redesigning TVET in the post-pandemic ASEAN
- Mr Eugene Ho, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, East Asia & Pacific, SAP
theme: Enabling Youth Employability for Industry 4.0'
- Ms Huynh Thanh Tam, Product Measurement Consultant, Product Quality Department, Bosch Vietnam Co., Ltd
theme: Success stories and experience on careers pathways with TVET

MODERATOR

Dr Rashesh Shresta, ERIA Economist

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will come from the public and private sectors, academia, international organisations and civil society. The nature of these forums is public. The event will be recorded and posted online.

TIME	AGENDA
2:30-2:45 PM	<p>Welcoming Remarks and MC: Ms Lydia Ruddy, Director of Communications, ERIA</p> <p>Opening Remarks: H.E. Kung Phoak Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community</p> <p>Mr Jesus Lorenzo R. Mateo Undersecretary for Planning, Human Resources and Organizational Development, and Field Operations of the Department of Education Philippines Chairperson of the ASEAN Senior Official Meeting on Education (SOM-ED)</p>
2:45-3:15 PM	<p>Moderator: Dr Rashesh Shrestha, ERIA Economist</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Rosanna A. Urdaneta, Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines • Mr Ingo Imhoff, Programme Director, Regional Cooperation Programme in TVET (RECOTVET) • Mr Eugene Ho, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, East Asia & Pacific, SAP • Ms Huynh Thanh Tam, Product Measurement Consultant, Product Quality Department, Bosch Vietnam Co., Ltd <p>Each panelist will deliver a 5-minute presentation on the selected topic</p>
3:15-4:00 PM	<p>Open Discussion with Q & A</p>
	<p>Closing Remarks Ms Lydia Ruddy, Director of Communications, ERIA</p>