



Skills for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Asia-Pacific

Skills Development

An International Forum

10-12 December 2012 • Auditorium • Asian Development Bank • Manila, Philippines



Pre-Forum Workshop:

Does Asia Need a Unique Model for Skills Development?

Monday, 10 December 2012

It is a considerable challenge to ensure that training and education systems provide skills needed in the labor market. This is particularly the case since there is a discernible bias towards university education in developing countries, despite the fact that many of the good jobs of the future are likely to be found in trades and technical areas. There is poor communication between the private sector and training providers on training needs. While skills-jobs mismatches are a global problem, the problem in Asia appears to be particularly acute as surveys reveal that employers in Asia have greater problems in filling positions. Labor markets in Asia are characterized by a large prevalence of informal markets and vulnerable, more unpredictable employment opportunities. At the same time, developed nations in Asia are at the technological frontier, leading innovation for mass markets and new product development. While Asia has the lion's share of the world's illiterates, it is also home to high levels of skills and entrepreneurial talent. It is this diversity that makes policy making both complex and interesting.

This one-day workshop will serve to explore ideas and initiatives that may be most suited to the Asian region. It will present case studies from middle to high income countries in Asia and review completed and ongoing research on skills in Asia. A recent analysis conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development Local Economic and Employment Division Employment and Skills Strategies in Southeast Asia (OECD LEED ESSSA) Program in 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific will be shared; and case studies from Korea will be presented. Ongoing research by the Asian Development Bank on skills for greening economies, and the Results for Development Institute on innovative models for skills in secondary education will be discussed. Reform initiatives currently underway in skills and secondary education will be shared. These provide the platform to explore how skills development enable low income countries to move towards middle income levels and how middle income countries move to high income levels.

Issues to be discussed include: What skills development pathways are being adopted by middle income and high income Asian economies? Are pathways for smaller economies different and (if so) why? What are the lessons to be learnt and what best practices can be identified across the region? What are the implementation bottlenecks? The pre-forum will discuss these questions, share experiences among Asian countries and in so doing seek to clarify and advance the agenda of skills development in Asia.

09:00 – 09:10 AM

Opening Remarks and Welcome:

Mr. Jouko Sarvi, Chair, Education Sector Community of Practice, Asian Development Bank, Manila

Ms. Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, Senior Policy Analyst, LEED Program and Manager of the ESSSA Initiative, OECD, Paris

09:10 – 10:10 AM

Session 1 - Trends and Issues in Skills Development and Jobs in Asia: What Pathways are Best Suited for Asia?

Chair: Ms. Shanti Jagannathan, Senior Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila

Speakers:

- 1) [Skills Development Pathways in Asia](#)
Ms. Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, Policy Analyst, LEED Program and Manager of the ESSSA Initiative, OECD, Paris
- 2) [Policy Cases of Skills Development in Korea: “Industry-Academia Partnerships”](#)
Ms. Jisun Chung, Director for Global Cooperation, Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET), Seoul
- 3) [Meeting the Challenges of Skilled Workforce Development in Malaysia](#)
Mr. Mohamad Yaacob, Director, National Dual Training System, Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysia

Q & A

10:10 – 10:50 AM

Coffee / Tea Break

10:50 – 11:50 PM

Session 2 - Innovative Approaches in Secondary Education and Skills: Strengthening the Foundation for Skills and Jobs

Chair: Prof. Rupert Maclean, Chair Professor for International Education, Hong Kong Institute of Education

Speakers:

- 1) [Innovative Approaches in Secondary Education and Skills: Strengthening the Foundation for Skills and Jobs](#)
Mr. Weerakoon Mudiyansele Abeyrathne Bandara, Director General, National Institute of Education, Sri Lanka
- 2) [Innovative Secondary Education for Skills Enhancement](#)
Ms. Michelle Engmann, Senior Programme Associate, Results for Development Institute, Washington
- 3) [Innovation in Skill Development in Secondary Education: Issues and Constraints](#)
Mr. Norman LaRocque, Senior Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila

Q & A

12:00 – 01:30PM

Lunch

01:30 – 02:30 PM

Session 3 – Responding to Greening Economies: How Well are Education and Training Doing? Insights from Case Studies of Korea and Ongoing Research in South Asia and South East Asia.**Chair:** Mr. Daniele Ponzi, Lead Environment Specialist, Environment and Safeguards Division, Regional and Sustainable Development Department**Speakers:**

1. [Responding to Greening Economies: How Well are Education and Training Doing?](#)
Dr. Namchul Lee, Director, Office of Research in Integration of Education, Training and Labor, KRIVET, Korea
2. [Skills Development for Green Jobs in Singapore](#)
Mr. Patrick Chan, Head, Industry Development, Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore (ICPAS), Singapore
3. [Formal TVET: Exploring the Opportunities](#)
Dr. Margarita Pavlova, Technical Education and Vocational Training (TEVT) Specialist on Green Jobs, Griffith University, Brisbane

Q & A

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Coffee / Tea Break

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Session 4 – Summing Up: Does Asia Need a Unique Model for Skills Development?

Chair: Prof. Kenneth King, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Panelists:

- 1) Dr. Santosh Mehrotra, Director General, Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Planning Commission, India
- 2) Ms. Anchana Keskanda, Director of Labour College, Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Human Resources, Thailand
- 3) Ms. Belinda Smith, ADB Consultant on Private Sector Skills
- 4) Ms. Akiko Sakamoto, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist Systems, International Labor Organization, Bangkok

4:00 – 4.20 PM

Closing Remarks:

Ms. Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, Policy Analyst, LEED Program and Manager of the ESSSA Initiative, OECD, Paris

Ms. Shanti Jagannathan, Senior Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila

End of Pre-Forum Workshop
