



# Upgrading Human Capital and Skills Development for Future Asia

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ADB | ASIAN THINK TANK  
DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2018



Australian  
National  
University

22-23 August 2018  
Mills Room, Chancelry Building  
Crawford School of Public Policy  
Australian National University, Canberra

Technological advancement and associated industrial transformation will likely accompany fundamental changes in how we work - machineries and artificial intelligence (AI) perform duties beyond routine and manual tasks while cyber working platforms such as mobile office and cloud sourcing allow tasks to be divided and performed anywhere by anyone with the right skills and equipment. In developing Asia, workers are moving rapidly from agriculture to manufacturing and services resulting in an increasing demand for skilled workers.

Human capital and skills development interventions from primary to higher education and technical-vocational trainings must adopt quickly to meet the changing demand for skills. As uncertain as we are on how the future work would look like, it is increasingly important to equip workers to “learn to learn” and be adaptable. Lifelong training is essential in upgrading and acquiring new skills to improve employability and productivity of workforce, including youth who have long working life ahead. Skills development and technologies that boost the productivity of senior workforce are crucial to some of the aging and aged societies.

The Asian region consists of countries with varying levels of development, technological adoption, and demographic composition. With an increasing need for a skilled workforce, it has much to gain from regional collaboration through cooperation in skill-building activities and encouraging cross-border labor mobility.

Policy makers in the region need updated information and evaluation of human capital and skills development policies and programs to prepare its workforce for future jobs. They would need to know the types of skills needed in future work, innovative educational approaches and methods that will enhance productivity and employability of workers of all ages, and the available and emerging technologies that could be tapped for this purpose.

This year's ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum will provide a venue to share ideas and experiences among affiliated scholars on the human capital and skills development for future jobs by attempting to explore the following questions:

1. What are the examples of existing human capital and skills development programs and interventions that can boot the productivity and employability workers for future jobs?
2. What are the emerging technologies that are available to foster human resource and capital development (labor force participation, health, and education), and boost productivities? How effective are the existing programs, if any?
3. What is the role of regional cooperation in addressing the challenges associated with the development of human capital and skills? Can Asia collectively provide a better platform to efficiently and effectively develop and manage physical, financial, and human resources, for example, by building supportive infrastructure to broaden access to technology and improve cross-border labor and student mobility?

# Tentative agenda

Day 0   21 August 2018	
17:40	<i>Cocktails (hosted by ADB)</i> ANU Barton Theatre conference foyer, Crawford School of Public Policy building
Day 1   22 August 2018	
8:00	Registration
Opening Ceremony	
8:30-	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> Shiro Armstrong, Director, East Asian Bureau of Economic Research, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU
8.35-	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Bambang Susantono, Vice President, ADB
8:40-	<b>Keynote Speech</b> Professor Andrew Leigh, Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Federal Member for Fenner in the Australian Capital Territory.
Session 1: Regional Economic Outlook	
Moderator: Shiro Armstrong, ANU	
9:10-	Cyn-Young Park, Director, Regional Integration and Cooperation Division, ADB <i>Regional Economic Outlook</i>
9:30-	Qiangwu Zhou, Director General, International Economics and Finance Institute, PRC <i>Economic Outlook of the People's Republic of China</i>
9:50-	Adam Triggs, East Asian Bureau of Economic Research, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU <i>Economic Outlook of Australia</i>
10:10-	<i>Open Floor Discussion</i>
10:30-	<i>Photo Session and Coffee Break</i>

## Session 2: Expert Presentations: Upgrading Human Capital and Skills Development

Moderator: Zaw Oo, Executive Director, Center for Economic and Social Development

11:00-	Aiko Kikkawa Takenaka, Economist, ADB <i>Introduction: Upgrading Human Capital and Skills Development for Future Asia</i>
11:15-	Bruce Chapman, College of Business and Economics, ANU <i>Financing Higher Education</i>
11:45-	Danielle Wood, Director, Budget Policy and Institutional Reform Program, Grattan Institute <i>Competitive Adjustment and Social Protection</i>
12:15-	<i>Discussant</i> Shujaat Farooq, Additional Director General, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)
12:20-	<i>Open Floor Discussion</i>
12:30-	<i>Lunch</i>

## Session 3: Country Paper Presentations Part 1: Jobs, Skills Gap, and Skills Development

Moderator: Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

	<b>Paper Presentations</b>
13:30-	Pankaj Vashisht, Senior Fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations <i>Changing Task content of Jobs in India: Implications and Way Forward</i>
13:50-	Monzur Hossain, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) <i>Labor Market and Skills Gap in the ICT Sector in Bangladesh: An Exploratory Study</i>
14:10-	Nisha Arunatilake, Director of Research, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka <i>Policies to Meet the Future Demand for Science and Technology Workers in Sri Lanka</i>
14:30-	<i>Open Floor Discussion</i>
15:10-	<i>Coffee Break</i>

## Session 4: Policy Panel: Building Human Capital and Skills in Asia, Models, Policies, Issues and Challenges

Moderator: Aniceto Orbeta, Senior Research Fellow, Philippine Institute for Development Studies

15:30-	<p><i>Panellists</i></p> <p>Professor Glenn Withers, President of the Global Development Learning Network and Professor of Economics, ANU</p> <p>Radhicka Kapoor, Senior Fellow, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations</p> <p>Xiaoyan Qian, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, PRC</p> <p>Carunia Firdausy, Professor of Economics, Centre for Economic Research-Indonesian Institute of Sciences (P2E-LIPI)</p> <p>Orzala Nemat, Director, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit</p>
16:30-	<p><i>Open Floor Discussion</i></p>
17:30-	<p>Wrap up</p>
18:00-	<p><i>Networking Dinner at University House (hosted by ANU)</i></p>

Day 2 | 23 Aug 2018

## Session 5: Country Paper Presentations Part II

Moderator: Khan Ahmed Sayeed Murshid, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies

	<p><b>Paper Presentations</b></p>
9:00	<p>Chandarany Ouch, Economics Unit Head, Cambodia Development Resource Institute <i>Vocational Training and Labour Market Transitions: A Randomised Experiment Among Cambodian Disadvantaged Young Adults</i></p>
9:20	<p>Boonwara Sumano Chenphuengpaw, Research Fellow, Thailand Development Research Institute <i>The Role of Private Sector in Human Capital and Skill Development in Thailand</i></p>
9:40-	<p><i>Open Floor Discussion</i></p>
10:00-	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>

### Session 6: Country Paper Presentations Part III

Moderator: Zakariah Bin Abdul Rashid, Executive Director, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research

<b>Paper Presentations</b>	
10:20-	Ngu Wah Win, Deputy and Migration Expert, Center for Economic and Social Development, Myanmar Coordination in Migration Management: <i>Overcoming Double Income Traps in Thailand and Myanmar</i>
10:40-	Hoang Van Cuong, Researcher, Central Institute for Economic Management <i>Ensuring Social Security and Sustainability for ASEAN Migrant Workers in the Context of Economic Integration and Industry 4.0</i>
11:00-	<i>Open Floor Discussion</i>

### Session 7: Policy Recommendations and Way Forward

11:30-	<b>Forum Summary and Recommendations</b> Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Senior Economist, The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)  Aiko Kikkawa Takenaka, ADB
11:50-	<b>ATTN Way Forward</b> Cyn-Young Park, ADB
12:00-	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Shiro Armstrong, ANU
12:10-	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00	<b>Networking Event</b> (hosted by ANU)