Shaping a Better Employment Landscape for People with Disabilities in Asia-Pacific

11 August 2021, Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. GMT +8

AGENDA

Duration	Agenda
5 minutes	**Welcome and introductions** Moderator: **Ryan Gersava**, Founder and President, Virtualahan
5 minutes	**Opening Remarks** **Wendy Walker**, Chief of Social Development Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
15 minutes	**Keynote Address** **Pratima Amonkar**, Chair for D&I and Accessibility, Microsoft APAC + Accessible technologies demo
12 minutes	**Presentation 1:** **Winnie Lewis**, Head, Disability Inclusion, Employment & Employability, SG Enable
12 minutes	**Presentation 2:** **Pratibha Kurnool**, APAC Lead & Strategic Partnerships Lead for Social Impact, Outreach, Cognizant
25 minutes	**Discussion and Q&A** *Facilitator:* **Ryan Gersava**, Founder and President, Virtualahan *With response and kick-off question by:* **Dr. Maria Kett**, Associate Professor in Humanitarianism and Disability, UCL, and Co-Founder, Global Disability Innovation Hub
5 minutes	**Closing Remarks** **Shanti Jagannathan**, Principal Education Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

SPEAKERS

Moderator

Ryan Gersava
Founder and President, Virtualahan

Ryan Gersava is a social entrepreneur, educator, and diversity and inclusion champion. He is the Founder and President of Virtualahan, an impact driven company that breaks down employment barriers for persons with disabilities and other excluded communities using the equalizing power of technology. He is also an Ashoka Fellow, an honoree for Forbes 30 under 30 Asia for Social Impact, and was awarded as Impact Entrepreneur of the Year in 2020.

Opening Remarks

Wendy Walker
Chief of Social Development Thematic Group
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Asian Development Bank

Wendy Walker is the Chief of the Social Development Thematic Group at the Asian Development Bank. She has more than 25 years of professional experience in social development and social protection. She has led multi-sector teams for designing and implementing complex and innovative projects and has worked across diverse sectors. She currently co-leads the implementation of ADB Strategy 2030's operational priority on *Addressing Remaining Poverty and Reducing Inequalities*. She is a-team leader for technical assistance programs on *Strengthening Capacity for Developing Members Capacity in Elderly Care* and *Developing Innovative Community-Based Long-Term Care Systems and Services* in the region. Wendy has been leading the team developing ADB's Road Map for Strengthening Disability Inclusive Development, 2021-2025, and is involved in other initiatives supporting disability inclusion in ADB's operations.

Keynote Address

Pratima Amonkar
Area Lead
Cloud and AI Business Strategy
Microsoft Asia Pacific

As Microsoft's APAC Leader for Cloud and AI business strategy, Pratima spearheads the work Microsoft does to empower customers, partners, governments, and citizens to digitally transform their businesses and lives with the power of Cloud and AI. She leads the strategy, planning and programs to collaborate with customers, governments, industries, and communities to leverage the world's largest and most trusted cloud infrastructure network. Over the past 20 years, Pratima has held leadership and P&L responsibilities at various technology companies like Rational Software, IBM, and Sun Microsystems.

Pratima is an active technology mentor to some promising APAC startups, social entrepreneurships, and women founders. She chairs the APAC Microsoft Diversity and Inclusion Council for Accessibility and Assistive Technology. She is a core member of the global Microsoft One Commercial Accessibility Committee. She is a member of Singapore Government's Enabling Technology Advisory Group as well as Singapore Business Network on Disability. She is a vocal advocate and speaker, providing insight to tech organizations on accessibility inclusive practices.

Resource Speaker

Winnie Lewis
Head, Disability Inclusion, Employment & Employability
SG Enable

Winnie Lewis heads the Disability Inclusion team at SG Enable that provides advisory and consultancy support to organizations keen to employ persons with disabilities. The employer consultants on the team work closely with employers to integrate persons with disabilities at the workplace, supporting their disability inclusion journey with the aim of attaining the Enabling Mark, a national-level accreditation framework by SG Enable that benchmarks and recognizes organizations for their best practices and outcomes in disability-inclusive employment.

Resource Speaker

Pratibha Kurnool
APAC Lead & Strategic Partnerships Lead for Social Impact Outreach
Cognizant

Pratibha Kurnool leads Outreach, Cognizant's employee volunteering program, in Asia-Pacific and is also the Outreach lead for driving collaborative impact with strategic technology partners. She is based in Singapore.

Cognizant defines its purpose thus: To engineer modern businesses to improve everyday life. In line with this purpose, the company executes Outreach under its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) function, by supporting inclusion in tech and increasing community impact. In her role, Pratibha works with government agencies, corporates, SSAs/NGOs, Social Enterprises, schools and polytechnics to achieve impact at scale.

Pratibha is passionate about digital inclusion and through her work equips students, women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and charities with the digital tools and skills required to thrive in the modern workplace. Pratibha also volunteers for mental health and facilitates mindfulness sessions and writes a series called #MagicMondays on LinkedIn about finding purpose and joy at work.

Closing Remarks

Shanti Jagannathan
Principal Education Specialist
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Asian Development Bank

Shanti Jagannathan is Principal Education Specialist in the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department of Asian Development Bank. She works on ADB education sector policies and strategies and provides technical advice to ADB's lending and non-lending education operations in the Asia and Pacific region.

Shanti has over 25 years of experience with education sector transformation initiatives in school education, technical and vocational education, and training and higher education in Asia. She has led policy research studies on skills for greening economies, Asia's knowledge-based economies, innovation and implications of industry 4.0 on education and training, among others. Her recent work includes guidance note on Education and COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific, designing hackathons for digital reskilling and upskilling for displaced workers and co-editing a book on powering a learning society during an age of

	disruption. She has over a dozen publications from her work in ADB. Shanti has contributed to international cooperation in education at policy and operational levels and has been on advisory bodies, steering committees, and working groups on education development, gender equality, elimination of child labor, democracy and human rights, and scholarships for underprivileged students.