

Education Retreat Session Concept Note

Panel Discussion: Green Transformation Needs a Green Workforce: The Role of Education and Training in Scaling Climate-Resilient Green Economy for the Post Covid-19 World

DATE and TIME: 17 January 2022, 3:30 p.m.–4:45 p.m. (1 hour 15 mins)

LOCATION: Virtual using Zoom

Background

MDBs offer substantial financing to fill the huge funding gaps to support green projects. Hence, climate change and build back better is high on their agenda. A central question that often remains unasked is “does Asia have a trained green workforce to build back better; to plan, build, and operate green infrastructure and implement the transformation in green economic corridors and sustainable cities?” Part of this answer comes from a [UNESCO study \(2021\)](#). It highlights that most countries in Southeast Asia have national climate change adaptation plans but “...few countries have paid specific attention to the technical and vocational skills development required for the climate change transition set out.” This is a binding constraint to achieve the envisioned green recovery and growth trajectory and a skill gap in the making since an additional 14.2 million green jobs are anticipated up to 2030 in Asia and the Pacific ([ILO 2019](#)). The need for green skills affects almost all occupations and industries, be it in the green energy sector or the circular economy. Strategies for building back better and positioning the climate-resilient green economy, can be realized without developing a green workforce and citizens committed to sustainable development.

The proposed seminar/panel discussion will showcase examples of how education can develop and cultivate the green workforce that the green transformation requires. It also highlights how all levels of education can work seamlessly in mainstreaming climate change issues and in preparing future leaders that can lead and drive sustainable development as young leaders like Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousufzai have demonstrated.

Session Concept

The session starts with three presentation panel discussion with 3 panelists representing all levels of education who will highlight the need to blend conceptual thinking with practical applications. Each panelist will present a brief statement on how to prepare future ready leaders and workforce with green skills and the implications on how DMCs can collaborate to mainstream climate change in education and workforce development. The statement will be followed by a question regarding how to design and operationalize such an approach, drawing on concrete examples. After this, two discussants will share their thoughts and raise questions to the panelists. Finally, 10–15 mins will be devoted to Q&A with the audience.

Program

Moderator : Sunwha Lee, Principal Social Sector Specialist, SARD

Speakers	Topic/Focus
Opening Remarks (3~5 minutes)	
Xiaohong Yang	Chief Thematic Officer Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
Panel Discussion (talk show) 40 mins	
Ronilda Co (10 min) Director Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service, Department of Education, Philippines	How to teach Climate Change in K-12 Education Philippine government Initiative
Dukwoo Jun (10 min) Director Division for Climate Technology Cooperation, Green Technology Center, GTC)	How tertiary education can cultivate researchers and highly-skilled workers to promote and adapt appropriate technology to enable green transformation of industry and economy? Republic of Korea case
Ruth Halle (10 min) Senior Technical Advisor GIZ	Green Skills for Green Recovery : Green jobs and TVET GIZ projects in Green Skills
Discussants (10 min)	ADB Departments Arghya Sinha Roy (SDCC), Principal Climate Change Specialist Ryotaro Hayashi (SARD), Social Sector Economist Meekyung Shin (SDCC), Education Specialist
Q&A (15-20 mins)	Free Q&A
Closing Remarks	
Brajesh Panth	Chief of Education Sector Group Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

Introduction of the Moderator and Panelists

Moderator



Sunhwa Lee, Principal Social Sector Specialist, South Asia Department, ADB

Sunhwa Lee is a Principal Social Sector Specialist in the South Asia Regional Department of Asian Development Bank (ADB). She is responsible for education, skills development, and social protection operations in India and Bangladesh, including policy dialogues, project formulation, and knowledge works.

Opening Remarks



Xiaohong Yang, Chief Thematic Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

Xiaohong Yang is the Chief Thematic Officer of ADB's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department. Prior to this, she served as the Country Director for Pakistan, and the Director of the Transport and Communication Division of the Central and West Asia Department, and Lead Transport Specialist for East Asia Department. She has strong and diversified country and IFI experience in leading teams and complex operational and corporate assignments such as regional and country strategies, structure reforms, policy, project and programs delivery.

Panelists



Ronilda Co, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service, Department of Education, Philippines

Ms. Ronilda Co is the Director of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) office of the Department of Education. Director Co is tasked to lead in strengthening the resilience of the education sector to natural and human-induced hazards. She has contributed in the development and implementation of global, regional as well national frameworks, guidelines, tools, and work programs relating to prevention and mitigation, including mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in national and sectoral development planning, and in particular, on comprehensive school safety.



Dukwoo Jun, Director, Division of Climate Technology Cooperation, Green Technology Center, Korea

For nearly two decades, he has dedicated his life to green technology development and transfer for inclusive green growth. He has designed and implemented bilateral and multilateral partnership projects that support developing countries to move toward innovative green growth. He is currently the director of the Division for Climate Technology Cooperation at Green Technology Center, which promotes international cooperation schemes and practices with green climate technologies.



Ruth Halle, Senior-Technical Advisor Competence Center for Education, Vocational Education and Labour Markets, GIZ

Ruth Halle first joined GIZ in 2011 and has been working with the company as an expert for vocational education and labour markets in different functions. After different postings in projects abroad, i.e. in Afghanistan, Thailand and Turkey, she is currently working as a senior technical advisor at the Competence Center for Education, Vocational Education and Labour Markets at the GIZ headquarter in Germany in 2019.

Discussants



Arghya Sinha Roy, Principal Climate Change Specialist (Climate Change Adaptation), Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

Arghya Sinha Roy works as the Principal Climate Change Adaptation Specialist at the Asian Development Bank. He is involved in the implementation of ADB's climate priorities and targets by supporting client governments in strengthening climate adaptation related policies, plans and investments and access climate finance. His focus is to support ADB in increasing investments in climate-resilient development across different sectors.



Ryotaro Hayashi, Social Sector Economist, South Asia Department, ADB

Ryotaro Hayashi is Social Sector Economist, Human and Social Development Division, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB). Ryotaro is currently in charge of higher education projects in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Before joining ADB in 2015, he has worked for 10 years in international development organizations like the World Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.



Meekyung Shin, Education Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

Meekyung Shin is Education Specialist at Education Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank. She is specialized in the innovation and internationalization of higher education. Before she joined ADB, She worked for higher education divisions in Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea as director or deputy director.

Closing Remarks



Brajesh Panth, Chief of Education Sector Group,
Sustainable Development and Climate Change
Department, ADB

Brajesh Panth is the Chief of Education Sector Group at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He provides technical leadership to the education sector group (EdSG) in ADB, leads the preparation of the EdSG work plan, and facilitates collaboration across sector and thematic groups in ADB and with external partners. He has over 25 years of progressive experience as project team leader, head of project administration unit, lead education specialist, and chief of EdSG, in the education sector including sector assessment, project processing, implementation, evaluation, and policy dialogue, covering all levels—primary, secondary, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and higher education.