



The next big waves of disruption

Envisioning the Future
of Higher Education in
the Digital and Green
Economy

Regional Higher Education Forum 10 May 2023

Bangkok, Thailand

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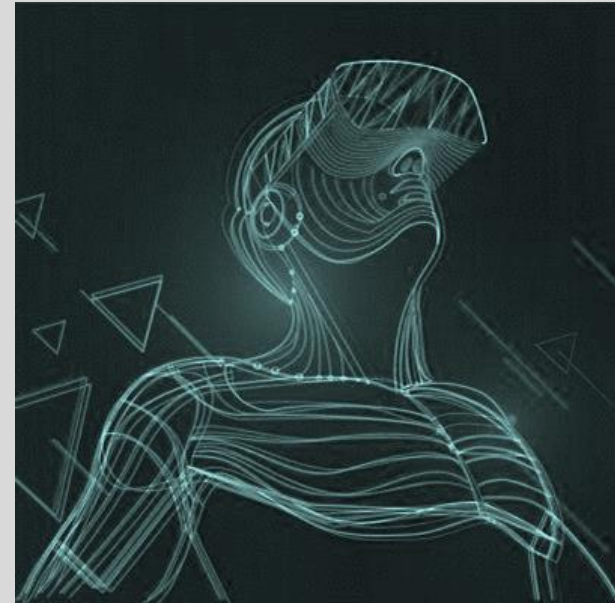
Chief Information Officer and Director General ITD



Abacus



Pocket
Electronic
Calculator



What's Next ?
Generative A.I.
Metaverse

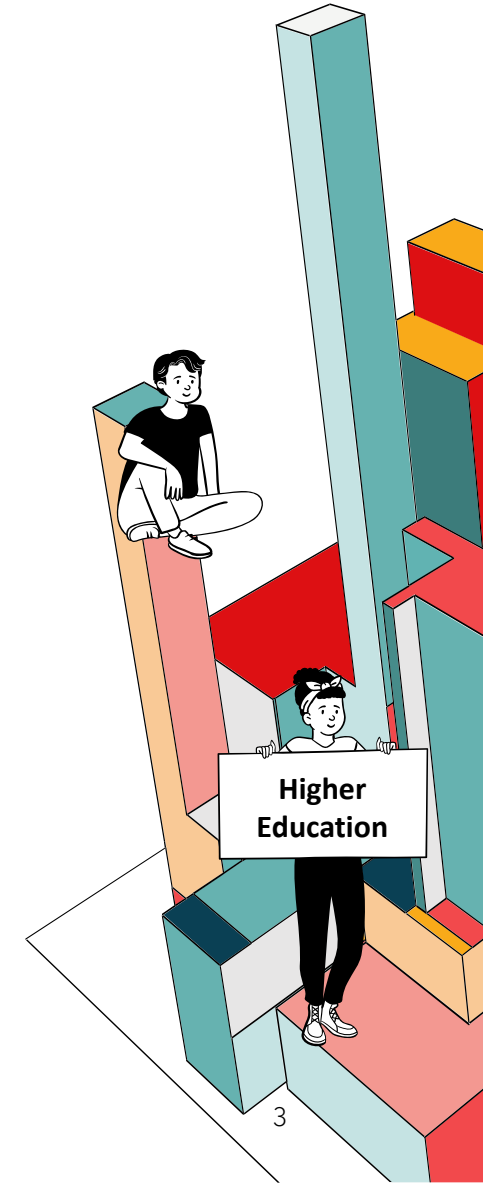
Ingenuity & tools: Past, Present, Future



Computer

Keynote Outline

- I. Disruptions and opportunities
- II. Importance of higher education in supporting the transition
- III. Top 10 most in-demand skills for the next 10 years
- IV. Strategies of leveraging the intersection of digital transformation and green transition
- V. Closing



Disruptions and Opportunities

**Global Pandemic
Recovery**

**Social Harmony and
Polarization Distrust**

**Geopolitical
Tensions and
Uncertainty**

**Energy and
Food Security**

**Regulation Changes;
Globalization and
Localization**

Climate Crisis

**Technology Disruption
and Innovation**

**Economics Recovery;
Digital & Green
Transition**

Pandemic Effects and Implications



Sustainability & Resilience of Global Health and Supply Networks



Technology Advancement & Digital Transformation



- Global cooperation on an integrated, unifying approach to balance and optimise the health of people, animals and the environment
- Strategic sourcing with countries with closer economic partnership
- Local capability development for critical components and manpower
- Reconfigure supply network services and reserves for resiliency purpose
- Responses to COVID-19 have speeded the adoption of digital technologies by several years (Source: [McKinsey](#))
- Uneven participation in the new opportunities created by digital transformation
- Automation of low to middle skills tasks; Shifted labour demand towards digital skills
- Rising inequality required policy on inclusiveness on wider access and dissemination of new technologies

Importance of higher education in supporting the transition



Empower students and working professionals to acquire digital skills and continuous learning, build abilities and agency to imagine and create a better world



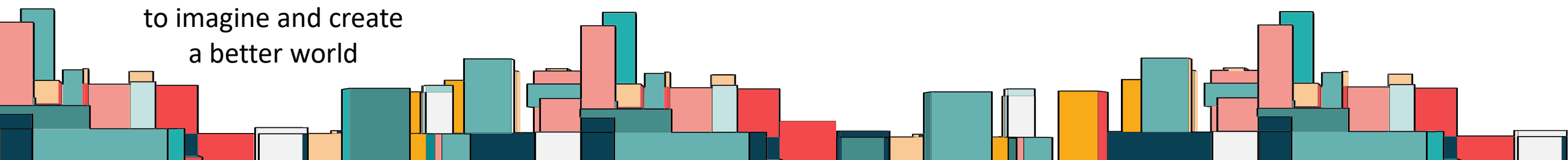
Strengthen R&D partnership with industry and society to catalyst change through knowledge and insights



Change the way of thinking, learning, working – reimagine Higher Education from inside out and advocate for change



Reimagine our story of being human in a world of ecological balance of Nature and progression.



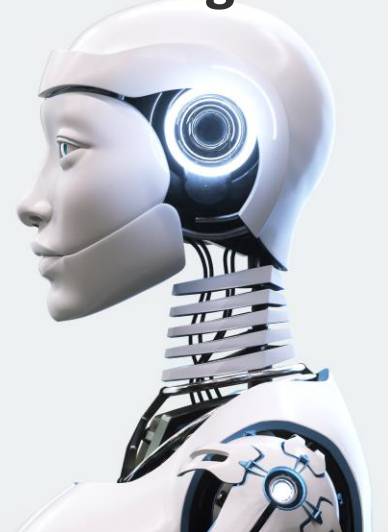
The future of work and top in-demand skills



1. **Digital Literacy**
2. **Data literacy**
3. **Critical thinking**
4. **Emotional intelligence**
5. **Creativity**
6. **Collaboration**
7. **Flexibility**
8. **Leadership Skills**
9. **Time Management**
10. **Curiosity and Continuous Learning**

Source: [Forbes Aug 2022](#)

- A.I. thinking**
- A.I. ethics and governance**
- Interdisciplinary contextualization**
- Abstract thinking**



Governors Island Climate Hub will serve as a “Living Laboratory”

- Fund Raised by Private and Public Sectors: \$700m
- Winning Consortium led by Stony Brook University.
- 400,000 sq. ft hub called “New York Climate Exchange”
- Focus on researching climate solutions and training for green jobs is expected open in 2028

“It will truly be the first of its kind model for advancing research to accelerate the deployment of climate solutions that will help us with what I believe is the greatest threat of our time — the climate crisis,”

Maria Torres-Springer, the city’s Deputy Mayor for Economic and Work Force Development

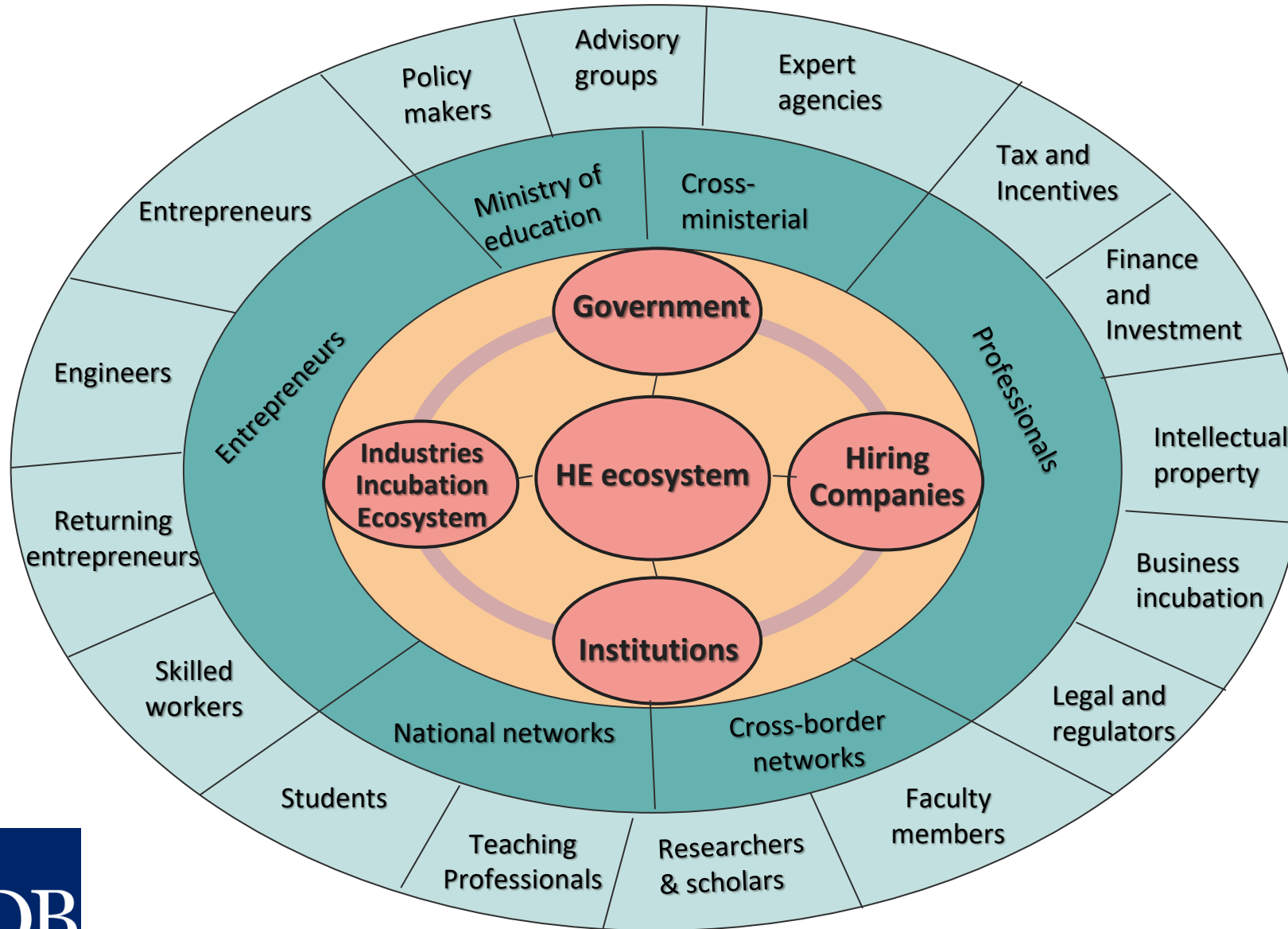
Source: New York Times 24 April 2023
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/24/nyregion/climate-hub-governors-island.html>



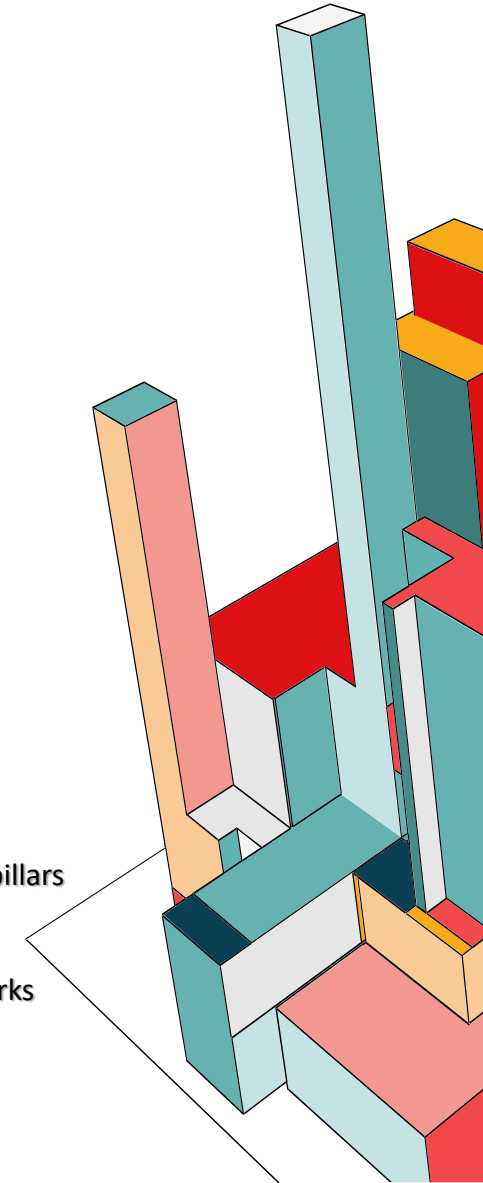
A rendering of the proposed climate hub shows buildings covered with vegetation.

Credit: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

Convergence, Collaboration and Co-creation



- Core HE ecosystem pillars
- Collaboration networks
- Human capital



ADB Education Sector Vision and Strategy



EXPAND OPERATIONS

- Demand and supply side incentives
- Cross-sectoral collaboration
- Partnerships
- Capacity of education workforce



PROMOTE HUMAN CAPITAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Human capital development
- Whole of government
- Lifecycle approach

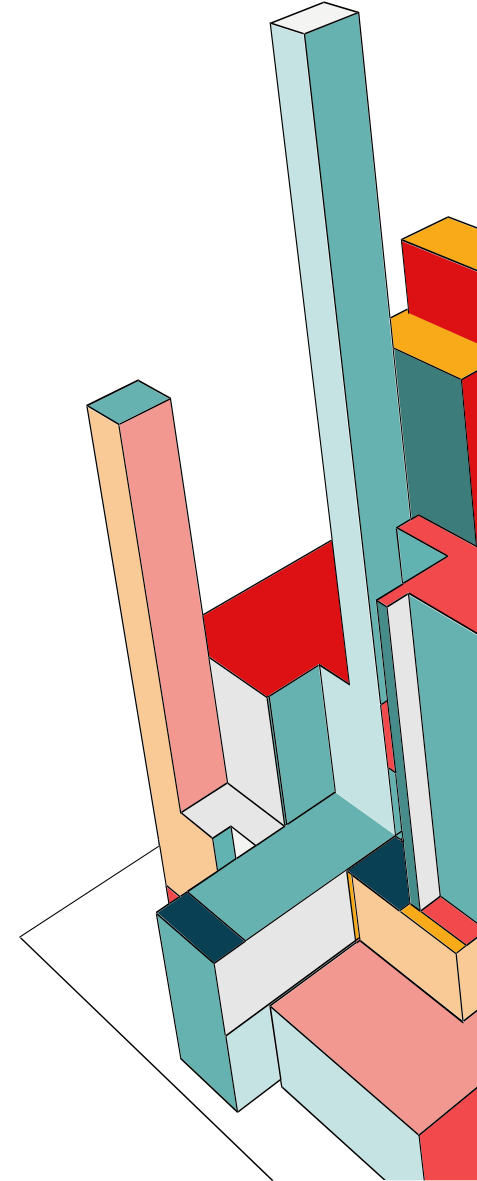


INNOVATE

- Quality, relevance, and equity
- Future of skills and jobs
- Municipalities and local governments
- Education technology
- Delivery and financing modalities

A quality assured, inclusive education system that ensures learning for all

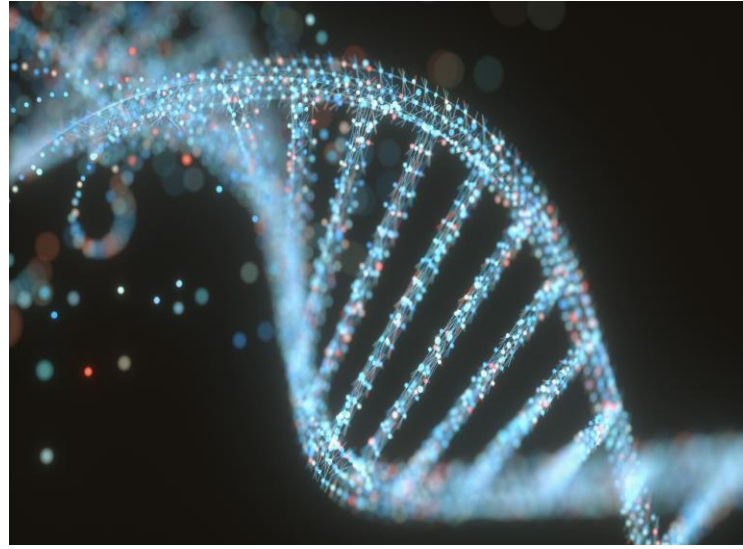
Global and Regional Drivers of Change: *climate change, digitalization, demographics, labor mobility, urbanization*



We are connected through a string of numeric sequence



Seashell



DNA



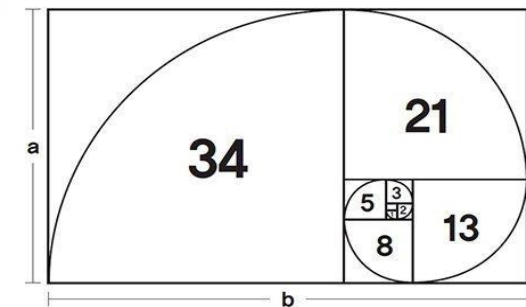
Galaxy

Fibonacci Sequence

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34,

Golden Ratio

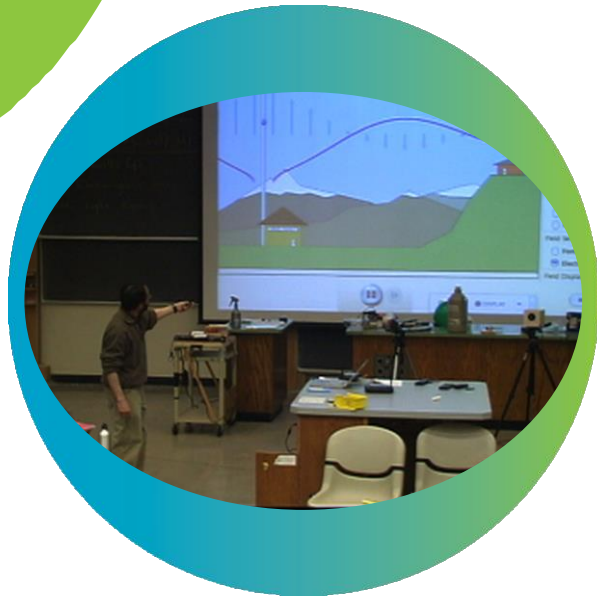
Phi (Φ) is 1.618033988749895



$$a/b = (a+b)/a = 1.618033\dots$$



Credit: Jaison Tan, Singapore Polytechnic graduate



Thank you!



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www.adb.org/what-we-do/sectors/education