

Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**

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# THE ASEAN YEAR OF SKILLS: RESULTS AND ACTIONS AHEAD

## 11TH ADB INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS FORUM

**UNDERSECRETARY CARMELA I. TORRES**  
EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

04 December 2025 | 12:30 PM to 01:30 PM  
ADB Headquarters, Manila



# ASEAN 2026 CHAIR

**“NAVIGATING OUR FUTURE, TOGETHER”**



**PREPARING FOR  
ASEAN CHAIRSHIP 2026**

**OUTPUT DOCUMENT**

**ASEAN Declaration on  
Strengthening Labor Market and  
Social Resiliency Towards Green,  
Digital, and Emerging Realities**

**ASEAN CHAIRSHIP 2026  
PRIORITIES**

- **Peace and security anchors**
- **Prosperity corridors**
- **People empowerment**

ASEAN 

# PHILIPPINE INITIATIVES

## ASEAN-Wide Initiatives Led by the Philippines (2026 Declaration)

- Building the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Labor Market and Social Resiliency Towards Green, Digital, and Emerging Realities
- Embedding just transition and social protection, skills alignment, green & digital economy
- Stakeholder consultations across ASEAN
- Technical studies + background paper
- Drafting, Finalization, and Summit Adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Labor Market and Social Resiliency Towards Green, Digital, and Emerging Realities

## Philippine-Driven Projects Under SLOM/SLOM-WG

- PES Digitalization
- TVET Standards Harmonization
- ASEAN TVET Policy Dialogue
- Mutual Recognition of Skills Documentation
- Productivity and HR benchmarking in agriculture
- AI for Labor Organizing
- Labor Rights in Supply Chains
- Clean and Green Productivity
- Protection of Digital Labor Platform Workers
- Digital Labor Dispute Resolution
- Implementation of the Just Transition to Green Jobs Action Plan
- Hosting ASEAN Green Jobs Forum 2026
- Continuing Collaboration and Cooperation relative to the Global Accelerator Initiative with the Philippines as Pathfinder Country



# ASEAN YEAR OF SKILLS



## **Bridging Skills Gaps**

Empowering the ASEAN workforce with new skills and knowledge aligned to emerging jobs and addressing critical skills shortages.



## **Youth Empowerment**

Preparing the youth for future-proof careers by equipping them with the right skills and opportunities.



## **Enhancing Workforce Resilience**

Promoting sustainable productivity and adaptability through comprehensive skills development programmes.

- **Promote Innovation:** Drive innovation in both the content and delivery of training programs.
- **Strengthen Governance:** Enhance governance mechanisms specifically through industry-led Sector Skills Bodies (SSBs).
- **Accelerate Demand-Driven Strategies:** Speed up the development of workforce strategies that are specific to sectors and driven by actual market demand.
- **Foster Global Partnerships:** Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and institutional collaboration on a global scale.



# ASEAN 2026 CHAIRSHIP

## KEY INITIATIVES ASEAN YEAR OF SKILLS

**INSTITUTIONALIZE  
SECTOR SKILLS BODIES  
(SSBs)**

**STRENGTHEN WORK-  
BASED LEARNING &  
APPRENTICESHIP**

**ADVANCE GREEN JOBS &  
JUST TRANSITION  
INITIATIVES**

**ENHANCE LABOR MARKET  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
& SKILLS MAPPING**

**DIGITAL  
TRANSFORMATION &  
FUTURE SKILLS**

**PROMOTE PUBLIC-  
PRIVATE-ACADEME  
COLLABORATION**

**INCLUSIVE PEOPLE-  
CENTERED  
DEVELOPMENT**

**LABOR MOBILITY AND  
SKILLS RECOGNITION**



# POLICY FRAMEWORK AND RELEVANT LAWS



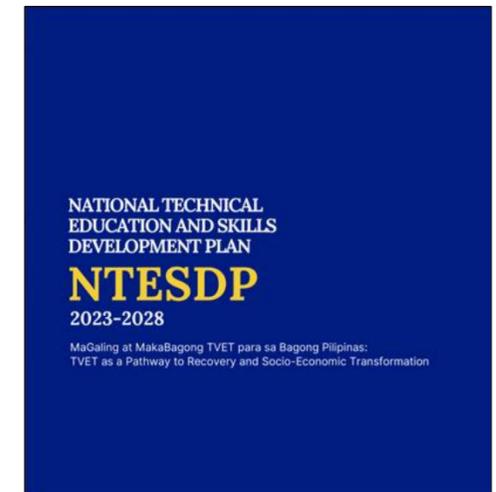
**PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2028**



**PHILIPPINE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT PLAN 2023-2028**



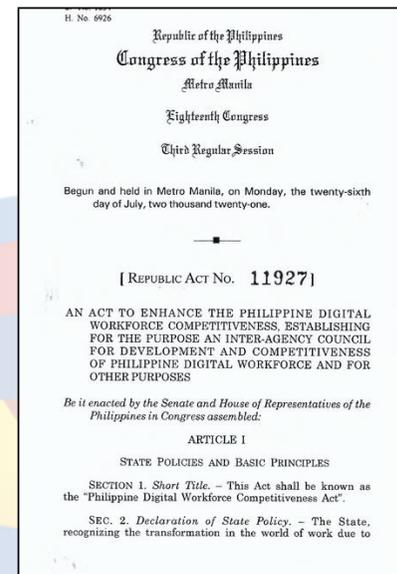
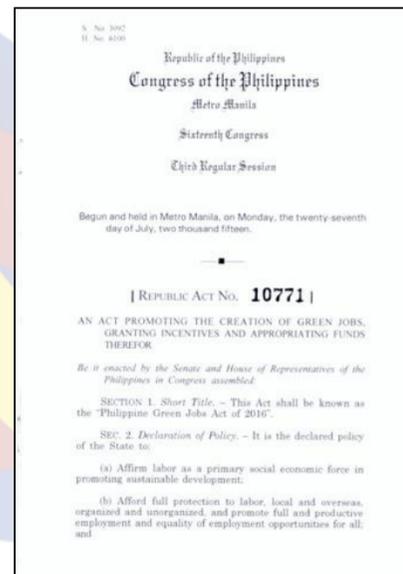
**TRABAHO PARA SA BAYAN PLAN 2025-2034**



**NATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2028**



**PHILIPPINE GREEN JOBS ACT OF 2016**



**DIGITAL WORKFORCE COMPETITIVENESS ACT**



# ASEAN GREEN JOBS FORUM 2025

## GREEN JOBS INITIATIVES

Development and Maintenance of the Green Jobs Database of "Green Careers", Professions and Skills

Integrated green jobs into the labor inspection program

Integrated sustainability considerations in the implementation of DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program

Integrated the green concepts into productivity frameworks through its "Green My Enterprise"

Expanded green competencies and training regulations to 124 offerings and updated the Green TVET Framework

DENR developing the Philippine Just Transition Framework Roadmap

PSA's pilot on green jobs indicators to support policymaking through the Inter-Agency Committee on Labor and Productivity Statistics (IACLPS)

Department of Education (DepEd): Aligning curriculum with green economy demands

Commission on Higher Education (CHED): Implementing region-based scholarship programs

Platforms for collaboration including innovation grants

Development of a Green Jobs Certification system by the Climate Change Commission (CCC)

Philippine Construction Association: Providing green skills-related trainings for constructions workers

European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines is formulating an Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) program

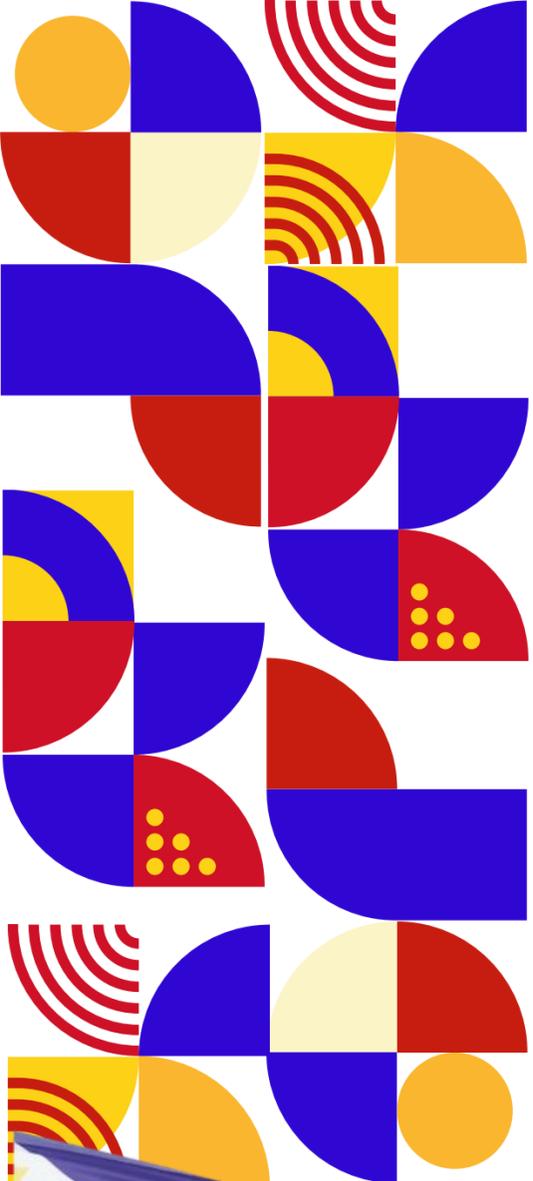
**Hosting of the ASEAN Green Jobs Forum (AGJF) 2026 under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship**



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Department of Labor and Employment

> [dole.gov.ph](https://dole.gov.ph)



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