FORUM BACKGROUND

Two critical challenges in education and skills development are (i) poor learning despite improved access at all levels of education, and (ii) serious skills mismatches despite growing investments in education and training. How can governments address these challenges, and how can the Asian Development Bank (ADB) support the governments? These challenges require innovative solutions in close partnerships among governments, development partners, private sector, and civil society organizations. In Asia and the Pacific Region, these challenges are further exacerbated by the demographic changes and technological disruptions.

In the past decades, the region has developed into an economic power house. Around 95% population are living in middle-income countries. The global share of gross domestic product has increased from 25% in 2000 to 33% in 2018, and it is expected to grow to 51% by 2050 if the countries do not fall in the “middle-income trap.” Urban population will almost double from 1.6 billion (41%) in 2010 to 3.1 billion (64%) by 2050—cities will be the engines of growth and evolve into centers of higher education, innovation, and technological hubs. But the Asia and the Pacific region is also aging fast—the population of older persons (aged over 60 years) will triple between 2010 and 2050, reaching close to 1.3 billion people.

Developments in artificial intelligence and robotics are seen as major threats to jobs that require routine tasks. There are also growing concerns about rising inequalities and how technology is contributing to greater concentration of wealth among fewer businesses and individuals. On the positive side, technology provides unprecedented opportunities to enhance human capacity and productivity to produce more and better products and services at much lower costs.

In this age of disruption and uncertainty, how can education and skills development prepare individuals, companies and countries to become competitive, responsive, and relevant?

The 8th International Skills Forum provides an excellent opportunity to policymakers, practitioners, experts, and partners from ADB Developing Member Countries (DMCs) and other regions to exchange and share innovative practices and solutions to address the twin challenges of improving learning for all and reducing skills mismatches.

The Forum has four objectives:
(i) To showcase transformational practices in K–12, technical and vocational education and training, and higher education to ensure learning and employability;
(ii) To bring together representatives from government, private sector and other development partners involved in education and training to present innovative good practices;
(iii) To ensure skills development is guided by evidence; and
(iv) To inspire experts and DMC counterparts, and promote collaboration with key stakeholders to incorporate new approaches to design and implement innovative projects and programs in education and training.

The Forum will highlight:
• Transformational practices in education and training using technology, eLearning, and innovative partnerships;
• Implications of and response to Industry 4.0 on skills and jobs; and
• Examples of innovations in education and training in an “Innovation Marketplace.”
## FORUM SCHEDULE

### DAY 1: 27 August 2019 (Tuesday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.-9 a.m.</td>
<td>Forum Registration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–9:10 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>By Bambang Susantono, Vice-President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:10 a.m.–9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Forum Objectives and Introduction</td>
<td>By Brajesh Panth, Chief of Education Sector Group, ADB</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 a.m.–10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Keynote Address: <strong>Rethinking Strategies to Accelerate Student Learning Outcomes in K–12</strong></td>
<td>By Lant Pritchett, Research Director, RISE (Research on Improving Systems of Education)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Introduction of the Forum Process and Conference App</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m.–10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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</table>
| 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.| Session 1: **Panel Discussion–How to Prepare the Workforce in a Rapidly Changing World** | **Moderator:** Woochong Um, DG, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
Kate Benkhun, Vice President and Lead, Microsoft Philanthropies, USA
Michael Fung, Deputy CEO Skills Future, Singapore
Srinivas Reddy, Chief of Skills and Employability, ILO, Switzerland
Gayathri Vasudevan, Founder / CEO, LabourNet, India
Ambe Tierro, Senior Managing Director and Global Artificial Intelligence Capability Lead, Accenture, Philippines |
| 12:15 p.m.–12:30 p.m.| Introduction to the Innovation Marketplace                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| 12:30 p.m.–1:45 p.m.  | Lunch                                                              |                                                                                                                                       |
| 1:45 p.m.–3:15 p.m. | PARALLEL SESSIONS                                                  | **Session 2A: Effective K–12 Delivery Models**
**Moderator:** Thomas Abell, Chief of Digital Technology, ADB
Linda Cai, co-founder and CMO of Phantom Whale VR, PRC
Shannon May, co-founder, Bridge International Academies
Cecilia Lewis, Operations Director, 51Talk, Philippines

**Session 2B: Transformational TVET: Good Practices from APACC Accredited Institutions**
**Moderator:** Ayako Inagaki, Director, SEHS, ADB
Ramhari Lamichane, Director General, Colombo Plan Staff College
Naimah Binti Md. Khalil, Director, Politeknik Sultan Azlan Shah (PSAS), Malaysia
Maria Clara Ignacio, Center Chief, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Women’s Center, Philippines
Thawatchai Punnkul, Director, Ubon Ratchathani Vocational College, Thailand
Ennita Pramono, Head, CSR, Samsung Electronics, Indonesia

**Session 2C: Innovative Approaches to Digital Learning**
**Moderator:** Shanti Jagannathan, Principal Education Specialist, ADB
Naria Santa Lucia, Senior Director, Skills and Employability, Microsoft Philanthropies, USA
Pei Ying Chua, Data Scientist, LinkedIn & LinkedIn Learning, Singapore
Richard Qiu, Vice-President, Business Development, Udemy, USA |
| 3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m. | Coffee Break                                                 |                                                                                                                                       |
| 3:45 p.m.–5:45 p.m. | Session 3: **Innovation Marketplace**                           | Showcase of 15 innovative practices across K–12, TVET, and higher education to drive learning and employment outcomes |
| 5:45 p.m. onwards  | Networking Cocktails                                           | ADB Courtyard                                                                                                                      |
### DAY 2: 28 August 2019 (Wednesday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.–9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Recap of Day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 a.m.–9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 9:15 a.m.–10:45 a.m. | Session 4: Regional Meetings (By invitation only)  
Focus: Priorities and Strategies for the Regions  
- East Asia Region  
- Central West Region  
- Pacific Region  
- South Asia Region  
- Southeast Asia Region  
- General Meeting (those not in the five regional meetings) |
| 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | Session 5A: TPD@Scale  
Moderator: Kirsty Newman, Senior Education Specialist, ADB  
- Cher Ping Lim, Chair Professor of Learning Technologies and Innovation, The Education University of Hong Kong  
- Justin III Edward Modesto, Deputy Secretariat Director, TPD@Scale, Philippines  
- Ma. Mercedes Rodrigo, Head of Ateneo Laboratory for the Learning Science  
Session 5B: Innovative Models of Teacher Development in TVET  
Moderator: Per Borjegren, Education Specialist, ADB-GIZ  
- Cesare Onestini, Director, European Training Foundation (ETF), Italy  
- Haiwoong Park, Vice President, KoreaTech  
- Iris Seet, Deputy Dean, Institute of Technical Education, Singapore  
Session 5C: Tertiary Institutions-Led Start-ups and Incubation  
Moderator: Sandeep Aneja, Managing Partner, Kaizen Private Equity, Singapore  
- Warasinee Chaisangmongkon, Assistant Professor, KMUTT, Thailand  
- Chihmoo Hsieh, Professor, SUNY Korea  
- Rajesh Nair, Professor, Asia School of Business, Malaysia |
| 12:15 p.m.–12:30 p.m. | Coffee Break                                                         |
| 12:30 p.m.–1:00 p.m. | Keynote Address  
Sunny Varkey, Founder of GEMS Education and Varkey Foundation, Dubai, UAE (TBC) |
| 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.  | Lunch                                                                |
| 2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. | Session 6A: STEM Education in K–12  
Moderator: Vignesh Naidu, Director of Operations, The Head Foundation, Singapore  
- Noraini Binti Idris, Head of STEM Movement, Malaysia  
- Suwanna Chivapruk, Director, Roong Aroon School, Bangkok, Thailand  
- Paul Teng, Dean, NIE International Pte. Ltd., Singapore  
Session 6B: Leveraging Technologies for Labor Market Information  
Moderator: Elisabetta Gentile, Economist, ADB  
- Sang Hyon Lee, Research Fellow, Korea Employment and Information Services (KEIS), Republic of Korea  
- Gary Gan, Founder/CEO, JobKred, Singapore  
- Masahiro Fukuhara, Founder/CEO, Institution for a Global Society, Japan  
Session 6C: Cross-Sectoral Collaboration  
Moderator: Robert Guild, Chief Sector Officer, ADB  
- Per Borjegren, Education Specialist, ADB-GIZ  
- Eiko Izawa, Principal Education Specialist, ADB  
- James Leather, Chief of Transport, ADB  
- Wendy Walker, Chief of Social Development, ADB |
| 3:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m. | Coffee Break                                                         |
| 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m. | Session 7A: How can technology enhance inclusivity?  
Moderator: Rie Hiraoka, Director, CWSS, ADB  
- Aleandre Kwan, Regional Program Manager, Microsoft Philanthropies  
- Mint Lim, Founder, School of Concepts, Singapore  
- Devin Woods, Program Manager, Big Bad Boo, Canada  
Session 7B: ADB’s Experience in TVET Projects in East Asia Region (3-4 projects)  
Moderator: Amy Leung, DG, EARD, ADB  
Session 7C: Practically Oriented Higher Education  
Moderator: Susanna Leong, Vice-Provost, NUS  
- Trissa Menardo, Assistant Vice President, Phinma Education, Philippines  
- Suvaluk Asavasanti, Assistant Professor, KMUTT, Thailand  
- Indy Hardono, Student Mobility Coordinator, Nuffic Nesso, Indonesia |
## DAY 3: 29 August 2019 (Thursday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.–9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Recap of Day 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.–9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Keynote Address: <em>Promoting Entrepreneurship to Inspire Youth Creativity</em>&lt;br&gt;By Eleanor Rosa Pinugu, Founder, Executive Director, Mano Amiga, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m.–11:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>PARALLEL SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Session 8A: Student Assessment in K–12</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Moderator: TBC</strong></td>
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<td>• Kyung Suk Chang, Senior Researcher, Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE), Republic of Korea&lt;br&gt;• Esoul Moon, Researcher, KICE, Republic of Korea&lt;br&gt;• Gabriel Demombynes, Human Development Program Leader, World Bank, Philippines&lt;br&gt;• Satish Kumar, co-founder and Chief Operating Officer, Snapwiz, USA&lt;br&gt;• Wilima Wadhwa, Director of ASER Center, India</td>
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<td><strong>Session 8B: ADB’s Experience in TVET Projects in South Asia Region (roundtable discussion)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Moderator: Sungsup Ra, Director, SAHS, ADB</strong></td>
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<td>• D. P. Wahlang, Principal Secretary, Education, Labour, PHE and Urban Affairs and Chief Executive Officer, Meghalaya State Skill Development Mission, India&lt;br&gt;• Vinod T.V., Head, Community Skills Parks, Additional Skills Acquisition Program, Kerala, India&lt;br&gt;• Harjinder Singh, Project Director, Madhya Pradesh (MP) Skills Development Project, MP, India&lt;br&gt;• S. K. Das, Principal, TTI Takatpur, Odisha, India</td>
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<td><strong>Session 8C: Implications of Industry 4.0 on Skills Development (roundtable discussion)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Moderator: Steve McKee, President, World Didactic</strong></td>
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<td>• Danny Gouch, Director General, World Didactic, Switzerland&lt;br&gt;• Gatot Priowijanto, Advisor, Ministry of Education, Indonesia&lt;br&gt;• Rosanna Urdaneta, Deputy Director General, TESDA, Philippines&lt;br&gt;• Noraini Binit Kaprawi, Director of International Projects and Relations, University Tun Hussein Onn, Malaysia&lt;br&gt;• Konstantin Matthies, Engagement Manager, AlphaBeta, Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Session 9: Plenary on Reflections and Moving Forward</strong>&lt;br&gt;This session will reflect on 3-5 key takeaways from the Skills Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing remarks&lt;br&gt;By Ahmed M. Saeed, Vice-President, Operations 2, ADB</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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