



**ADB-OECD LEED Pre-Forum Workshop:
Does Asia Need a Unique Model for Skills Development?
Monday, 10 December 2012**

It is a considerable challenge to ensure that training and education systems provide skills needed in the labor market. This is particularly the case since there is a discernible bias towards university education in developing countries, despite the fact that many of the good jobs of the future are likely to be found in trades and technical areas. There is poor signaling between the private sector and training providers. While skills-jobs mismatches are a global problem, the problem in Asia appears to be particularly acute as surveys reveal that employers in Asia have greater problems in filling positions. Labor markets in Asia are characterized by a large prevalence of informal markets and vulnerable, more unpredictable employment opportunities. At the same time, developed nations in Asia are at the technological frontier, leading innovation for mass markets and new product development. While Asia has the lion's share of the world's illiterates, it is also home to high levels of skills and entrepreneurial talent. It is this diversity that makes policy making both complex and interesting.

This one-day workshop will serve to explore ideas and initiatives that may be most suited to the Asian region. It will present case studies from middle to high income countries in Asia and review completed and ongoing research on skills in Asia. A recent analysis conducted by the OECD LEED ESSSA Program in 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific will be shared; and case studies from Korea will be presented. Ongoing research by the ADB on skills for greening economies, and the Results for Development Institute on innovative models for skills in secondary education will be discussed. Reform initiatives currently underway in skills and secondary education will be shared. These provide the platform to explore how skills development enable low income countries to move towards middle income levels and how middle income countries move to high income levels.

Issues to be discussed include: What skills development pathways are being adopted by middle income and high income Asian economies? Are pathways for smaller economies different and (if so) why? What are the lessons to be learnt and what best practices can be identified across the region? What are the implementation bottlenecks? The pre-forum will discuss these questions, share experiences among Asian countries and in so doing seek to clarify and advance the agenda of skills development in Asia.

09:00 – 09:10 AM **Opening Remarks and Welcome:**
Mr. Jouko Sarvi, Chair, Education Community of Practice, Asian Development Bank, Manila
Ms. Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, Policy Analyst, LEED Program and Manager of the Employment and Skills Strategies in Southeast Asia (ESSSA) Initiative, OECD, Paris

09:10 – 10:10 AM **Session 1 – Trends and Issues in skills development and jobs in Asia: what pathways are best suited for Asia?**

Chair: *Ms. Shanti Jagannathan*, Senior Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila

Speakers:

- 1) *Ms. Cristina Martinez-Fernandez*, Policy Analyst, LEED Program and Manager of the Employment and Skills Strategies in Southeast Asia (ESSSA) Initiative, OECD, Paris
- 2) *Ms. Jisun Chung*, Director for Global Cooperation, Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET), Seoul
- 3) *Mr. Mohamad Yaacob*, Director, National Dual Training System, Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysia

Q & A

10:10 – 10:50 AM **Coffee / Tea Break**

10:50 – 11:50 PM **Session 2 – Responding to greening economies: how well are education and training doing? Insights from case studies of Korea and ongoing research in South and South East Asia.**

Chair: *Mr. Daniele Ponzi*, Lead Environment Specialist, Environment and Safeguards Division, Regional and Sustainable Development Department

Speakers:

1. *Dr. Namchul Lee*, Director, Office of Research in Integration of Education, Training and Labor, KRIVET, Korea
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2. *Mr. Patrick Chan*, Head, Industry Development, Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore (ICPAS), Singapore
 3. *Ms. Margarita Pavlova*, TVET Specialist on Green Jobs, Griffith University, Brisbane

Q & A

12.00 – 01:30

Lunch

01:30 – 2:30 PM

Session 3 - Innovative approaches in secondary education and skills: strengthening the foundation for skills and jobs

Chair: *Prof. Rupert Maclean*, Chair Professor for International Education, and Director, Centre for Lifelong Learning Research and Development, Hong Kong Institute of Education

Speakers:

- 1) *Mr. Anura Dissanayake*, Additional Secretary; Project Director, Education for Knowledge Society Project, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka
- 2) *Ms. Michelle Engmann*, Senior Programme Associate, Results for Development Institute, Washington
- 3) *Mr. Norman LaRocque*, Senior Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila

Q & A

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Coffee / Tea

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Session 4 – Summing up: Does Asia need a unique model for skills development?

Chair: *Prof. Kenneth King* School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh (TBC)

Panelists:

- 1) *Dr. Santosh Mehrotra*, Director General, Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Planning Commission, India
 - 2) *Ms. Anchana Keskanda*, Director of Labour College, Department of Skills
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Development, Ministry of Human Resources, Thailand

- 3) *Ms. Belinda Smith*, ADB Consultant on Private Sector Skills
- 4) *Ms. Akiko Sakamoto*, Senior Specialist on Skills Development Policy and Systems, International Labor Organization, Bangkok

4:00 – 4.20 PM

Closing Remarks:

Ms. Cristina Martinez-Fernandez, Manager, Employment and Skills Strategies in Southeast Asia (ESSSA) Initiative, OECD, Paris

Ms. Shanti Jagannathan, Senior Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila

End of Pre-Forum Workshop
