

## **YOUth Matters: Celebrating Skills for the Future** *Featuring the World Youth Skills Day Asia-Pacific Initiative*

**Main Symposium and Opening Plenary**

**7-8 July 2022**

### **Concept Note**

**YOUth Matters: Celebrating Skills For the Future – Featuring the World Youth Skills Day Asia-Pacific Initiative** is organised by Temasek Polytechnic in collaboration with UNESCO-UNEVOC, UNEVOC centres, local and regional partners. This inaugural event will be held virtually. The 2021 World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) reminded us that ensuring quality skills development opportunities for youth should remain a top policy priority around the globe. As such, it is timely for us to look deeply at issues on Youth and Skills.

Themed “YOUth Matters: Celebrating Skills for the Future”, the World Youth Skills Day Asia-Pacific Initiative has the overall goal of showcasing youths’ thinking on skills and their aspirations for “Future of Work” and “Skills for the Future”, so that TVET stakeholders could better understand the emerging trends to make TVET relevant in guiding our youths towards future-oriented careers.

The Main Symposium will kick off a series of programmes and events to celebrate WYSD Asia-Pacific 2022. The Opening Plenary for the Main Symposium will focus on challenges and solutions faced by institutions on ensuring that TVET is demand-driven and future-focused. The discussions shall evolve around the development of future-ready skills, re-designing TVET and inclusivity, which forms the three key messages and sub-themes of Main Symposium. It will feature prominent speakers in Asia-Pacific representing successful TVET alumni who have excelled in their domain, city leaders, policy makers, practitioners, industry players, and academia.

Thereafter, the Main Symposium will deep-dive into the three sub-themes of the Main Symposium:

- Developing Future-Ready Skills in the Digital and Green Economy
- Re-designing TVET for the Future
- Leaving No One Behind: Building Inclusive TVET Systems

The Main Symposium and Opening Ceremony will also provide the platform for youths and TVET stakeholders to network and explore meaningful collaborations beyond the event.

Lastly, youths and TVET stakeholders in the Asia Pacific will be invited to participate in the other WYSD Asia-Pacific Initiatives that have been lined up till 31 October 2022.

## Agenda

Day 1 | 7 July 2022 | 14:00 – 16:30 GMT+8

13:30 – 14:00	<b>Arrival</b> Consult info booth, explore virtual venue, watch welcome video(s)	
14:00 – 15:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPENING PLENARY – YOUth Matters: Celebrating Skills for the Future</b></p> <p>Technological advances, global disruptions and accelerated economic trends have placed greater demand on TVET stakeholders to provide relevant training solutions to provide qualifications for future-oriented careers.</p> <p>In this context of rapid and profound changes in job profiles and work practices, the WYSD (APAC) Main Symposium will shed light on the challenges and solutions faced by institutions on ensuring that TVET is demand-driven and future-focused and invite youths and TVET stakeholders to share strategies for the way forward.</p> <p>How can we prepare and guide our youths towards future-oriented careers in an inclusive manner? What else needs to be changed?</p>	
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Break</b>	
15:30 – 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUB-THEME 1: Developing Future-Ready Skills in the Digital and Green Economy</b></p> <p>Technological advances, global disruptions and accelerated economic trends have posed potential threats to the relevancy of one's skills and employability, rendering those skills outdated.</p> <p>Amidst such change, how can youths better prepare themselves to secure their employability and skills relevancy?</p>	
	<p><b>PARALLEL TRACK 1A</b>  <i><b>Secret to Achieving Success Today and Tomorrow – Power Skills!</b></i></p>	<p><b>PARALLEL TRACK 1B</b>  <i><b>Reasons Why You Should Embrace Lifelong Learning</b></i></p>
	<p>Youths and employees are increasingly encouraged to build skills that cannot be replaced by machines. Skills such as interdisciplinary skills are one of the important competencies to thrive in future economies.</p> <p>What are such skills that would propel them forward in a <i>VUCA</i> world and how can our youths be equipped with these relevant skills to future-proof themselves?</p>	<p>As technology advances, it is crucial that youths and working adults embraces a healthy mindset towards learning and see it as a lifelong process.</p> <p>Skills development brings immense benefits to the economy and the company's growth. How can TVET stakeholders such as government and companies support in building a continuous learning culture?</p>

## Agenda

Day 2 | 8 July 2022 | 14:00 – 16:30 GMT+8

13:30 – 14:00	<b>Arrival</b> Consult info booth, explore virtual venue, watch welcome video(s)	
14:00 – 15:00	<b>SUB-THEME 2: Re-designing TVET for the Future</b>	
	<p>In understanding the relevant skills to prepare our youths for future-oriented careers, traditional modes of learning needs to be re-examined and new modes of learning needs to be developed in order to prepare youths for the constantly changing world.</p> <p>Teaching and learning in TVET needs to be re-designed to meet the changing industrial demands, what needs to be changed and what are some best practices that we can learn from?</p>	
	<b>PARALLEL TRACK 2A</b> <i>We Want New Learning Spaces and Concepts!</i>	<b>PARALLEL TRACK 2B</b> <i>Synchronising TVET Curricula with Industrial Needs: The What and How</i>
	<p>Learning in new spaces and concepts need to be recognised so that learning beyond traditional classroom settings can flourish in TVET systems.</p> <p>We invite youths and stakeholders to share their aspirations for the future of learning and TVET institutions to showcase their innovative practices.</p> <p>What spaces and concepts can the future of learning take place in? How does this bring about the changing roles of TVET teachers and trainers?</p>	<p>TVET needs to curate and implement up-to-date curricula based on local market needs and trends to nurture a pool of vocationally trained youths to meet economic demands, thereby ensuring their employability upon entering the workforce.</p> <p>How can the stakeholders in the TVET ecosystem work together to identify relevant curricula while eradicating those that are old-fashioned? How can we ensure that curricula can meet the present and future industrial needs?</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Break</b>	
15:30 – 16:30	<b>SUB-THEME 3: Leaving No One Behind: Building Inclusive TVET Systems</b>	
	<p>Learning experiences are not the same for all. The process of orienteering our youths and re-designing the TVET systems must be inclusive to all regardless of their learning pathways and identities so that every youth can succeed and have a meaningful career.</p>	
	<b>PARALLEL TRACK 3A</b> <i>Multiple Pathways, New Opportunities</i>	<b>PARALLEL TRACK 3B</b> <i>The Making of Wonder Women in TVET</i>
	<p>TVET systems must provide learning pathways that appeal to young people because they provide qualifications for future-oriented careers.</p> <p>How can we build an inclusive TVET system that caters to the diverse strengths and aptitudes of youths?</p>	<p>According to the United Nations, women are less likely to be employed, tend to be placed in vulnerable employment situations and find themselves with a severe gender pay-gap.</p> <p>In what ways does the skills learnt in TVET education and the opportunities arising from TVET education (e.g. volunteering, internships, community projects) empower women and thereby offering opportunities to work in their dream careers?</p> <p>How does it provide more opportunities for women to work in non-traditional environments?</p>