

YOUTH MATTERS: CELEBRATING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE FEATURING THE WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY ASIA-PACIFIC INITIATIVE

7 JULY TO 31 OCTOBER 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

- 1.1 Designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, the World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) is an opportunity for young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and public and private sector stakeholders to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Since 2014, WYSD is celebrated every year on 15 July.
- 1.2 UNESCO-UNEVOC is one of the key actors in promoting WYSD at the global level. Every year, the UNEVOC Network is mobilized to organize activities focused on youth skills development and the UNEVOC TVET Youth Stories campaign highlights the perspectives of young people on skills for the future.

2. Proposed World Youth Skills Day (Asia-Pacific)

- 3.1 The Asia-Pacific region has distinguished itself in the past decade as the world's most rapidly developing region. Countries in the region share many common challenges and are confronted by general issues which have to be addressed in order to improve the quality and relevance of TVET, enabling them to gain a competitive edge in the growing knowledge economy.
- 3.2 Temasek Polytechnic will be organising its WYSD 2022 initiative with UNEVOC Centres, local and regional partners. We will bring youth voice for the future of work to centre stage so that various stakeholders in TVET can better understand the attitudes of youth when it comes to skills needed for the future, their perceptions about how external changes such as 4IR and COVID-19 pandemic will impact their skills acquiring and work opportunities, and whether they feel they are getting enough support from schools to prepare them for the future.

3. Objectives of WYSD (Asia-Pacific)

3.1 The objectives of organising the WYSD are as follows:

- a) **“Creating”** strong sense of awareness on the importance of equipping youth with skills through TVET
 - We want to drive across the message that TVET aims to develop youth with the skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship in order to address economic, social and environmental demands. In this way, TVET promotes equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and supports transitions to green and digital economies.
- b) **“Connecting”** various stakeholders in TVET to foster collaboration
 - We want to facilitate conversations and collaborations with various stakeholders by sharing ideas and practices on integrating industry demands into skill development curricula and preparing youth for the future of work. In this way, TVET needs to be demand-driven and future-focused.
- c) **“Celebrating”** youths who are exemplary in TVET
 - We want to inspire youth with success stories from youth exemplars in TVET. In this way, TVET encourages youth to view skills acquisition in TVET as a lifelong learning journey making an impactful difference to themselves and the society.

4. Details of the WYSD Celebrations

4.1 The WYSD (Asia-Pacific) will consist of several events and activities from 7 July to 31 October 2022. The approach towards organising these events and activities will be leveraging on most of the existing programmes that TP has already committed to do.

a) **Main Symposium & Opening Ceremony on 7 & 8 July 2022**

(2 half-day virtual event)

We will kick-start the symposium with Opening Plenary **“YOUth Matters: Celebrating Skills for the Future”** – a showcase of youths’ thinking on skills and their aspirations for future of work and skills for the future. A plenary session will focus on challenges and solutions faced by institutions on ensuring that TVET is demand-driven and future-focused. The plenary session 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. The Main Symposium also comprises three sub-themes focusing on Future-Ready Skills, Re-designing TVET and Inclusivity respectively.

b) Thematic events to be held **from 7 July to 31 Oct 2022**

These thematic events will allow deep dive appreciation and discussion on equipping youth with skills. The format of these thematic events can be fully virtual or hybrid.

- (i) **Thematic Event 1: Insights to Innovative Education in TVET Paradigm Conference (target audience: practitioners)**
TP will be organising the International Symposium on Advances in Technology Education (ISATE)ⁱ 2022 with a tentative working theme on “*Insights to Innovative Education in Technical Education*”. This conference provides a platform for educators and practitioners to discuss and share insights in the innovation and future developments of TVET.
- (ii) **Thematic Event 2: SkillsFuture Work Study Fair (target audience: practitioners)**
TP will be organising the SkillsFuture Work Study Fair which will provide opportunities for policy makers and educators in the Asia-Pacific region to better understand how Singapore supports post-secondary education institutions' graduates and mid-career professionals by providing an avenue for them to connect live with industry partners and participating employers for potential career opportunities.
- (iii) **Thematic Event 3: e-Xchange Programmes & Thematic Dialogues with Youth Exemplars (target audience: youths)**
The e-Xchange programmes provide good opportunities for youths to interact with youths from other countries. These e-Xchange programmes will last for about 4 to 5 weeks where youths will engage in deep discussions on topics related to youth and skills. The dialogue series features personal and interactive discussion allowing the audience to gain insights into the youth exemplars' personal stories and thoughts on issues related to skills. Each discussion will focus on a specific topic such as future of work, skills for the future, crosscutting competencies etc. We hope to inspire our youths with these personal stories and successes.
- (iv) **Thematic Event 4: Youth Entrepreneurship Hackathon (target audience: youths)**
The objective of this event is to provide a platform for youths to exercise problem-solving skills, showcase their solutions and explore opportunities to transform their ideas into commercially viable products/services. This event will consist of training workshops, brainstorming & facilitating and proposal pitching.
- (v) **Youth Ambassadors Programme (target audience: youths)**
TP welcomes nominations for eligible youths to be appointed as Youth Ambassadors for the World Youth Skills Day (Asia-Pacific) 2022. Youth Ambassadors play an important role to send the message on the importance of preparing skills for the future to our youth and will serve as the liaison between their institutions and the organising committee. This programme aims to stimulate youths to come up with ground-up initiatives contributing to youth and skills.

5. Partnerships

- 5.1 As the organiser of the WYSD APAC initiative and with the support of UNESCO-UNEVOC, TP welcomes partners to leverage on the WYSD branding for their programmes that are related to Youth and Skills. Partners can also propose to host or co-host new programmes with TP. Programmes that are organised under the ambit of WYSD will be publicised in the WYSD microsite.

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- Annex A: WYSD (APAC) 2022 Programme Partnership Information Form
 - Annex B: WYSD (APAC) 2022 Youth Ambassador Nomination Form
 - Annex C: WYSD (APAC) 2022 Main Symposium and Opening Ceremony Agenda 7-8 Jul