

*Draft agenda*

**OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum**



**HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:  
FOSTERING COMPETITIVENESS  
TO BUILD BACK BETTER**

**Thursday, 20 May 2021**

Virtual meeting

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**#OECDSEA**

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The combination of megatrends such as globalisation, digitalisation and an ageing population is having a profound effect on society and labour markets. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented disruptions in the global and regional economies. Although Southeast Asian economies have made remarkable progress over the past decade in raising income, reducing poverty and integrating into the world economy, economic disparities have deepened as the pandemic has brought disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups such as women, youth and the SMEs sector.

In response to these challenges, the OECD has taken active steps towards advancing human capital development by calling on its Member countries to deliver effective education and labour market policies as essential priorities for the recovery.<sup>1</sup> ASEAN's response has been even more pronounced: the 2020 chairmanship of ASEAN has identified promoting human capital development as one of its horizontal priorities in the [Implementation Plan](#) of the [ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework \(ACRF\)](#), which was adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2020. This emphasis on human capital development was already well reflected within the ASEAN system, notably with the [ASEAN Economic Community \(AEC\) Blueprint 2025](#); the [ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community \(ASCC\) Blueprint 2025](#); the [ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work](#); the [Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity \(MPAC\) 2025](#); the [ASEAN Digital Masterplan \(ADM\) 2025](#); and the [Initiative for ASEAN Integration \(IAI\) Work Plan IV \(2021-2025\)](#). Building on increased cooperation since 2014, ASEAN Member States identified the OECD as a partner organisation in the ACRF Implementation Plan and work has commenced towards concluding a Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the OECD.

## OBJECTIVES

The OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) has supported Southeast Asian countries' domestic policy reform priorities as well as regional economic integration efforts since 2014. The 2021 Regional Forum will provide a timely opportunity for representatives and policy-makers from Southeast Asia and their OECD peers to rethink policy options for enhancing human capital development to strengthen resilience and competitiveness in the ASEAN region. Emphasis will be put on the transformative impact of digitalisation on education and skills. Participants are also invited to discuss how to reform the education system in order to close the learning gap among children and youth and how to improve skills of adults to adapt to the changing working environment.

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<sup>1</sup> [2020 Ministerial Council Statement: A Strong, Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19](#).

## *Draft Agenda*

# 2021 OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum

## *Human Capital Development in Southeast Asia: Fostering Competitiveness to Build Back Better*

Thursday, 20 May 2021

Virtual meeting

09:00-09:20

(Paris time)

14:00-14:20

(Bangkok time)

### OPENING SESSION

#### **Opening Remarks:**

- **H.E. Mr. Don PRAMUDWINAI**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Thailand**
- **H.E. Mr. Angel GURRÍA**, Secretary General, **OECD**
- **H.E. Mr. CHOI Jong-moon**, Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Korea**

09:20-10:20

(Paris time)

14:20-15:20

(Bangkok time)

### SESSION 1: HUMAN CAPITAL AND COMPETITIVENESS IN A DIGITALISING WORLD

The COVID-19 pandemic has induced the deepest global recession in nearly a century, threatening health, impeding economic activity and disrupting well-being and jobs. In particular, the disproportionate impacts of digitalisation have prompted ASEAN Member States to protect and equip their workers with the relevant competencies. In response to these challenges, ASEAN commits to enhance human capital to boost competitiveness and resilience of the region and ensure that no one is left behind.<sup>2</sup> It further highlights the significance of digital transformation of education systems in achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth in light of the varying degrees of digitalisation in education among ASEAN Member States<sup>3</sup>.

This session will provide an opportunity for experts and policy-makers to exchange views and policy responses on the rapid digitalisation brought about by COVID-19 and how human capital development can be adapted to the fast-changing world of work.

#### **Moderator:**

- **Mr. Andreas SCHAAL**, Director, Global Relations, **OECD**

#### **Keynote address:**

- **H.E. Mr. Kung PHOAK**, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, **ASEAN**

#### **Speakers:**

- **YB Dato'Sri Mustapa MOHAMED**, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department for Economic Affairs, **Malaysia**

<sup>2</sup> [Roadmap of the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Joint Statement of the Conference on the Digital Transformation of Education Systems throughout ASEAN](#)

- **Mr. WASHIO Eiichiro**, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Japan**
- **Yang Berhormat FDr. Ar. Siti Rozaimeryanty DSLJ Haji Abd RAHMAN**, Chairperson, **ASEAN Business Advisory Council**
- **Mr. LEE Seong-ho**, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs, **Korea**
- **Ms. Melissa BROWN**, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., **U.S. Mission to ASEAN**

#### Open Discussion

**10:20-11:20**

*(Paris time)*

**SESSION 2: RESHAPING EDUCATION AND SKILLS STRATEGIES FOR A  
RESILIENT SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**15:20-16:20**

*(Bangkok time)*

Megatrends in the form of globalisation, technological progress, population ageing, migration and climate change substantially influence the skills that people need to navigate the world. COVID-19 has accelerated the use of technologies overcoming distance, facilitating the adoption of virtual and alternative learning methods. In recognition of this challenge, the [ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework](#) identifies skills development as a pivotal strategy to respond to the digital transformation. In particular, its [Implementation Plan](#) outlines the promotion of 21<sup>st</sup> century and digital skills, financial inclusion and literacy as key priorities.

In line with ASEAN’s initiative, this session will feature experts and speakers from the OECD and Southeast Asia exchanging views on the skills implications of megatrends and COVID-19, and examining how education and skills strategies can be reshaped to foster resilience in Southeast Asia in response to the changing world of work.

#### Moderator:

- **Prof. Dr Sukit LIMPIJUMNONG**, President, The Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST), **Thailand**

#### Keynote address:

- **Mr. Andreas SCHLEICHER**, Director, Directorate for Education and Skills and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the SG, **OECD**

#### Speakers:

- **Prof. Dr NGUYEN Van Phuc**, Deputy Minister of Education and Training, **Viet Nam**
- **Mr. ONG Tze Chin**, Chief Executive, SkillsFuture, **Singapore**
- **Dr Michele BRUNIGES AM**, Secretary of the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, **Australia**
- **H.E. Ms. Diedrah KELLY**, Ambassador to ASEAN, **Canada**
- **Mr. Bambang BRODJONEGORO**, former Minister of Research and Technology, former Minister of National Development Planning and former Finance Minister, **Indonesia**

#### Open Discussion

**11:20-11:30**

*(Paris time)*

**BREAK**

**16:20-16:30**

*(Bangkok time)*

**11:30-12:30**

*(Paris time)*

**16:30-17:30**

*(Bangkok time)*

## **SESSION 3: STRENGTHENING EDUCATION AND SKILLS SYSTEMS THROUGH EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE (BREAKOUT SESSIONS)**

### **BREAKOUT SESSION I: LEARNING FROM THE CRISIS TO ACCELERATE EDUCATION SYSTEM REFORM**

The pandemic has disrupted the delivery of education outcomes in Southeast Asia, thereby aggravating existing disparities that need to be addressed by building future-ready education systems based on the principles of quality and equity.

This session will consider some of the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis, priority reform goals for the future and their challenges in the region, as well as how to ensure robust systems and indicators are in place to monitor and address performance over time.

#### **Moderator:**

- **Mr. Stephan VINCENT-LANCRIN**, Deputy Head, Innovation and Measuring Process Division, Directorate for Education and Skills, **OECD**

**Setting the Scene:** OECD Secretariat

#### **Speakers:**

- **Mr. Parit WACHARASINDHU**, CEO, StartDee, **Thailand**
- **Prof. Dr LE Anh Vinh**, Vice Director General, Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences and Director, National Center for Sustainable Development of General Education Quality, **Viet Nam**
- **Ms. Tara BETEILLE**, Senior Economist, **World Bank**
- **Dr Peep KÜNGAS**, Data Architect, Education and Youth Board, **Estonia**

#### **Open Discussions**

### **BREAKOUT SESSION II: RESKILLING AND UPSKILLING FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY**

Many SMEs and low-skilled workers in Southeast Asia have been hard-hit by the COVID-19 crisis, with women and those working in the informal economy particularly affected. ASEAN endeavours to promote lifelong learning and use of technology to build resilience against these disruptive effects.<sup>4</sup>

This session will discuss how to reskill and upskill individuals in Southeast Asia to reduce the existing skills mismatch in the digitalising world of work. The session will further consider the role of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in all forms (i.e. formal, non-formal and informal) in building a more adaptive skills system.

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<sup>4</sup> [ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work](#) (June 2020) and [ACRF Implementation Plan](#) (November 2020)

**Moderator:**

- **Ms. El Iza MOHAMEDOU**, Head of Centre for Skills, **OECD**

**Speakers:**

- **Ms. PYO Jung-hwa**, Director, ASEAN Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Korea**
- **Ms. Mega IRENA**, Head, Labour and Civil Service Division, Human Development Directorate, **ASEAN**
- **Ms. Alison CRABB**, Head of Unit, Skills and Qualifications, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, **European Commission**
- **Mr. Ruangroj POONPOL**, President of Technology, KBank and Chairman, KASICORN Business-Technology Group, **Thailand**

**Open Discussions**

**12:30-12:40**

*(Paris time)*

**17:30-17:40**

*(Bangkok time)*

**BREAK**

**12:40-12:50**

*(Paris time)*

**17:40-17:50**

*(Bangkok time)*

**PLENARY SESSION: FEEDBACK FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS**

Participants will reconvene in plenary session to hear the conclusions of the two breakout groups reported by a moderator or rapporteur from each group.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Alexander BÖHMER**, Head of South and Southeast Asia Division, Global Relations, **OECD**

**12:50-13:00**

*(Paris time)*

**17:50-18:00**

*(Bangkok time)*

**CLOSING SESSION**

**Closing Remarks**

- **Mr. Cherdchai CHAIVAIVID**, Director-General, Department of International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Thailand**
- **H.E. Mr. Thomas SCHNÖLL**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD, **Austria** and Chair, **OECD External Relations Committee (ERC)**

**OECD CONTACTS**

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