UNLIMITED ASEAN
EMPOWERING ASEAN’S YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH SKILLS, DECENT EMPLOYMENT, OPPORTUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

VIRTUAL FORUM
WED NOV 17 20
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EVENT REPORT
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INTRODUCTION AND
EVENT OVERVIEW

Generation Unlimited (GenU) is a global multi-sector partnership that was launched by the UN Secretary General at the General Assembly session in September 2018 to meet the urgent need for expanded education, training and employment opportunities for adolescents and young people. The GenU partnership aims to support investment opportunities, programmes and innovations at a large scale, and to help young people become productive in life by working with governments, public and private sectors across the globe. This alliance has a shared agenda that connects young people with businesses, governments and international organisations.

Together with partners, UNICEF and Generation Unlimited aim to convene key public and private stakeholders and young people around a common agenda: to advance education, skills development, youth employment, and youth participation in response to national and regional priorities. Given the excellent relationship UNICEF has with diverse partners in the ASEAN region, Generation Unlimited has the potential to increase investment, research and partnerships promoting young people’s skills, employment, and engagement. This is an opportunity to respond to the strategic learning and skilling needs of ASEAN countries, by galvanizing collaboration between the public and the private sectors, large-scale and targeted policy responses, investments and innovations to enable millions of young people in ASEAN to be prepared for today and for their future.

To galvanise partnerships and action in support of Generation Unlimited in the ASEAN region, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, the EU-ASEAN Business Council, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub and Decent Jobs for Youth, co-hosted a 1-day virtual forum, “Unlimited ASEAN”, on November 17th, 2021. Around 500 participants attended the online forum, including government, private sector, civil society and UN representatives, young entrepreneurs and youth leaders.
OBJECTIVES OF THE UNLIMITED ASEAN FORUM

The forum:
1. Highlighted innovative, inclusive and sustainable solutions to ensure that every adolescent and youth across ASEAN has access to best-in-class digital, financial and 21st century skills, training, and decent job opportunities.
2. Encouraged high-level, scalable commitments and public-private collaboration and coordination among key actors to move the agenda forward.
3. Identified evidence gaps and promoted linkages across partnerships and programmes for and with young people in ASEAN.
4. Advocated for establishing a Generation Unlimited Secretariat within ASEAN to serve as a hub for young people’s collaboration, partnerships, research, and programmes.

Background Documents:

Ahead of the Forum, partners prepared a rapid mapping of available evidence on young people’s skills, employability and entrepreneurship in ASEAN. The compendium of research is available here.

Key Themes Emerging from the Forum:

• Human-centred recovery in response to the COVID-19 youth employment crisis in ASEAN
• Addressing technological changes and gender disparities in education, skills development and employment
• Public-Private collaborations enhancing the young people’s agenda in ASEAN
• Preparing young people for the future of work during the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the climate crisis
• Co-creation and collaboration – Young people as entrepreneurs and changemakers

The forum successfully leveraged regional knowledge and secured commitments and investments from governments, business, and expert organizations on the right to education, skills, and decent job opportunities for all young people.
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop targeted policies to address the NEET group; focus on young girls, those with disabilities, and young people in remote areas who are not connected digitally. Design social protection schemes to enable young girls and those with disabilities to access skills and opportunities, making it easier for them to enter the labour market.

2. Capitalise on the disruption created by COVID-19 on education systems, and create, with Ministries of Education and young people, complementary, diverse, flexible, and modular skills-development programmes for young people.

3. Rethink Public Private Partnership by bringing in youth as a key partner (Public-Private-Youth Partnership) and ensuring that young people are equal partners in the design, implementation and monitoring of such partnerships.

4. Adopt a multi-stakeholder and equity-based approach to remote learning solutions that takes into account diverse needs of learners, caregivers, teachers, public administrators and the private sector.

5. Design remote learning programmes together with students and teachers to understand and respond to their needs and tailor solutions to address capacity issues (e.g., digital literacy, remote learning pedagogies, parents/caregivers’ ability to support, learner’s mental health considerations).

6. Governments should invest in promoting modular and market-driven certifications and micro-certifications, in collaboration with education experts, employers and young people.

7. Match curriculum with market demands; ensuring flexible curricula that enhance job related skills.
8 Develop a deep understanding of the value chain of employment from the point of view of youth job seekers and respond holistically with a set of career development options, including coaching, access to networks, microloans, and skill-building.

9 Ensure interoperability of ecosystems provided through private sector investments—ensuring these are done with governments and the local community.

10 Integrate online safety measures effectively into learning and skilling programmes; address online gender-based violence, harassment, and other risks.

11 Support young leaders to lead the way in encouraging peers to use online spaces effectively. Focus on women role models, include disability advocates, and other vulnerable groups of young people in advocating for safe spaces online.

12 Expand partnerships with private sector/business community, government, civil society organizations, start-ups, youth groups, and gender experts to empower adolescents and youth and provide them opportunities for learning, upskilling and employment.
OPENING SESSION

WELCOMING REMARKS, KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

MODERATED BY: MS. ROSHNI BASU
REGIONAL ADVISOR, ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION,
UNICEF EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

OPENING REMARKS SPEAKERS:

MS. DEBORA COMINI
REGIONAL DIRECTOR,
UNICEF EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

THE HON. FDR. AR. SITI ROZAIMERIYANTY
DSLJ HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN
CHAIR,
ASEAN BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

MR. CHRIS HUMPHREY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
EU-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

H.E. EKKAPHAB PHANTHAVONG
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL,
ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

DR. KEVIN FREY
CEO,
GENERATION UNLIMITED

MS. MOH SUTHASINY SUDPRASERT
CEO,
GENERATION UNLIMITED
Proceedings began with a powerful address from Ms. Debora Comini, who described the scale of the problem faced by young people in ASEAN countries in acquiring skills, finding work and training. Much of the damage from the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately being felt by young people, she mentioned, who were having to confront prolonged school closures alongside a lack of access to remote learning. Girls and young women have been especially negatively affected.

“Young people are demanding accountability and better decisions from us. It is their right and it is our duty. The decisions we make today have a huge impact on their futures. ASEAN leaders have acknowledged that empowered and skilled young people are the backbone of strong economies and yet we are far from securing the future of millions of young girls and boys.”

Ms. Debora Comini
Regional Director, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific

Investment in human capital is now more urgent than ever, she said, which is why UNICEF is working with UNDP, the ILO and other partners in the GenU front-runner countries in the region (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam) on digital literacy, skills building, entrepreneurship and youth-led innovations. Lessons on the ground point to a need to introduce public-private partnerships to implement digital learning solutions. What is needed are operational partnerships to connect every school to the internet, capacity strengthening for teachers and facilitators, investment in digital content and more finance for youth-driven entrepreneurship and innovation.

Many have lost their livelihoods because of the pandemic, said the Honourable Yanty Rahman, and inevitably governments and others are asking themselves when it will all be over, and countries will return to normal? But the reality is that societies need to confront new norms, with more sustainable and inclusive solutions, to prepare young people for 21st century skills. Perhaps the greatest challenge in the future is ensuring inclusivity in terms of digital learning.

Youths aged between 15-35 make up a third of ASEAN’s total population – they are the first generation whose lives are saturated by mobile technology and social media, said Mr. Chris Humphrey, giving them ease of access to vast amounts of information. They have high expectations and want their voices heard. They have a clear idea of what they can accomplish if they receive the proper tools to surmount the digital divide and have fairer access to job and training opportunities. But young people feel more vulnerable because of the pandemic – the greatest international health crisis of our time. At the same time, Mr. Humphrey noted, young people are more resilient, they are helping themselves, and now the older generation must support them to unleash their potential.

“Perhaps the greatest challenge in the future is ensuring inclusivity in terms of digital learning.”

The Honourable Yanty Rahman
Chair, ASEAN Business Advisory Council
There is a skills mismatch inside the labour market that was already tough even before the pandemic began, and with the continued impact of COVID-19, the transition from school to work is an increased challenge. Schoolchildren have also been hit hard – the Asian Development Bank estimates that school closures will result in a 2.4 per cent annual decrease in the future earnings of each school student. This places ASEAN’s economic recovery and development potential at risk. The transition from physical to online classes has also highlighted deep digital divides.

But not all is bleak - ASEAN’s youth have shown remarkable nimbleness in the face of adversity. They have become more educated, skilled and ready to face a post-pandemic world, spending more time during lockdowns to learn new skills.

The pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to children, said H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong. Around the world they have struggled to study or advance their careers. That is why the theme of the conference is most relevant and timely. ASEAN for its part will respond by promoting human development, so that young people are equipped with 21st century skills for the labour market. This will be done by promoting an IT infrastructure including the use of digital technology in schools and more remote working opportunities. ASEAN will also work with the public and private sectors.

Young people today represent a quarter of the world’s population – they are a dynamic and powerful group who hold our shared future in their hands. A generation of this size – the largest in history – has an opportunity to raise global productivity, catalyse the green revolution and lift nations out of poverty, said Dr. Kevin Frey. Often young people are inheriting an unequal playing field, with limited opportunities to define their futures. About 267 million young people around the world are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET), and two-thirds of this group are young women.

Youth unemployment and under-employment have been driven up due to COVID-19, and according to the OECD, a quarter of young entrepreneurs have closed their businesses completely because of the pandemic. The pandemic also accelerated changes in the way we work. By the end of 2021, jobs in the gig economy will outnumber traditional 9 to 5 jobs, and by 2027 about 60 percent of the global workforce will consist of freelance professionals. Career progression is no longer a linear exercise, a young person today can expect to change their career five to seven times at least during their working lives. With such profound and seemingly irreversible shifts on the horizon, it is important to take action now. Dr. Frey emphasized the need for young people to be at the table to address these challenges, giving the example of Generation Unlimited as the world’s first Public-Private-Youth Partnership. In her youth Keynote Address, Ms. Moh Suthasiny Sudprasert said that while many people...
like her had been able to launch successful start-ups in South-East Asia, not every young person has had the same experience. High rates of unemployment, teenage pregnancies, juvenile delinquency, depression and many more issues pull young people, especially girls, back from achieving their full potential. Instead of putting labels on young people, she said, it is important to imagine an environment in which young people have the resilience needed to thrive in their lives.

“Mental health and resilience are the foundation for young people to achieve their full potential.”

Ms. Moh Suthasiny Sudprasert
Co-CEO, Happy Grocers, Thailand

Key Takeaways

- The damage created by COVID-19 is disproportionately being felt by young people, with greater impact on girls and young women
- ASEAN’s economic recovery and development potential are now at risk
- Develop diverse partnerships across private sector, governments and young people to drive forward innovation and investment into skills, employability and entrepreneurship for young people.
- Place greater focus on bridging the digital divide, through infrastructure investment, device access, and adapted digital skill curricula to reach the most marginalized
- Reimagine the transition to work, noting careers are no longer linear and leveraging digital platforms to support career guidance and exploration
PLENARY SESSION ONE

REIMAGINING SKILLS TO OVERCOME THE LEARNING CRISIS

THIS SESSION HIGHLIGHTED CRITICAL LEARNING GAPS CREATED BY THE PANDEMIC, INVITED FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED WITH A FOCUS ON PROVIDING DIGITAL LEARNING SOLUTIONS FOR THE MOST MARGINALISED YOUNG PEOPLE.

MODERATED BY: MR. FRANCISCO BENAVIDES
REGIONAL ADVISOR, EDUCATION, UNICEF EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

SPEAKERS

THE HON. FDR. AR. SITI ROZAIMERIYANTY
DSLJ HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN
CHAIR, ASEAN BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

MR. EUGENE HO
HEAD OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC, SAP

MR. HOSEA LAI
DIRECTOR OF MICROSOFT PHILANTHROPIES, ASIA AND PACIFIC

MS. NADINE SIREGAR
CO-FOUNDER, GENERATION GIRL
“People from excluded communities are consistently underrepresented in technology. COVID, the economic recession, and digital transformation have only deepened the digital divide and the negative impact that existed before is still not going away anytime soon,”

Mr. Hosea Lai
Director of Microsoft Philanthropies, Asia and Pacific

Opening the session, Mr. Francisco Benavides said that although many school children had defied the pandemic to go back to their classrooms in the ASEAN region, millions had been without access to education for between a year to 20 months. He warned that unless there was a concerted response to reopen schools safely, the number of school dropouts will increase with profound impacts in particular on girls and young women’s education. Nonetheless, the pandemic has also provided opportunities for greater inclusion and innovation as creative digital solutions are coming into the field, with new options for pupils to continue their learning. Mr. Benavides emphasized that today there is a role for actors who previously not been involved in the education system.

In her presentation, the Honourable Yanty Rahman said there was a big challenge to equip young people with the right skill sets in the face of COVID-19 and rapid digital transformation. She said that an agile response is required to address this critical skills gap, especially for vulnerable young people who are at risk of being left behind. This requires equitable and inclusive use of digital tools for online learning and gaining new skills, which is why the GenU Public-Private Youth Partnership (PPYP) is so important.

The Hon. Yanty Rahman indicated that to be adaptable, young people need the 4 C’s: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity; and further: empathy and resilience to succeed in today and tomorrow’s volatile job market. She shared the example of ASEAN BAC Brunei’s legacy project, HIRED, which aims to prepare youth to be future-ready through skills development, digital training, and remote mentorship programmes. HIRED has 4 goals: to address the skills gaps in ASEAN countries; to bridge the skills gap within ASEAN; to build an eco-system to support industry-relevant skills; and to balance the supply and demand of ASEAN’s workforce.

Mr. Eugene Ho addressed the issue of empowering young people through digital skills, decent employment opportunities and partnerships, referencing global and regional programmes and partnerships led by SAP. He mentioned that the shortage of technical talent remains a challenge. He referenced the World Economic Forum’s ASEAN youth survey, highlighting that 39 percent of ASEAN youth indicated that technology use would be very important in a post-pandemic world, yet 54 percent do not feel proficient in technology. The gap in skills and labour is clear and investments in the future workforce are urgent, he said.

Mr. Ho shared examples from SAP’s ASEAN partnerships to address this challenge. In Viet Nam, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF Viet Nam, SAP is supporting the digital transformation of the secondary and TVET education system by integrating digital and life skills into national curricula and supporting the roll-out of innovative technologies, such as Augmented Reality, into classrooms and teacher’s hands. This is allowing rural schools to virtually experience typically costly and equipment-intensive learning methods, such as science labs.
In his address, Mr. Hosea Lai said the pandemic has made the skills gap even bigger, with the most vulnerable often the worst affected. After 18 months of COVID-19, he noted that available jobs across sectors are increasing, especially tech jobs – where there are predicted to be 149 million new jobs globally in the next five years.

Mr. Lai reiterated that urgent action is required to ensure every person has access to skills, technology and opportunity to succeed in the changing economy. “Everyone needs to upskill, and I mean everyone,” Mr. Lai said. He shared the experience of Microsoft to provide a range of content on basic, foundational and advanced digital skills to vulnerable groups through partnerships with UNICEF, Grab, ASEAN Foundation, UNESCO and others. He called for greater collaboration and partnerships to overcome the skills crisis, noting the need for an in depth understanding of young people’s reality and wider ecosystem.

Ms. Nadine Siregar shared her personal experience building a social business upskilling girls and young women on digital and transferable skills, emphasizing the need for targeted support to ensure girls and young women have adequate role models, skills and opportunities to reach leadership positions. It’s difficult for young women in the ASEAN region to get access to role models, said Ms. Siregar, noting it is often one of the biggest barriers to female progression. One successful approach she shared was to ensure that young women are interacting with local, attainable role models. Another key lesson is “learn globally, execute locally” – the curriculum may be the same, but it has to be delivered in a way that resonates with local communities.

“From the non-profit space, private space, government space, education space, everyone has to work together to digitally up-skill these young people,”

Ms. Nadine Siregar
Co-Founder, Generation Girl

Meet Rasya
Winter Club 2019 Rookie | Electives Lite Participant | Grade 9 Student at SMP Tara Salvia

At first I was really confused about how to make a web and almost gave up, but with the help of the mentors I was able to enjoy and understand the topic. My mom only registered me for one week but I asked to extend because I really felt at home with the supportive environment, and I got to meet a lot of new friends as well!
Throughout the session, panellists emphasized the need for greater collaboration and action by private sector, governments, academic, and young people to develop industry-relevant skills for all young people and to help drive social impact and scalable solutions.

**Key Takeaways**

- Recognize that digital skills sit within a larger digital economy ecosystem, including connectivity, digital employment, and social norms.
- Involve more youth in the decision-making process and curriculum development. Governments and the private sector need to work much more closely together to provide young people with the requisite skills.
- Teach young people transferable skills, which remain relevant, regardless of changes in technology.
- Adopt a partnership mindset – understand the value proposition different partners can bring to education and skills gaps to address challenges effectively.
- Encourage a mobile-first environment to bring digital content into the hands of more people.
- Employers should develop a comprehensive understanding of the job-seeking process from the perspective of young people and respond to bridge gaps and build a foundation for young people to seek career guidance, mentorship, apprenticeship and support towards employment.
LESSONS FROM REMOTE LEARNING

THIS BREAKOUT LOOKED AT WHAT REMOTE LEARNING NOW LOOKS LIKE AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY FOR VULNERABLE ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. THE SESSION ALLOWED EDUCATION SECTOR EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THE FULL IMPACT OF DISTANCE LEARNING.

MODERATED BY: MS. LEOTES HELIN
CHIEF OF EDUCATION, UNICEF LAOS

PANELLISTS

MR. TOM KAYE
COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT LEAD, ED TECH HUB

MS. ALINA AMIR
CO-FOUNDER, ARUS ACADEMY

MS. LOVE BASILLOTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PHILIPPINES BUSINESS FOR EDUCATION
Ms. Leotes Helin began by saying that when the COVID-19 pandemic started in early 2020, remote learning became a sort of a buzzword across South-East Asia. Prolonged school closures affected 114 million students. Remote learning was deemed so important it was second only to COVID-19 vaccines for many countries in terms of pandemic priorities.

Ms. Alina Amir said that Malaysia is experiencing one of the longest Covid-related school closures in the world, with openings and closures affecting 2.5 million pupils and happening on innumerable occasions. She said the priority now should be on a blended approach to education (mixing digital with face to face classes) while making sure that internet safety is properly understood before schools jump into teaching content remotely.

Ms. Love Basillote said the Philippines has grappled with several challenges presented by Covid including health risks, a learning crisis (many schools have been closed since February 2020) and massive losses in jobs and livelihoods. But the good news is the country has recently started a pilot face-to-face learning initiative in 100 public schools out of 48,000 across the country.

Mr. Tom Kaye said that the delivery of remote learning varied from country to country and could be done by TV, radio, laptop or smartphone. All of these can be fantastic learning devices, he said, but the challenge is to make sure that teachers are optimizing the delivery of content to students on the devices they have access to. And even more importantly (where possible) they are using them in an integrated way. Another thing to consider was virtual teaching for girls – are they going to be adequately protected from things like cyber bullying and harassment online? Here are four principles that may help governments deliver remote education: 1) Ensure that children can access printed materials, printing, and books; 2) Integrate learning tools to increase access; 3) Adapt content to the local context; 4) Equip teachers and caregivers to support remote education.

Key Takeaways

- Blended learning is here to stay, but approaches for an effective blended learning programs for both learners and teachers need to be designed with equity as a key consideration and contribute towards a more resilient education system.
- In designing remote learning programmes, engage students and teachers in the process to better understand their needs and tailor approaches that address capacity constraints (e.g. digital literacy, remote learning pedagogies, parents/caregivers knowledge and skills to support learning at home);
- Recognize the need to upgrade infrastructure to address aspects of the digital divide (access to devices, internet).
- Maximize the use of existing remote learning modalities and integrate the use of these different modalities to reach the most marginalized (e.g. print, TV, radio, digital and online)
- Adopt a multi-stakeholder approach to remote learning solutions with equity as a critical metric for success.
SOLUTIONS FORUM TWO

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF YOUNG PEOPLE’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT ACROSS ASEAN

THIS SESSION EXAMINED HOW PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS PLAY A ROLE IN SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE’S EMPOWERMENT, PROVIDING THEM WITH EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC AND DIGITAL ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES.

MODERATED BY: MR. ARUN NAIR
INNOVATIVE FINANCE SPECIALIST, UNICEF CHINA

PANELLISTS

DR. ZOHRA YERMECHE
HEAD OF CONNECT TO LEARN
ERICSSON

MR. ANURAG PRATAP
VICE PRESIDENT & CSR LEADER
CAPGEMINI

MS. TENZIN DOLMA NORBUH
DIRECTOR FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY,
GOOGLE SE ASIA
Mr. Arun Nair began by highlighting that there seemed to be a consensus that investing in digital infrastructure was critical, alongside the necessity to provide young people with internships or skill-based training. Coordinated national education and employment policies to support young people’s transition to work are also required.

In her remarks, Ms. Tenzin Dolma Norbhu pointed out that research has shown that the pandemic had triggered a huge rise in digital adoption across South East Asia, with the digital economy expected to reach $360 billion by 2025. Twenty million people in the region came online for the first time during the first half of 2021. She said that women nevertheless were still losing out in the digital boom. She said it was also vitally important to revise the curriculum in order to match skills with market demand.

The next panellist, Mr. Anurag Pratap said that if the digital divide was to be tackled, more work was needed to reskill young people digitally through things such as skills academies, where they can be better prepared for the world of employment.

Dr. Zohra Yermche said that Ericsson for more than a decade has been focusing on leveraging partnerships with like-minded organisations to promote digital learning for children and youth. As a leading telecom company, Ericsson firmly believes that meaningful internet connectivity must be provided to all and that her company was joining forces with UNICEF to support efforts to bring access to global connectivity for schools by 2030.

“One of the key elements in this type of partnership is: how can we complement others; how can we join forces to create that scale and quality?”

Dr. Zohra Yermche
Head of Connect to Learn Ericsson

Key Takeaways

- Coordinated education and employment policies are urgently required to strengthen the connection between leaving education and finding jobs.
- Public private partnerships can contribute to innovation, systems infrastructure and financing.
- While it is important to reach scale, it is also essential to focus on impact; in certain situations, focusing on a clear target group of beneficiaries and responding to their needs can have a greater impact over time.
- The PPP investments should be inclusive and equitable to reach the most marginalized, especially girls, in particular their early exposure to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) areas and digital/AI technologies.
- Private sector companies must understand that development agenda takes time, understanding the unique needs of individual communities and tailoring interventions carefully is important.
DIGITAL SPACES FOR EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Sharing new regional research into how online spaces contribute to adolescent’s skill development and engagement, this session focused on key findings and recommendations of the report and brought together young leaders and influencers to share their perspectives on the impact digital spaces have on young people’s lives.

Moderated by: MS. ALLISON MORRIS
ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION SPECIALIST, UNICEF EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

Panelists

MR. KELVINTAN
FOUNDER, PROJECT I.D

MS. RAYRAI SUVEERANONT
ADOLESCENT BLOGGER, THAILAND

MR. ABDUL NASSER PARINDURI
CO-FOUNDER, ZNESIA HUB

MR. AYUSH CHAUHAN
CO-FOUNDER, QUICKSAND DESIGN STUDIO
The session began with a fireside chat between 3 young leaders to provide young people’s perspective on how online spaces are shaping their lives and choices. Leading the discussion was Mr. Kelvin Tan from Project I.D. Malaysia, with Ms. Rayrai Suveeranont (an adolescent online blogger with 500,000 followers on Facebook) and Mr. Abdul Nasser (a young leader from Indonesia and a member of UNICEF Indonesia’s Mitra Muda youth network). In the discussion, Rayrai said that the internet had made her more aware of the world, which is why she is now more careful about what she writes online. She said that if people use the internet safely, they can connect to the world- it is a great opportunity to work with other people and get information. She said her Gen Z age group was eager to exchange ideas, which was why online education was so important. Abdul Nasser reiterated the importance of addressing fake news and challenging online misinformation, encouraging young people to serve as inspiration for their peers.

Mr. Ayush Chauhan from Quicksand Design Studio, presented the findings and recommendations of UNICEF’s regional research, “Adolescent Engagement and Skills Acquisition in Online Spaces.” The multi-country study covered Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam and aimed to understand how adolescents across countries, ages, genders, and socio-economic and cultural contexts, interact and engage with the variety of content and platforms available online.

The research found that adolescents are using digital spaces primarily for entertainment and leisure, rather than for exploring opportunities for skill development and active engagement. Through their engagement on social media, they are picking up skills such as communication, team building, cross-cultural learning, and entrepreneurial acumen, but these spaces are not fostering essential technical and analytical skills such as critical thinking and advanced digital literacy, thereby limiting adolescents’ digital potential. The full report can be found on UNICEF East Asia Pacific’s website.

Report: Adolescent Engagement and Skills Acquisition in Digital Spaces
Poor internet connectivity, financial constraints, and gender barriers limit young people’s access to and engagement with online spaces.

When online, adolescents are pursuing their hobbies, interests, and exploring new cultures - which aids their transition to adulthood. However, only some adolescents are creating and sharing their own content online, and this is more likely for those with adequate resources and advanced digital skills.

Across the region, ages and genders, entertainment and leisure are the dominant motivators to spend time online.

Participating in digital spaces, often anonymously, has given many adolescents the confidence to express themselves freely on civic and social issues as well as find solace and support in their personal struggles.

Pre-existing gender norms and stereotypes influence what content girls seek out when online and what content they are offered.

Adolescents are not adequately protected — or capacitated to protect themselves — from the frequent risks and harm they face online.

Key Takeaways
PLENARY SESSION TWO

PROMOTING EMPLOYABILITY AND DECENT JOBS FOR A HUMAN-CENTRED RECOVERY AND FUTURE OF WORK FOR YOUTH IN ASEAN

THIS SESSION IDENTIFIED CRITICAL CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH IN THE LABOUR MARKET AND EXPLORSED POLICY MEASURES NEEDED TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORLDWIDE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION WHICH IS CHANGING THE FACE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

MODERATED BY: MR. JULIEN MAGNAT
SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY SPECIALIST, ILO REGIONAL OFFICE OF ASIA PACIFIC

SPEAKERS

DR. SUMITRA NAIR
CHIEF DIGITAL SKILLS & JOBS OFFICER, MALAYSIA DIGITAL ECONOMY CORPORATION

MR. THOMAS THOMAS
CEO, ASEAN CSR NETWORK

EXCELENCY MR. THORNG SAMON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TVET, MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, CAMBODIA

MR. JOSE ROLAND MOYA
DIRECTOR GENERAL, EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
Mr. Julien Magnat presented the various ways COVID-19 had caused a massive disruption to the region's labour market, with disproportionate impact on youth. He shared ILO statistics on the situation, such as:

- Young people aged between 15-24 were six times more likely to be unemployed than their adult counterparts.
- 80 per cent of young people in the Asia-Pacific region are in informal jobs.
- Before the pandemic about 160 million young people in the region were not in education or employment.

In addition to schools and technical and vocational training establishments being closed, Mr. Magnat said students had been compelled to endure exam cancellations or postponements alongside disruptions to work based learning. All this at a time when the labour market had fewer vacancies and pathways into employment (especially for women). He said future employment for young people is likely to be more digital, green, and integrated. A degree of emotional intelligence is likely to be in high demand from employers who are eager to want their staff to navigate technological changes in the workplace. He also reiterated that new technology in the workplace may not take away as many jobs as previously feared.

Mr. Jose Roland Moya mentioned that legislation had been passed in the Philippines to promote green jobs, but progress had been hampered by the impact of the pandemic, the capacity of MSMEs to make the necessary changes, a lack of labour market information and the absence of a “buy-in” among employers. The green agenda would affect young people, he said, because it would be mainstreamed across all levels of education, including Technical Vocational and Educational Training. Mr. Moya said plans were now afoot to stimulate an employment recovery which would focus on inclusive growth and sustainable economic and social development to prepare the labour force for a post-pandemic world by “skilling, reskilling and upskilling them”.

In his remarks, His Excellency Mr. Thorng Samon pointed out that the pandemic had affected Cambodia in the same way it had with other countries and was particularly damaging on the education, economy and tourism sectors. He said the authorities were doing their utmost to address the challenges, with efforts taken to improve productivity and provide more employment opportunities. He said young people needed to reskill or upskill if they were to have a future role in industry. But the most important thing, he said, was to develop the TVET network. That was why the government was setting up its own online platform for students to help them get the knowledge and skills to adapt to the new labour market realities. Digital training is of paramount importance, he said, as was the involvement of the private sector so that the whole process could be moved forward.

Mr. Thomas Thomas drew attention to the urgent need to include social justice as part of the post-pandemic agenda. He said this was not an issue related to money (without which businesses cannot survive) but for companies to hold the right moral values and principals in the
marketplace. Businesses help the government to develop its initiatives, including measures to protect the environment and protect young people and children. Young people not only need to have the security of paid employment, but also need to work for companies that are actively pursuing and contributing towards social justice. The requisite changes can be brought about through dialogue and partnership but mostly through political will.

“We really need people to understand how technology is not just changing the job market, but how it is providing more opportunities and that people now have the opportunity to learn anywhere anytime.”

Dr. Sumitra Nair  
Chief Digital Skills & Jobs Officer, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation

Dr. Sumitra Nair said that the Malaysian government has launched a building digital talents initiative with the aim of creating a fairer and more inclusive digital society. The strategy is a key part of the government’s digital economy blueprint to nurture future digital innovators - through a talent pipeline, the creation of a digitally savvy workforce and ensuring fairer access to employment and income opportunities. She said the Ministry of Education had been working with NGOs and the private sector to make this happen, and in 2020 had launched a Future Skills for All Initiative, together with UNICEF Malaysia, to make digital skills more widely available in schools. A key part of this involved training teachers in digital training, so that they can if necessary, deliver their classes online. Dr. Nair also shared that through other initiatives of MDEC about 500,000 people from vulnerable communities had benefited from public-private partnerships to access gig economy income opportunities.
Upskilling and reskilling (especially digital skills) are here to stay
Labour market policies need to be dynamic and able to anticipate market trends.
Skills for the future: Social and emotional skills, basic skills for green jobs, basic digital skills and cognitive and metacognitive skills
The green agenda should be mainstreamed across all levels of education
Technical and Vocational Education and Training for adolescents, especially those most marginalised, requires further investment
Governments need to align ministries to introduce holistic, sustainable and scalable initiatives to help young people.
FINANCING GENERATION UNLIMITED YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

THIS SESSION EXPLORED EXISTING AND POTENTIAL INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE FINANCING GAP FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACROSS ASEAN, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON FINANCING OPTIONS THAT MAY REACH MORE MARGINALISED GROUPS.

MODERATED BY: MR. AMARIT CHAROENPHAN
ASEAN DIRECTOR, IMPACT COLLECTIVE

PANELLISTS

MR. JOEY CONCEPCION
ASEAN BAC PHILIPPINES CHAIR & PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MR. JAMES CHEO
CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER,
SOUTH EAST ASIA HSBC GLOBAL PRIVATE BANKING AND WEALTH

MS. TU THU HIEN
FOUNDER,
WISE VIET NAM
Mr. Amarit Charoenphan said that while young entrepreneurs were often leading the way in developing innovative solutions, access to finance remains a major constraint to launch and growth, especially for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Kicking off the panel discussion, panellists were asked to comment on existing challenges and solutions in their respective countries or industries.

To start, Mr. Joey Concepcion highlighted that majority of enterprises in the ASEAN region would be considered Small and Medium Enterprises, and many entrepreneurs would be coming from low-education and low-resourced backgrounds. In the Philippines, Mr. Concepcion noted, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and his own organization are focusing on 3 change strategies for entrepreneurs: mentorship, markets and money. With mentors supporting business concepts, and with access to viable markets, funding would be easier to access.

Focusing on women-led businesses, Ms. Tu Thu Hien referenced a report by the International Finance Corporation, which estimated that the financing gap for women in Viet Nam is about US$1.2 million and only 37% of women SMEs in Viet Nam can get access to bank loans compared with 47% of men-led SMEs. Ms. Hien emphasized the impact of gendered norms and perceptions, such as the misconception among investors that female entrepreneurs are less capable of generating profits.

While it was true that access to finance was a problem, Mr. James Cheo said the future for the region was nevertheless bright. The ASEAN countries are a huge market with lots of young people, he said, with the pandemic encouraging greater digital integration, countries in the region are even closer than before. With regards to young entrepreneurs accessing financing, he highlighted that venture capital firms are looking for people who not only have a great idea, but who can implement it. This can be a challenge when many young people would be first-time CEOs.

Focusing in on adolescents and how to support their entrepreneurial skillsets, panellists highlighted that this should start from within the education system, with Ms. Hien giving the example of teacher-trainings for female instructors on entrepreneurship and innovation, allowing them to pass these skills on to students.

**Key Takeaways**

- Mentorship can help pave the way to financing by supporting young entrepreneurs to develop a strong idea and understand their target market.
- Online tools and solutions in financing and entrepreneurship support should be explored as opportunities to expand access to those in hard to reach areas.
- Address gendered norms with regards to young women’s abilities to lead businesses, breaking down barriers for young women to access financing.
- Provide targeted support to young women to enhance entrepreneurial capacity to develop a pipeline of viable businesses.
- Integrate entrepreneurial skillsets into national education systems.

“...I believe with the right ecosystem, Southeast Asia can have its own silicon valley. It would need a lot of partnerships, a lot of cooperation within the private sector, the public sector, universities and others;”

*Mr. James Cheo*
Chief Investment Officer, South East Asia HSBC Global Private Banking and Wealth
ACHIEVING THE SDGS THROUGH YOUTH LED INNOVATION

This youth-led session examined the successes and failures of young people as they seek to contribute to the sustainable development goals. Panellists were asked what drove them or froze them in their early careers, what their concerns were for young people living in the ASEAN region and their assessment of the impact of the pandemic on young people.

Moderated by: Youth Panellists

Panellists

Ms. Varantip Satchatippavarn
CEO, IRA Concept

Ms. Wika Maulany Fatimah
Chief Engineer, LOTA+

Ms. Supapitch Juthamongkol
Co-Founder, Term-NAAM

Mr. Zhi Xiong Chong
Chief Learning Officer, Chumbaka

Ms. Queenie Chong
Co-Founder & CEO, Memori
Young innovators from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei shared motivations behind starting their SDG-related businesses, and the challenges they have faced along the way. Ms. Varangtip Satchatippavarn talked about the challenges of launching a biodegradable and organic sanitary pad company in Thailand, a balance between sustainability and convenience. She said that many people in South-East Asia do not want to talk openly about sanitary products and it was a field where there had been no innovation for decades.

Ms. Wika Maulany Fatimah said that climate change affected her toilet company, because many people in Indonesia live in coastal areas prone to flooding which posed problems for locating latrines. Ms. Queenie Chong said that launching her legacy-planning platform (where people can write wills and secure digital assets) was difficult in an area of the world where there are so many diverse cultures and where the vast majority of people do not write wills. She advised young job hunters and innovators to be confident in themselves, whatever they’re trying to do. It’s okay to fail, she said, but of course don’t fail by not doing your research properly.

Ms. Supapitch Juthamongkol shared the background on her initiative, Term Naam, which aims to reduce plastic, water, and pollution waste created by handwashing soap. Mr. Zhi Xiong Chong emphasized that Chumbaka’s approach is to get young people to look at problems within their own community – such as conservation and waste management - and use technology to solve it. Through education we can prolong our impact down the line, he said.

In a candid discussion around the fear of failure, panellists indicated that parents, peers, teachers and others have supported them along the way, but the key is to use these resources and reach out to them for advice on a regular basis. “I started looking at things differently, and I am doing this for me and for the world,” mentioned Varangtip, noting that the fear of failure is persistent and a constant challenge. She emphasized that having a clear and practical goal can help overcome the fear of failure.

**Key Takeaways**

- Young people are passionate about contributing to the SDGs through sustainable, inclusive and technologically enabled solutions.
- Young people require ongoing support from peers, parents and teachers to overcome their fear of failure and gain confidence to test innovations.
- Engaging young people in problem-solving of local challenges and problems can support their entrepreneurial skill development and support locally relevant solutions for better uptake.
- To get more young people involved in SDG-related issues, it will require strategic partnerships with governments, youth organizations and others and adequate evidence and data to understand the problem they are targeting and develop accountability mechanisms to monitor progress.

“*If you don’t believe in yourself and what you can do, you can’t convince others*”

Varangtip Satchatippavarn
CEO, Ira Concept, Thailand
PLENARY SESSION THREE

EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

THIS SESSION SAW PANELLISTS SHARING EXPERIENCES IN PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEMS IN SECOND TIER CITIES AND REMOTE AREAS, DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WORKS TO SCALE UP YOUTH-LED ENTERPRISES IN CHALLENGING CONTEXTS.

MODERATED BY: MS. MÉLANIE MOSSARD
DIRECTOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION, IMPACT HUB PHNOM PENH

PANELLISTS

MS. AMRA NAIDOO
CO-FOUNDER, ACCELERATING ASIA

MR. HAAZIQ IBRAHIM
CO-FOUNDER, DEMILAUT

MS. PHEAKDEY TOUS
CO-FOUNDER, PHUM IMPACT BATTAMBANG

MS. DEBORAH MELISSA BOTTREAU
MANAGING & CREATIVE DIRECTOR, SIENNA DMB SDN BHD
“What entrepreneurs really need is more dialogue between all parties who can help them, so there is a more coordinated approach to helping Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises,”

Ms. Amra Naidoo  
Co-Founder, Accelerating Asia

The third plenary was led by Ms. Mélanie Mossard in the form of a Q&A session with panellists. Young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship ecosystem leaders were invited to suggest ways in which entrepreneurship could be promoted in rural areas and less wealthy cities of the ASEAN region. Ms. Mossard began by asking Ms. Pheakdey Tous what were the challenges in promoting entrepreneurship in Battambang, a secondary city in Cambodia close to the Thai border. She replied that it was difficult, because the city does not have an infrastructure or any role models to support business innovation - even though there was no shortage of inspiring young people. Ms. Tous reiterated that it was important to help Cambodian businesses to address ‘brain drain’ and to keep local entrepreneurial talent in-country.

Ms. Deborah Melissa Bottreau was asked about the work of her organisation in reaching out to remote communities. She replied that her organisation was working to provide entrepreneurs with a voice in ASEAN. Support is especially focused on people in rural areas.

Mr. Haaziq Ibrahim was asked about his work to promote entrepreneurial fishing in Malaysian coastal areas. He explained that DemiLaut is a social enterprise striving to modernise the fishing industry through multiple revenue models. The objective was to introduce sustainable fishing practices (prevent overfishing) in the Borneo region, with a longer-term aim of monitoring the impact of climate change on the fishing community. He said his organisation was looking for role models and was using crowdfunding as a way of raising money to protect traditional fishermen.

The final speaker was Ms. Amra Naidoo, who was asked about the main challenges for youth-led entrepreneurship. Her organisation was working with UNDP on investment programmes for social entrepreneurs. She said she had worked with several start-ups, some of whom have shared common challenges. While early support for entrepreneurs was good (from government bodies and foundations), getting to the next level was much harder. How can a good idea be scaled up and attract investment? That is where organisations like hers come in, she said, because they vouch for these young entrepreneurs. She said that while everybody wanted to be involved in start-ups, it would be better if most people did not think in this way, because 99 per cent of new ventures do not evolve from this route. What entrepreneurs really need is more dialogue between all parties who can help them, so there is a more coordinated approach to supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. It is also important to encourage a greater cross-section of people to invest, she said, in particular women.
• Promoting entrepreneurship in second tier ASEAN cities is difficult in the absence of a business infrastructure.
• Some methods of helping entrepreneurs in the region are neither difficult nor expensive- they can be relatively simple things such as support on communication skills, outreach and engagement.
• While early support for entrepreneurs in many ASEAN countries is good (from government bodies and foundations) getting to the next level of sustainability can be much harder.
• There needs to be a more coordinated approach across ASEAN towards helping Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
• The ASEAN region urgently needs more women leaders, entrepreneurs and investors.
CLOSING SESSION

FINAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MODERATED BY: MS. ALLISON MORRIS
ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION SPECIALIST,
UNICEF EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

PANELLISTS

MS. CANDICE LAU
EDUCATION ASSOCIATE,
UNICEF VIET NAM

MR. JAYREN TEO
CO-FOUNDER,
ASEAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION

MR. CHRISTOPHE BAHUET
DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,
UNDP

MR. MYO-ZIN NYUNT
DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR,
UNICEF EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC
“The window of opportunity for young people in ASEAN is narrow... It is our joint vision, commitment that can result in transformative changes for young people.”

Mr. Myo-Zin Nyunt
Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific

The Forum was concluded with the recognition that it was the first time that UNICEF and UNDP came together with partners such as the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, EU-ASEAN Business Council and others, to unpack what the global Generation Unlimited partnership signifies for the ASEAN countries, and the East Asia and Pacific region at large.

There was a recognition of the fact that countries of ASEAN are witnessing an unprecedented era of continuous, dynamic transformations and disruptions, and young people must be at the heart of the region’s development agenda. As pointed out by UNICEF’s Deputy Regional Director Mr. Myo-Zin Nyunt in his closing remarks, many of the adolescents in the region are first-generation learners, having access to education and skills that were not available to even their parents. The rapid transitions to a digital era and disruptions in learning also means that young people are having to cope with a lot more uncertainty but often with less of a support network.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Christophe Bahuet stressed the need for open dialogue and to move towards actions, such as changing policies, legal frameworks, financial actions and assistance, and others. Mr. Bahuet highlighted that in order to accelerate results for young people, stakeholders should recognize the need to meaningfully engage young people across all levels of dialogue and actions, with a focus on including the most vulnerable groups. Finally, he reiterated the importance of sustainable, long-term partnerships, across governments, public and private sector, and youth leaders, to co-design and implement solutions.

Ms. Candice Lau presented the recommendations from the forum (see “Summary of Recommendations” section of this report). In her presentation, Ms. Lau reiterated that policy initiatives should be equitably targeted towards all young people, especially women, people with disabilities and girls. There is a need for flexible and diverse skills-based development programmes for young people that are duly certified and accredited. She also emphasized the need for comprehensive support for the transition to work, such as coaching, microloans and skills building.

Fireside Chat with Mr. Jayren Teo
Co-founder ASEAN Youth Organisation

Ms. Candice Lau led a fireside chat with Mr. Jayren Teo, where he said the ASEAN Youth Organisation is working to improve the employment prospects of the region’s youth in three areas - financial literacy, digital skills and people skills. Asked about what he thought was the stand-out take away from the conference, he said the need to help adolescents and young people left out by digitalisation (those who are not in education, employment or training) to enter the labour market. Too many people (three in 10) were excluded from the digital economy in the ASEAN region because they cannot get online and are digitally excluded. He said that mentorship of young people should be done online and face-to-face. Mr. Teo concluded by calling on governments and corporations to bridge the digital divide and provide opportunities such as internships and work experience to young people.
EVENT AGENDA

OPENING SESSION

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Opening Remarks

Moderated by:
Ms. Roshni Basu, Regional Advisor, Adolescent Development and Participation, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific

Ms. Debora Comini
Regional Director, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific

The Hon. FDr. Ar. Siti Rozaimeriyanty DSLJ Haji Abdul Rahman
Chair, ASEAN Business Advisory Council

Mr. Chris Humphrey
Executive Director, EU-ASEAN Business Council

Keynote Address

H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong
Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

Dr. Kevin Frey
CEO, Generation Unlimited

Youth Keynote

Ms. Moh Suthasiny Sudprasert
Co-CEO, Happy Grocers

PLENARY SESSION 1

9:30 - 10:45 AM

Reimagining skills to overcome the learning crisis

This session will highlight critical learning gaps created by the COVID-19 pandemic and invite promising solutions to share lessons learned with a focus on digital learning solutions for the most marginalized young people.

Moderated by:
Mr. Francisco Benavides, Regional Advisor, Education, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific

The Hon. FDr. Ar. Siti Rozaimeriyanty DSLJ Haji Abdul Rahman
Chair, ASEAN Business Advisory Council

Mr. Eugene Ho
Head of Corporate Social Responsibility East Asia and Pacific, SAP

Mr. Hosea Lai
Director of Microsoft Philanthropies, Asia and Pacific

Ms. Nadine Siregar,
Co-Founder, Generation Girl

10:45 - 11:00AM - BREAK
SOLUTIONS FORUM 1

11:00 - 12:00 PM

Breakout 1: Lessons from remote learning

Mr. Tom Kaye
Country Engagement Lead,
EdTech Hub

Ms. Alina Amir
Co-Founder,
Arus Academy

Ms. Love Basillote
Executive Director,
Philippines Business for Education

Moderated by:
Ms. Leotes Helin,
Chief of Education,
UNICEF Laos

Breakout 2: Public-private partnerships in support of young people’s economic empowerment across ASEAN

Dr. Zohra Yermeche
Head of Connect to Learn
Ericsson

Mr. Anurag Pratap
Vice President & CSR Leader
Capgemini

Ms. Tenzin Dolma Norbhu
Director for Government Affairs & Public Policy,
Southeast Asia
Google APAC

Moderated by:
Mr. Arun Nair,
Innovative Finance Specialist,
UNICEF China

Breakout 3: Research Launch - Digital Spaces for Education and Empowerment

Mr. Kelvin Tan
Founder,
Project I.D.

Ms. Rayrai Suveeranont
Adolescent Blogger, Thailand

Mr. Abdul Nasser Parinduri
Co-Founder,
Znesia Hub

Mr. Ayush Chauhan
Founder,
Quicksand Design Studio

Moderated by:
Ms. Allison Morris,
Adolescent Development and Participation Specialist,
UNICEF East Asia and Pacific

12:00 - 13:00 - BREAK
PLENARY SESSION 2

13:00 - 14:00

Promoting employability and decent jobs for a human-centred recovery and future of work for youth in ASEAN

Dr. Sumitra Nair
Chief Digital Skills & Jobs Officer
Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation

Mr. Thomas Thomas
CEO,
ASEAN CSR Network

Excellency Mr. Thorng Samon
Deputy Director General,
Directorate General of TVET
Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training,
Cambodia

Mr. Jose Roland Moya,
Director General,
Employers Confederation of the Philippines

Moderated by:
Mr. Julien Magnat,
Skills and Employability Specialist,
ILO Regional Office of Asia Pacific

SOLUTIONS FORUM 2

14:00 - 15:00

Breakout 1: Financing Generation Unlimited youth entrepreneurs [Remains in Plenary Room]

Mr. Joey Concepcion
ASEAN BAC Philippines Chair & Presidential Advisor
for Entrepreneurship

Mr. James Cheo
Chief Investment Officer, Southeast Asia
HSBC Global Private Banking and Wealth

Ms. Tu Thu Hien
Founder,
WISE Viet Nam

Moderated by:
Mr. Amarit Charoenphan,
ASEAN Director, Impact Collective

Breakout 2: Achieving the SDGs through youth led innovation

Ms. Varangtip Satchatippavarn
CEO,
Ira Concept

Ms. Wika Maulany Fatimah
Chief Engineer,
Lota+

Ms. Supapitch Juthamongkol
Co-Founder,
Term-Naam

Mr. Zhi Xiong Chong
Chief Learning Officer,
Chumbaka

Ms. Queenie Chong
Co-Founder & CEO,
Memori

Joint moderation by youth panelists
15:00 - 16:15

This session will see panelists share experiences in promoting entrepreneurship ecosystems in second tier cities and remote areas, developing an understanding of what works to scale up youth-led enterprises in challenging contexts.

Moderated by:
Ms. Mélanie Mossard,
Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation,
Impact Hub Phnom Penh

Expanding entrepreneurial opportunities for youth
- Ms. Amra Naidoo
  Co-founder,
  Accelerating Asia
- Mr. Haaziq Ibrahim
  Co-founder,
  DemiLaut
- Ms. Pheakdey Tous
  Co-founder,
  Phum Impact Battambang
- Ms. Deborah Melissa Bottreau
  Managing & Creative Director,
  Sienna DMB Sdn Bhd

16:15 - 17:00

Closing Remarks, Looking Ahead

Moderated by:
Ms. Allison Morris,
Adolescent Development and Participation Specialist,
UNICEF East Asia and Pacific

Closing Remarks, Looking Ahead
- Ms. Candice Lau
  Education Associate,
  UNICEF Viet Nam
- Mr. Jayren Teo
  Co-Founder,
  ASEAN Youth Organization
- Mr. Christophe Bahuet
  Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific,
  UNDP
- Mr. Myo-Zin Nyunt
  Deputy Regional Director,
  UNICEF East Asia and Pacific
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