

ASEM Seminar on “Enhancing Human Capital for Sustainable Digital Connectivity”



Date: 25 October 2019
Location:
Bangkok, Thailand
Organizer: Thailand
Event Type:
**ASEM Initiative
& Other Activity**

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is opening up a new world of hope, security and prosperity. The interaction between the physical, digital, and biological spheres, and emerging technology breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, renewable energy, and quantum computing, are enabling exciting new modes of consumption, production and services.

Asia and Europe have both already emerged as global digital leaders in various spheres which enable our two regions to transform into digitally integrated and seamless societies. However, developing and adapting to digital technology create not only opportunities but also challenges. Jobs are being lost to

digitalization, automation and disruptive technologies. As our economies and societies in Asia and Europe move towards a more digitalized, knowledge-based and value-added formation, each and every sector must adapt inevitably to these changes or risk falling behind.

Thailand offered to host

ASEM Seminar on “Enhancing Human Capital for Sustainable Digital Connectivity” on 25 October 2019 to create an opportunity to discuss on regional cooperation among ASEM Partners to equip human capital in keeping pace with the transition to a digital economy and tackle new challenges related to digitalization.

Concept Note

ASEM Seminar on Enhancing Human Capital for Sustainable Digital Connectivity

Rationale

1. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is opening up a new world of hope, security and prosperity. The interaction between the physical, digital, and biological spheres, and emerging technology breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, renewable energy, and quantum computing, are enabling exciting new modes of consumption, production and services.
2. While these innovations are making our lives more convenient and enjoyable, disruptive technologies are creating a transformational paradigm shift in the way we live and interact with each other in unprecedented ways. Studies and researches are being sought after to aid countries in preparing for these changes.
3. At the heart of this revolution is the digitalization of all things, which has transformed every aspect of our lives and played a critical role in enhancing global integration and connectivity. Innovative digital technologies such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things are solving our planet's most pressing social and environmental problems, from climate change and resource depletion to inequality and the spread of disease.
4. Asia and Europe have both already emerged as global digital leaders in various spheres, such as South Korea's public broadband internet access, Singapore's development of Smart Cities, Estonia's E-Government strategy, and regional projects such as the EU's Digital Single Market and ASEAN Masterplan on ICT, enabling our regions to transform into digitally integrated and seamless societies.
5. However, developing and adapting to digital technology create not only opportunities but also challenges. Jobs are being lost to digitalization, automation and disruptive technologies. As our economies and societies in Asia and Europe move towards a more digitalized, knowledge-based and value-added formation, each and every sector must adapt inevitably to these changes or risk falling behind.
6. ASEM partners should create a digital cooperation strategy with an aim to create a balanced, sustainable and inclusive digital future for all. We should embrace the potential of digitalization and disruptive technologies to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation). Digitalization is a potent cross-cutting tool for sustainable development in all dimensions which other Goals will also benefit from, such as Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) and Goal 16 (Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies).
7. ASEM partners have the opportunity and power to shape the Fourth Industrial Revolution and direct its digital innovations toward a future that reflects the values of our citizens. Multistakeholder partnerships and whole-of-society approaches with the collective efforts of the government, private sector, academia, NGOs, regional and international organizations, will be key to achieving a healthy digital landscape.

Tentative Topics

Session I: Bridging the Digital Skills Gap – Towards a Digitally Literate Society



Digital economy is a knowledge-based economy that promotes new skill sets. The gap in digital skills across industries is growing in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Artificial intelligence and robotics are changing the nature of the job at a so rapid pace that is outpacing existing laws and regulations. In an increasingly deregulated and globalised economic environment, digitalization and automation are leading to the displacement of more workers, with the young, unskilled, part-time and self employed workers most vulnerable,

leading to greater inequality and social tensions.

ASEM partners could share knowledge, best practices, and their strategies for preparing the workforce for a digital-based workplace through digital skills/literacy, training, re-skilling, lifelong learning, STEM education, promoting digital ecosystems, facilitating greater labor mobility and updating labor laws and regulations, whereby every worker in the formal and informal sectors is afforded dignity and respect.

Tentative Topics

Session II: Accessing the Digital Marketplace: Towards an Open and Innovative Digital Global Economy

Digital technology has enabled vast improvements to productivity, quality, speed, and price of products and services, as well empowering consumers regarding expectations about transparency and sustainability of their goods and services.

As we transition to a knowledge and values-based economy, now is an opportune time for ASEM partners to exchange knowledge and best practices on developing a harmonized digital market that is consumer

and environment friendly, fostering affordable and sustainable new business models, and promoting research and innovation of cutting-edge technologies and services such as smart manufacturing and robotics, trade and financial access through digital platforms such as Blockchain and digital currencies, and enhancing consumer trust and confidence in digital platforms through law enforcement and a regulatory framework on intellectual property rights.



Tentative Topics

Session III: Towards Sustainable Digital Connectivity and Security in Asia and Europe



Digital technology is an enabler of prosperity and sustainability only if it is accessible to all and shaped in a way to enable positive social and political change. Nevertheless, there are still many who have never accessed digital tools and have not fully benefited from the Fourth Industrial Revolution who risk falling behind in this new frontier of inequality. To ensure that digital communities are secure, affordable and inclusive, ASEM partners have an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices in expanding e-government and e-services such as e-health, robust regulatory

framework and law enforcement against unfair competition and unsustainable practices, infringement on privacy and ethics, cybersecurity, promoting meaningful intercultural connectivity, understanding and exchange through digital formats such as virtual learning, preventing violent extremism through counternarratives through digital platforms, stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship among young people, minorities, women and marginalized populations, and designing sustainable Smart Cities with digital solutions that benefit all.

Tentative Program

ASEM Seminar on Enhancing Human Capital for Sustainable Digital Connectivity

09:00 - 09:15

Opening Ceremony

09:30-10:15

High-level Commitment

10:15-10:30

Coffee/tea break

10:30-11:45

Session I: Bridging the Digital Skills Gap – Towards a Digitally Literate Society in Asia and Europe

***Presentation and panel discussion (5 discussants)**

12:00-13:00

Lunch

13:00-14:30

Session II: Accessing the Digital Marketplace - Towards an Open and Innovative Digital Global Economy

***Panel discussion (5 discussants)**

14:30-14:45

Coffee/tea break

14:45-16:30

Session III: Towards Sustainable Digital Connectivity and Security in Asia and Europe

***Panel discussion (6 discussants)**