

ILO Regional Skills Webinar Series

Episode 1: The role of green skills in facilitating the low carbon and green transition in Asia and the Pacific

Date / Format

On 29 October 2024 at 15:00 Bangkok time (GMT+7) / Online via Zoom

Background

The Asia and Pacific region is one of the most diverse and populated regions of the world with 4.7 billion people and home to 56 per cent of the world's young people. The region is currently at a crossroad as the creation of more and better jobs and the advancement of social justice are seriously challenged by climate change and rapidly changing labour markets. Thus, the future prosperity of the Asia and Pacific region depends on its ability to accelerate inclusive structural transformation towards more a productive and environmentally sustainable economy, with focus on job creation from de-carbonisation and climate change adaptation, and in which local populations, especially younger people, are equipped with the right skills.

In this context, skills development policies are central to effectively respond to environmental challenges in Asia and the Pacific, and in promoting innovation, investment and competitiveness in the region, which in turn contribute to social development and justice. Skills development is also essential in helping displaced workers or those at risk in declining sectors in the region to make transitions to new and greener jobs, and in assisting enterprises accessing skilled workers, improving its productivity and making businesses environmentally sustainable.

The transition of Asia and the Pacific to a more inclusive and greener region requires greater alignment between skills and enterprise development policies, thus national economies can benefit from and respond to the technological advancements in production processes because of the green transformation and changing skills needs. However, the transition of the Asia and the Pacific to a greener region cannot be achieved without improved national capacities on anticipation of green skills needs, accelerated adaptation of standards, qualifications and curricula to skills in demand by industry and the effective certification and recognition of workers' skills to transition to sectors with employment growth, and to greener and decent jobs. This increases workers' resilience to potential job displacement and income losses resulting from the green transition.

The regional webinar will present relevant insights from the European Union and Singapore on the regional and national level approaches to the development of green skills and creation of green jobs. The ILO experience in providing technical assistance to countries in the development of green skills will help contextualize the insights for countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Description

The ILO Regional Skills Webinar Series aim to facilitate knowledge exchange and regional dialogue on key issues and policy options for addressing pertinent (or common) skills challenges in Asia and the Pacific region.

ILO experts, policy makers, social partners, practitioners and others from Asia and the Pacific and beyond will engage in panel discussions and share relevant insights and recommendations.

In the episode No.1, the representatives of governments, employers and workers' organizations, regional organizations, and the donor community in the Asia-Pacific region will be introduced to effective skills policy initiatives at the national and regional levels to facilitate the low carbon and green transition in the region.

Objectives

- To understand effective approaches in the development of green skills and creation of green jobs, including defining and identifying green skills needs and linking green skills initiatives to support green transitions of enterprises.
- To discuss effective policy initiatives that promote skilling and reskilling needs of the workforce whilst supporting industry transformation plans.
- To learn about good practices in the European Union, Singapore and globally on how education, training and qualification systems adapt to support the green transformation
- To explore the application of relevant approaches, policies and good practices generated in the European Union and Singapore to Asia and the Pacific.

Main topics for discussion

- National and regional level definition and approach to the development of green skills and creation of green jobs, including the design of a skills taxonomy and frameworks to facilitate the green transition.
- Sector-specific mechanisms available to identify and assess green skills needs, and to integrate skills initiatives to support industry transformation plans.
- Policy responses to address skilling and reskilling needs of workers and rapidly changing demand of skills by enterprises to support the transition to a low carbon and green economy.
- Changes in the national education, training, and/or qualifications system that are needed to better respond to the green transformation.

Speakers

- **European Commission** – Mr. Tim Van Rie, Policy Officer, Digital and Green Skills at the European Commission's Directorate for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)
- **Government of Singapore** – Mr. Yeo Wee Siong, Director of Jobs-Skills Insights Division at SkillsFuture Singapore
- **International Labour Organization (ILO)** - Ms. Olga Strietska-Ilina, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist at ILO Geneva

Moderator: Ms. Akiko Sakamoto, Senior Regional Skills and Employability Specialist at the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Programme

Bangkok time (GMT+7) Subject

Tuesday, 29 October 2024

Bangkok time (GMT+7)	Subject
15:00 – 15:05	Opening remarks by the ILO
15:05 – 15:35	<u>Setting the scene</u> : Introductory presentation by each of the three speakers to provide policy context (7-8 minutes per presentation).
15:35 – 15:50	<u>Thematic block No.1</u> : National and regional level definition and approach to the development of green skills and creation of green jobs, including the design of a skills taxonomy and frameworks to facilitate the green transition.
15:50 – 16:05	<u>Thematic block No.2</u> : Sector-specific mechanisms available to identify and assess green skills needs, and to support industry transformation plans.
16:05 – 16:20	<u>Thematic block No.3</u> : Effective policy responses to address skilling and reskilling needs of workers and rapidly changing demand of skills by enterprises to support transition of countries to a low carbon and green economy.
16:20 – 16:35	<u>Thematic block No.4</u> : Changes in the national education, training, and/or qualifications system that are needed to better respond to the green transformation.
16:35 – 16:45	Conclusion and key take aways