



▶ Advancing Digital and Green Skills for Youth in ASEAN

April/2025

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▶ At a glance



Partners

- ▶ Department of Labour and Employment, for the Philippines, ASEAN Constructors Federation (ACF), ASEAN Secretariat, Philippine Constructors Association (PCA), Thai Constructors Association (TCA), Employers Confederation of Thailand (ECOT), workers and employers' organizations, national TVET institutions
- ▶ Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET)
- ▶ Korea Polytechnics (KOPO)
- ▶ Korea University of Technology and Education (KOREATECH)



Donor

Government of the Republic of Korea



Duration

July 2024 – December 2026



Target beneficiaries

Young workers and employers in the construction sector, and ASEAN



Geographical focus

ASEAN, Thailand, Philippines

▶ Background

The project, "Advancing Digital and Green Skills for Youth in ASEAN," addresses the pressing challenges brought about by rapid urbanization and growing infrastructure demands in South-East Asia. The region stands at a pivotal point in its development, facing the dual challenge of promoting environmental sustainability while enhancing workforce skills to meet the evolving demands of the construction sector.

According to the South-East Asia Green Economy Report 2023, an investment of US\$2 trillion in sustainable infrastructure over the next decade is crucial to reducing the region's carbon footprint and building resilience against climate change. The construction sector, a key driver of regional development, must align with this vision by integrating digital technologies and sustainable practices. However, the sector struggles with low productivity and difficulties in attracting skilled young professionals, making the adoption of smart construction technologies and green practices essential for its future growth. To address these challenges, the project focuses on supporting youth in ASEAN in finding more decent jobs in the construction sector through the development and implementation of training programmes on green and digital skills.

This process involves conducting thorough research and assessments to ensure the training programmes are demand-driven and aligned with the needs of the industry. By adopting a tripartite approach, the project engages with governments, employers, and workers' organizations to identify the specific skills required and to develop regionally recognized skills training programmes that meets these demands at both national and regional levels. It also aims to enhance apprenticeship programmes, improving young people's access to the labour market while providing opportunities for upskilling existing workers with digital and green competencies.

Building on the long-standing ILO/Korea partnership, which has successfully promoted skills development and recognition in the ASEAN region, this project seeks to advance both environmental sustainability and workforce development. By targeting the construction sector, the project leverages the network and experience gained from previous initiatives under the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme, particularly the MRS initiative, ensuring that young workers are well-equipped to meet industry demands.

In line with ILO Recommendation No. 208 on Quality Apprenticeships (2023), the project will promote best practices in apprenticeships, offering targeted training and regional certifications in green construction skills. This will facilitate skills mobility within ASEAN and ensure that the region's workforce is prepared to support the transition toward a more sustainable economy.

Furthermore, the project will contribute to regional knowledge sharing through the organization of the 4th ILO/Korea TVET Forum, focusing on advancing digital and green skills for youth and supporting a just transition. This initiative represents a strategic response to the region's urgent need for skills development, positioning Southeast Asia for a greener, more resilient future.



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► Project outcomes

The project aims to enhance employment opportunities for youth in the ASEAN construction sector by building regional and national capacities to provide relevant digital and green skills. Through the development of updated green skills standards, programmes and enhanced teacher/trainer capabilities, the project seeks to ensure that the construction sector is well-positioned for a sustainable future.

By the end of the project, several key outcomes are expected:

- Strengthened youth employability and skills development in the Philippines and Thailand, focusing on the construction sector. Targeted hybrid training courses and apprenticeship programmes will equip young people with the competencies needed to meet industry demands and foster sustainable economic growth.
- Accelerated digital and green transformation in the ASEAN construction sector through increasing youth employability through upskilling and reskilling training programmes and regional skills certificates in priority green and digital skills.
- Enhanced regional collaboration through strengthened ASEAN-wide dialogue and cooperation on digital and green skills development. This regional dialogue will contribute to the harmonization of skills standards and foster long-term collaboration across ASEAN member states.

The project emphasizes both regional and country-specific interventions, ensuring that the unique contexts of the Philippines, Thailand, and other ASEAN nations are considered. By aligning its goals with national policies, industry needs, and social equity principles, the initiative aims to establish a solid foundation for sustainable and inclusive development in the construction sector.

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