



Co-convened by the ILO, UNESCO, CARICOM and the CEC

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FOURTH WEBINAR ON 19TH APRIL 2018 AT 10:00 AM

Caribbean Virtual Policy Network on Youth Education and Employment (VPNYEE)

Fourth Webinar. Stimulating demand for youth labour. Incentives, sectoral policies and diversification in the Caribbean.

Date and time

April 19th 2018, 10am Eastern Caribbean time. Connection will be available from 9:00 am. Register and log into the VPNYEE platform here by following this [weblink](#).¹ We invite you to register as soon as possible and avoid last minute registration.

Background

The Virtual Policy Network on Youth employment (VPNYE) was developed within the context of the Caribbean Countries implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and more specifically within the UN United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean. Convened by ILO, UNESCO along with CARICOM and the Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC) the network aims at ensuring youth employment is at the centre the national policy discourse, through intensified learning and promotion of well-informed and evidence based practices.

Contents

The idea of the webinar is tackle the labour demand side of the youth employment issue and present Caribbean and international experiences aimed at promoting output and employment growth in specific sectors as well youth led enterprises operating therein. Theoretical background and key lessons learned in the implementation will be highlighted. Specific attention will be given to how public intervention can foster youth employment generation. Four quick presentations will be followed by an expanded Q & A session allowing to answer questions from the web based audience.

Agenda

10:00-10:15 *Welcoming remarks and update on VPNYEE web platform.* Diego Rei, ILO Office for the Caribbean.

10:15-10:30 *"Sectoral policies in the Caribbean. Incentives, tourism and the case of Jamaica".* Presentation of Chapters from 2017 book *Unleashing Growth and Strengthening Resilience in the Caribbean* by Sebastian Acevedo, Joyce Wong and Uma Ramakrishnan IMF Western Hemisphere Department.

10:30-10:45 *"Helping youth led enterprises. The Trinidad institutional framework, the agricultural sector and the role of the financial intermediaries".* Hayden Blades, Business Insight Limited. Trinidad and Tobago

10:45-11:00 *"Supporting the green economy. Generating employment for youth and promoting youth led enterprises. The case of construction"* by Lwanga Evans, Project manager, ILO Zambia Green Jobs Programme.

11:00 -11:15 *"Industrial and sectoral polices. What works? The Employers' perspective".* Wayne Chen, President of the Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC) will present the private sector view and the key elements to facilitate youth employment generation.

11:15-11:45 Web chat based Q & A session with presenters

11:45-11:50 Concluding remarks and next phases of the Virtual Policy Network. VPNYEE Conveners.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW FOR THE WEBINAR!](#)

¹ Also available at:

<https://teamsnet.unesco.org/Lists/Request%20Account%20sdg4msdf/NewForm.aspx?Source=https%3A%2F%2Fteamsnet%2Eunesco%2Eorg%2FLists%2FRequest%2520Account%2520sdg4msdf%2FAllItems%2Easpx&RootFolder=>

Presenters

Uma Ramakrishnan is an assistant director in the IMF and Division Chief of the Caribbean II Division in the Western Hemisphere Department. She has been mission chief for Jamaica since May 2015.

Joyce Wong is an economist in the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department, currently working on Jamaica. Her research has focused on drivers of female labour participation, financial inclusion and development, and immigration.

Sebastian Acevedo is an economist in the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department, and works on the Ecuador desk. At the IMF, he worked for six years in the Caribbean covering topics related to natural disasters, economic growth, productivity, tourism, debt, and exchange rate regimes, with a particular focus on small islands. Before joining the IMF, Mr. Acevedo was a researcher and a lecturer in the departments of Economics and International Business at Universidad EAFIT.

Hayden Blades is the former Senior Economist of the RBTT Group with over 12 years of experience in the financial sector. In 2008, he assumed leadership of Business Insight Limited and is currently its President. He has published economic analyses of public interest in newsletters, trade association journals, and the daily newspapers. Previously, he served as a Risk Manager in the Group Risk Management and Finance Division of RBTT Financial Group Limited. He has been involved in the review of debt financing requests from a number of the RBTT overseas territories, particularly Jamaica, the OECS, and the Netherlands Antilles.

Lwanga Evans is the Project Manager for the ILO Zambia Green Jobs programmes. He has over 20 years of experience in small enterprise and entrepreneurship development focusing on economic empowerment for youth and women and private sector development in sub-Saharan Africa.

Wayne Chen is the founder of the Super Plus Food Stores, a Jamaican island-wide chain, which at its peak in the mid-2000s was the country's largest retailer. He is the recipient of several awards for business accomplishment and philanthropy including the Jamaica Observer's 1998 Business Leader of the Year and Irvine Hall, UWI's 2006 'Distinguished Torchbearer' award. Present and past roles include Chairman of the Southern Regional Health Authority, CVM Television, NCB Insurance Company, and NCB Cayman, a former member of the CARICOM HRD Commission, and former Chairman of Jamaica's Urban Development Corporation, National Land Agency, and National Gallery. He is also a director of the National Commercial Bank, Jamaica's largest, and its majority shareholder, AIC (Barbados) and President of the Caribbean Employers' Confederation.