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## **OECD Southeast Asia Regional Policy Network on Education and Skills and GIZ Regional Cooperation Programme to Improve the Training of TVET Personnel (RECOTVET)**

**“Better Connecting the Skills System to the World of Work”**

**7th annual expert meeting of the initiative on Employment and Skills Strategies  
in Southeast Asia (ESSSA) and  
2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Policy Dialogue on TVET Personnel**

**7-8 October, 2015  
Sokha Angkor Resort, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

### **Overview**

The Southeast Asia region is growing at a rapid pace, industry is becoming more diversified, and job requirements are demanding more complex and sophisticated skills. A highly skilled labour force is increasingly important for economies to remain competitive and achieve sustainable growth. Effective skills strategies can play a significant role in helping national economies to adjust to changes in working practices, advances in technology, and challenges associated with globalisation.

The OECD’s Regional Policy Network on Education and Skills aims to foster knowledge exchange in support of national growth and regional integration. The Network encourages a whole-of-government approach to formulating and implementing sound skills policies. It draws on the growing participation by Southeast Asian countries in the OECD’s education surveys and local job creation policy reviews, which provide valuable comparative data and analysis that can help countries in the region build more efficient and effective employment and skills systems. Its platform is provided by the OECD’s Employment and Skills Strategies Initiative in Southeast Asia (ESSSA), which since 2008 has been networking skills ministries from the 10 ASEAN countries, helping them to design policies that tackle employment, training and skills issues in an integrated manner and providing tailored guidance on policy implementation.

The Education and Skills Network meeting is jointly organised by OECD and GIZ and the latter’s new regional programme RECOTVET (“Regional Cooperation Programme to Improve the Training of TVET Personnel”), which aims at supporting and creating personnel, institutional and thematic preconditions for quality improvement and regional harmonisation of the education and training of training personnel in South East Asia over the next years. This meeting is part of a series of regional policy dialogues of RECOTVET which aim to deepen regional exchange and learning among countries.

The overall objectives of the network are to:

- Guide policy makers and practitioners in the design of education, employment and skills policies which tackle complex cross-cutting development issues;



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- Build the capacity of policy makers in implementing effective education, employment and skills development strategies;
- Assist in the development of governance mechanisms conducive to policy integration and partnerships at the national, regional, and local level.

Building on the outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> ESSSA meeting in Bangkok, Thailand from 17-18 September, 2014 as well as the first Regional Policy Dialogue on TVET Personnel in Hanoi, Vietnam from 22-23 April, 2015, the meeting in Siam Reap will focus on better connecting the education and skills system to the world of work. Skills policies play an important role in creating quality jobs and growth; however they require greater employer involvement in their design and implementation to ensure that they are both relevant and responsive to the needs of the economy. Training organisation and personnel need to be consistently reaching out to employers to ensure they are actively involved in these programmes. That is also one reason why the role of the private sector in standards setting in the region will be reflected in one of the sessions.

Certain groups, such as youth, require specific outreach efforts and information to increase and sustain their participation. Through quality work-based learning, the TVET system can play an important role in building their skills and employment opportunities. But formal general and vocational education programmes often do not reach disadvantaged groups as programmes do not correspond with their way of life. Technical vocation education and training should also focus on the inclusion of all different groups of society and therefore also should provide suitable solutions for disadvantaged people. More flexible approaches in delivering vocational education are needed to improve the educational standards and employability of disadvantaged groups, in particular of women, people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities and those who have dropped out of formal education. These are some of the issues that the meeting in Cambodia will address. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to determine future priorities for the Network as well as a research plan.

## AGENDA

*Wednesday, 7 October 2015*

08:30-09:00

**Registration**

09:00-09:45

**Setting the stage for the *Education and Skills Network***

Opening remarks by:

- Ita Samheng, Minister of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia
- Dr. Sylvain Giguère, Head of Division, OECD LEED
- Dr. Nils Geissler, Programme Director, GIZ/RECOTVET, Vietnam

09:45	<b>Group photo/ media interviews</b>
10:00-11:00	<p><b><i>Session I: Key Education and Skills Challenges in the Southeast Asia Region</i></b></p> <p><i>Objective: An overview on what is known about educational attainment and skills across the region will be given. This session will centre on the outlook for the Southeast Asian economies and the key education and skills challenges they face.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth Fordham, Senior Adviser Global Relations, OECD</li> <li>• Wolfgang Kubitzki, Principal Social Sector Economist, Asian Development Bank</li> <li>• Piyapa Su-angavatin, SEAMEO Secretariat</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:20	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
11:20 – 13:00	<p><b><i>Session II: Strengthening the quality and relevance of work-based learning</i></b></p> <p><i>Objective: In many Southeast Asian countries, there has been increasing interest in apprenticeships and other work-based training opportunities both as a route into employment and also as a means for raising the skill levels of the workforce. This session will explore the challenges in involving employers more fully in the design and delivery of work-based learning programmes, as well as successful models of horizontal governance approaches to better connect employment and skills policies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alberta Basa, TESDA, Philippines</li> <li>• Tep Ouen, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia</li> <li>• Dr. Mohd Yusoff bin Abu Bakar, Department of Skills Development, Malaysia</li> <li>• Palaporn Rattanaparichon, Department of Skills Development, Ministry of Labour, Thailand</li> <li>• Joren Skovsgaard, Ministry of Education, Denmark</li> </ul>
13:00-14:30	<b>Lunch break</b>
14:30-16:00	<p><b><i>Session III: Improving transitions for youth to further education, training and employment</i></b></p> <p><i>Objective: Long periods of unemployment for youth have been shown to have potential “scarring” effects. This session will explore what labour market and education policies are successful to provide smooth transition for youth to further education, training, and good employment opportunities. Attention will also be given to ways to stimulate youth entrepreneurship.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Anil Verma, University of Toronto, Canada</li> <li>• Lay Cheng Tan, Programme Officer, UNESCO</li> <li>• Kim Do-hyung, Ministry of Employment and Labour, Korea</li> <li>• Sally Sinclair, CEO, National Employment Services, Australia</li> </ul>
16:00- 16:15	Coffee/Tea break

16:15- 17:30	<p><b>Session IV: Targeted TVET approaches to disadvantaged groups – Experiences, Challenges and Way Forward</b></p> <p><i>Objective: It is often difficult for disadvantaged groups to access formal TVET programmes. The role and importance of TVET personnel, in particular of TVET teachers and headmasters, is a crucial factor to mainstreaming inclusion into TVET Systems. This session will draw from experiences from Germany and Southeast Asian countries on how targeted approaches, including the training of teachers, administrators and other TVET personnel, can make access to vocational education and training more inclusive.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Dr. Peter F.E. Sloane, University Paderborn, Germany</li> <li>• Professor Dr. Julia Gillen, University Hannover, Germany</li> <li>• Sisoulath Soulikhamkone, Director of Vocational Education Development Institute (VEDI), Ministry of Education and Sports, Laos</li> </ul>
19:00- 21:00	<p><b>Welcome Dinner:</b> Sokha Angkor Resort</p>
<p><b>Thursday, 8 October 2015</b></p>	
09:00-11:00	<p><b>Session V: Setting standards for TVET and the role of the private sector</b></p> <p><i>Objective: This session will focus on the relevance of regional standards for TVET personnel (e.g. TVET teacher, management staff at schools). It highlights core elements of possible standards, specifically on the role of private sector involvement in standard formulation and implementation. Experiences from Southeast Asia and OECD countries will give a comprehensive overview on different expectations and lay a foundation for further discussions on the design of standards for TVET personnel.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Franz Gramlinger, ARQA-VET, Austria</li> <li>• Sok Piseth, G Gear; ASEAN Business Advisory Council, Cambodia</li> <li>• Zanariah Ahmad, Ministry of Education, Malaysia</li> <li>• Delegate from Thailand - TBD</li> </ul>
11:00-11:30	<p>Coffee/Tea break</p>
11:30-12:15	<p><b>Session VI: The Way Forward</b></p> <p><i>Objective: This session will be used to designate the Education and Skills Network Co-Chairs and discuss the work of programme for the network for 2015-16.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan Barr, Policy Analyst, OECD</li> <li>• Dr. Nils Geissler, Programme Director, GIZ/RECOTVET, Vietnam</li> <li>• Ruth Rodriguez, Department of Labour and Employment, Philippines</li> </ul>
12:15	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Sylvain Giguère, Head of Division, OECD LEED</li> <li>• Dr. Nils Geissler, Programme Director, GIZ/RECOTVET, Vietnam</li> </ul>



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12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-16:30	<b>Cultural tour</b>  An organized tour of the Angkor Wat Template has been arranged by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia. Participants will be taken by tour bus from hotel venue to the template at 13:30 and returned to the hotel at 16:30. More information will be provided on the day of the meeting.
16:30	<b>End of Meeting</b>