



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2016/SOM2/HRDWG/026

Agenda Item: 16

**Summary Report - Joint Meeting Between the
Capacity Building Network and the Labour and
Social Protection Network: Workshop on Youth
Strategies, 9 May 2016, Arequipa, Peru**

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: CBN and LSPN Coordinator



**Human Resources Development Working
Group Plenary Meeting
Arequipa, Peru
7-10 May 2016**

**JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE APEC CAPACITY BUILDING NETWORK (CBN) AND
THE LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION NETWORK (LSPN)**

WORKSHOP ON YOUTH STRATEGIES

Monday, 9 May 2016

*Cerro Juli Convention Center
Arequipa, Peru*

SUMMARY REPORT

The Joint Meeting between The APEC Capacity Building Network (CBN) and The Labour and Social Protection Network (LSPN), Workshop on Youth Strategies was held in Arequipa, Peru on May 09th, 2016.

Delegates from: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, The Peoples Republic of China, Japan, The Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and United States participated in the meeting.

Mr. Meng-Liang Tsai, CBN Coordinator; Ms. Kuei-Yen Liao, Deputy CBN Coordinator; and Mr. Malcolm Greening, LSPN Coordinator; chaired the meeting. In addition, Ms. Romy Tincopa, Program Director from APEC Secretariat attended the meeting.

Representatives from APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), International Labour Organization (ILO), and The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) were also present. As well as Dr. Alberto Posso from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University)

MAY 9 SESSION

1. Opening remarks - LSPN Coordinator and CBN Coordinator

The LSPN Coordinator, Mr. Malcolm Greening thanked Peru and the city of Arequipa for hosting the workshop and made brief remarks, noting the urgency for developing effective strategies that will address youth unemployment in the APEC region.

Mr. Greening also noted that although the youth unemployment rate in the region is slightly lower than the global rate, we cannot be complacent. More work is needed to assist young people obtain and keep jobs. Too many young people are without jobs in the region.

The CBN Coordinator, Mr. Meng-Liang Tsai, expressed appreciation to the LSPN for the invitation to participate in the workshop as well as gratitude to Peru for hosting the meeting. Mr. Meng-Liang Tsai noted that the two networks share common interests and objectives, including developing effective strategies to address youth unemployment.

Mr. Meng-Liang Tsai briefly explained Chinese Taipei study to improve youth employability in the era of automation and changing nature of work. He encouraged delegates to contribute to the discussion and to come up with concrete actions.

CBN showed a video of Mr. Pablo Lazo Grandi expressing good wishes to HRDWG and the two networks.

2. Remarks by host economy – Delegation of Peru

Mr. David Tenorio made brief remarks and invited the meeting to focus on the following three goals:

- Achieving productive and decent employment.
- Promoting employability of youth who experience difficulty in moving from education to employment.
- Building and sustaining cooperation and sharing experiences.

3. Overview of the workshop

The LSPN Coordinator provided an overview of the workshop and made minor amendment to the agenda. He announced that the workshop will be jointly facilitated by the CBN and LSPN Coordinators.

4. Session 1: Presentations focusing on holistic overview of youth strategies

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University)

The first presentation was delivered by Associate Professor Alberto Posso from RMIT University on the nexus between education, training and labour market outcomes. This paper is based on a current study. Associate Professor Posso argued that primary and secondary school attainment is not sufficient to accrue better labour market returns. He also observes that the relationship between education and labour market outcomes should be understood within broader labour market structural reforms. Some of the key themes covered in the presentation include:

- Returns from education (esp, primary and secondary) fall as more people obtain education qualifications – supply and demand.
- What we need is more emphasis on lifetime learning or continuous skilling to increase our labour market competitiveness. We should focus on accumulating skills.
- The digital divide presents challenges for many economies, particularly developing economies and young people.
- Child labour is a concern. It has lifetime scarring effects for many young people, including decreased earnings in adulthood. The eradication of the issue needs to be carefully approached by looking at particular conditions within economies.
- Tackling youth unemployment is an important means by which we can address inequality.
- Youth employment policies should assess the level of rigidity in labour markets which could be antithetical to job creation and activation policies.

ILO representative

The ILO presentation was delivered by Dr. Guillermo Dema on “new generation of youth policies”. It focused on Latin American experiences and highlighted a number of issues relating to youth unemployment. Some of the key points discussed include:

- In 2014, 73.3 million of young people were jobless.
- 600 million jobs are needed in the next 10 years to address unemployment.
- Informality is a concern in Latin America - about 26 million young people are employed in the informal economy.
- 73.4 per cent of the 200 million unemployed people in the world are young people.

- Important to first analyse the problem and then move on to design appropriate policies, e.g. what problem do we want to resolve?
- About 70% of NEET population are young women.

ABAC

The digital revolution is radically changing the labour market landscape and therefore the educational sector must play a key role and adapt to changing circumstances. ABAC is concerned that the majority of jobs being created are temporary and the salaries are less than in previous periods before the crisis. We are facing a protracted period of slow recovery and recession in some economies. The perceived reality is that there is low business confidence leading to diminished job creation globally.

Delegation of Brunei Darussalam

Brunei discussed strategies for youth employment and noted the following key areas:

- High unemployment rate of 6.9 per cent in 2014. About 80 per cent of the unemployed population has a secondary school attainment.
- The youth unemployment rate is 25.3 per cent. 17.2 per cent of the unemployed youth are not in education, employment or training.
- The number of unemployed graduates is increasing.

Brunei also noted that there is low job creation because of negative economic growth. Brunei has design a number of strategies to address youth unemployment, including strategies targeting semi-skilled youth, introduction of levy on the recruitment of foreign workers, training and certification of tradesmen, encouraging young people to return to school through scholarship awards and graduate apprenticeship scheme.

Delegation of China

China shared a video on a school to work program. This includes e-shops and youth entrepreneurship initiatives.

5. Wrap-up Session Summary - LSPN Coordinator

The LSPN Coordinator provided an overview of the presentations, some of the key points include the large number of positions required globally to address unemployment, the need to address labour market rigidities, digital divide and consultative employment policy development.

6. General discussion

The LSPN Coordinator invited delegates to ask questions or offer comments on the presentations. A number of economies asked questions and made comments which were directed mainly to the presentations by the two guest speakers – the ILO and RMIT University.

Delegation of Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei - shared experiences in developing strategies to improve youth employability in the wake of automation. Chinese Taipei initiated five key projects.

- Subsidised college programs
- Dual system of vocational training

- Industry-academy-training center
- Youth placement flagship
- Mentoring training program

Chinese Taipei also discussed three additional programs – maker shop, youth salon and phoenix micro start-up for young women.

Delegation of the United States

Wiley presented the proposed project by the US to address the global “talent crisis” and mismatch. The goal of the project is to address youth job readiness.

Wiley noted that globally, employers have indicated that they cannot find the talent they need. Wiley provided a brief description of the project proposal, “Youth Job Readiness: from tertiary education to the workforce” which includes the following components:

- Identifying the barriers that prevent education and employment from aligning
- Developing an “APEC Youth Job Readiness Roadmap”
- Piloting the recommendations

Delegation of Australia

Mr. Scott Neil shared Australia’s experience in improving youth employability. Mr Neil discussed the challenges facing young people including:

- Competency in language, literacy and numeracy
- Work readiness
- Changing skills demand
- Changes in technology

Australia has introduced a number of initiatives to improve youth employability, including skills for education and employment, foundation skills assessment, apprenticeship delivery initiatives.

7. OECD Presentation

Ms. Deborah Roseveare presented the OECD presentation which highlighted five points:

- Information and understanding of the skills employers need.
- Education systems should provide flexible pathways encompassing vocational and higher education which deliver industry relevant outcomes through diverse models.
- Employers, education providers and unions should work together to establish effective pathways. How do we facilitate the tripartite dialogue at all levels?
- Integrating high quality work-based learning into education programs to smooth transition from training to employment.
- Have reliable competency-based qualifications, clear pathways from education to employment and effective career guidance.

8. General discussion

The CBN Deputy Coordinator invited delegates to ask questions and offer comments.

A number of economies asked questions and sought clarification on a number of topics presented by member economies.

The Deputy Coordinator provided a summary of discussion.

Delegation of Canada

The youth unemployment rate in Canada remains high at 13.1 per cent. Canada is committed to lowering the youth unemployment rate and is working towards getting young people ready for the workforce. Canada is also working with employers and forming partnerships with all levels of government. The Government of Canada is providing resources to make post-secondary education more affordable.

The Canadian Government has established the Youth Advisory Board to better understand youth employment needs.

Delegation of the Republic of Korea

Korea discussed the revised proposal on boosting youth employment which incorporates comments from the HRDWG Plenary Meeting on 7 May and the LSPN Meeting on 8 May 2016. The revised proposal seeks to develop a political and strategic document, “APEC Framework for Boosting Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship” to be implemented by 2020, as one of the key deliverables of human capital development agenda in 2016.

Delegation of Philippines

The Philippines discussed the high youth unemployment rate and long school to work transition. In 2014 the Philippines launched the *JobStart* for youth at risk which includes the NEET, those with less than one year working experience and those who have completed high school education.

The program includes provision of career guidance, coaching, life skills and technical training.

9. Closing remarks - LSPN Coordinator

The LSPN Coordinator expressed support for a high level APEC framework on youth employment as a deliverable under Peru’s leadership.

The LSPN Coordinator invited responses from the networks in relation to the Korean proposal.

Six economies supported the proposal – Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Thailand and Peru.

The Philippines supported the proposal in principle but asked for further details.

The proposal will go to Plenary on 10 May for endorsement.

The LSPN and CBN Coordinators and Peru thanked participants for their involvement and contribution.