



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/SOM2/HRDWG/LSPN/007

Agenda Item: 9.1

APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Initiative - Presentation

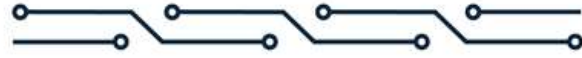
Purpose: Information
Submitted by: United States



**Human Resources Development Working Group
Labour and Social Protection Network
Meeting
25-26 May 2021**



CLOSING THE DIGITAL SKILLS GAP FORUM



APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Initiative: Christopher Watson, U.S. Department of Labor

MAY 2021

[#MindTheDigitalSkillsGap](#)

APEC 2021 – A focus on a digitally skilled workforce

- The COVID-19 pandemic **amplifies the digital skills gap** and creates a **greater urgency** for all stakeholders including governments, employers, academia, and training providers to invest in digital upskilling and reskilling of the workforce.
- Digital skills are now effectively a prerequisite for many workers.
- The global shortage of highly skilled workers with digital skills was expected to reach at least 38-40 million in 2020 (International Labor Organization).



Timeline: 2017 – 2021



2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



Roadmap Implementation

- **Digital Readiness Checklist:** consultation session, DOL review
- **Initiative website launch**
- **Report:** with Burning Glass / LinkedIn (endorsed by HRDWG)
- **Digital Readiness Checklist:** Final consultation session (13 April), seek HRDWG endorsement (18 May – 4 June)
- **Report:** Panel session 300+ registrations



APEC Initiative Website



**CLOSING THE DIGITAL
SKILLS GAP FORUM**



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APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Initiative

The APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Forum, overseen by the U.S. Department of Labor and co-chaired by Wiley and Business Higher Education Forum (BHEF), has brought together **over 400 stakeholders** from **18 Asia Pacific economies** since 2017 to collaboratively work towards closing the digital skills gap.

26 January Panel Session

- Report downloaded **+4000** times on APEC site
- Over 300 registrations
- Featured remarks by Dr. Rebecca Sta Maria, Professor Dong Sun Park, SkillsFuture Singapore, Microsoft, and others

Panel Session Speakers

APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Report: Trends and Insights

JAN 26, 9am EST
JAN 27, 9am SGT

 <p>DR. REBECCA STA MARIA APEC Executive Director</p>	 <p>ANDREW YIM Vice President of Global Government Affairs, SkillsFuture, APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Forum, Co-Chair</p>	 <p>JENNIFER THORNTON Vice President of Programs, Business Hub & Education Forum, APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Forum, Co-Chair</p>	 <p>JIN HEE SUH Deputy Chief, APEC Economic</p>
 <p>PEI YING CHIA APAC Head, Economic Sector, LinkedIn</p>	 <p>LAYLA O'KANE Business Manager, Burning Glass Technologies</p>	 <p>DR. SOHN JOO GOO Chief Skills Officer, SkillsFuture Singapore</p>	 <p>PROFESSOR DONG SUN PARK APEC Human Resources Development Working Group Working Group (HRDWG) Lead/Chairman, SkillsFuture Singapore</p>





Investing in Digital Upskilling and Reskilling of APEC's Workforce is Critical: Report

Washington, United States, 23 February 2021

Issued by Human Resources Development Working Group

Hiring workers with digital skills has grown substantially in the last three years across the APEC region, according to a recent [report](#) highlighting the gap between workforce supply and demand and emphasizing the urgent need for member economies to invest in digital upskilling and reskilling of their workforces.

Research by LinkedIn and Burning Glass Technologies in the [APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Report -](#)

What is the APEC Digital Readiness Checklist?

- *To help APEC governments, employers, and academia understand their levels of preparedness for jobs in the digital age and to support efforts to upskill and reskill workers amidst COVID-19.*
- *The Checklist is intended to serve as a resource for all stakeholders in APEC economies with the ability to influence, develop and implement policies and programs to close the digital skills gap – these may include labor, education, and economic officials in APEC member economies; the private sector; academia; and other stakeholders.*

Timeline – APEC Digital Readiness Checklist

March 2020 – April 2021

Development of APEC Digital Readiness Checklist:

- Created initial draft
- Stakeholder consultations (July 2020, review by US Department of Labor, April 2021, reviewed by small working group of initiative partners)

April – May 2021

APEC Review and Endorsement:

- Overseer submits to Human Resources Development Working group for endorsement

1- Infrastructure

A well-developed broadband infrastructure is found to provide a significant benefit to providing digital skills training, by enhancing the connectivity of a digitally enabled economy.

Access

Question

1. To what extent does your economy provide broadband access?
2. To what extent does your economy provide students with access to the internet?
3. To what extent do students have Internet enabled devices (cell phones, PCs, laptops)?

Coordination

Question

1. Has your economy identified a government agency to lead on the coordination of digital skills training in your economy?
2. Can you identify the government agencies handling:
 - Digital skills definitions
 - Worker training
 - Education programs
 - Privacy issues
 - Broadband access

- Example of a section of the checklist.
The six sections include:

1 – Infrastructure

**2 – Availability of
Learning / Training**

3 – Skills/Pedagogic Models

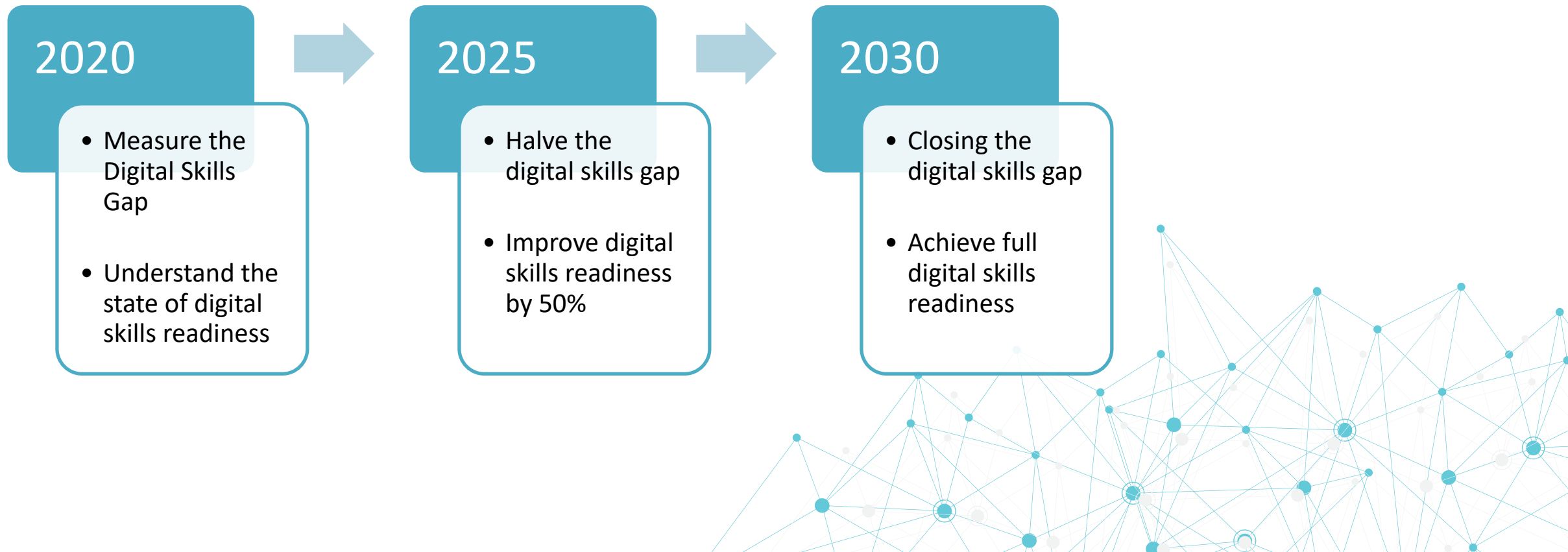
4 – Industry and Partnerships

**5 – Perceptions of Individual
Workers/Learners**

6 – Resources

APEC Roadmap to Closing the Digital Skills Gap by 2030

- ✓ Endorsed by HRDWG in September 2019, lays out a common definition of digital skills, sets aspirational targets, and details APEC-wide actions on a multi stakeholder basis (governments, employers, and academia, and training providers) to closing the digital skills gap and achieve lifelong employability



Next Steps

- ***Save the Date: 2021 APEC Closing the Digital Skills Gap Forum*** (October 2021, Virtual): Enabling Career Pathways for Economic Mobility
 - Help APEC economies better understand how to support their workforce to reskill and upskill throughout their entire career paths, including apprenticeships and industry and government training programs



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THANK YOU

