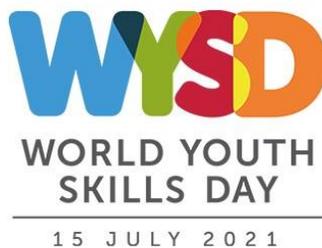




## AMMA'S MESSAGE ON WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY 15 JULY



### **The Youth skills**

They are vital for the development, progress, vibrancy and resilience of a society. Youth are a nation's greatest resource. That is why the SMVA, in all its programs on education, health, income generation, and organic agriculture, is focusing on empowering youth in every domain of its activities. Youth are vital as the cornerstone for every one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the younger generation of today provide the momentum for dynamism and progress that every nation so critically decides upon. However, much of the advances made by countries around the world have been derailed since 2020 and, therefore, it is essential to highlight on youth in all national efforts.

### **Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic**

World Youth Skills Day 2021 will again take place in a challenging context due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- UNESCO estimates that schools were either fully or partially closed for more than 30 weeks between March 2020 and May 2021 in half the countries of the world. In late June, 19 countries still had full school closures, affecting nearly 157 million learners. And 768 million more learners were affected by partial school closures.

- Respondents to a survey of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions jointly collected by UNESCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank reported that distance training had become the most common way of imparting skills, with considerable difficulties regarding, among others, curricula adaptation, trainee and trainer preparedness, connectivity, or assessment and certification processes.
- ILO estimates show that globally, youth employment fell 8.7 per cent in 2020, compared with 3.7 per cent for adults, with the most pronounced fall seen in middle-income countries. The consequences of this disruption to the early labour market experiences of youth could last for years.

World Youth Skills Day 2021 will pay tribute to the resilience and creativity of youth through the crisis. Participants will take stock of how TVET systems have adapted to the pandemic and recession, think of how those systems can participate in the recovery, and imagine priorities they should adopt for the post-COVID-19-world.

### **Virtual Event - 15 July 2021**

On 15 July, World Youth Skills Day, join [an online interactive panel discussion](#) organized by the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka to the United Nations, together with UNESCO, ILO and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

### **Why is World Youth Skills Day important?**

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly [declared](#) 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Since then, World Youth Skills Day events have provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, firms, employers' and workers' organizations, policy makers and development partners. Participants have highlighted the ever-increasing significance of skills as the world is embarking on a transition towards a sustainable model of development.

### **What role do technical and vocational education and training play?**

Education and training are central to the achievement of the [2030 Agenda](#). The vision of the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030 is fully captured by [Sustainable Development Goal 4](#) "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". Education 2030 devotes considerable attention to technical and vocational skills development, specifically regarding access to affordable quality Technical

and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); the acquisition of technical and vocational skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship; the elimination of gender disparity and ensuring access for the vulnerable. In this context, TVET is expected to address the multiple demands of an economic, social and environmental nature by helping youth and adults develop the skills they need for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship, promoting equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and supporting transitions to green economies and environmental sustainability.

TVET can equip youth with the skills required to access the world of work, including skills for self-employment. TVET can also improve responsiveness to changing skill-demands by companies and communities, increase productivity and increase wage levels. TVET can reduce access barriers to the world of work, for example through work-based learning, and ensuring that skills gained are recognized and certified. TVET can also offer skills development opportunities for low-skilled people who are under- or unemployed, out of school youth and individuals not in education, employment and training (NEETs).

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