

Organised by:



In collaboration with:



International
Labour
Organization



Supported by:



MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES



In conjunction with:



HESUMA
for ASEAN

Airline Partner:



▶ Global Skills Forum

**The Role of Private Sector in Skills Development:
Driving Innovation and Impact**

**22 - 23
OCTOBER 2025**

**SHANGRI-LA
KUALA LUMPUR
MALAYSIA**

aseanyearofskills.org

▲ ABOUT THE FORUM

Global Skills Forum (GSF) 2025 puts the private sector at the centre of international skills transformation, aligning with Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and the ASEAN Year of Skills (AYOS) 2025. This collaborative effort with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) is hosted in Malaysia by the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) under the Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia (KESUMA).

Following the successful launch of the Global Skills Forum in Geneva in 2024, the 2025 edition promises to be even more impactful, catalysing global collaboration and innovation in skills development. It offers a unique opportunity to reimagine how industries can help shape agile, demand-driven and human-centred workforce strategies.



▲ BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

In an era of rapid transformation, skills development is no longer optional, but an urgent priority. The combined forces of digitalisation, artificial intelligence, green transition, demographic shifts and emerging industries are reshaping the global labour market.

To ensure long-term competitiveness, inclusivity and sustainable growth, countries must adopt dynamic skills strategies that effectively engage the private sector. These strategies must be forward-looking, responsive to industry needs and caters to all stakeholders in the skills ecosystem.



OUR AUDIENCE

- Government industries in education, labour, skills, finance, industry and trade
- Employers and private sector leaders
- Sector Skills Bodies (SSBs) and industry councils
- National workforce development agencies
- Public and private training providers
- Employment and labour market institutions
- Academia and research organisations
- Development partners and international bodies



FOCUS AND APPROACH

The Transformative Role of the Private Sector in Skills Development

As labour markets evolve, education and training systems must keep pace. The private sector plays a central role in this transformation, not only as a beneficiary of skilled labour, but also as a co-creator of solutions.



Promote innovation in training content and delivery



Strengthen governance mechanisms through industry-led SSBs



Accelerate demand-drive and sector-specific workforce strategies



Foster global partnerships for knowledge exchange and institutional collaboration

AGENDA

DAY 1
22 OCTOBER 2025 | WEDNESDAY

8.00 am Registration and Networking Breakfast

9.00 am Arrival of Guests of Honour

9.30 am National Anthem – *Negaraku*

9.40 am Opening Speech
The Honourable Mr. Steven Sim Chee Keong
Minister of Human Resources, Malaysia

9.45 am Speech
Matthias Thorns
Vice President,
International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

9.50 am Speech
H.E. Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo
Director-General,
International Labour Organization (ILO)

10.00 am Officiating Speech
The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim
Prime Minister of Malaysia

10.15 am Official Launch of Global Skills Forum 2025

Declaration of Joint Statement by
ASEAN Manpower Ministers
Witnessed by
The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim
Prime Minister of Malaysia

10.30 am Networking Break and Visit to Exhibition

11.00 am **Panel Discussion:**
Strategies and Good Practices for Effective
Engagement of the Private Sector in Skills
Development

Setting the Scene

- **Srinivas B Reddy**
International Labour Organization (ILO)

Moderator

- **Akustina Dato' Paduka Dr. Hj. Morni**
International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

Panellists

- **Birgit Thomann**
Federal Institute for Vocational Education and
Training (BIBB), Germany
- **Felipe Morgado**
National Service for Industrial Training
(SENAI), Brazil
- **Amran Mohd Tomin**
Malaysia Airlines Berhad, Malaysia

12.00 nn **Fireside Chat:**
The Business Case for Private Sector
Involvement in Skills Development

Moderator

- **Amadou Sako**
International Organisation
of Employers (IOE)

Panellists

- **Dato' J. Palaniappan**
ASEAN Future Workforce Council, Malaysia
- **Desyree Fouqueray-Porquet**
General Confederation of Enterprises of
Côte d'Ivoire (CGECI) Cote, Ivory Coast
- **James Chan**
Temasek Foundation, Singapore
- **Dave Woodward**
LinkedIn, Singapore

1.00 pm Networking Lunch

2.30 pm **Setting the Scene:**
Unlocking the Potential of Sector Skills Bodies
– Performance, Challenges, Lessons and the
Way Forward

Moderator

- **Dr. Ashwani Aggarwal**
International Labour Organization (ILO)

Panellists

- **Khulekani Mathe**
Business Unity South Africa, South Africa
- **Siva Kumeren A Narayanan**
Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad
(TalentCorp), Malaysia
- **Arindam Lahiri**
Automotive Skills Development Council

- **Megan Lilly**
Jobs and Skills Council, Australia

4.00 pm Networking and Visit to Exhibition

7.00 pm Dinner Hosted by HRD Corp, Malaysia
ASEAN Year of Skills (AYOS) 2025
Colours of Success:
A Celebration of Achievements

AGENDA

8.00 am Registration & Networking Breakfast

9.00 am **Parallel Thematic Sessions:
Sector Specific Experiences of SSBs
and Knowledge Sharing**

Manufacturing

Moderator

- **Mary Kent**
International Labour Organization (ILO)

Panellists

- **Naphtaly Mokgotsane**
Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services
Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA),
South Africa
- **Felipe Morgado**
National Service for Industrial Training (SENAI), Brazil
- **Azli Haji Norali**
Federation of Malaysian Manufacturing (FMM),
Malaysia
- **Arindam Lahiri**
Automotive Skills Development Council, India

Construction and Mining

Moderator

- **Pooja Arora**
Media and Entertainment Skills Council (MESC), India

Panellists

- **Dr. Thabo Mashongoane**
Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA), South Africa
- **Samuel D. K. Amegayibor**
Ghana Real Estate Developers Association
(GREDA), Ghana
- **Engr. Ronaldo R. Elepano**
Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines,
Philippines
- **Philip Aldridge**
Construction and Infrastructure Workforce
Development Council, New Zealand

Hospitality and Tourism

Moderator

- **Opio Douglas**
Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE), Uganda

Panellists

- **Philip Mondor**
Tourism HR, Canada
- **Mala Dorasamy**
PCMA APAC Regional Advisory Board, Malaysia
- **Alexander Nayoan**
Sector Skills Committee on Tourism and Hospitality,
Indonesia

DAY 2
23 OCTOBER 2025 | THURSDAY

- **Martin-Christian Kent**
Martin-Christian Kent Consulting Ltd,
United Kingdom

Emerging Sectors

Moderator

- **Dr. Mohd Syukri bin Ahmad Sudari**
Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF),
Malaysia

Panellists

- **Lady Beatriz Quevedo Cantor**
Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA),
Colombia
- **Mohit Soni**
Media and Entertainment Skills Council
(MESC), India
- **Alison Wall**
Future Skills Organisation, Australia
- **Tewodros Zewdie**
Ethiopian Horticulture Producer
Exporters Association (EHPEA), Ethiopia

10.30 am Networking Break and Visit to Exhibition

11.00 am **Parallel Sessions:
Transforming Training Provision -
The Role of the Private Sector**

Role of SSBs in Skills Needs Anticipation

Moderator

- **Dr. Tobias Sonnweber**
Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Federation
of Austrian Industries

Panellists

- **Theo Zogblah**
Commission for Technical and Vocational
Educational Training (CTVET), Ghana
- **Mohit Soni**
Media and Entertainment Skills Council
(MESC), India
- **Philip Aldridge**
Construction and Infrastructure
Workforce Development Council,
New Zealand
- **Julia Muetudhama**
Talent Innovation and Productivity
Investment Promotion Development
Board, Namibia

AGENDA

DAY 2
23 OCTOBER 2025 | THURSDAY

Quality Apprenticeships and Work-Based Learning

Moderator

- **Gary Workman**
Global Apprenticeship Network (GAN), Australia

Panellists

- **Birgit Thomann**
Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany
- **Ousman Sillah**
Sub-Saharan African Skills & Apprenticeship Stakeholders Network (SASASNET), Gambia
- **Prof. Eliamani Mathew Sedoyeka**
The Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA), Tanzania
- **Dato' J. Palaniappan**
ASEAN Future Workforce Council, Malaysia

Industry-Led Centres of Excellence or Training Centres to Meet Sector Skills Needs

Moderator

- **Dr. Akiko Sakamoto**
International Labour Organization (ILO)

Panellists

- **Lady Beatriz Quevedo Cantor**
Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA), Colombia
- **A N Prashant**
CII Centre of Excellence (India)
- **Noppanat Kongjitnam**
Department of Skill Development,
Ministry of Labour, Thailand
- **Cliff Moses**
Boma International Hospitality College, Kenya

Role of Levy-Based Financing

Moderator

- **Dr. Thabo Mashongoane**
Mining Qualification Authority (MQA), South Africa

Panellists

- **Dr. Rony Ambrose Gobilee**
Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp), Malaysia
- **Naphtaly Mokgotsane**
Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA), South Africa
- **Dr. Samson Ameh Opaluwah**
Sector Skills Council for Building, Nigeria

12.30 pm Networking Lunch and Visit to Exhibition

2.00 pm

Innovation Showcase: Emerging Technologies in Skills Training and the Role of Private Sector

Moderator

- **Trisha Suresh**
LinkedIn, Singapore

Panellists

- **Adilah Junid**
Microsoft, Malaysia
- **Yean Feng Yue**
IBM Asia Pacific (APAC), Singapore
- **Vinoo Das**
National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), India
- **Sabarinath Nair**
Skillveri, India

3.30 pm

Networking Break and Visit to Exhibition

4.00 pm

Spotlight Discussion: Towards Transformative Skills Development Through Private Sector and Sector Skills Bodies (SSBs)

Moderator

- **Sonya Janahi**
International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

Panellists

- **H.E. Mr. Azar Bayramov**
Labour Centre of the Organisation of
Islamic Cooperation, Azerbaijan
- **Alyssa Farha binti Jasmin**
World Bank Group, Malaysia
- **Hezlinn Fariss**
PETRONAS, Malaysia
- **Manuela Prina**
Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- **Yan Xi Chan**
Salesforce, Singapore

5.30 pm

Closing Address and Vote of Thanks

- **Matthias Thorns**
Vice President,
International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- **Srinivas B Reddy**
Chief of Skills and Employability Branch
International Labour Organization (ILO)
- **Dr. Syed Alwi bin Mohamed Sultan**
Chief Executive,
Human Resource Development Corporation
(HRD Corp), Malaysia

BRIDGING SECTOR SKILLS BODIES (SSBs) SKILLS GAP

SSB's are instrumental in aligning workforce development with real-time industry needs. By uniting key stakeholders, SSBs:



Identify and address sector-specific skills gaps



Mobilise public-private partnerships



Leverage digital technologies and innovations



Deliver agile training solutions tailored to sector demands

For more information and enquiries:



g sf@aseanyearofskills.org



aseanyearofskills.org



▶ Global Skills Forum

aseanyearofskills.org