



শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ



INTERNATIONAL

Skills

CONFERENCE 2019

Skills for the 21st Century: Unlocking the Skills Potential of the Developing World

9 - 10 March 2019

Technical and Madrasah Education Division
Ministry of Education, Bangladesh



INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is on the development highway maintaining high growth rate and achieving many human development indicators. Bangladesh has also recently graduated to middle-income country status, which requires more focus on skilling up the youths and boost the productivity of the country. Skills training in Bangladesh has been growing in popularity and is contributing to the progress of the Bangladesh. Bangladesh has successfully achieved many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is on the way of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The role of skills development is very important in achieving the SDGs and also the development visions of Bangladesh reflected in the pledges of the government.

Skills development in Bangladesh has been growing fast but needs more concentrated efforts to meet the skills demand. With the growing economy and the everchanging global dynamics, Bangladesh is at the crossroads to design the roadmap for the skills development of the future. The International Skills Conference 2019 is expected to provide a wonderful opportunity to accumulate existing knowledge of skills development and to better understand the direction for steering the country's vision.

The international skills conference 2019 is being organized by the Technical and Madrasah Division of the ministry of education. The conference is bringing together more than 400 national and international experts under one roof in a 2 day-knowledge sharing gathering in debating and discussing the future of the skills development of Bangladesh.

The International Skills Conference, titled, “*Skills for the 21st Century: Unlocking the Skills Potential of the Developing World*” aims to create the stepping stone of a platform for policymakers, practitioners and other stakeholders to share their knowledge and experiences on the global and regional best practices in skills development and contributing to a strategic plan on human capital development in Bangladesh. The conference aims to do this through 5 sub-themes ranging across global development, technology, informal economy, migration and collaboration.



BACKGROUND

Technological advances are opening new opportunities and potential for economies to improve productivity and create jobs if adequate and right skills are available. With the introduction of new and emerging technologies, many labor-intensive jobs are likely to be replaced, while others may require re-skilling of workers to the new systems. The question is whether education and skills development systems, particularly those in the developing countries, are capable of preparing the workforce with the adequate skills and knowledge to take advantage of new technologies in their workplaces. Skills develop progressively over an individual's life in stages, each building from the previous one, initiating from early childhood development to basic education to tertiary education and on-the-job training as well as from new learning interventions. Skills development is a lifelong process of acquiring diversified abilities and competencies.

The need to focus on skills training for human capital is critical more than ever for developing countries. The bulge in youthful population is very transitional as the population growth rate is on a downward trend. Thus, to cash in on a potential demographic dividend, it has become extremely important for the developing world to skill-up the workforce. Appropriate and quality tertiary education and skills training are critical for preparing the workforce with relevant skills and expertise needed to meet the changing technology and skills demands of the economy as well as creating and disseminating new knowledge through research and innovation.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

The Conference is expected to promote knowledge sharing and development cooperation in shaping the future of skills development. This Conference is expected to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) **Networking and Collaboration** to drive action through collaboration between various stakeholders, including, governments, businesses/industries, civil society and the education and training sector, at the global, industry and regional level.
- 2) **Knowledge Sharing and Learning** through providing a platform that fosters deep understanding of the skills challenges and opportunities and learning the best practices in skills development from global experts in light of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Sessions are designed to disseminate the latest research on global developments on skills and share the experiences of skills practitioner from the field.
- 3) **Promoting the importance of skills development** to governments, policymakers, employers, private sector, civil society, skills practitioners, and other stakeholders. The Conference will empathize on the urgent need for public and private investments and cooperation in education and skills training to ensure human capital development and preparedness for the future of work.
- 4) **Providing skills development Road map**, for the next skills program of Bangladesh. Many of the first-generation skills projects in Bangladesh are close to completion, achieving significant progress in the skills sector of the country. With achievements came new challenges and new vision towards a skillful Bangladesh. The conference would provide a platform to discuss and explore the challenges and solutions for the country which will be recorded by a team of professional rapporteurs and the document will serve as a guideline for the next generation skills project.

OPENING CEREMONY

The International Skills Conference 2019 is going to commence with an opening ceremony. Hon'ble Speaker, **Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury**, MP, is going to grace the event as the chief guest and will inaugurate the conference. The opening ceremony will also host **Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen**, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; **Mr. M. A. Mannan**, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning and **Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury**, MP, Hon'ble Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, as special guests. Hon'ble Education Minister **Dr. Dipu Moni**, MP is going to preside over the ceremony and welcoming speech will be delivered by Mr. Alamgir, Secretary, Technical and Madrasah Education Division, Ministry of Education.

PLENARY SESSION:

The opening ceremony is going to be followed by a Plenary Session. The session will host a Keynote Speech delivered by Dr. Zahid Hussain, Lead Economist, The World Bank, Dhaka, on the topic "Human Capital, Jobs and Growth". The session will have Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, MP, Hon'ble Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education as the chair. Valuable insights will be provided by:

- 1) HE Mr. Abdul Tawab Balakarzai, Deputy Minister for Academic Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education, Afghanistan.
- 2) Mr. Cristian Aedo, Practice Manager, Education Global Practice, The World Bank
- 3) Mr. Tuomo Poutainen, Country Director, International Labor Organization
- 4) Mr. Manmohan Parkash, Country Director, Asian Development Bank



CLOSING CEREMONY

The International Skills Conference is going to conclude through a closing ceremony on March 10, 2019. The closing ceremony will have Hon'ble Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, MP as the Chief Guest. The closing ceremony will also host an attractive cultural program.

Technical Sessions:

► Session 1: March 9, 2019, 2:00-4:00 pm

Global Context: Working Towards a Better and Higher Skilled Human Capital in the Developing Countries.

Session Context: The transformation from abundant cheap wages to productivity as the basis of competitive and comparative advantage in the developing nations can be achieved by skilling the work force. The session will discuss global context of changes in areas of ideology, technology, and business outlook affecting economy, employment and employability, and the reform needs in policy and institutional areas. Discussion will also take place on the emerging trends in the shifts in areas of competence, from technical to liberal arts and humanities, from specific to general, and the changing priorities of the human societies from rapid industrialization to environmental conservation, from aggressive consumerism to sustainable production and consumption, from rapid growth to responsible business, and so forth, and associated human capital development needs for these global shifts.

Outcome of the session: The expected outcome of this session will be to identify the prospects, challenges, investment needs, and way forward towards a better and higher skilled South Asia.

Discussion Topics:

- Global shifts in skills and competency requirements
- Shift in Investment and intervention requirements
- Policy and institutional reforms
- Global shifts in production paradigms and skills evolution
- Sustainable financing of skills
- Containing jobless growth and rising unemployment

Session Experts:

Role	Name	Designation	Organization
Chair	Mr. A K Abdul Momen, MP	Hon'ble Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Moderator	Mr. Syed Nasim Manzur	Former President	Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries
Panelist	Mr. Shiro Nakata	Senior Education Economist	World Bank
Panelist	Mrs. Sarah Pierenkemper	Economist	German Economic Institute
Panelist	Dr. Sami Ahmed	Component Team Leader	Access to Information (a2i)
Panelist	Mr. Md. Faruqe Hossain	Executive Chairman	National Skills Development Association
Panelist	Dr. Michael Fung	Deputy Chief Executive	FutureSkills
Panelist	Mr. Kamran T Rahman	President	Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF)
Panelist	Mr. Abhishek Singh	Vice-President	ILFS-Education
Panelist	Mr. Fook Yen Chong	Social Sector Specialist	Asian Development Bank
Panelist	Mr. Susantha Suraweera	NVTQF Expert	
Panelist	Ms. Nihad Kabir	President	Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries
Panelist	Prof. Dato Dr. Norazah Mohd Nordin	Dean, School of Education	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

► Session 2: March 9, 2019, 2:00-4:00 pm

Technology, Innovation and Skills: Riding the Wave of Industry 4.0 and Beyond

Session Context: With the emergence of modern technologies and systems, such as artificial intelligence, blockchains, robotics and telecommunications, many jobs will either be substituted or the way they are executed will change. This session will focus on the emerging technologies that are revolutionizing the future of work and the skills that will be important in preparing for the rapidly changing job market for now and the future. Additionally, there will be discussions on the continuing education, skills obsolescence, emergence of human and interpersonal skills priorities, innovative thinking, motivation, and leadership-oriented training. The socio-economic challenges of possibly looming unemployment due to increasing levels of automation and emergence of capital intensive new industrial sectors, in the global context of protectionist trade regimes, aging demography versus apathy towards migrant workforce, and shifting economic production bases, will be discussed in this session.

Expected Outcome: The expected outcome of this session will be to identify the technological shifts and changes and to understand the corresponding skills requirements. The session will also identify how to best approach the changing technology in terms of skills development for the future.

Discussion Topics:

- Advancements of new ideologies affecting the nature and structure of business and skills
- Industrialization vs environment and skills
- aggressive consumerism vs sustainable production and skills
- Industry 4.0 and emerging technology in the world of work
- Skills in manufacturing
- The role of IT in skills development
- Sustainable skills development with technology

Session Experts:

Role	Name	Designation	Organization
Chair	Mr. Sohorab Hossain	Senior Secretary, SHED	Ministry of Education
Moderator	Mr. Shafquat Haider	Director	Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI)
Panelist	Mr. Sunhwa Lee	Principal Social Sector Specialist	Asian Development Bank
Panelist	Mr. Samuel Ang	Director of Entrepreneurship Development center	Temasek Polytechnic
Panelist	Mr. Jalal Ahmed	Project Director	Skills for Employment Investment Program
Panelist	Mr. Habibullah N. Karim	Managing Director	Technohaven
Panelist	Mr. Osama Taseer	President	DCCI
Panelist	Mr. Francis de Silva	Tourism Expert	Sri Lanka
Panelist	Mr. S.M. Ebadur Rahman	Senior Social Sector Officer	Asian Development Bank
Panelist	Dr. Sajjad Zohir	Executive Director	Economic Research Group
Panelist	Dr. Arif Dowla	Managing Director	ACI Foods Limited
Panelist	Dr. Iris Pfeiffer	Managing Director	Research Institute for VTN
Panelist	Mr. Anthony Woon	TVET expert	Nanyang Polytechnic
Panelist	Dr. Munaz Ahmed Noor	Vice Chancellor	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University
Panelist	Mr. Christian Aedo	Practice Manager	World Bank
Panelist	Mr. Mubin Khan	Managing Director	EATL

► **Session 3: March 10, 2019, 10:00 am-1:00 pm**

Skills Development for the Informal Economy: Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid

Session Context: Informal workers constitute the major share of the workforce (often over 80%) in the developing world. Characterized generally by low wage, low productivity and irregular work, these workers have limited opportunities for upward job mobility and income progression. Discussion will be held on how skills development be leveraged to ensure more and better-quality jobs for the billions of workers at the bottom of the workforce. This session will explore the policy options and best practices that can be leveraged in skilling up the informal sector and providing opportunities for informal workers to be included in the mainstream global supply chain of goods and services. Inclusive, affordable, and outreaching skills training, recognition of prior learning, and continuing education for marginal workers and workers in the informal economy, will be focused in this session. Results of empirical studies on the potential of enhanced contribution from the informal economy as a result of skills development will be showcased.

Expected Outcome: The expected outcome of the session is to understand how the informal sector can be skilled up in utilizing the vast potential and magnitude of the sector and enable them to contribute more efficiently.

Discussion Topics:

- Challenges for the informal sector
- Financing of informal sector skills development
- Methods for skilling up informal sector
- Technology and the informal sector

Session Experts:

Role	Name	Designation	Organization
Chair	Mr. Md. Alamgir	Secretary	TMED, Ministry of Education
Moderator	Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman	Executive Chairman	PPRC
Panelist	Mr. Jawed Habib	Indian Hairstylist	Persona
Panelist	Mr. Asif Ibrahim	Vice-Chairman	NewAge Group
Panelist	Dr. Binayak Sen	Research Director	BIDS
Panelist	Mr. A B M Azad	Project Director	STEP, TMED
Panelist	Mr. A B M Khorshed Alam	Former CEO	Former NSDC
Panelist	Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Sarker	Chief, Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division	Planning Commission
Panelist	Mr. Asif Saleh	Senior Director	BRAC
Panelist	Ms. Prerana Langa	Managing Director	YES Foundation, India
Panelist	Mr. Kishore Kumar Singh	CTA	B-SEP, ILO
Panelist	Mr. Fahim Mashroor	CEO	BDJobs.com
Panelist	Mr. Khairul Islam	Consultant	SEIP
Panelist	Ms. Tashmina Rahman	Research Analyst	World Bank

► Session 4: March 10, 2019, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Migration and Skills: Jobs, Mobility and Skills

Session Context: International migration for economic opportunities is an ever-growing phenomenon that has important development implications for both sending and receiving countries. Migrant workers equipped with skills, training and information are more likely to experience better income gains and quality work experiences compared to low skilled and untrained migrant workers.

Expected Outcome: The expected outcome of the session is to identify the prospects and challenges of skills training for international migrants and the potential role of quality assurance and skills recognition for workforce mobility.

Discussion Topics:

- Aligning domestic TVET system with the skills demand in the overseas labor markets
- Challenges of employers in retaining trained employees
- Bridging international and regional skills allocation
- Labor market trends and migration
- Migration vs outsourcing
- Reutilizing the skilled returning migrants

Session Experts:

Role	Name	Designation	Organization
Chair	Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman	Principal Secretary	Prime Minister's Office
Moderator	Mr. Farooq Ahmed	Secretary General	Bangladesh Employers' Federation
Panelist	Professor C. R. Abrar	Professor	University of Dhaka; RMMRU
Panelist	Mr. Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman	Secretary General	Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies
Panelist	Ms. Rahnuma S. Khan	Migration Expert	ILO
Panelist	Ms. Sharon Dimanche	Deputy Chief of Mission for Development	IOM Bangladesh

Role	Name	Designation	Organization
Panelist	Mr. Nurul Amin	Proprietor	Montage Training Institute
Panelist	Dr. Nurul Islam	Director-Training	BMET
Panelist	Dr. Engr. Md. Sakawat Ali	Principal	Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre
Panelist	Mr. A K M A Hamid	President	IDEB
Panelist	Mr. Stephen Yee	Assistant Executive Director	Singapore National Employers' Federation
Panelist	Mr. Md. Golam Mortaza	Senior Economics Officer	ADB-BRM
Panelist	Manas Bhattacharya	Specialist	Skills21-ILO

► **Session 5: March 10, 2019, 2:00-4:00 pm**

Building Institutions and Leveraging Partnerships: Co-Create and Collaborate in Skills Development

Session Context: Collaboration and partnerships between national and international institutions are becoming an increasingly effective means to address challenges in the delivery of high quality skills training across the globe. This session will highlight the examples of best practices of successful institutional partnerships, e.g., public-private, national-international, corporate-academic, North-South in co-creation and collaboration on skills training initiatives. The session will look into creating a common platform for the skills development in Bangladesh. Various successful financing mechanism for sustainable skills development from around the globe will be discussed. Issues on industry-academia gaps and successful models for resolving them will be showcased.

Expected Outcome: The expected outcome of the session will be to explore models of partnership and financing mechanisms for future engagement among the different skills development stakeholders in providing a common platform for the future skills developments.

Discussion Topics:

- Institutional capacity building by partnership
- Showcasing international best practices
- Public private partnerships
- Exchange programs
- Sector-wide Approach

Session Experts:

Role	Name	Designation	Organization
Chair	Mr. Monowar Ahmed	Secretary	Economics and Relations Division (ERD)
Moderator	Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman	Senior Operations Officer	World Bank
Panelist	Mr. NM Zeaul Alam	Secretary	ICT Division
Panelist	Mr. Md. Abdul Halim	Secretary	Ministry of Industries
Panelist	Mr. Abdur Rouf Talukder	Secretary	Ministry of Finance
Panelist	Mr. Md. Faruque Hossain	Executive Chairman	NSDA
Panelist	Afroza Khan	Secretary	Ministry of Labor and Employment
Panelist	Abul Kalam Azad	Member (Secretary In-charge)	Planning Commission
Panelist	Dr Md. Jafar Uddin	Secretary In Charge	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Panelist	Mr. Md. Mahub Hossain	Additional Secretary (Urban Development)	Local Government Division
Panelist	Dr. Munirus Saleheen	Additional Secretary	MEWOE

Role	Name	Designation	Organization
Panelist	Mr. Daryl Lim	Deputy CEO	Cetglobal Pte Ltd.,
Panelist	Mr. Sunhwa Lee	Principal Social Sector Specialist	ADB HQ
Panelist	Mr. Tuomo Poutainen	Country Director	ILO
Panelist	Mr. KM Abdus Salam	Director General	NGO Affairs Bureau
Panelist	Mr. Enmin Zhai	Vice-Principal	Guangzhou ITTC
Panelist	Mr. Masroor Reaz	Representative	IFC, WB Group
Panelist	Mr. Salahuddin Kasam Khan	Former Co-Chair, NSDC	A K Khan & Co. Ltd.
Panelist	Mr. Mahbulul Alam	President	CCCI

PARTICIPANTS

The Conference aims to bring together around 400 participants from across the world including policymakers, researchers, practitioners, government officials, private sector leaders, technical and vocational education experts, and development partners and non-governmental organizations, for knowledge dissemination on the latest research and innovations, and showcasing the best practices in skills development from around the world. About 60 experts and speakers from home and abroad from the public, private, and development institutions are expected to enrich the discussions. Representatives from all relevant ministries and agencies thereof involved in skills development activities in Bangladesh will join the sessions as well. Private sector trade bodies, academic and training institutions, and civil society organizations will express their views, requirements, and expectations in regards to human capital development. Print and electronic media will remain present to cover the discussions and outcomes of the Conference.

Program Schedule of the Conference

Date	Activities	Time	Remarks
8 March 2019, Friday	Pre Conference Dinner	7.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Selected guests
9 March 2019, Saturday	Inaugural Program	10.00 am – 11.30 am	Special requirements may apply due to security protocol
	Refreshments	11.30 am – 12.00 pm	
	Plenary Session	12.00 pm – 1.00 pm	Ball Room
	Lunch	1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	
	Technical Session 1	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Ball Room
	Technical Session 2 (parallel)	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Surma Hall
	Refreshments & closing	4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	
	Visit/own time/shopping	4.30 pm – 7.00 pm	
10 March 2019, Sunday	Technical Session 3	10.00 am – 11.00 am	Ball Room
	Refreshments	11.00 am – 11.30 am	
	Technical Session 3 (Continuation)	11.30 am – 1.00 pm	Ball Room
	Technical Session 4 (parallel)	10.00 am – 11.00 am	Surma Hall
	Refreshments	11.00 am – 11.30 am	
	Technical Session 4 (Continuation)	11.30 am – 1.00 pm	Surma Hall
	Lunch	1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	
	Technical Session 5	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Ball Room
	Visit/own time/shopping	4.30 pm – 6.30 pm	
	Closing Session	7.00 pm – 7.30 pm	Ball Room
	Cultural Program	7.30 pm – 8.30 pm	
	Dinner	8.30 pm	

ORGANIZERS

The International Skills Conference is organized by the Technical and Madrasah Education Division (TMED), Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), Skills and Training Enhancement Program (STEP), the Asian Development Bank, International Labor Organization, the World Bank, BRAC, Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF) and many more government, non-government and private sector organizations.

CONFERENCE OUTCOME

- 1) **Conference Report:** The conference is expected to publish a conference proceedings report with the discussions that takes place during the technical sessions of the conference. The document will be prepared by a high caliber professional team and will serve as a guideline for the skills practitioners to tackle the skills challenges of the future for the developing world including Bangladesh.
- 2) **Cooperation Commitment:** The conference also aims to bring together different stakeholders, such as, the government, private sector, development partners, NGOs, etc. in pledging to work together for skills development in Bangladesh.

ABBREVIATIONS

A2i: Access to Information	IDEB: Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh
ADB: Asian Development Bank	IFC: International Finance Corporation
BAIRA: Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies	ILO: International Labour Organization
BGMEA: Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association	IOM: International Organization for Migration
BIDS: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	MCCI: Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry
BKTTC: Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre	MEWOE: Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
BMET: Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training	NSDA: National Skills Development Authority
BRAC: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee	NSDC: National Skills Development Council
BTEB: Bangladesh Technical Education Board	NTVQF: National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework
BUET: Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	PPRC: Power and Participation Research Centre
CCCI: Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry	RMMRU: Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit
CEO: Chief Executive Officer	SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
CTA: Chief Technical Adviser	SEIP: Skills for Employment Investment Program
DCCI: Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry	STEP: Skills and Training Enhancement Project
DG: Director General	TMED: Technical and Madrasah Education Division
DTE: Directorate of Technical Education	TVET: Technical and Vocational Education and Training
ERD: Economic Relations Division	WB: The World Bank
FBCCI: Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry	

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Mr. A. K. M. Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan
Additional Secretary (Administration & Development)
Technical and Madrasah Education Division, Ministry of Education.
& Convener, Conference Organizing Committee
E-mail: addsadmin@tmed.gov.bd
Cell: 01711822439; Phone: +88 02 9556789 (Office)
+88 02 9331696 (Residence)

Mr. Rawnak Mahmud
Director General (Additional Secretary)
Directorate of Technical Education (DTE)
E-mail: addstech@tmed.gov.bd
Cell: 01718513334; Phone: +88 02 9561574 (Office)

Mr. A B M Azad
Additional Secretary and Project Director
Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP)
Phone: +88 02 8181456-7
Cell: +8801712204108
Email: step.dte@gmail.com

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Mr. Shaquib Quoreshi
Consultant, The World Bank, Dhaka
Agargaon, Dhaka 1207
Cell: 01713039784
E-mail: squoreshi@gmail.com

Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman
Communication Consultant
Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP)
Agargaon, Dhaka 1207
Cell: +8801712-344944
Email: zillur.consultant@gmail.com
zillur.step@yahoo.com

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel
Hotel reception phone: +880 2 5502 8008
E-mail: enquiry.ppdac@panpacific.com

Skills Conference Website: <http://skillsconference.org>



Technical and Madrasah Education Division
Ministry of Education
Paribahan Pool Bhaban, Dhaka-1000
Web : www.tmed.gov.bd

