

# **Youth and Jobless – Facing Youth Unemployment in the Asia Pacific\***

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## Presentation Outline

- 1. Employment Creation is the New Approach to Economic Upgrading.**
- 2. To Infer Global Trends in Economic Restructuring, Sunset Industries and Job Losses observed from the US Economy to Jobs Migration to Developing Economies.**
- 3. Productivity Drive through Investing in New Skills at all Ages to Stay Current: The role of the government in helping workers to prepare for new jobs in the post COVID-19 world.**
- 4. Public Goods in the Knowledge-based and Innovation-driven New Economy**
- 5. Building an Inclusive Asia-Pacific Community through Global Cooperation in Post-Pandemic COVID-19 Towards a Digitalised New Economy**

# 1. Employment Creation is the New Approach to Economic Upgrading

- \* From synchronised global growth to synchronised global slowdown: The worse is yet to be
- \* Unemployment and income disparity: The danger of digital divide, trade protectionism and unequal distribution of fruits from globalization
- \* The role of the government and market imperfection: Visible hand versus Invisible hand
- \* Addressing globalization and its discontents, discouraging trade protectionism, mitigating digital divide, oppose unilateralism and jingoism

## **2. To Infer Global Trends in Economic Restructuring, Sunset Industries and Job Losses observed from the US Economy to Jobs Migration to Developing Economies**

\* By referring to trends for top 16 industries for job losses from 2016 to 2026 in the US economy and job market and make projections regarding areas of job growth and decline, we can infer potential trends for job losses due to rapid changing in technology and job requirements and work environment.

\* By identifying some areas of employment with diminishing job prospects is to review the fastest declining occupations. These jobs have fallen out of favour for a variety of reasons including trends in automation , outsourcing to overseas market where labour is cheaper, enhancement in information technology that reduced the need for workers , the emergence of gig economy and an increase in part -time and freelance workers filling what were once full-time jobs.

\* By looking at the 20 fastest-declining occupations in the US economy with projections from 2018-2028, ranked by the percentage of jobs expected to be lost, we may be able to infer potential trends for job migration to developing countries.

## Top Industries for Job Losses, 2016-2026\* (projected net decreases by Bureau of Labour Statistics, USA)

1. Locomotive Fires
2. Respiratory Therapy Technicians
3. Parking Enforcement Workers
4. Word Processors and Typists
5. Watch Repairers
6. Electronics Equipment Repairers for Motor Vehicles
7. Telephone Operators
8. Cutters and Trimmers (by hand)
9. Postmasters and mail Superintendents
10. Mine Shuttle Car Operators
11. Computer Operators
12. Switchboard Operators
13. Postal Service mail Sorters
14. Data Entry Keyers
15. Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging and System Assemblers
16. Coil Winders, Tapers, Winders and Finishers
17. Photographic Process Workers
18. Pressers, Textile, Garments and Related Materials
19. Legal Secretaries
20. Prepress Technicians

## **Fastest Declining Occupations, 2018- 2028\*** (Diminishing job prospects by Bureau of Labour Statistics, USA)

1. Locomotive Wired Communication Carriers;
- 2 Newspaper , Periodicals, Books and Directory Publishers
3. Postal Mail Services
4. Printing and Related Support Services
5. Apparel Manufacturing
6. Textile Mills
7. Plastic Products Manufacturing
8. Semiconductor and Electronic Component Manufacturing
9. Navigational, Measuring and Control Instrument Manufacturing
10. Other Miscellaneous Manufacturing
11. Foundries
12. Communication Equipment Manufacturing
13. Computer and Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing (Excluding digital Cameras)
14. Rubber Products Manufacturing
15. Pulps and Mills
16. Travel Arrangements and Reservation Services

### **3. Productivity Drive through Investing in New Skills at all Ages to Stay Current: The role of the government in helping workers to prepare for new jobs in the post COVID-19 world**

- \* Ministry of Manpower focuses on overcoming skills gaps for new jobs to mitigate job losses for professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs), which would give employers confidence to new hires and trainees. provides Schemes including Job Growth incentives, SG United Traineeship, Mid-Career Pathway Programs and Professional Conversion Programs.
- \* Ministry of Finance allocates fiscal supports for Job Credit Scheme, Wage Credit Scheme, Workfare Income Supplement, COVID-19 Support Grants and Workfare Special Payments to low-income earners.
- \* Ministry of Trade and Industry actively participate in regional, and bilateral free trade agreements to improve trade connectivity and regional economic integration.
- \* Ministry of Transportation proactively seek global connectivity and reactivate people-to people connectivity through tourism, MICE and business travels.

### **3. Productivity Drive through Investing in New Skills at all Ages to Stay Current: The role of the government in helping workers to prepare for new jobs in the post COVID-19 world**

\* Ministry of Education (MOE) reviews all curriculum to ensure graduates of University, Polytechnics and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) are equipped for jobs by initiating Industrial Apprenticeship Programs, Multi-Disciplinary Approach and Life-Long Learning Programs by moving away from being overly academic and ITE is the jewel in Singapore's education system. MOE adopts four main strategies to equip students for post COVID-19 world in the fast-changing environment which include

- (a) Stepping up effort to maximise opportunities for disadvantaged students by investing more to even out differences early in life, giving them full access to appropriate health , learning and development supports;
- (b) To ensure institutions have and will continue to build multiple pathways for students to hone their strengths as every child is unique and we need difference approaches to help them grow and learn;
- (c) To ensure students develop attitudes and skills beyond book knowledge by continue to emphasize on competitive advantage and human strengths, thus educators will focus on developing the 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies including core value like respect and resilience and skill sets like critical thinking;
- (d) Push for more interdisciplinary learning to support career mobility and prepare Singaporeans for a more dynamic and uncertain future. Subject specialization is still necessary and most important to nurture ability to

## 4. Public Goods in the Knowledge-based and Innovation-driven New Economy through People-to-People Connectivity

- (a) Facilitating knowledge sharing and public policies exchanges through digital platforms as a public good for ASEAN to begin with;
- (b) Strengthening online business to business dealings and meetings for small and medium enterprises to overcome regional travelling restrictions;
- (c) Effective online education learning across different levels right from childcare to tertiary as the foundation for regional people-to-people connectivity going forward;
- (d) Confronting digital economy, ensuring level-playing field for employment creation and to mitigate income disparity: Build strong digital capabilities

## **5. Building an Inclusive Asia-Pacific Community through Global Cooperation in Post Pandemic COVID-19 towards a Digitalised New Economy**

- \* Digitalization is creating new industries as well as transforming many existing ones, such as finance, advanced manufacturing and healthcare.
- \* Digitalization also offers businesses, small and big, an effective means of reaching global markets.
- \* Building on our Smart Nation vision, we can tap on the economic opportunities offered by the digital economy. To do so, we must promote the adoption of digital technologies across all sectors of the economy.
- \* In addition, we must build strong capabilities in digital technologies, in particular data analytics and cybersecurity, which can be applied flexibly across sectors.
- \* Data will be an increasingly important source of comparative advantage and we need to improve our ability to use it productively in the economy.

## **Bigger room exists for regional corporation especially within ASEAN in several key areas including**

- Sharing of experiences in handling of COVI-19, collaboration in research studies for development of vaccines and sharing them as public goods amongst developing ASEAN will strengthen people-to-people connectivity.
- How to deploy substantial savings of Asian countries for funding economic projects in ASEAN especially in infrastructure development as exemplified by the Belt and Road Initiative. Hence professional evaluation of infrastructure projects and a sound financial system and prudent public fund management are the prerequisites.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the World Bank Group (WBG) can work together to provide advance executive training and to senior officials from ASEAN for managing investment fund flows and efficient platforms for cashless payment system will be critically needed.
- Sharing of expertise and technology in smart cities development in ASEAN as pace of urbanization intensifies remained paramount.

## **Recommendation A: Help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) adopt digital technologies**

- SMEs form the bulk of our enterprises, and we should help them adopt digital technologies. We can do so by providing expertise as well as financing support. We can also accelerate the pace of adoption of digital technologies among SMEs through national initiatives like the National Trade Platform and a National Payments Council.

## **Recommendation B: Build deep capabilities in data analytics and cybersecurity**

- The Government should support the development of digital capabilities such as applied data analytics by establishing joint laboratories with industry players. Such partnerships can promote innovation and help train data scientists. The Government can also use National Service to develop deep, niche skills in cybersecurity among Full-Time National Servicemen, given the strategic importance of cybersecurity to the economy as well as national security.

## **Recommendation C: Harness data as an asset**

- The Government should establish a dedicated program office to support enterprises in making the most of data as an asset. The designated office can provide industry specific regulatory guidance and co-develop flagship data science projects that will have positive demonstrative effects on other enterprises.

**Thank you for your attention!**