



Youth Job Market and Skills Demand Study

Bridges to the Future: ASEAN Youth Employment Programme

ASEAN Foundation

With the continued commitment of the ASEAN Foundation to help the ASEAN youth to adapt with the life post COVID-19 recovery, the ASEAN Foundation is currently undertaking a research on the Youth Job Market and Skills Demand Study in 10 AMS from 18 May 2021 to 30 November 2021. As part of the research the ASEAN Foundation will assign and post field researchers that would gather the data through surveys, focus group discussions as well as in-depth interviews to key informants.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought severe disruption to economies and labour market in Asia. In April 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reported that the pandemic will threaten the employment of 68 million workers across Asia should the pandemic be prolonged. With a tough labour market for young people prior to the pandemic, COVID-19 has had disproportionate impacts on youth employment prospects. For young people, the coronavirus pandemic impacts their employment in three transmission channels: (1) job disruptions in the form of reduced working hours, reduced earnings and job losses for both paid workers and the self-employed; (2) disruptions in education and training; and (3) difficulties in transitioning from school to work and moving between jobs in a recession.¹

The overall objective of this research is to assess the current state of job market and skills demand for youth including undeserved youth in 10 ASEAN countries, however specifically focusing on the (1) labour market assessment, (2) undeserved youth assessment and (3) youth employability service mapping. In detail the, objectives are as follows:

- **Labour Market Assessment** – To assess employment opportunities, and accordant skill and competency requirements for youth (young man and young women) especially undeserved youth, in economic sectors that are more resilient to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic between 2022-2025.
- **Undeserved Youth Assessment** – To identify the aspiration on employment among undeserved youth aged 18-29 and their perception on key barriers to fulfil these expectations.
- **Youth Employability Service Mapping** – To map accessible training and job preparation and labour market integration services to increase undeserved youth age between 18-29 employability.

¹ Asian Development Bank. (2020). Asian Development Outlook 2020.

In the data collection process, the research will undertake a mixed method through surveys (quantitative), key informant interviews and focus group discussion with youths including undeserved youths. In general, the population of the qualitative inquiry consists of the following groups:

- **Private Sector Actors:** The population of market assessment consist of private sector actors large, medium and small enterprise. The type of sectors and industries will vary from country to country. The respondents from each company/institution are preferably the senior staff of Human Resources Department or Personnel Management in the companies/institutions since they usually have key information on labour needs and recruitment.
- **Young People:** With the continued commitment of the ASEAN Foundation to help the ASEAN youth to adapt with the life post COVID-19 recovery, the ASEAN Foundation is currently undertaking a research on the Youth Job Market and Skills Demand Study in 10 AMS from 18 May 2021 to 30 November 2021. As part of the research the ASEAN Foundation has assigned and posted field researchers that would gather the data through surveys, focus group discussions as well as in-depth interviews to key informants.
- **The Government:** Informants from the government will be drawn from Ministry of Labour Force, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth Affairs, and Ministry of State Apparatus Empowerment (or its equivalence) in targeted countries.
- **Non-Profit Organisations:** NGOs will be selected based on whether they implement any project on youth employment support in the past two years.
- **Vocational Training Providers:** Public and private vocational training providers that target young people will be selected as participants. Respondents are preferably senior staff who understand employability service provision at macro level.

After collecting the necessary data for the research, the data will be analysed and concluded in the form of a report to understand the current labour market, skills demand and youth employability services that would be mapped.