



WAPES Asia-Pacific
Regional Conference

Mitigating Future Skills Gaps: Progressing Into a Digital World of Work

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
16-17 July 2024

Concept Note & Call for Speakers
(June 12, 2024 version)

Please note that the **event will be in English.**

This event could be partially recorded. With your registration you agree to be recorded (image or voice), published and/or streamed on

www.wapes.org

Introduction

The global workforce is in the midst of a seismic shift as digitalisation permeates every aspect of industry and commerce. As technological advancements redefine job roles and workflows, they simultaneously create opportunities and challenges for workers. The conference aims to delve into these complexities, offering insights and solutions to bridge the gap between the promises and pitfalls of digitalisation via the three themed sessions outlined below:

1. Helping Workers Cope With the Promise and Pitfalls of Digitalisation

The promise of digitalisation lies in its potential to enhance productivity, efficiency, and innovation. However, it also presents challenges such as job displacement, skill obsolescence, and increased competition. According to the World Economic Forum, half the global labour force may need reskilling over the next two years, and 1.1 billion jobs will be transformed by technology in the coming decade. This discussion will explore strategies to support workers in adapting to the digital landscape while mitigating the risks of job displacement and skill mismatch.

2. Promoting Digital Literacy and Education

Digital literacy is increasingly becoming a prerequisite for participation in the modern workforce; however, PwC reports 75% of decision-makers from Asia-Pacific countries are concerned their respective workforces are falling behind in the race to acquire digital skills. This session will focus on initiatives to promote digital literacy and education, including curriculum development, training programmes, and lifelong learning opportunities. By equipping individuals with the necessary digital skills, we can empower them to thrive in the digital economy.

3. Digital Tools to Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Groups

Despite the transformative potential of digitalisation, certain groups, such as low-income earners, minorities, and persons with disabilities, face barriers to accessing and benefiting from digital tools and technologies. The International Labour Organization reports that vulnerable populations are at greater risk of being left behind in the digital transformation. This session will explore innovative approaches and inclusive technologies designed to address the specific needs of disadvantaged groups, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital revolution.

Through these discussions, the conference aims to catalyse collaborative efforts among policymakers, employers, and educators to mitigate digital skills gaps and foster inclusive growth in an increasingly digital world of work.

Target Audience

- Decision-makers and experts from PES agencies in WAPES member countries
- Representatives from international organisations specializing in labour issues
- Policymakers from the Malaysian government, academic researchers, industry, unions, student associations, and private employment agencies

Objectives

- Identify key strategies to help workers adapt to the digital landscape, balancing the promises and challenges of digitalisation.
- Discover best practices for promoting digital literacy and education among individuals of all ages and backgrounds.
- Propose innovative digital tools and technologies that address the specific needs of disadvantaged groups, ensuring inclusivity in the digital transformation.
- Foster cooperation and mutual learning among WAPES member countries.

Call for speakers and contribution

PERKESO and WAPES are calling for your contributions, testimonies and documentation for each session.

The sessions will last 1h30min and will be structured in three parts :

- An introduction to the workshop topic by the moderator plus (up to) 5 minutes of interactive/creative session;
- 3 presentations (one presentation 10-15min) by PES representatives or experts or partners;
- A discussion between the speakers, led by the moderator (who will also act as rapporteur of the different presentations) and a question and answer period with the participants.

Sessions in more detail

- Theme 1: **Helping Workers Cope With the Promise and Pitfalls of Digitalisation**
- Theme 2: **Promoting Digital Literacy and Education**
- Theme 3: **Digital Tools to Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Groups**

For each of these sessions, we are looking for motivated, creative speakers who will be able to give presentations on best practices, methods, or innovative projects implemented in PES or within their partner network.

We would welcome with pleasure and interest all your contributions to enrich this exchange of best strategies and practices on these topics. We hope that these contributions will focus on successful and, if possible, innovative and concrete experiences.

Members, non-members, stakeholders as well as academics are invited to share their experiences and to participate in this work. Presentations can be made in English. We also will encourage our speakers to use a variety of interactive tools during their presentation. For more information, see the attached programme structure

Terms & Conditions

If you would like to participate as a speaker, please send us a proposal (abstract, draft presentation, etc.), fill in the form on the last page and return it to us, by June 23, 2024. You could also [download the form via this LINK](#).

Any suggestion for innovative ways of active and/or participatory information communication is welcome, so please do not hesitate to contact the Conference project team to find out about the technical and technological possibilities available for this event

Programme

The latest version of the programme will be available at www.wapes.org

Venue: **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

Working Language: **English.**

15 July 2024	
15:00 – 17:00	Administrative Meeting (TBC) For WAPES APRC members only <u>Location</u> Menara PERKESO Ampang, Board Meeting Room

16 July 2024	
08:00 – 08:30	Registration · Breakfast
08:30 – 09:30	Opening Remarks · Photo Sessions
09:30 – 10:00	Keynote Address
10:00 – 10:30	BREAK
10:30 – 12:30	Theme 1 Helping Workers Cope With the Promise and Pitfalls of Digitalisation
12:30 – 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 – 15:45	Theme 2 Promoting Digital Literacy and Education
15:45 – 16:00	BREAK
16:00 – 17:00	Theme 2 (cont.) Promoting Digital Literacy and Education
1930	OFFICIAL DINNER RECEPTION

17 July 2024	
08:30 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:15	Theme 3

	Digital Tools to Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Groups
10:15 – 10:30	BREAK
10:30 – 11:30	Theme 3 (cont.) Digital Tools to Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Groups
11:30 – 12:00	Closing Remarks
12:00 – 14:00	LUNCH · CHECKOUT · DEPARTURE TO KLIA

**Notes on Themed Sessions*

1. *The moderator will open each session with a 10 to 15-minute introduction to the theme and the presenters.*
2. *Each presenter will receive approximately 20 minutes to present.*
3. *Each session will conclude with a 10 to 15-minute interactive session between the moderator and presenters or Q&A session overseen by the moderator, who will either answer audience questions OR direct questions to the most suitable presenter.*

For two-part sessions (i.e. those with a break in between), the moderator remains the same throughout both parts.

Speaker Proposal

(1)	Country Name	
(2)	Organization Name	
(3)	Speaker Title	
(4)	Speaker Name	
(5)	Speaker Profile/Bio (Achievements)	
(6)	Title of the presentation	
(7)	Summary of the Presentation (50-100 words)	
(8)	Detailed information of the presentation (Please also feel free to attach Documents/Links)	
(9)	Comments or Requirements (If any)	