
As part of this commitment, WCC hosted a virtual roundtable with senior representatives in Public Employment Services of Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam looking to learn from each other’s experiences and solutions.

WCC is committed to supporting global Public Employment Services (PES) to become more agile in their approach to job creation and workforce development. Thus, enabling the development of sustainable labor markets that respond to the changing needs of each nation’s workforce and economy.

COVID-19 Pandemic Key Impacts on the APAC Region

1. The journey towards digital transformation and digital training must be a priority
2. Regular analysis of employment data, including demographic segmentation, is vital
3. This data must be mapped to relevant re-employment strategies to get the best results
4. Long-term strategic and data-driven initiatives are needed to ensure resilient communities and economies. Short-term fixes such as furlough and financial support packages are necessary to cope with the impacts of a crisis initially but cannot replace sustainable employment programs or help PES cope going forward
5. Better knowledge of future career trends should be a key focus
6. Intelligent skills matching can significantly reduce bottlenecks in re-employment and help the unemployed find sustainable career paths

Key learnings from the APAC Public Employment Services roundtable

- Create actionable short and long-term strategies
- Find relevant, and appropriate digital transformation paths
- Employ AI-driven skills matching to support workforce development
- Develop tactics and strategies to ensure both people and economy are more resilient in the future
- The COVID-19 outbreak has exposed high percentages of informal unemployment and the challenges faced by the region’s informal workforce in protecting informal workers and vulnerable households
- The pandemic has highlighted a disproportionate impact on youth employment, especially young women
- The move towards digital transformation must be accelerated to address the deep divide to digital access, especially in lower-income countries
- Remote working can and has worked for both businesses and citizens. However, more robust initiatives and support are required
- Public Employment Services need to focus on re-employment through transferable skills matching, skills or retraining
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