



AFPPD 3rd Meeting of the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth “Education for Employment, Education to Employment”

30 June 2017 | Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

TIME	AGENDA ITEMS
9:00 – 9:15	<p>Welcoming Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Mr. Osmonbek Artykbayev, MP, Kyrgyzstan, Chairperson National Committee of Kyrgyzstan on Population and Development (NCKPD) <p>Opening Remarks Co-chairperson of AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP, Nepal, Chairperson of National Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (NFPPD)
9:15 – 9:25	<p>Agenda Setting & Key Findings on the “Education for Employment & Education to Employment”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director of AFPPD
9:25 - 9:40	<p>Report from the AFPPD Secretariat Young Staff Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Andries (Zandre) Van Strate (Global), <i>Report from A Regional Consultation on Youth, Peace & Security in Asia and the Pacific (18 May 2017)</i> ➤ Ms. Madevi Sun-Suon, <i>Filling the 21st Century Skills Gap in Education</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Recommendations to the AFPPD Standing Committee Members</p>
9:40 – 10:40	<p>Expert Presentation: “Education for Employment, Education to Employment”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Naoki Nihei, Peace and Development Advisor, UN Kyrgyzstan <p>Q&A</p>
10:40 – 11:00	<p>Working Coffee Break</p>
11:00 – 12:20	<p>Sharing Good Practices on “Education for Employment; Education to Employment”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Country Presentations Open Discussion/Group Discussion Recommendations to the AFPPD Executive Committee</p>
12:15 – 12:25	<p>Wrap-up of the 3rd Standing Committee Meeting on Investing in Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director of AFPPD <p>Closing Remarks by the Co-Chairs</p>
12:25 – 12:30	<p>Evaluation</p>
12:30 -	<p>Lunch</p>



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Concept Note

Background:

The global youth unemployment has been a grave concern over the past decades. According to the World Bank and ILO data, youth unemployment rates, defined as unemployment of youth as percentage of total labor force aged 15-24, increased from 12.2% in 1991 to 13.6% in 2015. In 2016-2017, the global youth unemployment rate almost reached the level of the historic lowest of 14% set in 2003. Today, over 70 to 75 million youth are estimated to be unemployed. The Asia-Pacific region and sub-regions showed increasing trends of youth unemployment as well, with some sub-regional variations. East Asia and Pacific increased its youth unemployment rate from 7.6% to 11.0%; South Asia from 9.1% to 10.1%; and Pacific Island small states from 19.1% to 26.1%. In Central Asia, Kazakhstan maintained much lower youth unemployment rates than others, albeit with an increasing trend from 2.9% to 5.0%. Other Central Asian countries continued to suffer high youth unemployment rates, including Kyrgyzstan (from 14.4% to 14.9%), Tajikistan (from 15.7% to 15.8%), Turkmenistan (from 16.5% to 17.3%), and Uzbekistan (16.6% to 17.9%).

A recently concluded global youth unemployment survey attributed three combined factors to such a troubling global trend of youth unemployment: lack of jobs, lack of skills, and lack of coordination.¹ Survey findings reveal that employers have often found there is not a sufficient number of youth with desirable skill-sets, including communications skills and work ethics. This is partly caused by the lack of shared understanding on expected skills among employers, education providers, and young people. As a result, there is a lack of employers-driven “education for employment” being made available to young people. Findings also confirm that youth often face accessibility and affordability issues to receive such education. These inter-linked factors need to be critically analyzed in each country context to identify appropriate solutions. The lack of jobs on the supply side due to unfavorable economic conditions, lack of skills on the demand side due in part to absence of or limited access to skills-oriented vocational and technical education, and lack of coordination among employers, educators and job seeking youth can only be resolved in a holistic manner at the national level.

These national level challenges on youth unemployment have directly resulted in regional and global issues as well. There is a growing number of youth migration directly caused by an elevated unemployment at home. Among many reasons to migrate including armed conflicts and natural disasters, increased susceptibility to working poverty and a lack of good quality job opportunities are key factors shaping young people’s decision to migrate abroad permanently.² Cross-border movement of youth populations have posed greater challenges encompassing human trafficking and radicalization of youth. Youth unemployment issues have far greater and broader implications and

¹ McKinsey and Company.

² ILO (2017). *Global youth unemployment is on the rise again*

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_513728/lang--ja/index.htm [Last accessed on 20 May 2017]



consequences on not only young people themselves, but also their family members, communities and even national security.

Against this background, the Asian Forum Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) has positioned **education for employment** among the key strategic priority issues to be addressed during the current Strategic Cycle 2016-2019. AFPPD Strategic Framework is built upon three pillars of population groups, namely women and girls, youth, and older persons, with three cross-cutting common themes, namely, safety and security, health, and participation. Education for employment has been viewed as a safety and security related priority theme for the AFPPD Standing Committee on Investing in Youth, which is mandated to collectively deliberate and make action-oriented recommendations to the Executive Committee for AFPPD's advocacy work.

AFPPD has so far addressed youth related priority issues broadly at AFPPD-organized global and regional platforms. For example, at the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD) toward the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, parliamentarians made commitments related to youth, with a special reference to education for employment.

Confirming that reaping a demographic dividend requires good planning, parliamentarians committed to ensuring policies and legislation are in place to provide youth with access to quality education, skills, and training and create decent work and employment opportunities in developing and developed countries in order to make full use of the capabilities and resources of the young population once they attain working age. Parliamentarians also committed to investing in and promote civil, economic, political and social participation of youth, including the most vulnerable and marginalized young populations such as young forced migrants and refugees, while ensuring equity in educational, vocational and professional development programs for all young people in order to realize their full potential and to combat vulnerability and radicalization. More specifically, parliamentarians agreed to adopt the "4E" framework of action-oriented policies for young people: ensure access to quality health information and services, provide quality education, create employment, and strive for equality/equity for all, thereby ensuring peace, security and stability of society and enhancing the realization of a demographic dividend.

"Education for employment" also receives special attention in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the *SDG 4: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*, and *SDG 8: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*. Specifically, Target 4.4 aims to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship by 2030. Target 8.5 aspires to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

The 3rd Standing Committee meeting on Investing in Youth will reflect on the SDGs as well as the commitments made by the AFPPD member parliamentarians, while sharing knowledge and good practices in the areas of "education for employment" and "education to employment." At the conclusion of the meeting, the Standing Committee members will make recommendations to be presented at the AFPPD 83rd Executive Committee and the 12th General Assembly for its national, regional and global advocacy action plans in facilitating quality "education for employment" in order to ensure "education to employment" for young people in the Asia and the Pacific.



Purpose:

Building on the outcomes of AFPPD's 2016-17 activities, the 3rd Meeting of the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth will provide Standing Committee members with a platform for learning and sharing knowledge on youth unemployment in Asia and the Pacific. As part of identifying solutions to this challenge, ways to provide quality "education for employment" to ensure "education to employment" will be on agenda. Proposed concrete action plans by National Committees will be drafted for the respective countries, thus contributing to the achievement of the SDG Targets 4.4 and 8.8. The meeting will also make recommendations to the AFPPD 83rd Executive Committee and the 12th General Assembly for its shared sub-regional, regional and global advocacy plans in this regard.

Expected Results:

1. Increased knowledge and shared good practices on youth-responsive national legislation and budgeting in order to ensure youth access to quality "education for employment" and facilitate transition from "education to employment" for young people.
2. Feasible action plans developed for the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth in raising awareness among Asia-Pacific parliamentarians on good practices on "education for employment" and "education to employment."
3. Recommended national, regional and global advocacy plans for AFPPD to take up in order to contribute to realizing "education for employment" and "education to employment" in Asia and the Pacific.

Format:

Resource person(s) and AFPPD secretariat staff will make presentations regarding youth employment, focusing on challenges faced by today's youth in having access to education for employment and making smooth transition from education to employment. Country presentations and discussion will follow in order to share good practices and make recommendations to the AFPPD Executive Committee.

Participants:

Members of the Standing Committee on Investing in Youth.
Participants of the Central Asia Sub-regional Conference on June 28-29
Resource persons to present the overview of political participation by women and youth.

Venue: Hyatt Regency Bishkek (191 Abdrahmanov Street, Bishkek 720011)



Annex 1:

**Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (GCPPD)
toward the G7 Ise-Shima Summit**

Declaration and Recommendations: Investing in Youth

With today's generation of young people being the largest in history, numbering 1.8 billion, young people should be at the center of population issues, representing society's hopes for the future. Investing in young people is therefore of critical importance to making future societies economically dynamic, and for building peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies. In fact, the cost of not investing in education, skills development, health, and empowerment is one of the highest costs we can incur.

We, parliamentarians, commit to and call on the G7 to:

2.1 Adopt the "4E" framework of action-oriented policies for young people: ensure access to quality health information and services, provide quality education, create employment, and strive for equality/equity for all, thereby ensuring peace, security and stability of society and enhancing the realization of a demographic dividend;

2.2 Provide comprehensive sexuality education and establish a UHC system that focuses on universal access to full sexual and reproductive health services including family planning and information for young people, addressing the negative social consequences of gender stereotypes;

2.3 Commit to eradicating harmful practices such as early, child and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation, and provide girls at risk of these practices with the information they need to advocate for their rights;

2.4 The demographic dividend requires planning: provide youth with access to quality education, skills, and training and create decent work and employment opportunities in developing and developed countries in order to make full use of the capabilities and resources of the young population once they attain working age;

2.5 Invest in and promote civil, economic, political and social participation of youth, including the most vulnerable and marginalized young populations such as young forced migrants and refugees, while ensuring equity in educational, vocational and professional development programs for all young people in order to realize their full potential and to combat vulnerability and radicalization.