

03 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Invitation to CEPA 62nd Open Forum on:
Employment Outcomes of Technical and Vocational Training Graduates in Sri Lanka
11th February 2020
4.00 – 6:30 pm
at the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA), No. 16, Jawatta Road, Colombo 5.

As a higher middle-income country, Sri Lanka's economic growth needs to be supported by productivity increases and a greater diversification of the employment sectors. The existing gap between high formal educational attainment and market demands, as well as the mismatch between career aspirations and available job opportunities is central to the problem of youth unemployment in Sri Lanka. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is available to address some of these gaps and mismatches, and is expected to play a critical role in skills development, enabling improved employment outcomes for the youth. There is interest on the part of government, development partners and non-government stakeholders to promote vocational training as a means of skilling and employment, but not many people understand the contribution of TVET. The Open Forum provides an opportunity to present and discuss evidence from Sri Lanka and other South Asian countries on these aspects.

Agenda

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 4:30-4:35 | Welcome |
| 4:35-4:45 | Opening remarks: Chair TBC |
| 4:45-5:00 | Findings from the Tracer Studies of graduates from selected Public Vocational Training Institutions in Sri Lanka – K Romeshun, Senior Researcher, Centre for Poverty Analysis |
| 5:00-5:15 | Are we producing entrepreneurs through loan facilities? - Amar Gunatilleke, Chief Executive Officer, Marga Institute |
| 5:15-5:30 | How much do we know about TVET? – Project experiences in South Asia, Ryotaro Hayashi, Social Sector Economist, Asian Development Bank |
| 5:30-5:40 | Discussant– Dr. W.G. Somaratne, Programme Reforms Specialist, Skills Sector Reforms Programme, Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training |
| 5:40-6:25 | Discussion |
| 6:25-6:30 | Closing Remarks by the Chair and CEPA |

RSVP – Tarini Wijesekera via tarini@cepa.lk or 0114690288/4690240

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Gayathri Manori, ACA, ACMA
Acting Executive Director
Centre for Poverty Analysis

Every quarter, the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) hosts an Open Forum (OF) with the objective of providing a platform for groups of professionals to discuss their research and/or experience on poverty and related issues. The Open Forum also functions as a medium through which knowledge is disseminated to a wider audience outside the research community as it draws a diverse audience.