

**Invitation to the 64<sup>th</sup> Open Forum on:**

**Employment Outcomes of Technical and Vocational Training Graduates in Sri Lanka**

**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

As a lower 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 the 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, as well as to take into consideration the impact of COVID-19 on the TVET sector.

**Agenda**

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| 3:00-3:05 | Welcome: <b>Mr. K. Romeshun</b> , CEPA   |
| 3:05-3:10 | Opening remarks: Chaired by – <b>Dr. Tilakaratne A. Piyasiri</b> , <i>Acting Vice Chancellor of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka</i>  |
| 3:10-3:30 | Findings from the Tracer Studies of graduates from selected Public Vocational Training Institutions in Sri Lanka (2016 to 2020) – <b>Ms. Nadhiya Najab</b> , <i>Research Professional, Centre for Poverty Analysis</i> |
| 3:30-3:50 | COVID-19 impact on TVET in Sri Lanka – <b>Mr. Ryotaro Hayashi</b> , <i>Social Sector Economist, Asian Development Bank</i>   |
| 3:50-4:20 | Discussion   |
| 4:20-4:30 | Closing Remarks by the Chair   |

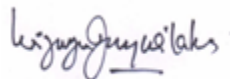
The event will be conducted on Zoom. Register in advance for this event:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUId6urj8pGNcxhzzzEle\\_kacGI77YnZAV](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUId6urj8pGNcxhzzzEle_kacGI77YnZAV)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We will live stream the event on: <https://www.facebook.com/CepaSL>

RSVP – Chaturanga Weerasekera ([chaturanga@cepa.lk](mailto:chaturanga@cepa.lk))



**Wijaya Jayatilaka, Ph.D**

**Executive Director, Centre for Poverty Analysis**

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*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.*