

EXPLAINER

Five Innovative Ways to Produce Job-Worthy Graduates



Increased access to technology in schools helps improve learning outcomes and provide students with in-demand technical skills. Photo: ADB.

Success lies in industry links, technology, skills development, new modes of education delivery, and school-to-work transition programs.

Introduction

A variety of new approaches to education and skills development have emerged in recent years. The 2016 International Skills Forum, organized by the Asian Development Bank in Manila, featured some of the best practices, which ranged from partnerships with the private sector to adoption of technology to new modes of delivery for education. And they all have a common goal: to strengthen the foundation of higher education and technical vocational education and training (TVET).

1. Establish university-industry linkages.

Universities are significant generators of new knowledge. They produce highly skilled workers and help foster innovation across different sectors. Successful models of linkages have supported innovation through research, use of technology, and business incubation (commercializing products) in partnership between universities and industries. They can contribute to economic development through research, community engagement, the generation of new ideas for products, and discover new ways to increase productivity.

For example, in the People's Republic of China, Microsoft has forged partnerships with the information technology (IT) department of several universities. The American multinational technology company sends senior staff to the universities as part-time lecturers and offers job placements for IT students.

2. Use technology to facilitate teaching and learning.

Technology has played a big role in engaging stakeholders and expanding the reach of education. With the increasing reach of the internet and the widespread use of various technological devices, such as computers, tablets and smartphones, it has become crucial to use technology in education.

For example, blended and e-Learning broadens teaching and learning by providing additional tools to explain complex issues or retain student attention. They also enable students to learn anywhere and anytime as well as learn from experts from any part of the world.

In Australia, Coder Factory Academy offers coding boot camps to equip students with in-demand technology skills.

3. Engage employers in skills development.

There is an increasing emphasis on education and the world of work through work-integrated-learning, career development, and ensuring skills development matches the needs of the emerging workforce. Governments across Asia and the Pacific are looking for more effective ways to engage industry in skills development so they can ensure they have competitive, productive, and job-ready workers.

Learn more from three case studies of employer engagement.

- The Nuts and Bolts of Market-Driven Skills Training
- Building the Skills Base of Modern Global Automakers
- Closing the Skills Gap in the Wastewater Treatment Industry

4. Tap into new modes of delivery for education.

New methodologies in teaching and learning encompass innovations in online education technology, which was triggered by the revolution in information and communications technology and the widespread use of the internet. New modes of delivery, such as massive open online courses or MOOCs, have changed the education landscape, improved learning outcomes and provided greater access in equitable and cost-effective ways.

Examples of new modes of delivery:

- Knox Innovation, Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC) in Melbourne, Australia is a trade training facility that provides hands-on learning experiences for secondary school students.
- Coursera partners with universities and organizations to offer online courses.

5. Facilitate school-to-work transition.

School-to-work transition is a training program, such as on-the-job trainings and apprenticeships, aimed at preparing high school students or out-of-school youths for the labor market.

Examples of school-to-work transition programs

- JobStart Philippines provides career guidance and coaching and life skills training to unemployed youth.
- Enderun Colleges provides students with industry mentors and offer work internships in the Philippines and abroad.

Resources

Event: 6th International Skills Forum—Innovative Practices in Skills Development (Sept 2016)

Innovations in Knowledge and Learning for Competitive Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific

Skills Matter: Further Results from the Survey of Adult Skills

The Future of Jobs and Jobs Training

Blog: Why Skills Development? In Asia, a Basic Education Is Not Enough Anymore



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Brajesh Panth coordinates ADB's strategic support for the development of the education sector in Asia and the Pacific. He provides technical advice on ADB's strategies for new business opportunities, portfolio management, and mentors education sector project teams in designing and implementing innovative education projects.

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