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TESDA

**EXTENDED LIFELONG LEARNING REALITIES – USING XR TO FOSTER INNOVATION IN SKILLS
MANILA SKILLS EXPERTS’ MEETING**

18-20 April 2023
Manila, Philippines

Preparatory webinar: 14 March 2023

Concept Note and Agenda

organised within the framework of initiatives under coordination of the
Inter-Agency Council for Development and Competitiveness of Philippine Digital Workforce

with the support of
**Skills for Prosperity – Philippines (SfP-PHI) Project and
International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO), Turin**

General Background

Two and a half years after the outbreak of the Covid-19 crisis, societies all-over the world are still suffering from the impact of the pandemic. The TVET and the Education systems in general have not been spared and the lack of system-level digital strategies, poor technological infrastructure and weak teachers' e-readiness, has exposed important inequalities in the global skills development picture. Emerging technologies such as virtual, augmented and mixed reality (all together known as XR - Extended Reality) can support TVET and Education systems in easing the impact of future disruptions, ensuring not only continuity of training delivery but also an impact in terms of scalability, personalization, safety and cost-effectiveness, to drive the sustainable improvement of Skills Development opportunities, far beyond the pandemic response.

Background on the ILO initiatives on Extended Lifelong Learning Realities

The ILO's International Training Centre, in collaboration with the ETF – European Training Foundation, has been at the forefront of emerging global initiatives to implement concrete, hands-on solutions using emerging technologies to support the TVET systems in accelerating the adoption of innovative technology-based learning solutions. The events co-organised by the ILO-ITC and ETF during this past period include:

1. The VocTech Lab in the fall of 2021, and
2. The Turin Skills Experts' Meeting in May-June 2022

1. The VocTech Lab

The International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO) and the European Training Foundation (ETF) jointly organized the "VocTech Lab", a season-wide event to provide inspiration to skills development providers – TVET Centres and other players in initial training and continuous professional development – to implement concrete, hands-on solutions using emerging technologies that can respond to their specific challenges. The VocTech Lab, which was opened with an online official launch event, was then structured around three parallel tracks, to be selected by participants according to their interest:

- 1) "Digital 4 Education", structured around the Digital TVET Lab – the Lab for TVET specialists, aiming at developing their capacities for transforming and/or developing e-learning materials to suit on-line delivery, combined with series of webinars centred on the challenges and opportunities to implement e-learning solutions;
- 2) "XR Focus on Skills Development", highlighted by a specific training course on enhancing the use of Augmented Reality in the TVET classroom, with a hands-on approach and dedicated tutoring;
- 3) The "XR Expo", an event that took place in immersive virtual environments, built around two XR talks with experts from ETF and ITCILO joined by XR-focused business owners and academia and a virtual Expo, showcasing the technological solutions that state-of-the-art companies have developed for TVET, up-skilling and reskilling of trainees and workers.

2. The Turin Skills Experts' Meeting

On 30 May – 1 June 2022, the ITCILO and the ETF hosted the 2nd "Turin Skills Experts' Meeting" dedicated to high-level practitioners from 23 participating countries to promote a reflection around the future of skills and lifelong learning, including with valuable contributions by the TESDA representative, Philippines.

The Manila Skills Experts' Meeting

On **18-20 April 2023**, TESDA in collaboration with ILO, ITCILO and the recently established Inter-Agency Council for Development and Competitiveness of Philippine Digital Workforce, will host the "Manila Skills Experts' Meeting" dedicated to policy-makers and high-level practitioners to promote a reflection around the future of skills and lifelong learning.

The goal is to learn in more detail about the ongoing continued advancement of collaboratively developed action-oriented solutions in the field of Extended Reality (XR) applications for skills development and lifelong learning to respond to challenges highlighted by participants in both the events mentioned above, and in the other international fora conducted with the support of the ILO and other international partners. The event, which is largely inspired and informed by the ILO/ITCILO and ETF experience highlighted above, is an opportunity to reflect on the changes of the world of work and life, will provide a platform to:

- share experiences with experts from the XR sector as well as from the skills development space, ranging from high-level public policymakers to local lifelong learning-focused authorities, from social partners representatives to civil society and academia experts, from company owners to technology developers;
- work multilaterally to review together the existing XR solutions to identify areas for potential adoption in the Philippines and for their enhancement and development of new solutions in the context of the evolving XR technologies and reflect on how these can be implemented both for education and for industry-focused skills-related purposes;
- bring in ground-breaking keynote speakers to lead the participants into an Experts' Hackathon, with the aim to respond to the challenges emerged as a result of the identified priorities and emerging opportunities in the TVET sector.

The three-day expert meeting will have the following key moments:

- A first morning of reflection on the future and its challenges with a team of multidisciplinary experts that will explore the different dimensions of the future of skills;
- An afternoon of market-place to touch and feel the world of Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR);
- A full day of Hackathon - collaborative work on the future of skills, aimed at the production of XR-powered solutions capable of effectively responding to the challenges identified in the TVET sector;
- A closing day of broader dialogue on the opportunities XR bring to the skills development arena followed by the awards ceremony of the Hackathon.

Identification of challenges: An induction meeting in December 2022 and a preparatory webinar on 14 March 2023

In the Manila Skills Experts' Meeting in April 2023, Skills experts and XR specialists will work together to define the solutions to the proposed challenges with the Event's Hackathon. The participants will be at the same time the challengers but also the future potential national implementers of these ideas.

But where and how will participants define these challenges?

The Manila Skills Experts' Meeting will be the culmination of a three-folded experience. TESDA, with the support of ILO and ITCILO, has organized on Friday 16 December a three-hour webinar on the use of XR in TVET and Skills Development.

The webinar has allowed participants to be exposed to the key concepts and features of extended realities with global speakers coming from the education as well as from the business communities. During the webinar, 840 participants from the Philippines already identified some key challenges in the integration of Extended Realities in the specific context of the country, as well as the different areas with high potential.

As a preparation to the Experts’ Meeting, organizers will moderate a **Skills Experts’ Meeting preparation webinar**, which will take place on **March 14, from 3 to 6pm Manila time**. All invited persons to the face-to-face Experts’ Meeting will be invited to this preparatory webinar, which **will lay the ground for the meeting’s hackathon**. Their participation is strongly encouraged and advised.

More details are presented here below.

Skills Experts’ Meeting preparation webinar <u>March 14, 2023, 3pm to 6pm Manila time</u> Link to connect: https://itcilo-org.zoom.us/j/88122034870	
Time (Manila)	Agenda Item
3:00-3:10pm	Participants’ arrival and explanation of the agenda
3:10-3.30pm	The key ideas arisen from the first webinar (December 16, 2022)
3:30-4.00pm	Individual work: identification of challenges for the integration of XR in the TVET and skills development domains in the Philippines
4:00-4:20pm	Clustering and discussions around the key ideas produced
4:20-4:30pm	<i>Leg-stretching and break</i>
4:30-5:15pm	Group work: Participants define a precise challenge formulation and a vision statement for each of the challenges
5:15-5:45pm	Discussions and validation of the challenges to be brought to the Manila Skills Experts’ Meeting
5:45-6:00pm	Next steps in preparation of the Experts’ Meeting

After this second webinar, small groups of “challengers” will develop a **one-pager** on their challenge that will be presented in the first day of the Experts’ Meeting.

At the end of the process, the Experts’ meeting solutions will be **the basis for the formulation of innovative projects by the participants**, who will continue to collaborate to define pilot actions to be tested in the country after the Event. The ILO and ITCILO will support and accompany the national experts in this **open innovation process** through provision of technical advice and continuously updated reference material to support the eventually identified solutions for implementation in the Philippines.

Manila Skills Experts' Meeting Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
	Day 1 – 18 April 2023
8:30-9:00	Arrival of participants and registration
9:00-9:30	<p>Introductory opening / Welcome Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Danilo P. Cruz, Director-General, TESDA - Mr. Khalid Hassan, Director of ILO Country Office Manila - Mr. Alistair White, British Deputy Ambassador to the Philippines and to Palau - Secr. Arsenio Balisacan, Representative of the Inter-Agency Council for Development and Competitiveness of Philippine Digital Workforce (tbc)
9:30-10:30	<p>Extended Realities as a lever for Lifelong Learning</p> <p><i>Overview of the XR technologies</i> <i>Inspirational talks on the Metaverse and XR in the lifelong learning space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lorenzo Cappannari, Anothereality (Italy) - Mylene Abiva, FELTA Multi-media Center (The Philippines) - Manuela Prina, European Training Foundation (European Union) <p>Moderated by Stefano Merante, ITCILO</p>
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	<p>Challenges for the integration of XR in Skills Development in the Philippines</p> <p><i>Presentation of the key challenges developed by participants in the pre-event work</i></p> <p><i>Spokesperson of the 7 groups</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling environment: Arrish Altavano • Content development: Florante Galura • User experience: Anna Langitan • Training of trainers and facilitators: Beth Aragon • Assessment and certification: Ofelia Usigan • Industry engagement: Marlon Miña • Cost: Louie Carl Mandapat <p>Moderated by Alessia Evi-Colombo, International TVET and inclusive technology Expert</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-17:00	<p>Laboratory of extended realities</p> <p><i>Experience the world of AR, VR, MR discovering solutions provided by participating innovators!</i></p>
	Day 2 – 19 April 2023
8:30-9:00	Arrival of participants and registration

9:00-10:30	<p>Future-proof solutions for LLL</p> <p><i>Panel with XR experts on the use of XR in TVET in developing and emerging countries</i> <i>Questions from audience</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Steven McKee (Labtech, Indonesia) - Aimée Schmelzer (Seabery, Spain) - Jason Scales (Lincoln Electric, United States of America) - Sabarinath Nair (Skillsveri, India) - Petri Nieminen (OEP, Finland) <p>Moderated by Nicole Pallares, ITCILO</p>
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-11:30	<p>Diving into the Hackathon</p> <p>The rules of the Game and selection of the challenges to be taken up by the participants</p>
11:30-17:00	<p>Experts' Hackathon</p> <p>Extended reality (XR) applications for skills development and lifelong learning to solve the Philippines' challenges</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-17:00	<p>Experts' Hackathon</p> <p>Extended reality (XR) applications for skills development and lifelong learning to solve the Philippines' challenges</p>
Day 3 – 20 April 2023	
8:30-9:00	Arrival of participants and registration
9:00-10:30	<p>Innovation in TVET</p> <p><i>Keynotes and panel discussion on how to frame the XR work of the Hackathon in the broader innovation strategy for the Philippines' Skills Development system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senator Emmanuel Joel Villanueva (Philippines, tbc) - Ms. Nicole Pallares, ITCILO (United Nations) - DDG Rosanna Urdaneta, TESDA (Philippines) - Mr. Laurent Da Dalto, MIMBUS (France) - Representative of Inter-Agency Council for Development and Competitiveness of Philippine Digital Workforce (tbc) <p>Moderated by Stefano Merante, ITCILO</p>
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	<p>The responses to the extended reality challenge</p> <p>Presented by team representatives</p>

12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Applying the XR solutions in the Philippines' Skills Development system: challenges and opportunities <i>Discussions between XR experts and TVET and Skills Development professionals</i>
15:30-16:00	Break
16:00-17.30	Awards of Hackathon winners and official picture Concluding remarks / Closure of the event

The Manila Skills Experts' Meeting is organised by TESDA with the support of Skills for Prosperity – Philippines (SfP-PHI) Project and International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO), Turin.

Background Information on the SfP-PHI Project

The Skills for Prosperity (SfP) Project in the Philippines, funded by the UK Global Prosperity Fund and implemented by the ILO with the contribution of the GJASD International (Output 3. Strengthening TVET and LMIS, data collection and analysis), works with key government agencies, employers' organisations, trade unions and other stakeholders to provide further support to the TVET systems in the country. The Project aims to provide support for enhancing employability and productivity by enabling skills development policies and practices that ensure access, participation, and sustained quality of TVET. The Project has four (4) areas of achievement:

- i. Enhanced equity. The Project shall facilitate broadening of access to skills development and TVET systems for marginalized groups – prioritizing youth and women – by incorporating gender and social inclusion as a key element in all activities, and by providing technical advice for the adoption of necessary changes in national, regional and provincial policies, strategies, regulations and institutional arrangements.
- ii. Improved quality of TVET. It aims to assist in the process of upgrading competency standards and their application to development of TVET curricula and assessment to meet the increasing requirements of the economy for the higher-level skilled workforce.
- iii. Enhanced relevance of skills delivery to the labour markets. The Project seeks to contribute to the labour market information (LMI) system, particularly in the collection and analysis of data on the demand and supply of skilled workforce, aiming to assist in reducing the risks of the mismatch in the labour markets.
- iv. Improved cost-effectiveness of TVET systems. It will review the country's practices of industry engagement and stakeholder participation in TVET financing, and assist in the development and piloting of a public-private financing mechanism, aiming to increase the private sector participation in TVET financing.

The important focus of the Project is placed on regions of the country. The developed LMI concepts have been tested in the three Pilot Regions in Visayas where the new labour market information has been collected allowing for more accurate analysis of the demand and supply of skilled labour force. The pilot projects have developed a foundation for producing an evidence-based advice for planning of the regional TVET delivery.

Background Information on the ITCILO

As the training arm of the International Labour Organization, the International Training Centre has been at the forefront of learning and training since 1964. As part of the ILO, it is dedicated to achieving decent work while exploring the frontiers of the future of work. ITCILO delivers more than just training courses. The Centre guides participants through learning journeys, featuring interactive workshops, virtual collaboration tools, and the latest educational technologies. For detailed information about the Centre, you are invited to visit the ITCILO's website at www.itcilo.org.

The ITCILO has developed a very strong expertise on Extended Realities, in different areas, among them Vocational Training and Skills Development. To know more about ITCILO's work in this field, kindly connect to the Centre's specific website: <https://virtualreality.itcilo.org/>.