2020 WORLD DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION DAY

Youth Engagement for Global Action
Digital Skills and the Power of 3P
(public, private, people)

23 October 2020
11:30am - 1:30pm EST

VIRTUAL EVENT RSVP:
https://digital-skills.eventbrite.com

About the Event

BACKGROUND

With the onset of the current pandemic and the continuation of the fourth industrial revolution, digital skills play a critical role in the present and future success of youth. There are very few jobs today that do not demand at least a minimum knowledge of how to interact with digital technology. Those that do, are at risk of being replaced by automation. The push for youth to enhance digital skills is not new however with the rise of COVID-19 the urgency is evident. This crisis risks reversing decades of progress in education and socio-economic well being by exacerbating the already existing high levels of inequality across disadvantaged youth (with disabilities or living in underprivileged areas or where digital nfrastructures do not exist or are not affordable). These youth, and in particular young entrepr neurs, play a key role in our recovery and progression following the pandemic. To help to address the above stated challenges major companies, academia and governments have launched digital initiatives, aiming to come up with solutions to help young people find employment and create partnerships for empowering youth through digital technologies while accelerating the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CONCEPT

Digital literacy is crucial for children and youth to achieve full socio-economic and digital inclusion, leaving no one behind. The International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) vision is for "a world where every young person is connected, benefits from the digital economy and digital transformation, and is fully empowered through access to and use of ICTs." Equipped with digital skills, future generations will be empowered to find jobs that now more than ever require digital literacy.

According to the ILO Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020, the risk of losing a job to automation is highest in jobs held by young people. As COVID-19 brings in a new need for keeping our physical distance from others and many jobs can be substituted by automation, academia along with the private sector, public sector, and youth can be key players in taking tangible actions towards recovering and building back better from this crisis.

About the Event

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit youth unemployment in both developing and developed countries and accelerated digitization for young people. Improving the digital skillsets of young people, before they enter the job market can increase their employment prospects and it requires global action with the direct engagement of youth.

"It's well known that recessions can have a lasting impact on the lifetime earnings of those entering the workforce during them, and with the economic fallout from COVID-19 likely to be longer and deeper than any recession for several generations, the impact could be profound on the careers of young people."

The endless power of technology to catalyze progress, social development and inclusion is unlimited. Digital technologies spark new and innovative ideas that can fuel young people's creativity. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs recently has published "The World Youth Report: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda" which "explores the role youth social entrepreneurship can play in addressing the unmet economic and social needs and demands of young people across the globe." Young people themselves can be also active agents of change and substantively contribute to, participate in and leverage digital technologies in creating new solutions to global existing challenges.

Commemorating the 2020 World Development Information Day, professionals, entrepreneurs and representatives of academia and the private sector, will share their experiences and knowledge to inspire and encourage young people to develop digital skills in all industries, as well as provide them with useful information on current industry trends, ways to build necessary soft and technical skills to contribute to a positive social change for all.

SCOPE

The webinar intends to open a dialogue with the public and private sector and young people (3P) to:

- Raise awareness on the importance of digital skills and how youth can engage and partner (SDG17) with the public sector, private sector, and civil society to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to overcome poverty (SDG 1) and reduce the digital divide (reducing inequalities SDG 10).
- Encourage 3P to contribute to educating youth with relevant digital skills by providing digital tools, programs, and expertise to the education sector that would equip youth with knowledge, mentoring, investments, or resources to master digital skills.
- Create 3P partnerships (SDG 17) by empowering youth with digital skills required in the "new way of working" to build back better, creating inclusive employment, and supporting the aspirations of young entrepreneurs globally.

During this event the United Nations Division for Inclusive Social Development / Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DISD / UNDESA) as global focal point on youth of the United Nations system, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as the specialized agency of the United Nations on information and communication technologies, and young professionals will converse on actions to be taken during the UN Decade of Action on the role of youth and technologies to built back better beyond COVID 19 pandemic.

FORMAT

The event will consist in an interactive virtual dialogue (webinar) among the various youth representatives along with members of academia, public and private sector, followed by questions from the audience.

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