7th UNESCO-APEID MEETING ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION
Leveraging Multi-Stakeholder Engagement to Nurture Future Entrepreneurs

9-11 October 2018, Trinco Blu, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

Concept Note

Introduction

Why is entrepreneurship important?

An immediate response is that entrepreneurs create new businesses and jobs, and therefore contribute to economic growth. Indeed, according to ILO’s Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017 report, while economic recovery was modest, youth unemployment remains high: about 13.7%, or 70.9 million young people, were unemployed in 2017. Since young people are three times more likely to be unemployed compared to adults, finding gainful employment for youth is a priority in many countries. More worrisome is the 21.8% of youth who are neither in employment, education or training (NEET), the majority of whom are females. Globally, the female NEET rate is 34.4%, compared to 9.8% for males. The disparity is starker in emerging countries where out of every five NEETS, four are female, and even more as in Southern Asia where nine out of ten young NEETs are women.

Inspired by successful entrepreneurs who have established thriving business ventures, many governments are turning towards entrepreneurship as a viable solution for job creation, raising optimism for national prosperity. At the same time, the traits and characteristics of entrepreneurs – creative, innovative, critical and strategic thinkers, adaptable, resourceful, motivated, confident, risk taking and so on – resonate deeply with policymakers and educators charged to develop their countries’ human capital. Any country with such talented girls and boys, women and men will be better equipped to deal with the demands of the 21st century and beyond.

According to the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute, programmes like the Global Entrepreneurship Week and Startup Weekend have resulted in large numbers of enthusiastic nascent entrepreneurs in vibrant communities. By definition, an entrepreneur is a person who organizes, manages and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise. This covers a broad range of people – from a roadside vendor, to hair salon owner and to the founder of a large company. Each type of entrepreneur – necessity entrepreneur and opportunity entrepreneur alike – is important and will need support to ensure their businesses are profitable. Entrepreneurship attributes are also essential in small businesses as well as in large companies and public sector organizations, where the capacity to create and innovate organizational strategies and processes are critical for achieving the desired results.

Entrepreneurship education is a key area of support that can benefit all entrepreneurs, regardless of their size, type of business and potential growth. To be effective, entrepreneurship education needs the input of multiple
stakeholders including the government and their various ministries, private sector and local community apart from those in the education sector at all levels of education. Producing a new generation of entrepreneurs will require a willingness to collaborate among all stakeholders in order to build efficient and effective entrepreneurial ecosystems to deliver the promise of global and national prosperity.

The 7th UNESCO-APEID Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education

The UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, Thailand, established the UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network (EE-Net) in 2012 to enhance entrepreneurship education in the Asia-Pacific region. With an interest in a broad range of issues to support entrepreneurship education, the EE-Net aims to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal 4 or Education 2030 Agenda to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all in a vibrant and prosperous region.

For the past six years, the annual EE-Net meetings organized with the support of EE-Net members had provided an avenue for sharing information and experiences on topical issues related to entrepreneurship education. This year, in collaboration with the National Enterprise Development Agency under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, UNESCO Bangkok is convening the 7th UNESCO-APEID Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education, Leveraging Multi-Stakeholder Engagement to Nurture Future Entrepreneurs, on 9-11 October 2018 in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. Bringing together policymakers, academics and practitioners, the meeting aims to explore how multi-stakeholders can work together to enhance entrepreneurship education in primary, secondary, tertiary and non-formal education.

Objectives of the meeting

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- Identify various models of multi-stakeholder engagement in entrepreneurship education
- Share good practices of stakeholder engagement in entrepreneurship education in primary, secondary, tertiary and non-formal education, with special reference to women entrepreneurship
- Showcase selected student enterprises
- Discuss potential areas of joint activities to enhance multi-stakeholder engagement in entrepreneurship education

The outcomes of the meeting will be used to facilitate collaboration among EE-Net members to enhance the quality of entrepreneurship education in their respective countries. The discussions will also contribute to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 4, target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Participants

About 80 international participants are expected to attend the meeting. They include representatives from government agencies, educational institutions, private sector, civil society and international organizations.

The Sri Lankan host will cover local transportation from Colombo to Trincomalee, local accommodation (4 nights, checking in on 8 October 2018 and checking out on 12 October 2018) and meals during the meeting. Participants will have to cover their own travel costs to Sri Lanka and other expenses.
Since space is limited, those interested in attending the meeting must fill in an application form at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/eenet2018](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/eenet2018) by **Friday, 31 August 2018**. The participants will be selected based on their potential contribution to the objectives of the 7th UNESCO-APEID meeting as well as their commitment to the common vision and long-term goals. Those selected to participate in the meeting will be notified by **Friday, 14 September 2018**.

**For more information, contact:**

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