

Keynote Session-II

Transforming VET through Excellence: Regional /International Experiences



▶ Keynote Session- II : Presentation- II Inclusive Strategies for the Main streaming of TVET in Sri Lanka

▶ *Speaker*
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ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka ranks the highest participation rate in primary education in South Asia and provides free education up to the first-degree level. Parents aspire to provide their children with the highest possible education, most preferably ending up with a university degree. Sri Lanka has taken one step further by making all government vocational education courses free of charge including vocational degree programs.

TVET sector training institutes are sought as a default option by students and parents in many cases. Government's vision is mainstreaming the TVET and makes more inclusive education opportunities enabling access to all groups of the society leading to the lifelong learning opportunities. Accordingly, Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) under the purview of Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation is instrumental in initiating various activities to address the gaps identified through the respective policy perspectives.

In this context, vulnerable or underprivileged groups were given special attention to bring them into the mainstream economic development process. Such groups often cannot access to TVET, due to reasons such as distance from training centres, lack of enrolment criteria, poverty, disability, lack of awareness etc. The quality of life of such vulnerable and underprivileged individuals can be improved greatly through introduction of appropriate life skills, livelihood skills and vocational training.

BRIEF CV

Dr. K Renuka Raju is currently the Director General of Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC), the apex body for the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Sri Lanka. He is an Electronic Engineering Diplomat of IET Katunayake and graduated from University of Colombo with B.Sc. in Physical Science and later M.Sc. in Computer Science. He has completed Diploma in e-Governance in PIM, University of Sri Jayawardenepura and MBA from University of Moratuwa. Previously he has worked as a Manager Systems in leading telecom provider, Project Manager for two Asian Development Bank projects and has about 25 years of experience in the areas of Telecommunication, ICT, Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Labour Market Information Systems, Career Guidance systems and e-Learning systems. He has published several research papers locally and internationally. He has written a book on "Quality Assurance of TVET Qualification Frameworks in South Asian Countries" and few book chapters in his field. He is a PhD. research scholar at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand. He was instrumental in declaring World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) in 2014 by writing the first concept paper and works as a South Asian Cluster coordinator of UNESCO-UNEVOC Network, coordinating nine countries in the region in TVET development activities.