

# CPSTC

Quarterly



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## Pakistani Institutes Visited by APACC



### What's Inside

Visits of the New DG to the Embassies of CPSC Member Countries • RP on Automotive Technology • ICP Philippines • CPSC-Labtech Program in Sri Lanka • Study Tours of CTEVT in Maldives and Sri Lanka • APACC Online Evaluation in KKTM Kemaman and KKTM Masjid Tanah in Malaysia • APACC Orientation in JZGMSAT, Philippines • APACC Onsite Visit to Pakistan

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover: Pakistani TVET Institutes Visited by APACC

From the Director General's Desk

## GB NEWS

- The New CPSC Director General Visits the Embassies of CPSC Member Countries and TVET Agencies Based in the Philippines . . . . . 4
  - Visit to the Embassy of Myanmar (October 6) . . . . . 4
  - Visit to the Embassy of Pakistan (October 8) . . . . . 5
  - Visit to the Embassy of Malaysia (October 12) . . . . . 5
  - Visit to the Department of Foreign Affairs (October 13) . . . . . 6
  - Visit to the Singapore Residence (October 18) . . . . . 6
  - Virtual Meeting for the Embassy of Papua New Guinea (October 21) . . . . . 7
  - Visit to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) (October 25) . . . . . 8
  - Visit to the Royal Thai Embassy (November 3) . . . . . 9

## PROGRAMS

### In-Country/ Regional Programs

- Using Virtual TVET Highlighted During the Regional Program on Training of Trainers on Automotive Technology (November 22-26) . . 10
- Readiness of Philippine TVET for IR 4.0 Enhanced During the In-Country Program Co-Organized by CPSC and TESDA (November 29 -December 3) . . . . . 11
- Training of Trainers on Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Offered to Sri Lankan TVET Participants by CPSC and Labtech (December 6-9) . . . . . 12

### Webinar/ Customized Program/ Study Tour

- Webinar Series on IR 4.0 Engineering in TVET Launched in Partnership with Bentley Education (December 21) . . . . . 13
- Busan Foundation for International Cooperation (BFIC) and CPSC Sign MOU, MOA for Second Joint Program on Global Training Program on Sustainable City Development through SMART Transportation (December 7-10) . . . . . 14
- CPSC Organizes Two Study Tours for CTEVT Officials on Eco-Tourism in Maldives (December 7-10) and Career Guidance in Sri Lanka (December 14-18) . . . . . 16

## APACC

- APACC Evaluates KKTMM Kemaman, Malaysia Through Online Means (October 11-14) . . . . . 17
- APACC conducts orientation on the latest version of the APACC instrument for officials of JZGMSAT, Philippines (November 4-5) . . 19
- KKTMM Masjid Tanah Becomes the Fourth Institution Under MARA to Undergo APACC Online Evaluation (November 23-26) . . . . . 20
- APACC Completes the Onsite Visit of Four TVET Institutes in Pakistan (November 29 - December 12). . . . . 22

CPSC GREEN CORNER . . . . . 21

FEEDBACK . . . . . 23



The CPSC Quarterly- the official news magazine of the COLOMBO PLAN STAFF COLLEGE (CPSC) Manila, Philippines

The CPSC Quarterly serves as a medium for convergence and exchange of Technical and Vocational, Education and Training (TVET) ideas, information, events and updates on national and regional efforts as well as innovating strategies for Human Resources Development (HRD) across Asia and the Pacific. It serves to strengthen collaborative relationships among professionals and developers, institutional partners, affiliates and networks, alumni and future clients in the transnational community of CPSC.

The CPSC Quarterly – herald of the center of excellence for Human Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific Region.

The CPSC Quarterly- harbinger of TVET news, keeping member countries vitally connected to HRD development and unifying them to pursue excellence towards global progress.

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Dear Readers,



The period of October to December 2021 is a time of profound changes in CPSC as I start my term as the 12th CPSC Director-General.

During the first months of my tenure, I have always emphasized the need for closer cooperation and communication between the organization and its network of embassies in the host country, the Philippines. Thus, I embarked on a meeting with all the official missions and relevant offices of CPSC member countries in Manila to present my credentials to them, as well as to discuss my future plans for CPSC. Despite the limitations on meetings and social distancing, I am grateful to the Ambassadors and Staff of the Embassies of Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand for taking their time to have a personal meeting with me, as well as the Ambassador of Papua New Guinea for meeting me virtually. In addition, I am grateful to CPSC-affiliated government agencies in the Philippines, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs-United Nations and International Organization Office (DFA-UNIO) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for reiterating their commitment to ensure CPSC's smooth operations in the country.

For this period, CPSC also launched a training program which is in cooperation with Labtech International, a high-technology education provider based in Malaysia. Initially targeting the instructors teaching Automotive, Electrical Basics, and Heating Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) courses, the program aims to incorporate tools that encourage virtual technologies under these sectors with the aim of upgrading their instructor methodologies in lieu of the increasing need to adapt to virtual training. From October to December 2021, instructors from Sri Lanka and the Philippines were able to initially avail this opportunity and in the coming months, this will be introduced to all CPSC member countries.

We have also demonstrated our commitment to fulfilling the onsite visit activities of APACC, whether it is executed online or in person. APACC has completed the online evaluation of two Malaysian polytechnics and trained the personnel of one institution in the Philippines about the new standards of APACC. However, the highlight of this period is the successful visit of the APACC accreditors to four institutes in Pakistan. Despite the limitations on air travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team was able to personally meet with the officials of NAVTTC, TEVTA, and other esteemed officials in the Pakistani TVET system. APACC was also able to secure NAVTTC and TEVTA's commitment for future accreditation activities in Pakistan.

I invite you to look into the pages of the CPSC Quarterly for this period for more details about CPSC's programs during the period.

As the newly-appointed CPSC Director General, I continue to look forward to your utmost commitment and support to CPSC. As we slowly exit the scenarios of continuous lockdowns and restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we anticipate that you will be as supportive as ever as we look into the future with optimism and hope.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.L.D. Wickramasinghe'. The signature is stylized and cursive, written over a faint watermark of the CPSC logo.

Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe  
Director General

# The New CPSC Director General Visits the Embassies of CPSC Member Countries and TVET Agencies Based in the Philippines

For the period of October to November of 2021, the newly appointed Director General of the Colombo Plan Staff College, Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe, went on an embassy tour to personally present his credentials to the ambassadors of CPSC member countries in Manila, Philippines.



*From left to right: Ms. May Myo Khaing, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Myanmar; Mr Aung Kyaw Oo, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Myanmar; Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe, PhD, CPSC Director General; and Mr. Jan Michael Marasigan, Executive Secretary*

## Visit to the Embassy of Myanmar in the Philippines

Prof. Wickramasinghe paid a courtesy call at the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in the Philippines on October 6, 2021. Accompanied by the Executive Secretary Mr. Jan Michael Marasigan, they were welcomed by the Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires Mr. Aung Kyaw Oo, and the Second Secretary Ms. May Myo Khaing.

Mr. Aung Kyaw Oo stands as the Chairperson of the CPSC Governing Board for the current Fiscal Year 2021-2022 as the Head of Mission of the Embassy of Myanmar. Meanwhile, Prof. Wickramasinghe presented his credentials as CPSC's newest Director General. He also discussed the upcoming programs, as well as future plans of CPSC. He expressed his appreciation to Myanmar for its active participation in CPSC programs, having more than 4,500 participants in the past 2 years (2019-2021).

Mr. Aung Kyaw Oo identified some opportunities for collaboration between CPSC and Myanmar which includes digitalized production systems, e-commerce, entrepreneurship, technopreneurship, public and government policy, public management, and MSME development. He expressed his wish for these themes to be prioritized in the future training programs that will be offered to Myanmar.



*Mr. Aung Kyaw Oo (left) and Prof. Wickramasinghe (right) during their meeting.*

## Visit to the Embassy of Pakistan in the Philippines

The next visit of Prof. Wickramasinghe was to the Embassy of Pakistan on October 8, 2021. Together with his Executive Secretary Mr. Jan Michael Marasigan, they were greeted warmly by the Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad Kazi, and the Head of Chancery and Second Secretary, Ms. Saadia Awan.



From left to right: Ms. Saadia Awan (Head of Chancery and Second Secretary), H.E. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad Kazi (Ambassador) and Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe (CPSC Director General)



Exchange of tokens and pleasantries between Ambassador Kazi (left) and Prof. Wickramasinghe (right)

Ambassador Kazi is presently the Vice-Chairperson of the CPSC Governing Board, and the Chairperson of the CPSC Standing Committee, for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Prof. Wickramasinghe presented his credentials personally to the Ambassador, and he was also able to apprise the embassy of the current status of Pakistan's recent participation in CPSC programs. He also laid out the future plans of CPSC for the MCs and Pakistan in particular and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for its important contributions to the Staff College.

The Ambassador also expressed his commitment to support the initiatives and activities of CPSC, particularly the onboarding of the incoming faculty from Pakistan, APACC accreditation, and remittance of member country contributions. He also commended CPSC's efforts to strengthen and promote TVET in the region and expressed his optimism about the future endeavors of the college and its member countries.

## Visit to the Embassy of Malaysia in the Philippines

Prof. Wickramasinghe's fourth embassy visit was to the Embassy of Malaysia on October 12, 2021. He was able to make a courtesy call to the Head of Mission of the Embassy of Malaysia in Manila, H.E. Norman Bin Muhamad. During the meeting, he was able to discuss current and future programs of CPSC to its member countries, especially for the Government of Malaysia.



Prof. Wickramasinghe (sitting, right) signing the guest book at the Malaysian Embassy in Manila as the Ambassador, H.E. Norman bin Muhamad (standing, left) observes



Prof. Wickramasinghe (left) and Ambassador Norman bin Muhamad (right) after their meeting.

During the visit, he cited the very active participation of Malaysia in the programs of CPSC, and especially in the activities of the Asia-Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC). He mentioned the successful implementation of online onsite visits of five (5) Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) institutions in Malaysia, which started in September 2021. He also commended the APACC accredited institutions in Malaysia, as the majority of the Gold level awardees of APACC are from Malaysia (12 out of 23). The visit also explored possibilities of partnerships that will be facilitated by both CPSC and the government of Malaysia.

In addition, he presented his plans for CPSC and Malaysia in particular. He also recognized the Ambassador's contribution to the CPSC Governing Board as its Chairperson for FY 2020-2021 and expressed his gratitude for Malaysia's continued support to the initiatives of CPSC.

## Visit to the Department of Foreign Affairs



*Hon. Noralyn Jubaira-Baja, Asst. Secretary of DFA-UNIO (left) with CPSC Director General Prof. G.L.D Wickramasinghe*

The CPSC Director General Prof. G.L.D Wickramasinghe paid his courtesy visit to the Department of Foreign Affairs - Office of United Nations and International Organizations (DFA-UNIO) of the Philippines on October 13, 2021 to formally present himself as the newly designated official of CPSC. He was welcomed by Hon. Noralyn Jubaira-Baja, the Assistant Secretary of the Department.

During the visit, he expressed his gratitude for the facilitation of the approval of his visa and entry to the Philippines despite the pandemic and the challenges due to the imposed travel restrictions. He also discussed matters concerning CPSC's hosting in the Philippines and possible updates on the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between CPSC and the Government of the Philippines.

They also discussed opportunities for collaboration, specifically tapping the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP) in conducting capacity-building programs. They also explored the possibility of the establishment of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Facility in the Philippines, which can be initiated by CPSC, in order to bring together common concerns with regard to this advocacy.

The DFA-UNIO is the official liaison office of CPSC in the Philippines. It is the office that handles the hosting responsibilities of CPSC, as well as the country's membership obligations and other pertinent matters.

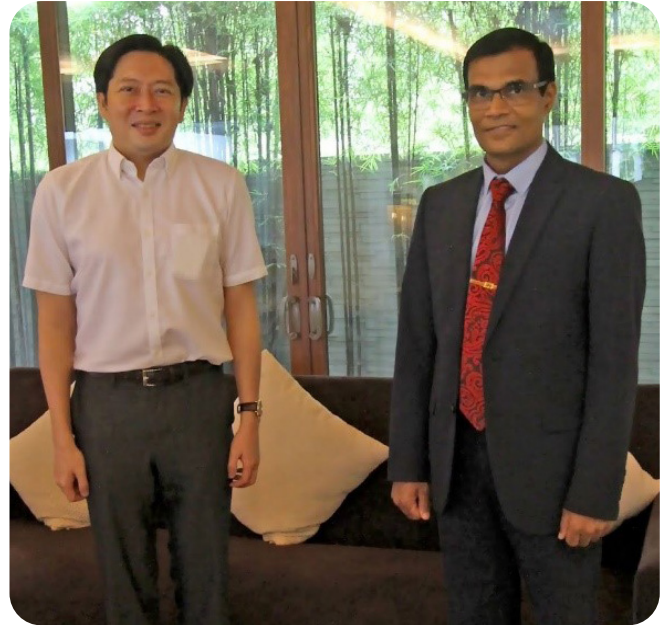
## Visit to the Singapore Residence in the Philippines

Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe was received by H.E. Gerard Ho Wei Hong, the Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore in the Philippines, during his courtesy visit to the Ambassador's official residence on October 18, 2021. Present in the meeting as well are Singapore Embassy's First Secretary (Political) Mr. Huang Zi, and CPSC Executive Secretary Mr. Jan Michael Marasigan.

Prof. Wickramasinghe extended his appreciation on behalf of CPSC to the Government of Singapore through Ambassador

Ho for their continued support to the endeavors of the Staff College even during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also discussed Singapore's participation in CPSC programs, particularly the Regional Programs that CPSC has been conducting in the country through the Singapore Cooperation Program (SCP), which are being conducted at least once a year and have been benefiting the CPSC member countries for at least 13 years. Prof. Wickramasinghe also laid out the future plans of his leadership for CPSC.

In return, Ambassador Gerard Ho expressed the commitment of the Singapore Embassy in providing assistance to CPSC's future activities with Singaporean TVET agencies and institutions. He also encouraged CPSC to conduct more valuable programs to maintain the interest of the member countries, especially Singapore. Further, he particularly suggested tapping the Business Process Outsource (BPO) and the healthcare sectors for programs that will be organized in the Philippines as they are considered as some of the country's primary industries.

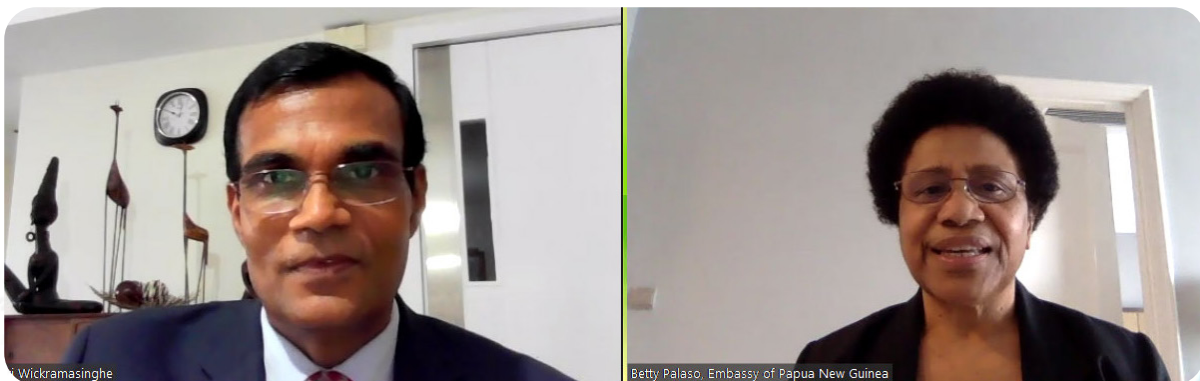


*H.E. Gerard Ho Wei Hong, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Philippines (left) with CPSC Director General Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe*

## Virtual Meeting for the Embassy of Papua New Guinea in the Philippines

Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe and H.E. Betty Palaso, Ambassador of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea to the Philippines, met through virtual means on October 21, 2021. The visit was embarked online due to existing restrictions, as well as safety and health concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Wickramasinghe introduced himself as the new official of CPSC and extended his appreciation to the government of Papua New Guinea for its continued support to CPSC. He also discussed the present membership status of the country and his future plans for the College. He also requested the Ambassador to also facilitate the proposals of Papua New Guinea on In-Country Programs, and expressed CPSC's willingness to provide assistance to the implementing agency of the collaborative programs in Papua New Guinea, particularly in areas that may pose potential challenges such as financial or administrative concerns.



*Virtual Courtesy Call to the Embassy of Papua New Guinea in the Philippines. Left: CPSC Director General, Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe; Right: H.E. Betty Palaso, Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the Philippines*

Meanwhile, Ambassador Palaso updated Prof. Wickramasinghe regarding the situation of COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea, and its effects particularly in the TVET operations in the country. She also presented suggestions about CPSC's potential assistance and strategies to key areas and development projects.

The two officials plan to hold a face-to-face meeting at a later date given that the COVID-19 conditions in the Philippines have improved substantially.



*Prof. Wickramasinghe signing the TESDA's Guestbook*

## Visit to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

As part of his objective in visiting the members of the CPSC Governing Board, Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe paid his courtesy visit to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in Taguig City, Philippines on October 25, 2021. He was welcomed by key officials led by the Director General, Sec. Isidro S. Lapeña.

TESDA is the main government agency responsible for the management and implementation of TVET programs and operations in the Philippines. During his visit, he formally and personally introduced himself to Sec. Lapeña and to the TESDA officials in attendance including Ms. Rosalina Constantino, Executive Director of the Planning Office; Ms. Lina C. Sarmiento, Deputy Director General for TESD Operations; and Ms. Juliet Orozco, Director IV of the Administrative Service. He also extended his appreciation to the Government of the Philippines through TESDA for its continued support to the Staff College. He also apprised the officials of the current status of the Philippines' recent participation in CPSC programs and presented some of the programs that the Staff College has lined up for its member countries and for TESDA, which includes Regional and In-Country Program.



*Left to right: Ms. Rosalina Constantino (Executive Director-Planning Office, TESDA); Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe (CPSC Director General), Sec. Isidro Lapeña (TESDA Director General), Ms. Lina C. Sarmiento (Deputy Director General for TESD Operations, TESDA) and Ms. Juliet Orozco (Director IV-Administrative Service, TESDA).*

His visit was successful as he was able to obtain the affirmation of support from TESDA officials particularly on CPSC's recent program offerings, which the officials cited as necessary and timely. Sec. Lapeña also commended CPSC's support in TESDA's training programs through the years.

## Visit to the Royal Thai Embassy in the Philippines



*From left to right: Mr. Witsarut Piyavongsomboon (Second Secretary for Information and Protocol, Royal Thai Embassy); Mr. Thawat Sumitmor, (Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Royal Thai Embassy), Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe (Director General, CPSC)*

On November 3, 2021, Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe, made a courtesy call to the Head of Mission of the Royal Thai Embassy in Manila to formally introduce himself as the most recent official to hold the position, as well as to discuss relevant information concerning Thailand's membership in CPSC. He was welcomed by the Embassy officials Mr. Thawat Sumitmor, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. and Mr. Witsarut Piyavongsomboon, Second Secretary (Information and Protocol).

The meeting was marked with the affirmation of continued support to CPSC by the Royal Thai Government through its official mission in Manila. They also discussed the current status of Thailand's recent participation in CPSC programs especially the upcoming in-country program in February 2022. The future plans of Prof. Wickramasinghe for the member countries, particularly Thailand were also part of the dialogue during the visit.

In addition, Prof. Wickramasinghe also informed Mr. Sumitmor of the current open positions in CPSC, which include faculty consultant and specialist posts. He requested if the Embassy can promote and advertise these posts as some relevant institutions might not be aware of these opportunities. He also apprised the Embassy officials of the partnerships and sponsorships that CPSC has recently obtained, which includes ILO and Labtech. He added that Thailand and CPSC may seek and get donor funding for some collaborative programs to be implemented in Thailand.



*Mr. Sumitmor and Prof. Wickramasinghe exchanging tokens from their respective organizations.*

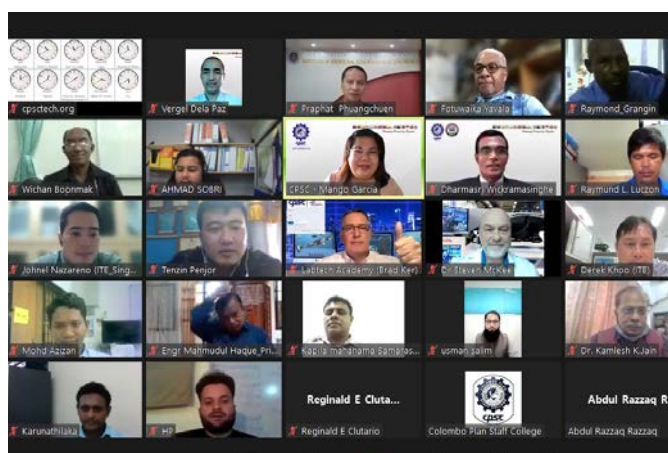
# Using Virtual TVET Highlighted During the Regional Program on Training of Trainers on Automotive Technology

The Colombo Plan Staff College teamed up with Labtech International to introduce a course that provided the participants an introduction to a TVET Learning Management System (LMS) and Virtual TVET Digital Learning Content. The objective was to get them up and running on when and how to use Virtual TVET and digital content and TVET LMS to monitor the progress and grades of learners within and across institutions, and how to integrate these into their classroom learning, plus management of courses. The outcome for the teacher/instructor/trainers had been a refresher course on new technology and applying a hybrid approach in the relevant subject area.

The Regional Program was held from November 22-26, 2021 and tapped a total of 32 participants from all over the region.

Program management was supervised by Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe, CPSC Director General and Mr. Steve McKee, president of WorldDidac Association, presently the largest international education industry association, and Labtech International, Program coordination and resources was facilitated by Mr. Brad Kerr from Labtech International.

Topics covered during the five-day training are: 21st Century Skills, Virtual TVET, and the development of an online TVET LMS. In addition, professional development through coaching and development of lesson plan using virtual TVET is also facilitated to encourage learning.



Group picture of the participants

*Readiness of Philippine TVET ... continued from p. 11 ...*

The opening ceremony was graced by Sec. Isidro Lapeña, the Director General of TESDA. He cited the timeliness of the program in tackling the workforce needs of the Philippines, particularly as it faces the challenges of an increasingly automated job market and the preference of employers for workers equipped with skills that adapt IR 4.0 requirements. His positive words were echoed by Prof. Wickramasinghe, Director General of CPSC. He reiterated the importance of IR 4.0 in facing the challenges of globalization and particularly in response to the difficulties posed by COVID-19.

During the five-day training, the participants were able to listen to lectures about (1) Imagineering TVET for the Changing World; (2) Concepts of IR 4.0, Stages, elements and major trends impacting on TVET 4.0; (3) Challenge of Industry 4.0 to Teacher Training and to TVET Research as a Driver for innovation; (4) TVET Teacher Professional Competency Framework in the Industry 4.0 Era; and lastly (5) Digital Technologies to Integrate IR 4.0 Skills in Teaching Competencies.

The closing ceremony was held on December 3, 2021. During his closing remarks, Engr. Abdul Ghani Rajput cited the hard work and dedication of the participants in bringing the change in conventional teaching and learning practices. Meanwhile, Sec. Lapeña, on behalf of TESDA congratulated the participants of the program and reflected on the lessons gained during the program in further strengthening the competencies of the Filipino worker in facing the challenges of today's workforce. Finally, Prof. Wickramasinghe concluded the program by expressing his appreciation to all the participants and the organizers for the success of the training program. He also cited the importance of adapting to IR 4.0 in ensuring the relevancy of TVET in the coming years.

# Readiness of Philippine TVET for IR 4.0 Enhanced During the In-Country Program Co-Organized by CPSC and TESDA



Screenshot of the participants



Sec. Isidro Lapena, Director General of TESDA, during the opening ceremony

The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC), in collaboration with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) successfully conducted an online In-Country Program on TVET for Industrial Revolution 4.0. Conducted via Zoom from November 29-December 3, 2021, it involved the participation of 21 TESDA instructors from different parts of the country.

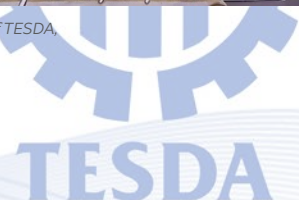
The training program was organized to equip the participants with the knowledge and strategies of leadership, instructional delivery, and observance of principles in the adjustment and adaptation of TVET Institutes as a response to the challenges of IR 4.0. At the end of the training program, the participants are expected to demonstrate a deep understanding and awareness of the need for modifications in TVET management and instructional delivery as a response to the requirements brought about by IR 4.0. They are also expected to define the dynamics of IR 4.0 and its impact on TVET, as well as identify the components of TVET to address the needs of IR 4.0. These skills will enable them to develop teaching aids for blended learning programs and access resources to build a solid platform for change.

The program is supervised by the CPSC Director General, Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe and TESDA Director General, Sec. Isidro S. Lapeña. The coordination was led by CPSC Project-Based Faculty Consultant, Dr. Romulita C. Alto. Invited resource persons include the E-Learning Developer for UN Education Program and former CPSC Faculty Specialist, Engr. Abdul Ghani Rajput and the Chief Administrative Officer at the Human Resource Management Division, Administrative Service (HRMD-AS) at the TESDA Central Office, Ms. Carmelita Corbito.



Engr. Abdul Gani Rajput, the Resource Person of the Program (left) and Sec. Isidro Lapena, Director General of TESDA, during his closing speech (right)

Continued on p. 10 ...





# Training of Trainers on Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Offered to Sri Lankan TVET Participants by CPSC and Labtech



Group photo of the participants

A joint program co-organized by CPSC and Labtech International was successfully implemented online in Sri Lanka on December 6-9, 2021. The program involved the participation of 32 TVET instructors and trainers of the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) sector from Sri Lanka, as well as from the Philippines.

This 4-day course provided an introduction for Teachers/Instructors to a TVET Learning Management System (LMS) and Virtual TVET Digital Learning Content. The objective is to get them up and running on when and how to use Virtual TVET and digital content and TVET LMS to monitor the progress and grades of learners within and across institutions, and how to integrate these into their classroom learning, plus management of courses. The outcome for the teacher/instructor/trainers is that it will be a refresher course on new technology and applying a hybrid approach in the relevant subject area. This is specifically organized for instructors in the HVAC sector.



The program was opened by Prof. Wickramasinghe (left) and Dr. McKee (right). They provided a brief insight about the program to the participants.

The program was jointly supervised by Mrs. Deepa Liyanage, Secretary of the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation of Sri Lanka, and Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe, Director General of CPSC. In addition, the program's resources and logistics were facilitated by Dr. Steven McKee, President Emeritus of WorldDidac Association which is the largest international education industry association, and founder of Labtech International, together with Labtech Academy General Manager Mr. Brad Ker.

The program was opened by officials of CPSC and Labtech. In his opening speech, CPSC Director General Prof. Wickramasinghe welcomed the cooperation between CPSC and Labtech and pledged to bring this program to all CPSC member countries. He also welcomed the participants and wished them success in this program. Labtech International President Dr. Steve McKee also welcomed this cooperation and shared a glimpse of the program's contents with the participants. He also emphasized the importance of adopting digital technologies in TVET and its emerging role in re-inventing TVET instruction, particularly in HVAC.

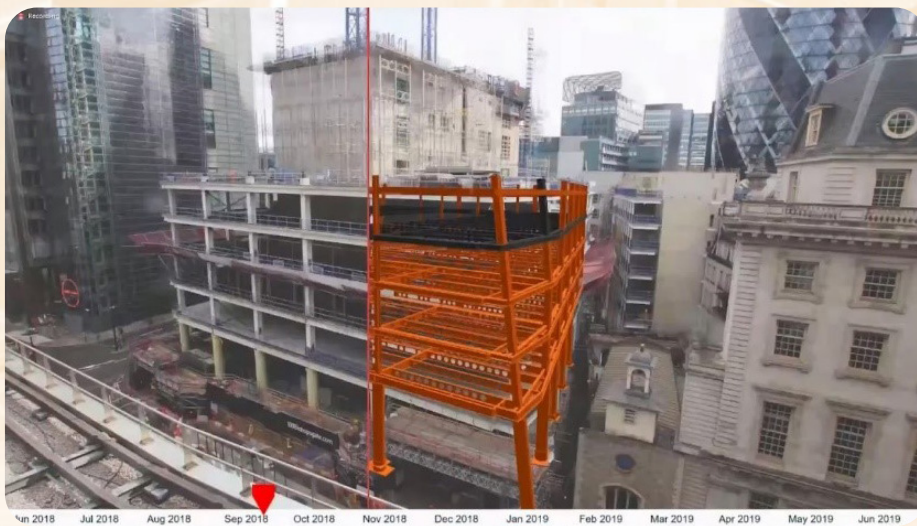
Continued on p. 21 ...

# Webinar Series on IR 4.0 Engineering in TVET Launched in Partnership with Bentley Education

In partnership with Bentley Education, a webinar series on "IR 4.0 Engineering in TVET: Infrastructure Design and Pedagogy Innovation" was conducted on December 21, 2021.

The webinar was attended by 88 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, plus other participants from TVET institutions in Burkina Faso and Sudan.

Presenting the topic on De-Coding Learning in the Digital Infrastructure World is Mr. Sri Kuthur Sriram, Global Education Manager of Bentley Education. Mr. Kuthur Sriram discussed the new digital infrastructure world and emphasized the need to integrate the digitalization of engineering education in the TVET curriculum. He also shared ideas on the new career opportunities that await TVET graduates in the infrastructure industry.



Presentation of Mr. Sri Sriram on Infrastructure Opportunities for TVET Graduates



Another presentation of Mr. Sri Sriram on Data Connectivity in the Cities

Bentley Education is part of the Bentley Systems, infrastructure engineering software company that provides innovative software to advance the world's infrastructure – sustaining both the global economy and environment. They have developed industry-leading solutions that are used by professionals, and organizations in various industries such as infrastructure, mining and industrial facilities.

# Busan Foundation for International Cooperation (BFIC) and CPSC Sign MOU, MOA for Second Joint Program on Global Training Program on Sustainable City Development through SMART Transportation

In an unprecedented demonstration of the effective collaboration between the Colombo Plan Staff College and other organizations in the region, the Busan Foundation for International Cooperation (BFIC) and CPSC sealed their partnership through their second collaborative program. CPSC and BFIC jointly organized the global training program that tackled the emerging needs of sustainable city development, particularly on the rise of SMART transportation. The program was held on December 7-10, 2021 through Zoom.

2021  
CPSC - BFIC  
**Busan Global  
Training Program**  
Sustainable City Development through SMART Transportation in Busan  
Dec 7 (Tue) - Dec 10 (Fri), 2021  
2:00 - 6:00 PM (Philippine time)

A total of 20 participants, mostly instructors and government officials under their respective urban planning ministries, attended the program. The participants came from countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. Some of the attendees came from Colombo Plan member countries as nominated by the Colombo Plan Secretariat on the request of CPSC.

The program aims to build the capacity required for operating the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in Colombo Plan member countries with the best practices of Korea's smart city. The program is also designed to enable the participants to discuss and design a cooperative project or action among cities in each participating member country and Busan Metropolitan City.



*Dr. Chung Jongpil, Secretary General of BFIC, delivering his opening address*

The lecturers of the program included the following:

- Dr. Se-hun Park, Lead Researcher at the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (Presentation: Korea's Process of Urbanization and the Changes of Urban Development Policies) Dr. Jong-sung Hwang, Lead Researcher at the National Information Society Agency (A member of the Korean Smart City Special Committee) (Presentation: The direction and Strategy of Smart City Policies in Korea & A Case Study on Busan)
- Dr. Yeon-Tak Jeong, Public Official, Public Transportation Policy Division, City Government of Busan Metropolitan City (Presentation: The Direction & Strategy of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Policies in Korea)
- Dr. Hoe-Kyuong Kim, Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering at Dong-A University, Republic of Korea (Presentation: A Case Study on Intelligent Transportation Systems)

The Director of the Training Department of BFIC, Dr. Kyung-sim Yeong managed and facilitated the program by acting as moderator between the participants and the lecturers.

The program was jointly supervised by Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe, Director General of CPSC and Dr. Chung Jongpil, Secretary General of BFIC. During the opening ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) were virtually signed between the two organizations, strengthening the relationship between the two entities and paving the way for more opportunities for cooperation.

BFIC is a public institution for the globalization of Busan, has been conducting over 40 projects annually since its establishment in 2005. Aligned with the diplomatic strategy of Busan, BFIC serves city-to-city cooperation, operates a global citizenship program, explores cooperative relations between EURASIAN region and Korea and implements ODA (Official Development Assistance) projects in cooperation with local institutes, experts, domestic and international citizens.



*Prof. Wickramasinghe delivering his closing remarks.*



*The BFIC officials wishing all participants the best of luck during the closing ceremony.*

## CPSC Organizes Two Study Tours for CTEVT Officials on Ecotourism in Maldives and Career Guidance in Sri Lanka

In continued assistance and support to its member countries in the enhancement of their TVET systems, CPSC arranged two study tours to Maldives and Sri Lanka for the officials of the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), Nepal.

As part of the SAKCHYAMTA project of CTEVT, CPSC coordinated the "Eco-Tourism Workplace Learning of Attaining Discipline-Specific Skills to Promote Green Employment" in Maldives from December 7 to 10, 2021. Known for ecotourism and hospitality industries, seven CTEVT officials travelled to Maldives to gain practical insights and to observe the implementation of green-economy policy in the tourism sector of technical vocational education and training (TVET) program.

The CTEVT officials visited the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies at Maldives National University. They met with the following university heads: Ms. Zeenath Solih - Dean, Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies; Ms. Rahushath Ibrahim - Head of Department, Food and Beverage Department; Ms. Hashma Adnan - Head of Department, Department of Hospitality Management; Ms. Zuneena Habeeb - Head of Department, Tourism Management Department; and Mr. Mohamed Shareef - Deputy Director, Administration Department.

A meeting and some discussions were arranged for the visitors with the following: Ms. Aishtah Ali,

Director General, Ministry of Tourism; Sham'aa Hameed, Project Manager, Parley Maldives; Ali Adam, HR Director; Universal Enterprises Limited; Adam Haleem, Director of Programs, Maldives Institute of Technology; and Ms. Shaahina Ali, Maldives Country Director for Parley for the Oceans.

The CTEVT team also visited and met with Mr. Randy Shimanuku, General Manager, of an apprenticeship provider the Four Seasons Resorts Kuda Huraa.

The visit was designed to further enhance understanding on tourism as one of the key drivers of the economic development identified as having well implemented eco-tourism program and supporting to the green economy of sustainable development; provide awareness on the national TVET systems of Maldives; and for the officials to come up with measures taken to focus extensively on the environmental effects of eco-tourism.



*An orientation of the Apprenticeship Provider: Four Seasons Resorts Kuda Huraa for the Nepal team was arranged during the tour*



CTEVT Officials visit to the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, Maldives

The CTEVT batch for Sri Lanka toured to the different TVET institutions/offices on December 14-18, 2021 and met their respective officials as follows:

1. Tertiary & Vocational Education Commission (TVEC)
  - Eng. Mr. Udeni Wickramasinghe, Chairman
  - Dr. K. A. Lalithadheera, Director General
  - Dr. Janaka Jayalath, Deputy Director General
  - Mr. Manjula Vidhanapathirana, Program Coordinator and Director, Industrial Liaison
  - Mr. S.U.K. Rubasinghe, Director, Registration Accreditation and QMS, TVEC
2. National Innovation Agency at the Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation
  - Mr. Chandana Vidhanapathirana, Director, Career Guidance & Counseling
  - Mr. Bathiya Amaranath, Asst. Director, NVTI
3. Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation
  - Hon. Dr. Mrs. Seetha Arambepola, Minister
  - Mrs. Deepa Liyanage, Secretary
  - Ms. Muditha Malkanthi, Addl. Secretary (Vocational Training)
4. National Career Guidance and Counseling Center, Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation
  - Ms. Shamika Anuradhi
  - Ms. Chandima Rodrigo
5. National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka
  - Mr. Geeth Gunasekara, Asst. Director

The CTEVT guests expressed appreciation to CPSC and its network organizations for the well-organized visits and for the learning experience provided that would be of beneficial use to the TVET systems of the Nepal. They conveyed their gratitude to the hospitality accorded to them by Maldives and Sri Lanka for the duration of the visit.

## APACC Evaluates KKTM Kemaman, Malaysia Through Online Means



The KKTM Kemaman Officers and the APACC accreditation team

Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi MARA (KKTM) Kemaman, an institute that specializes in providing education on the oil and gas industry under the umbrella of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) Malaysia, was evaluated by the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) on October 11-14, 2021.

The APACC Team was composed of Lead Accreditor Engr. Marjorie Mendenilla, a consultant for Academic Affairs of the MFI Polytechnic, Inc. from the Philippines; Member Accreditor, Dr. N. Asokan, the vice principal for Academics at the SRM Institute of Science & Technology in India; and the Documentation Officer, Ms. Chyna Loriania, ODG Assistant from the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC). The 4-day online evaluation aimed to assess the institution's compliance with the seven APACC criteria: (1) Governance and Management; (2) Teaching and Learning; (3) Human Resources; (4) Research and Development; (5) Image and Sustainability; (6) Other Resources; and (7) Support to Students.

Continued on p. 18 ...

The opening program of the online evaluation was graced by MARA TVET Division officials led by its Director Mahzan Bin Teh, along with Deputy Director Technical and Vocational Division Dr. Suzila Akhmar Binti Ahmad and Assistant Director Mr. Jaafar Sidek, with the APACC President Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe as well.

In his speech, Dir. Teh welcomed everyone and has given a brief introduction and history of the KKTM MARA. MARA is responsible for developing, encouraging, facilitating, and fostering economic and social development in Malaysia, particularly in rural areas. Their core business consists of four (4) major sectors: (1) entrepreneurship; (2) education; (3) investment; and (4) support services.

The APACC Accreditors as well as the APACC President were also given a chance to address KKTM Kemaman and MARA with their special remarks. Member Accrerator, Dr. N. Asokan was delighted to be part of the accreditation and appreciated that the institution has decided to move to the next level of excellence. He was looking forward to great learning experiences and was very much interested in the teaching-learning process and their response to the big social responsibility of the organization to improve the people of Malaysia.



Virtual tour of the facilities

Engr. Marjorie Mendenilla, the Lead Accrerator, was excited to go through the documents that were presented and to learn from the institution. Indeed, there are advantages and disadvantages of online accreditation, nevertheless she encourages everyone, that we cannot stop what is good, what is a worthwhile endeavor that the ASEAN Community and the Colombo region has started, and that the quality journey should continue. She was happy that the KKTM is conducting area-based and sector-based programs in response to the needs of the industry.

In continuation, APACC President Prof. Wickramasinghe highlighted that there are 23 Gold Accredited institutions from Malaysia and that he was happy to participate in the commencement of the accreditation. He appreciated the willingness of KKTM Kemaman to be accredited and their commitment to achieving the highest quality standard of APACC.

Starting with the presentation of the MARA Song and the Corporate Video of the KKTM Kemaman, a brief introduction about its organization and the different types of TVET specialization and programs under it was shown. KKTM Kemaman Director, Mr. Md. Khalil Bin Mohamad gave an overview of the institution. He ended his speech by encouraging and wishing everyone a successful accreditation stating the KKTM Kemaman tagline, "Together we are, Exploring the Earth, Fueling the Future".

After the opening program, a pre-recorded video was presented as part of the tour of facilities with a live onsite presentation of the working units in certain areas such as classrooms and laboratories. Presentation of documentary evidence and interviews with key personnel for each criterion followed right after and continued in the succeeding days of the evaluation.

During the exit meeting, Engr. Marjorie Mendenilla reported KKTM Kemaman's best practices in the form of commendations, mentioned the affirmations, and addressed the college's areas for improvement with APACC's recommendations.

# APACC conducts orientation on the latest version of the APACC instrument for officials of JZGMSAT, Philippines

The Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) conducted an online orientation on the APACC instrument 2019 for Jacobo Z. Gonzales Memorial School of Arts and Trades (JZGMSAT) officials in preparation for the institution's re-evaluation. The orientation, held from November 4 - 5, 2021, was conducted by APACC lead accreditor Dr. Romulita Alto and facilitated by APACC Officer Ms. Adrienne Abril. It was attended by 26 participants who are members of the JZGMSAT self-study team.

JZGMSAT is one of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Technology Institutions located in the province of Laguna and one of the earliest institutions to be first accredited by APACC. The last re-evaluation of this particular institute was held in 2012.

The two-day activity started with an opening program. In his opening remarks, the JZGMSAT Vocational School Administrator III Mr. Benito G. Reyes welcomed the conduct of the orientation for their officials to be equipped with knowledge on the preparation of self-study reports especially most of the officials just joined the institution. He expressed his eagerness to continue the journey towards APACC re-accreditation and he affirmed APACC's importance in their operations and the benefits it has brought to the institution including infrastructure improvements.

During the two-day activity, Dr. Alto discussed in detail each of the seven APACC criteria used for institutional evaluation while Ms. Abril provided the updates on the procedures and other administrative matters.

A short closing program was held at the end of the second day graced by the APACC President Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe. He stressed the importance of conducting the orientation which are to increase the understanding of APACC processes and standards and identify the gaps in order to achieve the set objectives. He sent his best wishes to the institution officials in their journey towards improving the quality of their services and their aspiration to convert JZGMSAT into a polytechnic. Lastly, he thanked the organizers and resource speakers for their efforts and JZGMSAT officials for actively participating during the orientation.



Screenshot of the JZGMSAT staff



Mr. Benito Reyes, Vocational School Administrator III, JZGMSAT



Dr. Romulita Alto (left) and Ms. Adrienne Abril (right) during their respective presentations

# KKTM Masjid Tanah Becomes the Fourth Institution Under MARA to Undergo APACC Online Evaluation

The Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) has evaluated the fourth institution under the purview of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), Malaysia through an online channel. The Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi MARA (KKTM) Masjid Tanah was evaluated on November 23 – 26, 2021 by the team engaged by APACC including the lead accreditor Dr. Raul Muyong, President of Iloilo Science and Technology University (ISAT-U), Member Accreditor Mr. Md. Enamul Haque, Research Fellow of the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, and Documentation Officer Ms. Arlene Cruz, Projects and Consultancy Division Officer of the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC).

KKTM Masjid Tanah is a public technical college located in Melaka, Malaysia and is being headed by the Director Mr. Azman bin Alik @ Ali. Operating since 2008, the institution envisions to be an outstanding and trustworthy organization in upholding the nation's pride. It aims to shape a holistic technical and vocational education and training (TVET) human capital with entrepreneurial values.

The APACC President Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe, as well as officials from MARA including Dr. Suzila Akhmar binti Ahmad, Deputy Director of Technical and Vocational Division, and Mr. Jaafar Sidek bin Mohd Ani and Ms. Jerrize Izah binti Jamaluddin, Assistant Directors of Technical and Vocational Division attended the opening program.

On behalf of MARA, Dr. Suzila Akhmar welcomed the APACC team and congratulated APACC for initiating the online system in order to carry out the planned evaluation activities. She likewise introduced MARA and emphasized that it is responsible for developing, encouraging, facilitating, and fostering the economic and social development in the rural areas of Malaysia. According to her, MARA's ten-year transformation plan 2018 – 2028 consists of 11 strategies to provide high quality TVET. She took pride in the fact that 90% of MARA institutions' students were employed in 2019 and 2020 based on the tracer study conducted even during the pandemic, a sign of industries' trust in the quality of MARA's education. Lastly, she hoped for more collaboration amongst APACC accredited institutions through student exchanges and more employment opportunities in the Asia Pacific region for graduates.



KKTM Masjid Tanah and APACC officials during the virtual opening ceremony.

The APACC member accreditor Mr. Haque assured KKTM Masjid Tanah of the APACC team's commitment towards the successful completion of the online evaluation.

The lead accreditor Dr. Muyong lauded KKTM Masjid Tanah's will to undergo the online evaluation even during the pandemic which, according to him, demonstrates the institution's desire to achieve excellence. He assured the members of the institution that the APACC team will guide and help them reveal their strengths and address weaknesses. He also assured them that the evaluation will be "stress-free".

Prof. Wickramasinghe, the APACC President, thanked the accreditation team and KKTM Masjid Tanah for the hard work and

commitment despite their busy schedules. He stressed the importance of quality and quality assurance and emphasized the need to produce and deliver the needs of the industries.

Virtual tour of facilities and interviews with relevant stakeholders were held after the opening program and continued until the third day of the evaluation.

On the fourth and last day, the APACC lead accreditor Dr. Muyong highlighted the qualitative aspects of the team's report which are the commendations (noteworthy practices that are over and above the APACC requirements), affirmations (acknowledgements of adequacy of provisions to comply with APACC requirements), and recommendations (suggested measures to address gaps).



Virtual tour of facilities (top right: Dr. Raul Muyong, Lead Accreditor, bottom right: Mr. Md. Enamul Haque, Member Accreditor)



Training of Trainers on Air Conditioning ... continued from p. 12 ...

Mrs. Deepa Liyanage, the guest of honor and Secretary of the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation of Sri Lanka, was also invited to share her insights about the program. She is also the present Liaison Officer of Sri Lanka to the Colombo Plan Staff College.

In her speech, she mentioned the importance of TVET in fulfilling the economic plans of the Sri Lankan government. She emphasized the need to focus on human development through TVET in the country and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presents new challenges in reinventing the traditional mode of instruction into a more modern approach. She also mentioned that the key dimensions of access and equity, quality, and relevance of TVET should also be in-line with focus areas of TVET such as technology and modernization, trainer training, demand responsiveness, work-based learning and accreditation, and certification. She also expressed her appreciation to the stakeholders of the program and wishes that Sri Lanka continues to gain opportunities in these virtual training.

The program was also graced by the Chief Guest and the Ambassador of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka to the Philippines, H.E. Shobini Gunasekera. In her speech, she described the government of Sri Lanka's plan to focus on skills development starting from 2021 to 2023. They also emphasized the importance of sustainable development and development of the new generation in spearheading faster and sustainable economic development in Sri Lanka. She saw the program as an opportunity for the country and the Colombo Plan Staff College to further cooperate in areas that will benefit the countries to achieve their economic targets, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The 4-day program covered various topics such as Digital TVET Framework and What is Virtual TVET; Understanding how to Adapt and Adopt Blended Learning; How to use a TVET LMS to Deliver Competency-Based Training; TVET LMS Reporting and Analytics; and Understanding the Technical Operation and Troubleshooting of new modern training system. The HVAC fundamentals such as electrical controls and components, instruments and meters, electric motors, and HVAC components were also introduced and discussed with the participants.

The participants were also taught how to incorporate their lesson plans using Virtual TVET and were awarded certificates of completion by Labtech and certified by Worlddidac after the course.



## CPSC GREEN CORNER - Recycling Office Waste

Being in the office also means generating additional waste. However, this can be mitigated through the following suggestions:

### 1. Purchase recycled products

Select papers, pens, and other consumable materials that are sourced from sustainable, recycled sources or made through recycled means.

### 2. Establish a recycling program at work

Talk to your manager or staff about adopting a recycling plan and emphasizing the proper use of paper, plastic, metals, and other wastes generated by the office. Also, monitor your recycling targets to see whether you have achieved them. You can use the money to fund office outings, parties, and other social programs.

### 3. Recycle paper

A huge component of office waste is paper. You can mitigate its wastage by printing succinctly and justifiably, emphasizing online sharing of files (e.g. Google Drive) or using only recycled paper.

### 4. Recycle or refill your toner and ink cartridges

Recycling or refilling these items is as simple as finding a local 'remanufacturer' and asking them to provide collection bins and collection services to your workplace.

### 5. Collect and recycle batteries

Batteries contain harmful chemicals that can harm the environment if thrown at the landfill.

It is better to segregate and turn over these to your local recycler to know how to properly dispose of them. In addition, mobile phone batteries can be returned to mobile phone outlets.

Source: Sustainable Living Guide (2021). Recycle Office Waste. Retrieved from: <https://www.sustainablelivingguide.com.au/recycle-office-waste>

## APACC Completes the Onsite Visit of Four TVET Institutes in Pakistan

The Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) successfully completed the onsite visit activities in Pakistan with the visit of four (4) Government Technical Colleges. The visit exercises started on November 29 and culminated on December 12, 2021.

During the three-week period, the following institutes underwent onsite visit exercises as part of their bid to be accredited by APACC:

1. Government College of Technology Taxila: November 29-December 1, 2021
2. Government College of Technology Peshawar: December 2-4, 2021
3. Government College of Technology Faisalabad: December 6-8, 2021
4. Pakistani Swedish Institute of Technology Karachi: December 10-12, 2021.

The visits were made possible through the cooperation amongst APACC, the International Labor Organization (ILO) Pakistan Office, and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), the TVET agency of Pakistan, under the Kanyab Jawan program. This program envisions the implementation of the National Youth Development Framework which will target the skills development of the Pakistani youth. Part of this endeavor is to upgrade Pakistani TVET institutes into the standards worthy of international accreditation.

The team that went to Pakistan is composed of: (1) Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane, Lead Accreditor, immediate past president of APACC, 11th CPSC Director General and currently the Managing Director of the Human Development Consultancy Group in Nepal; (2) Ms. Therese Tan Lee, Member Accreditor, International TVET Expert and Lead Consultant of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Addis Ababa; and (3) Mr. Rae Emmanuel Echaveria, Documentation Officer and Team Leader of the Research, Publications, and Information Division of the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC).

During the three-week proceedings, they were able to liaise with the officials from the Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) of three different Pakistani provinces (TEVTA Punjab, TEVTA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and TEVTA Sindh). They were also able to validate the compliance of these institutes to the regionally-formulated standards of TVET institutional operations that are anchored to the seven primary criteria: (1) Governance and Management; (2) Teaching and Learning; (3) Human Resources; (4) Research and Development; (5) Image and Sustainability; (6) Other Resources; and (7) Support to Students.

They were also able to meet notable officials during their visit including the Chairman of NAVTTTC, Mr. Syed Javed Hassan; the Chairman of the National Accreditation Council for the Technical Education Stream (NAC-TVS), Mr. Mian Waqas Masood; the Director (International Cooperation) Accreditation, Certification & International Cooperation (AC&IC) Wing of NAVTTTC, Mrs. Aisha Qazi; the Director of the ILO Office in Pakistan, Ms. Ingrid Christensen; and the Senior Program Officer of the ILO Country Office in Pakistan, Mr. Saad Gilani.

The team was able to form significant linkages with the ILO and the NAVTTTC team who pledged for a closer cooperation with APACC with regards to enhancing the implementation of quality systems in Pakistan's TVET institutions.



The team with NAVTTTC officials at GCT Taxila



The team with the officials of GCT Faisalabad



Dr. Lamichhane, the team leader, delivering the closing remarks at GCT Peshawar



The team with the women students of PSIT Karachi

FEEDBACK



“ The training program met our expectations and is very relevant especially during the pandemic. By using ICT, we can increase the achievement of our students in their creativity and critical thinking. The lecture on digital technology by Engr. Ghani is very interactive. Despite the hindrances in our internet connection, the program was able to articulate the lessons and we appreciate the learning experience that we gained. ”

**Ms. Marivic Ramos,**

*Senior TESD Specialist, NCR-Quezon City Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center (QCLBSDC)  
Participant: In-Country Program on TVET for Industrial Revolution 4.0. (Philippines)*



“ We thank CPSC and TESDA for this opportunity to participate in this program. We think that the time was utilized properly and the use of the LMS made us learn both in synchronous and asynchronous manners. I am thankful to the facilitators as well for being so kind and understanding. The program made us realize that we need to be ready for the modalities and realities of IR 4.0 which is very true to TESDA's slogan "TESDA Abot Lahat " or TESDA, we can achieve everything. Despite the challenges in attending the program, we have to embrace the reality of this type of learning and we have to embrace this. Despite our difference in experiences in e-learning, I am happy that we can achieve our common goal. ”

**Ms. Gerrylyn Ped,**

*Administrator, Provincial Training Center, Urdaneta, Pangasinan  
Participant: In-Country Program on TVET for Industrial Revolution 4.0. (Philippines)*



“ I would like to congratulate everyone, especially the facilitators for managing the program effectively and sharing key points. IR 4.0 emphasizes connectivity and innovation and its advancement is necessary for us to adapt to the changing world. This training is not just an avenue for more learning but to gain new experiences and bond with our co-participants despite the distance. ”

**Mr. Jerry Bernardez,**

*Instructor of Surigao del Norte College of Arts and Trades (SNCAT)  
Participant: In-Country Program on TVET for Industrial Revolution 4.0. (Philippines)*

## *Shared Vision 2023*

*The Inter-governmental TVET Leader for Sustainable Development*

### *Mission*

*Transforming TVET towards Sustainable Societies through  
Outcome-Based Quality Training, Accreditation, Research,  
Innovation and Image Building for stakeholders*



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