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Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an
AI-Powered Future



Self-Learning Session 2

Skills Foresight: Predicting Competencies for the AI Era

21 May 2025, 16:00 SGT / 10:00 CEST

Speakers



PeiChin Tay is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, where she leads work at the intersection of artificial intelligence, future of work, and public sector innovation. Her work centres on driving a human-centred approach to policymaking, and she has co-authored comparative studies on national AI strategies and labour market transformations. Previously, she successfully managed multi-million-dollar national and regional programmes – including the Mayor of London's Digital Talent Programme, making opportunities in the digital economy more accessible to under-represented communities; and a community entrepreneurship project for the Government of Singapore. Most notably, she also led a 14-member pan-European consortium to help governments and businesses design and deliver innovation strategies. PeiChin regularly contributes to global forums such as the UN, OECD, and World Bank on inclusive digital transformation and her work has been covered widely (Nikkei Asia, Rest of World, Ethos). She is currently a steering committee member of the UN ITU AI for Good Impact Initiative.



Margarita Kalamova is a lead analyst in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) AI and the Future of Skills project of the OECD Directorate of Education and Skills. At the OECD, she has participated in and led many projects in the domains of skills and employment, including editions of the OECD Skills Outlook, Employment Outlook, and country reviews on the labour market relevance and outcomes of higher education. She has advisory experience also in other policy domains, such as innovation, international trade and investment, energy and environment. Prior to joining the OECD, she was a research fellow at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. She holds a doctorate degree in Economics from the Freie Universität Berlin and MSc degrees in Economics and Business.

Facilitator



Claudio RIVERA is Director of Academic Affairs & Director of Undergraduate Programmes at the RTU Riga Business School in Latvia. He is an assistant professor in leadership and an educational innovator and leadership expert with more than 15 years of experience in senior executive positions in higher education institutions.

For 20 years, he has worked in higher education around the world with leading institutions, companies, and organisations. He has designed and implemented formal and non-formal education programs in various countries. As a consultant, he also worked primarily for startups and international companies, such as LIDL and Luminor. He participated in training, valorisation, and research projects related to education, where companies, state administrative institutions, and educational institutions have participated. During the last few years, he has been one of the drivers of Latvian higher education reform.

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ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

innoLab

Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an
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Self-Learning Session 3

Skills Development Frameworks & Priorities across Asia and Europe

28 May 2025, 16:00 SGT / 10:00 CEST

Speakers



Paryono currently serves as the Deputy Director for Professional Affairs and Research Manager at the SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre in Brunei Darussalam. Prior to this role, he was a lecturer at the State University of Malang, Indonesia, and a visiting lecturer at several prestigious institutions, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Washington-Seattle in the United States, as well as Beijing Normal University in China.

He was awarded a Fulbright Visiting Scholar Fellowship at Cornell University. He holds a PhD with a dual title in Workforce Education and Development and Comparative and International Education from Pennsylvania State University. He also earned a Master's degree in Continuing and Vocational Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering Education from the State University of Malang, Indonesia. His research interests and publications span a wide range of topics in TVET, including skills development, innovative teaching and learning, qualification frameworks, occupational standards, quality assurance, ICT and digitalisation in education, integration of life skills (transferable, transversal, and soft skills) in TVET, education for sustainable development, teacher standards, and aligning TVET with industry needs.



Ummuhan Bardak is a senior specialist on labour market and migration. Currently working at the ETF, she has been involved in different projects related to the labour market, migration, employment and human capital development in the European Neighbourhood Region. Her work encompasses research and analysis, policy dialogue, capacity-building and project management. Her thematic areas have been labour market reviews, skills anticipation and matching, youth transition, the future of work studies and skills dimension of migration.

Facilitator



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ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION



Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an
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Self-Learning Session 4

Beyond the Binary: AI and Human Skills Development

04 June 2025, 16:00 SGT / 10:00 CEST

Speakers



Adarsh Janakiraman is a Sr. Technical Specialist at Microsoft with over a decade of experience in AI and Machine Learning. He has driven AI innovation and adoption across the ASEAN region, collaborating with various business leaders in the region to secure business commitments and technical decisions, with keen interest in deriving value out of AI initiatives for businesses.

Before joining Microsoft, Adarsh was the first AI and ML Architecture Consultant in the ASEAN team at AWS, leading AI/ML delivery projects in the region. He holds a Master of Science degree in HPC and Data Science. Adarsh is recognized for his thought leadership in AI, having spoken at numerous industry events on Generative AI and its use cases. Outside of work, he enjoys exploring the latest trends in AI and technology and sharing his knowledge with the community.



Veronica Stefan is a professional with almost two decades of experience, working intensively at the intersection of new technologies, policy and education.

She has been engaged in a variety of international initiatives, from research to public policy, capacity building or project management, while providing expertise for different stakeholders such as the Council of Europe, UN agencies, European Union bodies, as well as many other national and international private and public entities.

Her recent activity includes contributions to digital/AI policies and guidelines, research on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) & new technologies, and development of digital & AI competencies. She serves as an AI and education expert in different Council of Europe expert groups.

Facilitator



Claudio RIVERA is Director of Academic Affairs & Director of Undergraduate Programmes at the RTU Riga Business School in Latvia. He is an assistant professor in leadership and an educational innovator and leadership expert with more than 15 years of experience in senior executive positions in higher education institutions.

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Team Learning Phase

11 June to 23 July 2025 | 16:00 SGT / 10:00 CEST

Expert Facilitators



Dr Lafifa JAMAL

Expert Facilitator for the Academic Papers Track

Dr Lafifa Jamal is a Professor at the Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka. She is a Senior Member of the IEEE with around 60 research publications. She is the Founding Director of Bangladesh Flying Labs and the Vice President of the Bangladesh Open-Source Network. She is also the International Partner Country Representative from Bangladesh for the action "European Network for Gender Balance in Informatics" under the European Cooperation in Science and Technology. Under her leadership, Bangladesh got the first Gold Medal in the 20th International Robot Olympiad 2018. She is also working in the core group to organise the 1st Bangladesh Artificial Intelligent Olympiad 2024.



Dr Lara SORRENTINO

Expert Facilitator for the Micro-credential Programmes Track

Dr Lara Sorrentino is a Senior Education Manager and the Head of General Affairs in the Education Division of the University of Bologna, Italy. She holds a PhD in Modern Philology and an MBA for University Management.

She is currently a member of the Teaching and Learning Strategy Group within the Una Europa University Alliance. She is experienced in the management of HE innovative educational programmes, including micro-credentials and joint degrees.

Strategic Advisor



Claudio RIVERA is Director of Academic Affairs & Director of Undergraduate Programmes at the RTU Riga Business School in Latvia. He is an assistant professor in leadership and an educational innovator and leadership expert with more than 15 years of experience in senior executive positions in higher education institutions.

For 20 years, he has worked in higher education around the world with leading institutions, companies, and organisations. He has designed and implemented formal and non-formal education programs in various countries. As a consultant, he also worked primarily for startups and international companies, such as LIDL and Luminor. He participated in training, valorisation, and research projects related to education, where companies, state administrative institutions, and educational institutions have participated. During the last few years, he has been one of the drivers of Latvian higher education reform.



Closing Session Evaluation Jury Members

23 July 2025 | 16:00 SGT / 10:00 CEST

AP Room A



Dr Lafifa JAMAL

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Expert Facilitator for the Academic Papers Track

Dr. Lafifa Jamal is a Professor at the Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka. She has numerous publications in leading journals and conferences and has received an international Best Paper Award. She has also delivered invited talks in Spain, the USA, South Korea, China, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Malaysia.

Dr Jamal actively contributes to the academic community through her roles on advisory boards and programme committees of leading conferences. She is the Founding Director of Bangladesh Flying Labs, which fosters collaboration among robotics and technology researchers both locally and globally. She is also serving as the Vice President of the Bangladesh Open Source Network which aims to create a youth community empowered with technology, innovation and knowledge. Dr Jamal is the International Partner Country Representative from Bangladesh for the action “European Network for Gender Balance in Informatics” under the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST).



Dr Johannes BLEHER

University of Hohenheim, Germany

Dr Johannes Bleher is a Lecturer at the Institute for Econometrics and Empirical Economic Research, University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, where he also managed the Computational Science Hub and coordinated the AI & Data Science Certificate programme until April 2025. He earned his PhD in Economics and Finance from the University of Tübingen in 2021 under Prof Thomas Dimpfli, focusing on robust estimation techniques and quantile-regression-based density forecasts.

His research spans computational solutions in finance, econometrics and data science, with recent contributions to quantile regression, conditional density estimation and ethical AI governance. He has co-authored peer-reviewed articles on financial and statistical research, as well as white papers on AI governance, and regularly presents at international conferences.



Dr Sharina YUNUS

Universiti Teknologi Brunei, Brunei Darussalam

Sharina Yunus is the Director of the Enterprise Office and an Assistant Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Universiti Teknologi Brunei. With a PhD in Optoelectronics from the University of Bath and a BEng in Electronic Engineering from the University of Nottingham, her research interests focus on technology and innovation, particularly in robotics, AI, smart cities, and renewable energy.

Sharina has been instrumental in developing IP and commercialisation policies to enhance UTB's innovation ecosystem. She has also served as a mentor and speaker at multiple ASEAN AI Innovation Labs and has received several awards, including the Women in Innovation Award (2023) and the Meritorious Service Medal (2022). Her contributions extend to teaching, supervising PhD and MSc students, and actively participating in national and international technology committees and hackathons.



Dr Claudio RIVERA
RTU Riga Business School, Latvia
Strategic Advisor for ASEFIInnoLab6

Claudio RIVERA is Director of Academic Affairs & Director of Undergraduate Programmes at the RTU Riga Business School in Latvia. He is an assistant professor in leadership and an educational innovator and leadership expert with more than 15 years of experience in senior executive positions in higher education institutions.

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Dr CHANG Tingwen
Beijing Normal University, China

Dr Ting-Wen Chang is an Associate Research Fellow, Director of the International Cooperation Centre, and Assistant to the Dean at the Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University (SLIBNU). Since 2014, he has been dedicated to advancing smart learning research and fostering international collaboration. He has worked closely with a wide range of global experts and institutions, and has collaborated with organisations such as UNESCO IITE, UNESCO IIEP, the GEM Report, ALECSO, and ISTE to co-organise international conferences and jointly develop research and policy reports on educational innovation and digital transformation.

His research interests include adaptive learning, user modelling, multimedia instruction, and personalised learning environments. He has published over 40 refereed journal articles, book chapters, and conference papers, and has received several academic awards, including the IEEE TCLT Young Researcher Award.



Dr Renáta BAČÁROVÁ
University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik, Slovakia

Renata is a lawyer with specialisation in Intellectual Property Law, Civil Law, Media Law, and ICT Law. She studied LLM Studies at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and specialised in the study of intellectual property at the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic. She is an Associate Professor in Civil Law, an Attorney-at-Law, and a Member of the Slovak Bar Association. She also gives lectures at the Intellectual Property Institute of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic and has participated in the project Artificial intelligence from the Point of View of Law and Ethics.

Renata is a member of Editorial Board of the journal Intellectual Property, member of the International Scientific Committee of the "Law in Business of Selected Member States of the EU" conference held at the University of Economics in Prague, and a nominee expert speaker of WIPO for the Slovak Republic. She was also a member of the Commission for the Recodification of Copyright in Slovakia.

**Dr Lara SORRENTINO**

University of Bologna, Italy

Expert Facilitator for the Micro-credential Programmes Track

Dr Lara Sorrentino is a Senior Education Manager and the Head of General Affairs in the Education Division of the University of Bologna, Italy. She holds a PhD in Modern Philology and an MBA for University Management.

She is currently a member of the Teaching and Learning Strategy Group within the Una Europa University Alliance. She is experienced in the management of higher education innovative educational programmes, including micro-credentials and joint degrees.

**Dr Robert Kerwin BILLONES**

De La Salle University, Philippines

Dr Robert Kerwin C Billones is a full professor at the Department of Manufacturing Engineering and Management, De La Salle University, Manila, and a research fellow at the Intelligent Systems Laboratory. He earned his PhD in Electronics and Communications Engineering from DLSU in 2018. He completed the Leaders in Innovation Fellowship programme under the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Asian Institute of Management in 2019.

He serves as AI Governance Coordinator for the Asia-Europe for Artificial Intelligence (AE4AI) Network and is a member of the Philippine national standards body to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 on AI. A member of several IEEE societies, he has authored over 113 international research publications. He had also worked on several research projects under the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Council of the Philippines. His interests include AI and data governance, applied AI, digital twins, biomedical engineering, and cyber-physical systems.

**Mr LIM Teng Leng**

Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore

Mr Lim Teng Leng is the Director of International Relations at Temasek Polytechnic, where he advances global engagement through staff development, student experiences, industry partnerships, and institutional branding.

He holds a degree in Statistics and Japanese Studies from the National University of Singapore and earned a Master of Public Administration from Tsinghua University under the Civil Service College's scholarship programme. His career spans key roles in the National Youth Council, Confucius Institute, and the CSC, where he led initiatives in international cooperation, language and cultural promotion, and public policy development. At CSC's Institute of Governance and Policy, he contributed to thought leadership in international relations. Later, as Deputy Director of the Capability Development & Advisory Team at the Centre for Liveable Cities under the Ministry of National Development, he focused on global capability-building in urban sustainability. Notably, he also led the development of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network during Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2018.