

ASEAN Future of Work Conference

23 SEPTEMBER 2021

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME – Accurate as at 30 Aug 2021

Central Theme:

“Towards an Inclusive World of Work: Lessons from COVID-19”

Conference Synopsis:

COVID-19 has highlighted the urgent need to address growing inequalities in the world of work. This includes the differing abilities of businesses and workers in the region to adopt a hybrid work model, differing levels of access to training and skills upgrading, as well as challenges faced in developing an inclusive workplace culture that supports mental well-being and work-life harmony. This conference will bring together senior government, union and employer representatives, to share lessons learnt from COVID-19 on promoting inclusivity in the future world of work. In view of the International Labour Organization’s global call to orient a human-centred recovery that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient, the speakers will also discuss the pertinent challenges and opportunities for regional tripartite partners to (i) promote inclusive models for hybrid work, (ii) make lifelong learning work for all and (iii) support mental well-being and work-life harmony.

Indicates plenary - merging with HR Tech Festival Asia 2021 track

ASEAN FoW Conference Programme	
Time (GMT +8/ SGT time	
10:00AM – 10:15AM	Keynote Address and Opening Remarks of ASEAN Future of Work Conference Speaker: Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General, ASEAN
10:15AM – 11:15AM	[Panel Discussion] Blessing or Burden? Harnessing the Potential of Hybrid Work for a More Inclusive Future of Work – 60 mins Hybrid models of work are likely to persist beyond the pandemic, as they provide a way for businesses to remain resilient during disruptions. They also allow workers flexibility to combine onsite and offsite work as they and their employers see fit. Hybrid work presents opportunities for employers to promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace by eliminating barriers regarding location, disabilities and caregiving. However, hybrid work also risks accentuating social inequalities, as the potential for remote work is highly concentrated among skilled workers in a handful of industries, occupations and geographies. Lower-wage workers are more often unable to perform their jobs remotely and so are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 lockdown measures. Likewise, those who can work

	<p>remotely may not necessarily have access to a conducive environment to do so.</p> <p>The panellists will talk about the challenges and opportunities of using hybrid work to promote a more inclusive world of work.</p> <p>Potential questions to be discussed include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been the scale of adoption of hybrid work in the region and how likely is to continue beyond the pandemic? 2. What role can employers, and even unions, play to mitigate the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 lockdown measures on their workers who cannot work remotely? 3. How can policymakers and tripartite partners support a safe return to workplaces, sustain effective hybrid work and build workplace resilience for future pandemics? <p>Confirmed speakers include:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="379 792 1380 965"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Name</th> <th>Designation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Ms Jacqueline Gwee</td> <td>Director, aAdvantage Consulting Group Pte Ltd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Mr Thomas Mathew</td> <td>Group CEO, Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Designation	1.	Ms Jacqueline Gwee	Director, aAdvantage Consulting Group Pte Ltd	2.	Mr Thomas Mathew	Group CEO, Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad
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11:15AM – 11.30AM	Conference Break – 15 mins									
11:30AM – 12:30PM	<p>[Panel Discussion] Fostering Inclusive Workplaces that Support Mental Well-being and Work-life Harmony – 60 mins</p> <p>There has been increasing attention on workers’ well-being and growing recognition that a negative work environment adversely impacts workers’ motivation and work performance. The COVID-19 outbreak has seen many workplaces adopting work-from-home arrangements. While this has brought about benefits such as increased flexibility and time with family, this has also blurred the lines between work and home, leading to longer working hours, increased stress and higher risk of burnout.</p> <p>This panel will discuss the role that tripartite partners can play to build a conducive and inclusive workplace to support mental well-being and work-life harmony. This includes promoting mental health awareness in the workplace, setting out guidelines and best practices and empowering colleagues to look for their at-risk peers etc.</p> <p>Potential questions to be discussed include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can employers create a safe environment and culture for employees to talk about their personal struggles in the workplace, as well as to look out for one another? <p>The confirmed speakers are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="379 1877 1380 1964"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Name</th> <th>Designation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Dr Francis Yeoh</td> <td>President, Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Designation	1.	Dr Francis Yeoh	President, Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH)			
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	2.	Ms Michelle Baxter	CEO, Safe Work Australia						
	3.	Dr Bicky Bhangu	President, Southeast Asia, Pacific & South Korea, Rolls Royce Singapore Pte Ltd						
	4.	Ms Evelyn Kwek	Managing Director, ASEAN/ANZ, Great Place to Work Institute, Singapore						
12:30PM – 1:45PM	Conference Break – 75 mins								
1:45PM – 2:45PM	<p>[Panel Discussion] Making Lifelong Learning and Reskilling Work for All – 60 mins</p> <p>COVID-19 has been a forceful reminder that lifelong learning is crucial for businesses and workers to adapt to job and skills demands which can change very rapidly. Skills upgrading can also improve workers' career prospects and employability, as well as enable them to offer more value to their employers. This panel will discuss how tripartite leaders can support businesses and workers to reskill and upskill during COVID-19, especially SMEs, displaced workers, lower-wage workers etc. who may have less access and resources to engage in skills upgrading.</p> <p>Potential questions to be discussed include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can accessibility to training be ensured and what role can HR leaders play as enablers for inclusive skills development? 2. How can private-public partnerships support the lifelong learning agenda? <p>Confirmed speakers include:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Name</th> <th>Designation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Carolyn Chin-Parry</td> <td>Managing Director and Digital Innovation Leader, PwC Singapore</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Name	Designation	1.	Carolyn Chin-Parry	Managing Director and Digital Innovation Leader, PwC Singapore
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1.	Carolyn Chin-Parry	Managing Director and Digital Innovation Leader, PwC Singapore							
2:45PM – 3:00PM	Conference Break – 15 mins								
3:00PM – 3:40PM	<p>[Panel Discussion] The Future of Work: A Journey to 2022 – Understanding the Trends that Will Impact How We Work Next Year - 40 mins</p> <p>The traditional thinking of the workplace no longer exists as Covid-19, technology and demographic shifts are transforming the way organisations operate. There is now increasing pressure for businesses to build digital resilience as organisations and within their workforce, to be prepared for tomorrow's challenges and to seize opportunities in the future of work. This panel discussion brings together leading industry experts to explore emerging trends that businesses should prepare for in 2022 and beyond. The panel will discuss how employers, business, and leaders can rethink their workplaces, work models and workflows to develop a human-centred strategy for the future of work.</p> <p>Potential questions to be discussed include:</p>								

1. What are the key HR trends that will impact jobs and workers in the region over the next 5 years?
2. How can employers and workers build a resilient mindset and culture to rapidly adapt to business disruptions and to leverage these HR trends strategically?
3. Hybrid work is a key enabler of success for tomorrow's businesses and its adoption has been spurred by the increasing use of remote working technologies. What implications does this have on human resource management? How can we capture and maximise the value of hybrid work?

Confirmed speakers include:

	Name	Designation
1.	Indranil Roy	Executive Director, Deloitte Southeast Asia

3:40PM

End of ASEAN FoW Conference