



International Council for Education Research and Training

(ICERT) PA USA and India

International Seminar on UN/ UNESCO- UNEVOC World Youth Skills Day July 15, 2026

"FUTURE SKILLS 2030: EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR INNOVATION, LEADERSHIP, AND GLOBAL IMPACT"

The International Seminar "Future Skills 2030: Empowering Youth for Innovation, Leadership, and Global Impact", hosted by ICERT PA USA on July 15, 2026, brought together over 300 participants from across 22 countries. The event explored how artificial intelligence (AI), digital transformation, and emerging technologies are reshaping the global workforce and the skills youth need to thrive in the coming decade.

Key Highlights

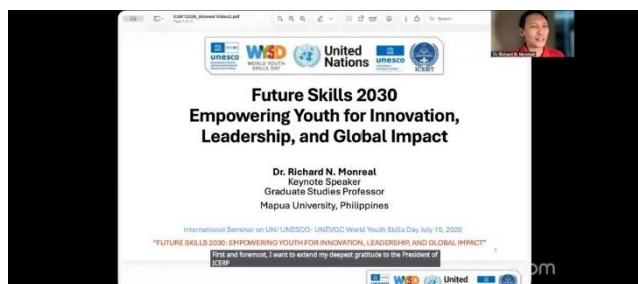
Opening Session



The seminar opened with Dr. Harsha Dangar as moderator and a welcome address by Dr. Swarna, who emphasized the importance of transforming educational institutions into innovation ecosystems. She highlighted the need for creativity, emotional intelligence, and adaptability as essential competencies for future leaders.

Keynote Address

Dr. Richard N. Monreal from Mapua University, Philippines, delivered the keynote on AI literacy, fluency, and ethics in a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) world. He introduced the concept of an inverted Bloom's taxonomy for AI learning and showcased real-world applications of AI in business, agriculture, and environmental intelligence. His message underscored the importance of continuous learning and ethical innovation.

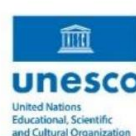


Panel Discussions

A series of panel discussions followed, featuring Dr. Sonia Maria D'Souza, Dr. Abigail Adeniji, and Ms Noor Nazeranah Binti Omar Din, who examined the intersection of youth empowerment, AI, and workforce transformation.



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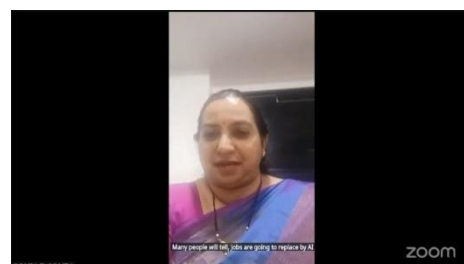
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- AI and Workforce Readiness: Panelists agreed that AI will augment rather than replace human capabilities. They stressed the need for AI-integrated curricula, project-based learning, and industry-academia collaboration to prepare students for future roles.
- Ethics and Responsible Innovation: Discussions highlighted the importance of ethical AI use, with proposals such as implementing "traffic light policies" in institutions to guide responsible AI adoption.
- Global Collaboration and Smart Cities: The role of smart cities and sustainable infrastructure was discussed as a means to create new employment opportunities and foster innovation.
- Agriculture and Technology Integration: Dr. D'Souza and others advocated for applying AI in agriculture to improve productivity and accessibility for farmers.

Dr. Sonia Maria D'Souza — Panelist

Argued that AI replaces unskilled jobs, not skilled ones, and already eases information retrieval for educators and students. Advocated strongly for AI integration in agriculture through interdisciplinary, government-funded projects that benefit farmers and provide hands-on student learning. Emphasized patience, ethics, and transparency in AI adoption. Recommended universities prioritize AI-agriculture integration before 2030.



Dr. Abigail Adeniji — Panelist

Highlighted smart cities and sustainable infrastructure as engines for youth employment through GIS, urban planning, and drone technology. Called for governments to integrate AI and IT education from the secondary school level with practical, hands-on courses. Recommended making AI tools affordable and accessible to all learners to ensure equitable outcomes.



Ms. Noor Nazeranah Binti Omar Din — Panelist

Championed academia-industry partnerships, citing Germany's dual education and Canada's co-op models as benchmarks. Stressed continuous upskilling and reskilling ecosystems, referencing Asia Pacific University Malaysia's industry collaborations. Proposed project-based learning, multidisciplinary collaboration, and student exchanges to





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build leadership skills. Recommended a "traffic light policy" for ethical AI governance in institutions and upskilling educators in AI competency.

Transformative Recommendations for Universities

Panelists proposed several transformative actions for universities to implement before 2030:

- Integrate AI and IT education from the secondary level onward.
- Ensure ethical AI practices through institutional policies.
- Promote interdisciplinary, real-time AI projects across sectors.
- Make AI tools affordable and accessible to all learners.
- Foster lifelong learning and adaptability as core educational values.

Closing and Recognition

The seminar concluded with an award presentation recognizing outstanding contributions and a vote of thanks from Dr. Harsha Dangar, who commended participants for their commitment to shaping a future-ready generation.

Key Takeaways

- AI literacy and ethics are foundational for future workforce development.
- Collaboration between academia and industry is essential for practical skill-building.
- Education systems must evolve to emphasize creativity, adaptability, and continuous learning.
- Technology should augment human potential, not replace it.

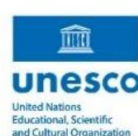
Policy Recommendations

Based on the collective insights of all speakers and panelists, the following policy recommendations emerged from the seminar:

1. Integrate AI and Digital Literacy into National Curricula

Governments should mandate AI and IT education starting from the secondary school level, ensuring early exposure to digital skills through practical, hands-on coursework — not just theoretical instruction.

2. Establish Ethical AI Governance Frameworks in Education



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Educational institutions should adopt formal ethical AI protocols — such as the "traffic light policy" — to guide responsible use of AI by students and faculty. National education bodies should develop standardized ethical AI guidelines for universities.

3. Strengthen Academia-Industry Partnerships

Policymakers should incentivize structured partnerships between universities and industries, modeled on Germany's dual education system and Canada's cooperative education programs, to ensure graduates possess market-relevant skills.

4. Invest in AI Applications for Agriculture and Rural Development

Governments and funding agencies should prioritize interdisciplinary AI projects in agriculture, making advanced technology accessible to farming communities and integrating real-world agricultural challenges into university curricula.

5. Democratize Access to AI Tools

National and international bodies should work to make AI tools affordable or freely available to educational institutions, particularly in developing regions, to prevent a widening digital divide.

6. Build Continuous Upskilling and Reskilling Ecosystems

Policymakers should support lifelong learning infrastructure — including online platforms, micro-credentials, and industry-embedded training — so that professionals can continuously adapt to evolving workforce demands beyond formal education.

7. Transform Educational Institutions into Innovation Ecosystems

Universities should be restructured to function as incubators of creativity, entrepreneurship, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, balancing technical proficiency with human-centric skills like emotional intelligence and adaptability.

8. Leverage Smart City Initiatives for Youth Employment

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JULY 15, 2026

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Richard Monreal

Chief Patron
Dr. Swarna

Moderator
Dr. Harsha N. Dangar

Panelists
Dr. Sonia Maria D'Souza
Dr. Abigail Temilope Adeniji
Nor Nazerandh Binti Omar Din

GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Youth Skills, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future Workforce

Time:
08:30 AM – 10:30 AM EDT
06:00 PM – 08:00 PM IST
01:30 PM – 03:30 PM WAT / CEST

Scan & Register



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Urban development policies should explicitly link smart city and sustainable infrastructure projects to youth employment strategies, creating career pathways in GIS, urban planning, environmental monitoring, and drone technology.

9. Upskill Educators in AI Competency

Before institutions can effectively teach AI, educators themselves must be trained. Governments should fund dedicated AI upskilling programs for teachers and faculty at all levels.

10. Foster Global Collaboration and Student Mobility

Policies should encourage student exchange programs, multidisciplinary project collaborations, and international academic partnerships to develop cross-cultural communication and global leadership skills among youth.

Seminar Recording

YouTube Link: <https://youtube.com/live/ceWtNLx8z44?feature=share>

Conclusion

The Future Skills 2030 Seminar successfully fostered a global dialogue on preparing youth for an AI-driven world. It underscored the shared responsibility of educators, policymakers, and industry leaders to cultivate innovation, ethical leadership, and global citizenship among the next generation.