BRUNEI LEGACY PROJECT: H.I.R.E.D.
Launch of H.I.R.E.D in Skills for a Digital Age
Roundtable
29 September 2021

On 29th September, 2021, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) has hosted ASEAN Business and Investment Roundtable focusing on “Skills for A Digital Age”. The event gathered over 700 participants across Southeast Asia and beyond featuring senior figures and experts from both the public and private sector.

The event highlighted the importance to develop the right skill sets in facing the changing nature of the future of work in Southeast Asia, Fourth Industrial Revolution and a future post COVID-19 pandemic. An assessment of the skill gaps in ASEAN across the industry and the changes in the workplace caused by the pandemic were also among the few other issues that was discussed.

Technology will continuously advance and rapidly changing the landscape of work in the region leaving us with no choice but to upskill and reskill in response to the industry skills requirements and employability. Digitalisation can support us to emerge stronger towards the post-pandemic recover but only if we are prepared. In a nutshell, this is what the ASEAN-BAC legacy project under the Brunei Chairmanship 2021 focus on. The Legacy project titled “Harnessing Impact with Resilient Employability Digitally” or known as HIRED.

HIRED aims at strengthening human capital and the future workforce through providing opportunities with digital skills training and mentorship to the young, unemployed and current workforce of ASEAN in reaching to their fullest potential to become employable and relevant to today’s industry. Upskilling and reskilling are not just looking towards the graduate youths but also the existing workforce especially the risk of the older workforce is facing of greater job insecurity to adapt the technology driven world of work.

Hon. Yanty Rahman, Chair of the ASEAN-BAC and Legacy project officially launch the HIRED Legacy project in the opening session of the roundtable. In her remarks noted ‘HIRED was built upon to address the surge of unemployment caused by pandemic and ASEAN facing that it lags behind in the reskilling and upskilling of its workforce. This has become even more so critical and timely now to the impact of the pandemic as we hope to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly Goal 4 on Quality Education and Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth.’