

Panel Presentation

Presentation by Dr. Michael Fung, Deputy Chief Executive, SkillsFuture Singapore

Abstract

The fourth industrial revolution is ushering in an era of rapid adoption of digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI) by industrial sectors across the entire economy, due to dynamic changes in the nature of jobs and the pace of skills obsolescence. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated the imperative for change, as businesses digitalise and transform in order to survive, and individuals are compelled to embrace change and pursue skills development for career resilience. These developments call for a new paradigm across the education and training landscape toward a model that is more agile, flexible, and adaptive, one with multiple-pathways for the workforce to pursue lifelong learning, to ensure that individuals remain employable and the economy has the necessary talents to recover and grow. The SkillsFuture movement in Singapore is provided as a case study on how a nation responds to the challenges and opportunities brought about by disruptions, and the critical success factors in mobilising businesses and individuals to embrace lifelong learning. Examples will be shared on collaborations to extend skills development efforts to the region and beyond.