

**Report of the Ministerial Summit on WorldSkills 2019 Kazan
Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia
August 22-24, 2019**

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1.0 Introduction

Hon. Minister of Education, Sri Lanka has nominated me to represent the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka as well as himself for the WorldSkills Ministerial Summit held in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia from August 22 - 24, 2019. During this international summit I was able to contribute extensively (especially in the bilateral meetings and other forums) and also learnt lessons largely on many matters related to improving skills of students and education systems in different countries, especially, in Russia and countries belonging to the Russian Federation.

2.0 Programme

The conference of the Ministerial Summit of the WorldSkills is a global movement of the member countries and regions responsible for vocational and skills development within the framework of WorldSkills Kazan. This also aligns with the UN SDG fundamental principles and goals, including the goal to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning and to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. To achieve this goal, the Ministers Summit participants recognized the need for:

- Striving to develop complex skills set consisting of demanded universal and professional skills with the aim to prepare young people for entry into the labour market, as well as facilitating labour mobility and increasing workers' resilience in the face of new technological and social challenges and rapidly changing employment patterns.
- Promoting the objective and transparency of the skills assessment of young people, both in the vocational education system on their own.

Objectives of the WorldSkills Ministerial Summit are to:

- organize the exchange of best practices skills assessment (including educational results), as well as to elaborate recommendations on dissemination of best practices in the area;
- develop recommendations on the usage of WorldSkills methodology potential to improve national skills assessment systems (including vocational education programmes); and
- elaborate recommendations on the content and organization of procedures for assessment of both professional, social and digital skills (including those based on WorldSkills methodology), including the possibility of cross-national educational performance comparisons.

Further, this conference also provides opportunities for education systems in the world to find strategies and ways to improve the skills of students (i.e. schools, technical and vocational and higher education).

Details of the programme and the matters related to conference are given below.

Day 1: Wednesday - August 21, 2019

- Departure from Sri Lanka for Kazan, Russia.

Day 2: Thursday - August 22, 2019

- In the morning, I visited the Kazan National Research Technical University named after A.N. Tupolev-Kai Kazan, Russia. This national university is conducted bachelor degrees, postgraduate degrees on aircraft engineering and national and international students are enrolling for these courses.



- In the evening, I have participated in the official opening ceremony of the WorldSkills Kazan 2019 held at the Kazan International Stadium. This was patronaged by the Prime Minister of Russia, President and Prime Minister of Tatarstan, senior delegations from 64 countries and distinguishes guests from around 64 countries as well as a large number of competitors of WorldSkills 2019 were participated.



Day 3: Friday - August 23, 2019

- In the morning, the WorldSkills conference 2019 opening plenary session was held at the Kazan Expo. The theme of the session was ‘a world at risk developing the skill sets to endure adapts and thrives’. This session was succeeded in opening up the eyes of participants on skills gaps and skills required for future which will be highly demanding in future world.
- Secondly, several sessions conducted simultaneously on different themes which were directly related to ‘skills for the future’ and I was participated in the session on ‘green skills required for the future’.
- In the afternoon, the Ministers Summit was held as closed session. Theme of the session was ‘international cooperation for the new approach to the measurement of educational results’. This summit session included the following mini-sessions:
 - Prospects of international comparison of national TVET systems based on WorldSkills methodology.
 - WorldSkills approaches to comparable skills assessment in vocational education’. This report was discussed further by the representatives from the three international agencies.
 - International cooperation for the new approach to the measurement of educational results.
 - Usage of WorldSkills methodology in national VET system experienced in India.
 - How to learn from WSI methodology and promote lifelong learning.
 - The UK system: striving for world class education, training and care for everyone – irrespective of their background.
 - Australian (Victorian) approach to skills development and assessments.

This session was very much useful for sharing international experiences on improving skills which are required for the future.



- In the evening, the Government of Russia and the Government of Tatarstan has jointly organized a traditional Russian and Tatarstan cultural event for the participants and it really impressed all participants and gave a vibrant message about the Russian culture.



Day 4: Saturday - August 24, 2019

- In the morning, meetings were held with national teams and bilateral meetings. Also, participated for visit to the Kazan city.



- In the afternoon, the first session on Ministers Summit closed session was held. The session was allocate time for the discussion on: successful practices for national education and training systems development: experience exchange. This summit session included following sub-sessions:
 - Talent development as new approach to address the future economy and skills gap challenges. Based on this session, key note report discussion was held.
 - Educational start-up network development as an educational system element.
 - National VET system development in Republic of Belarus.
 - The strategies to talent development for the future labour market.
 - Successful practice for national education and training system development: experience of Morocco.
 - Latvia's national experience regarding the reforms in the field of vocational education and training, the best practices, plans for future development and the importance of skills competitions in this process.
 - Successful practices for national education and training system development: experiences in Indonesia.
 - Vocational education and training: an overview of the Italian experience



- The second session of the afternoon, the closing plenary session on Ministers Summit and WorldSkills Conference 2019 was held. The session was dedicated to: develop the next generation with skilled change-makers.



Day 5: Sunday - August 25, 2019

- Departure from Kazan for Sri Lanka.

3.0 Conclusions and outcomes of the visit

Following lessons were learnt during the visit:

- Shared knowledge and experiences on improving skills of students demanded of the global and local labour markets.
- Learnt lessons on how to implement technical and vocational education programmes.

- Importance of having linkages between schools and industrial sectors.
- Matching the curriculum with labour markets demands.

Recommendations:

- Currently, Sri Lanka is not a full-member country of the WorldSkills international. If the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka willing to obtain the full-membership of the WorldSkills International Organization, the Government of Sri Lanka has to paid the membership fee annually. I inquired on this matter from the other participated countries and some of the countries the membership fee was paid by the respective government and some other countries it was paid by the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the respective government (e.g. Austria). If we obtain the membership, we will gain opportunities to participate in the WorldSkills competitions. The competitions will be mainly on improving students' skills for the future and producing innovative and creativity improved students (e.g. school students, university students, students of the technical and vocational field and others). This will be the best place for marketing students' production of creativities. I observed that this programme is most similar to our 13 years guaranteed education programme and TVET sector in Sri Lanka. However, there are certain international elements also included.
- As a result of the visiting Kazan National Research Technical University named after A.N. Tupolev-Kai Kazan, Russia (e.g. programme on aircraft engineering), the said university agreed to establish a linkage between the two countries, especially, with the university and the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka. They are happy to provide some assistance for improving skills of students (in this regard, we need to be discussed further).
- As Russia is a well-developed country in terms of industrial and technology wise, I wish to suggest to obtain the following technical and academic assistance to improve our education system from them:
 - Improving quality of 13 years guaranteed education programme and technical and technology education in Sri Lanka.
 - Establishment of technical and vocational education resource centres at national levels (few centres at provincial levels).
 - Establishment of 'Centres of Excellence in Innovation Education'.
 - Conduct exchange programmes for teachers, students and middle-level education managers.
 - Establish centres for aerospace.

Note: these need to be discussed with government as bilaterally.

Prepared by:

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