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The importance of skilling, upskilling and reskilling and discussions around the future of work were part of the third meeting of the G20 Education Working Group, while a convention organized by the B20 Secretariat on World Intellectual Property Day helped to formulate views around the need for a reliable global IP regime to encourage innovation.

Education Working Group reaffirms commitment to skilling, upskilling and reskilling



Third Education Working Group meeting, Bhubaneswar.

April 26-28: The third meeting of the G20 Education Working Group concluded with a commitment to ensure the betterment of learners with respect to skilling, upskilling, and reskilling. The focus areas of the working group were enabling high quality technical and vocational education, creating pathways between higher education and vocational education and equipping children with a range of future skills to set them on the path of lifelong learning.

The event hosted discussions around the future of work and experts deliberated on the themes of building an agile response to the needs of labor markets and institutional capacity building in the context of the future of work.

Delegates shared information on their policies and initiatives around vocational education and training. They also acknowledged the importance of the need to continuously upskill and reskill to keep up with the changes happening in the world. They further discussed challenges that their countries are facing with respect to the future of work.

A technical session to discuss the outcome document of the working group was attended by representatives of the G20 members and invited countries. During the discussion, the agenda for the education ministers' meeting schedule for June was also discussed.

The working group meeting was attended by the secretaries in higher education, school education and skill development and entrepreneurship departments with the Government of India. About 60-plus delegates from 27 countries including G20 members were invited. International organizations including United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) were also present.



IP and knowledge-based economy strong drivers for business and industry: B20 Secretariat

April 26: On 'World Intellectual Property Day', the B20 Secretariat organized a global IP convention with the theme of "Strengthening the Global Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Regime." During the discussions, experts felt that B20 must encourage a consistent and balanced adoption of national and international regulatory principles in innovative areas, particularly pertaining to IPR. The participants were of the view that formulating a reliable global IP regime will play a critical role in encouraging innovation and R&D-driven economic development.

Ms Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary, Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, spoke about the need to create an environment where opportunities are created for female leaders in innovation to serve as role models for young girls to innovate and boost the agenda of increasing the number of women in IP.

Mr Masanori Katsura, Deputy Commissioner, Japan Patent Office, spoke on how India is establishing itself as a digital powerhouse. Mr Katsura emphasized the potential for appropriate use of IP to further strengthen India's position in technological innovation. The B20 Secretariat is focusing on IP harmonization among countries, especially G20 countries.



Insights

Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) focuses on policy frameworks for global challenges

The Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) is a new initiative of the G20 Forum that was initiated during the Indonesian Presidency in 2022. RIIG aims to enhance, intensify, and strengthen research and innovation collaboration among the G20 member countries. Its purpose is to further the work of the Academic Forum held during the Italian Presidency in 2021 by bringing together science, technology, and innovation experts of the G20 member countries. The main theme of RIIG during India's G20 presidency in 2023 is "Research and Innovation for Equitable Society."

The four priority areas of RIIG under India's G20 presidency are materials for sustainable energy, circular bioeconomy, eco-innovations for energy transition, and scientific challenges and opportunities towards achieving a sustainable blue economy.

The RIIG has held two conferences on sustainable energy and circular bioeconomy where experts deliberated on just energy transitions and sustainable goals. Improving cooperation between G20 members for technology and knowledge sharing was discussed by the participating members. The event at Dharamshala focused on the challenges and opportunities in research and innovation cooperation among member countries in areas such as smart energy transformation, storage and management, mission-driven research in sustainable energy transitions, policy frameworks for research and innovation in carbon neutral energy sources and green hydrogen. The next RIIG meeting will be held on the topic of scientific challenges and opportunities for a sustainable blue economy. The RIIG meetings will conclude with the RIIG Summit and research ministers meeting in Mumbai on 5th July 2023, and a joint declaration will be adopted by G20 members.

G7 Business Forum endorses India's G20 theme



India's G20 Presidency theme.

The theme of India's G20 Presidency, "One Earth, One Family, One Future," has been endorsed by top business executives of the G7 countries. The theme affirms the value of all life on earth and their interconnectedness, promoting sustainable growth that is compatible with the protection of the global environment. The endorsement has been received well by the G20 Secretariat and is being seen as an important step towards consensus building on key issues ahead of the September summit.

Following two days of brainstorming, the B7 (which represents the business community of G7 countries) in its declaration said, "Through creating a problem-solving society that is equipped with both digital technology and creativity and imagination of diverse



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people, it is essential to first achieve sustainable growth in a way that is compatible with the protection of the global environment and to distribute the fruits in a fair and equitable manner, which is conducive to 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' as the theme of India's G20 Presidency."

The B7 Group recognized the significance of G20 member nations' contributions and vowed to work with the governments to overcome major challenges the world is facing. In its statement the B7 Group said, "Cooperation with the Global South is indispensable to rebuilding the free and open international economic order, overcoming global challenges, and realizing a sustainable international community built on principles of equality." It further cautioned that the climate change issue cannot be solved without the involvement of the Global South in reducing CO2 emissions while pursuing their legitimate growth and development objectives. Hosted by Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) in Tokyo, the B7 agreed on the most important efforts to mitigate immediate and long-term challenges.



Upcoming Events

- ◆ **May 9–11, 2023:** G20-3rd Development Working Group Meeting, Goa
- ◆ **May 10–12, 2023:** T20-Mid-Year Conference, Mumbai
- ◆ **May 21–23, 2023:** G20-3rd Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting, Mumbai
- ◆ **May 23–25, 2023:** G20-2nd Trade & Investment Working Group Meeting, Bengaluru
- ◆ **May 24, 2023:** B20-CII Annual Session, New Delhi

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on major international economic issues. The G20 Presidency is with India from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023, and it is hosting a series of events aligned with the agenda and themes of the G20 in the run-up to the two-day summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi starting September 9, 2023.

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