

Press Release

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SIGN \$80 MILLION LOAN TO HELP BOOST YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$80 million loan on 28 March 2018 to help modernize technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and improve the skills ecosystem in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary (Multilateral Institutions), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, signed the loan agreement for the Government of India, and Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, signed on behalf of ADB. The project agreement was signed by Dr. Basu Sood, Adviser (Planning), Planning Department on behalf of the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

"The project will support the skill initiatives of Government of Himachal Pradesh and help the State step up the reform and scale-up its skill development efforts," said Khare. "It will fund short-term and long-term training programs in growth areas including automobiles, electronics, pharmaceutical, tourism and hospitality and banking and financial services, health care etc. to help enhance the skills set of the youth and increase their employability."

"After achieving impressive enrollment rates for higher education, the State of Himachal Pradesh faces 'second-generation' challenge of preparing its youth for the challenging labor market. The project will help in equipping the youth with market-relevant technical and vocational skills," said Yokoyama.

The State will need more than 500,000 skilled workers by 2022 across various trades. The Project will help seize this opportunity by providing support in developing relevant and good quality TVET programs thereby improving employment prospects of nearly 65,000 youths by 2022.

The project will establish a polytechnic for women, six city livelihood centers, and seven rural livelihood centers, and upgrade 11 employment exchanges into model career centers. These efforts will result in improved TVET awareness among youth, modernizing training equipment, implementing a training information system, forging partnerships with private sector, and creating better access to quality market-relevant TVET and livelihood development opportunities for youth in Himachal Pradesh.
