FORUM: Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: Measures to combat youth unemployment in East Asia

MAIN SUBMITTER: Republic of Armenia

CO-SUMMITTERS: French Republic, Republic of India, Republic of Finland, Republic of Croatia

Acknowledging that educational qualifications do not always match the skills demanded by modern labor markets,

Being aware that long-term unemployment and fierce job competition cause serious mental health stress for young people across these regions: China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia,

Concerned by the increasing number of young individuals who are not employed and have trouble earning money,

Emphasizing the importance of vocational education, apprenticeships, and professional training in preparing young people for employment,

Having considered that all member states support unemployed youth by providing welfare systems such as financial and mental help which can help them find a job,

Keeping in mind that all member states support unemployed youth actively to help them to rise again,

Noting that many young graduates face severe challenges in finding a suitable job, while many industries face a shortage of skilled workers,

Recognizing that AI automation is causing changing job markets and replacing entry-level jobs, causing an increasing trend of unemployment,

1. Encourages member states to expand or create vocational education and professional training programs with professionals organized by each nation's government for unemployed youth who just graduated from university or were fired from their original jobs, including, but not limited to:
    a. Holding a student job fair organized by East Asian educational institutions' workers and private companies' workers, which has a brief introduction to several jobs in cities of every region in East Asia, including China, Mongolia, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan, biannually, including, but not limited to:
        i. Providing information by professionals whom governments invite about what is required for each job and what people are actually doing in each job,
        ii. Advertising and recruiting for education programs to help youth develop their own qualifications, and the cost is free
    b. Providing apprenticeships and internship opportunities for young individuals,by working with professionals who are invited by governments, and integrating vocational training programs with university curricula and internships, and

designing a phased pre-graduation work experience program including, but not limited to:

i. Strengthening foundational education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and ICT (Information and Communications Technology)starting from the high school levels to foster early exposure to and interest in careers within STEM fields,
ii. Expansion of student enrollment recruitment on social media(such as Instagram, TikTok, WeChat) in university,
iii. Allowing credit recognition if they participated in integrating vocational training programs,
iv. having half-year try-outs, with official hiring decisions made after the internship based on evaluation on working quality,

2. Encourages MEDCs (More Economically Developed Countries) to ensure the provision of accessible and affordable mental health support services to individuals in East Asia facing employment-related difficulties, including but not limited to unemployment, underemployment, and job insecurity:
    a. Ensuring the accessibility and affordability of mental health support services, including but not limited to:
        i. Establishing community- based counseling centers and hotlines at local and regional levels to mitigate geographical and financial barriers,
        ii. Providing services to unemployed or low-income youth for free;
    b. Creating a stigma-free environment for seeking mental health support, including but not limited to:
        i. Conducting public awareness campaigns to normalize help-seeking behavior and reduce the social stigma surrounding mental health,
        ii. Training youth who just graduated from universities, and people who just got fired from companies service providers to offer confidential, non-judgmental, and youth- friendly counseling,
    c. Structuring mental health support to different employment statuses, including but not limited to:
        i. Designing specialized counseling programs for the unemployed and underemployed- addressing anxiety, depression, and loss of self- esteem,
        ii. Providing support for workers in precarious or informal employment,
    d. Integrating mental health support into unemployment insurance and social security systems including, but not limited to:
        i. Incorporating psychological counseling services within unemployment insurance schemes and employment center services,
        ii. Screening for mental health risks at the time of unemployment registration and facilitating referrals to appropriate services,
    e. Expanding access to youth-friendly and digital mental health services including, but not limited to:

i. Developing online and mobile counseling platforms that offer anonymity and flexibility,
ii. Establishing peer support networks for young people, as well as mental health programs based in schools,

f. Monitoring, evaluating, and strengthening mental health support through, but not limited:
i. Developing evidence-based monitoring, evaluating, and strengthening policies through the collection of disaggregated data on the mental health burden related to employment,
ii. Sharing best practices and building capacity through regional and international partnerships,

g. Creating the organizations managed by East Asia governments that have professional counselors to help youth overcome depression including, but not limited to:
i. Having continuous regular in-person meetings once a month that ruled by professional counselors with unemployed youth to care their mental health,
ii. Having online diagnosis and support once a week to make it easier for youth to get support;

3. Urges all member states to provide social welfare systems which are organized by East Asian governments cooperating to help unemployed youth overcome the challenges of finding jobs, including, but not limited to:
a. Providing temporary free shelter with free food that is organized by the government for unemployed youth who need special help during the period of getting a job, including, but not limited to:
i. Making shelters organized by the East Asian governments in youth apartments can prevent financial collapse when providing accommodation for unemployed individuals,
ii. Raising awareness by creating and distributing posters in higher-income areas so that ordinary citizens can help,
iii. Raising awareness through social media by creating entertaining shorts and reel videos on YouTube and Instagram,

b. Having free consulting programs that are organized by the government to help unemployed youth prepare for their own future,
i. Supporting making plans about own future for unemployed youth,
ii. Guiding unemployed youth with informing advices of improving their qualification;

4. Encourages all member states to provide more opportunities to young people aged 25- 30 who are struggling to get a job after graduating from university to be hired in public institutions, including, but not limited to:
    a. Creating new departments that can benefit the country, including, but not limited to:
        i. AI education department organizing courses for teaching unemployed young Asians how to control AI properly,
        ii. AI data management department, focusing on data analysis in majors such as finance, financial engineering, and finance tech,
        iii. AI website departments, focusing on seeking small investment and practical skills being required,
    b. Raising awareness through social Media platforms to Encourage Young unemployed Asians to be inspired and discover new career paths, including but not limited to:
        i. Posting AI education and awareness promotion videos to enhance advertisements through high-density apps such as TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube through entertainment,
        ii. Giving templates or design-making platforms through mini programs to fuel desire for creativity;

5. Recommends to member states to improve working conditions in small and medium-sized businesses to broaden choices of work between big-sized businesses and small and medium-sized businesses, including, but not limited to:
    a. Enhancing working conditions in small and medium-sized businesses by making over-timed work illegal without extra pay to make it fair for people who are having night duty, including, but not limited to:
        i. Calculating extra fees based on how many hours are worked over, with the terms of working job responsibilities and statutory holidays,
        ii. Setting a minimum attendance of night duty for everyone for fairness and human rights equity,
    b. Improving welfare and salaries through government support, including but not limited to:
        i. Providing extra money from the government budget, such as transportation fees, food expenses, or health care spent on youth,
        ii. Offering additional pay to youth during holidays and for promotions.
        iii. Giving lower standards salaries range and job hiring requirements for citizens in rural regions, in order to balance the resources difference,
    c. Breaking a stereotype that successful job is not getting job from big-sized companies, including but not limited to:

i. Advertising a stereotype that successful job isn't getting job from big-sized companies in social media such as Tiktok, Instagram, Xiaohongshu, Facebook, and Youtube,
ii. Emphasizing unemployment is worse than getting a job from SMEs(Small- Medium Company), or other jobs;

6. Further recommends structural reform of the demand side (Firms and Industries) for youth employment:
    a. Incentivizing the hiring of young people and improving employment practices:
        i. Providing tax incentives to companies that hire young people,
        ii. Introducing a corporate certification system to promote"open hiring" (hiring regardless of prior experience) and job-based recruitment, which helps create opportunities on larger scales of enterprises,
        iii. Piloting a "first job guarantee" program for young people-providing them with their initial work experience through public-private partnerships,
    b. Improving the quality of employment by strengthening protection standards for working conditions in non-regular and platform-based jobs, which are prevalent among young people including, but not limited to:
        i. Establishing standard contract guidelines to prevent the abuse of probationary periods and internships,
        ii. Developing a reporting and protection system to prevent workplace discrimination and harassment against young workers.