

Webinar on national Digital Skills Assessments

Preparing for current and future digital society in Asia and the Pacific

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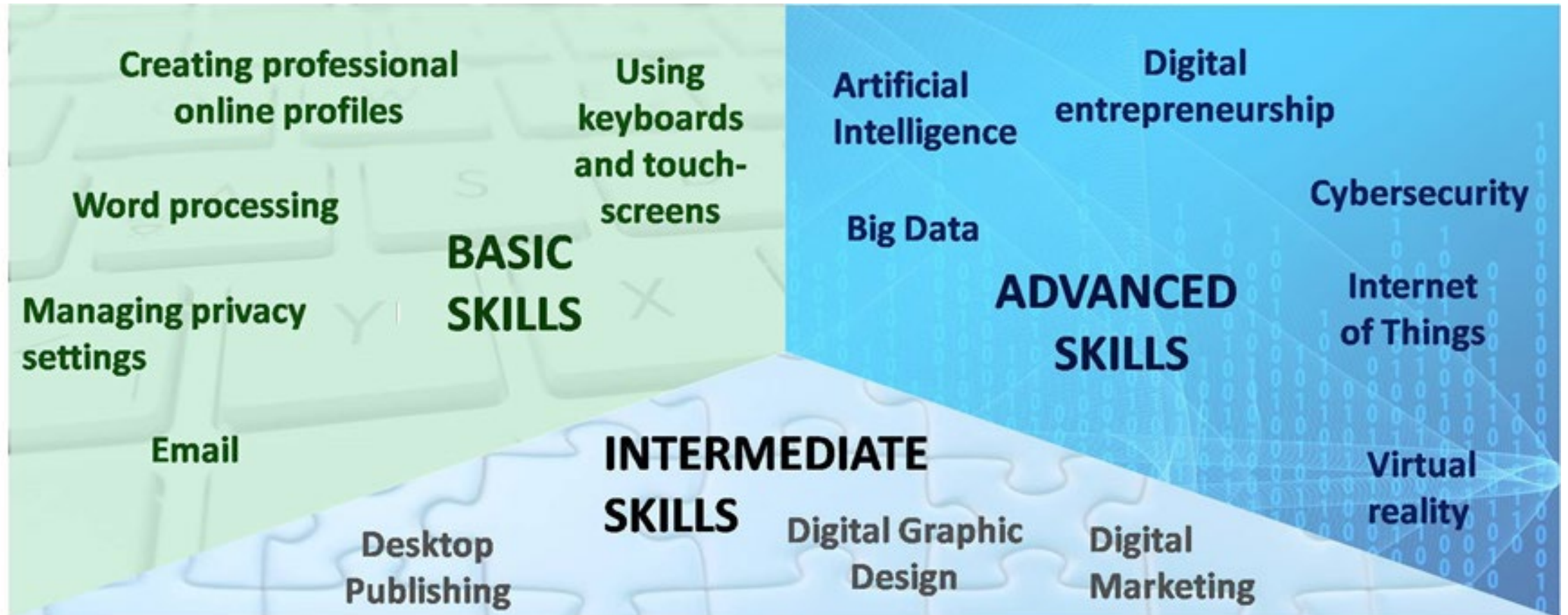
Covid-19 revealed the huge connectivity challenge ...

- 90% of schools closed at some point (UNESCO) – remote learning?
- 93% of global workforce affected by workplace closures due to Covid-19 (ILO) – remote working?
- Teaching, learning, working from home requires reliable and affordable Internet connection, and digital skills
- But: 46% of the world population is still offline - even where broadband connectivity is available (ITU)

... and the growing digital skills gap

- Lack of digital skills one of the main barriers to Internet usage
- 65% of people in developing countries lack skills to use the Internet
- Strong growth of employment in ICT-related industries (even during Covid)
- Skills gap in Asia-Pacific:
 - APEC 2020 report finds that demand for digitally skilled workers is growing much faster than supply; and 7 out of 10 job postings are in digital occupations
 - AWS 2021 report finds that number of workers applying digital skills in ASP countries will increase by over five-fold in 2025, including skills related to cloud computing and data analytics
 - Cisco/IDB 2021 report: lack of digital skills and technologies are top 2 challenges SMEs in ASP are facing

Digital skills gaps exist at all levels



Capacity development – ITU's solution

Objective: To develop capacities and skills for the digital economy

Training

Developing and delivering training courses and capacity development workshops for ICT professionals and policy makers.

Research

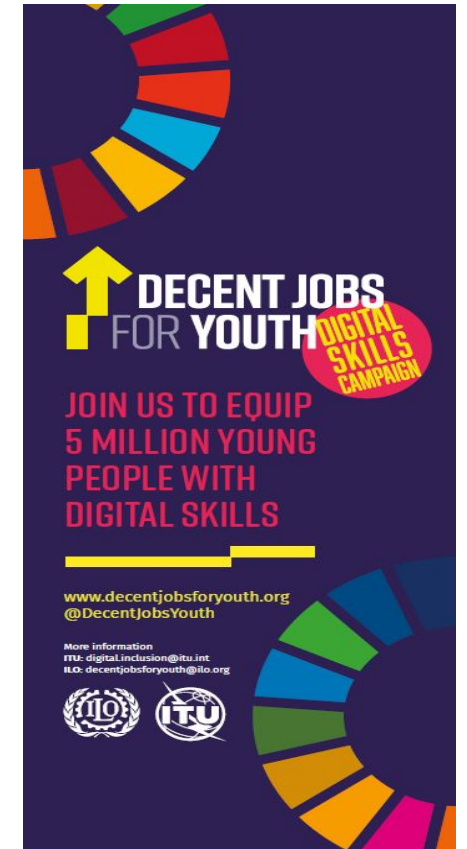
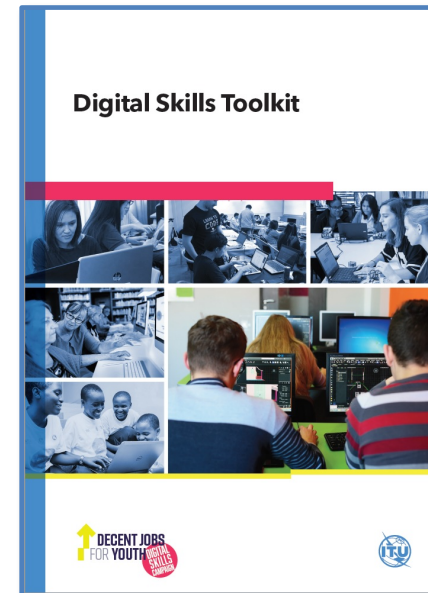
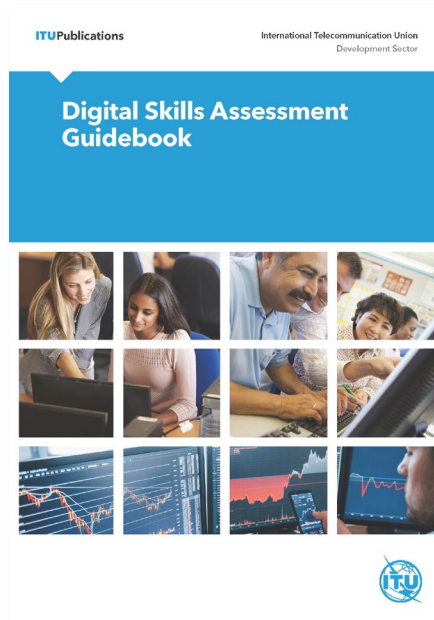
Developing and disseminating research and policy guidelines on digital capacity and skills development.

Partnerships

Engaging in strategic partnerships with key players to increase impact and scale digital skills efforts in countries.



ITU's products and services on digital skills



**Digital
Transformation
Centres**

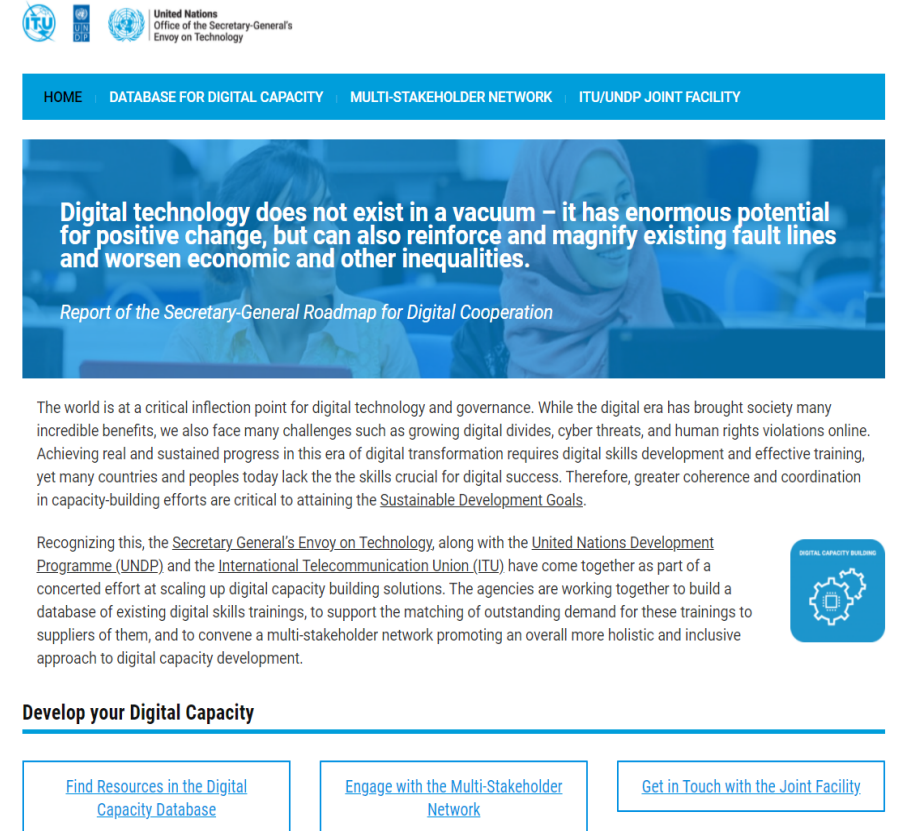
ITU Academy
Empowering minds



UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation – Digital Capacity Building work is led by ITU/UNDP

- Mapping of digital capacity initiatives
 - ❑ online self-serve database
- Rollout of a Multistakeholder Network (MSN) on digital capacity development
 - ❑ Clearinghouse function to match demand and supply
- Launch of an ITU-UNDP Joint Facility for Global Digital Capacity (19 May 2021)
 - ❑ Holistic approach to strengthen digital capacities at the country level

➔ **Check out:** <https://digital-capacity.org>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Digital Capacity Building initiative. At the top, there are logos for ITU, UNDP, and the United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. Below the logos is a navigation bar with links for HOME, DATABASE FOR DIGITAL CAPACITY, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NETWORK, and ITU/UNDP JOINT FACILITY. The main content area features a blue background with a photo of people working on laptops. A quote reads: "Digital technology does not exist in a vacuum – it has enormous potential for positive change, but can also reinforce and magnify existing fault lines and worsen economic and other inequalities." Below this is the title "Report of the Secretary-General Roadmap for Digital Cooperation". A paragraph of text discusses the challenges of digital transformation and the need for digital skills development. A small icon labeled "DIGITAL CAPACITY BUILDING" is visible on the right. At the bottom, there is a section titled "Develop your Digital Capacity" with three buttons: "Find Resources in the Digital Capacity Database", "Engage with the Multi-Stakeholder Network", and "Get in Touch with the Joint Facility".



United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
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THANK YOU

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