**Empowering A Learning Society: Reimagine Learning Systems for 21st Century Learners**

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This presentation assesses the profound disruptions caused by factors such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, climate change, and the COVID-19 Pandemic and examines their impact on the future orientations and characteristics of learning societies.

The concept of *learning societies* has been in circulation, in one form or another, for decades, supported by a wide range of stakeholders, including the international community. The philosophy of learning societies envisions learning and knowledge in both formal and informal settings beyond institutional education, as a continuum well beyond the early stage of school and university education. Learning, in this context, can occur anytime and anywhere through numerous channels within the economy and society, and a learning society adopts a life cycle approach to knowledge.

The benefits of learning extend beyond mere increases in per capita GDP. Learning enables individuals to reach their full potential as citizens, leaders, workers, and entrepreneurs. An actively learning society thus significantly contributes not only to economic development but also to social development, inclusion, and sustainability.

The concept of the learning society encourages countries to provide opportunities for education and training across various settings—formal, informal, and non-formal—spanning the entire life cycle. In a learning society, individuals, organizations, and institutions embrace a 'learning' approach to constantly adapt to changes and respond to the emerging needs of societies and economies. The measurement and monitoring of learning in different settings and systems, capable of providing materials and support for life-long learning, are crucial for the success of a learning society. Learnability or the ability to learn is a critical feature, ensuring that learners in schools, training institutions, and universities become adept at keeping pace with change, adapting to emerging needs of the economy and society, and navigating their lives most productively.

In the current times of rapid change, unpredictability, and disruptive technologies, there is an even greater need to strengthen a learning society, where education and learning are not confined to traditional and formal settings but involve key players in society to create a truly sustainable learning society. A learning society ensures that learning can occur in all corners of the society and economy, with learning links supporting and reinforcing each other.