Strategic role of ICT skills development in National Economic Development.

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Why is this topic important?

- ICT keeps changing and moves really fast

- ICT has become an incredible economic factor of the 21st century

- New ICT-based business models are being born each day

The world is getting more connected than ever

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- Cars are connected to mobile phones,
- Kitchen appliances connected to the internet,
- And so many more interconnected things...
- **All of which generate new kinds of data periodically**

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A huge amount of data is being generated every second

Business

Data

Data Analysis

New Business model

New skilled individuals are needed to handle this data

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- Now, this is where skills set in ICT are really crucial

- With not enough skills to understand this data and how to take advantage of it, it is a big pool of business opportunities being wasted.

Unfortunately skills resources are limited

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- Fresh graduates' knowledge is not exactly what the industry is looking for
- What has been taught at college is no longer what is being used today by the industry

So, how does this affect us?

THIS ICT SKILLS SHORTAGE IMPACTS OUR ECONOMY

Possible options are:

1. We may hire experienced and expensive expats,

2. We just do nothing and let potential income generation opportunities pass us by, or

3. We have to work together to handle this issue

Think about this:

1. If we hire experienced and costly foreigners

- How many US dollars per year will be **flowing from the country** if an average of 5000USD/month is spent on just one foreigner expert?

5000 USD /month = 60, 000 USD /Year

2. Or we can do nothing about it and let just potential **business opportunities** pass us by

Or…

3. Work together as a **TEAM** to handle this issue

HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS?

Strategic approach for ICT skills development
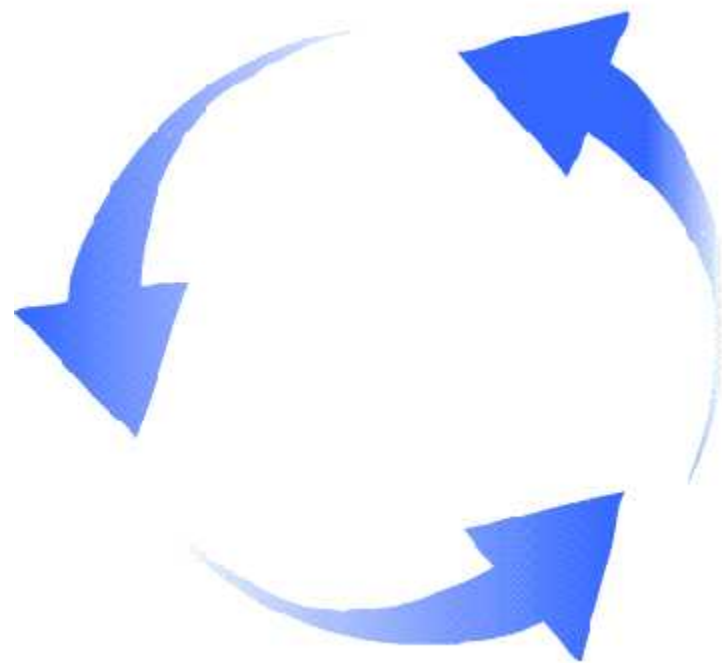
Academia + ICT Industry

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- Both the academia and the industry should collaboratively work together to support **strategic ICT skills development** through:

Periodic update of the academic curriculum

- Revising and periodically updating the academic curriculum to include new emerging technologies

Academia + ICT Industry

Career guidance in ICT

- Universities should provide **orientation sessions** and **mentorship** to students, starting from their first year, to keep them focused on **specific skills** they need to develop the most.

Academia ➕ ICT Industry

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Internship opportunities creation

- Universities and ICT industry should work on an internship base to enhance skills of a student so that they can find their place in the industry and feel like they are doing something that really matters.

Academia + ICT Industry

Conclusion

- We have seen that ICT keeps moving and changing really fast

- Students graduate with less or no skills required by the industry

- We suggested that a **NEW CURRICULUM**, **CAREER GUIDANCE** and **INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS** should be developed by both the ICT industry and the academia.

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Thank you.