



Dear RBF Participant,

We look forward to welcoming you at the 6th Responsible Business Forum next week. With regard to your participation in the discussion panel on **SDG 4: Quality Education**, we would like to share some information on the Goal and logistics:



### SCHEDULING

Date : Wednesday, 22 November 2017

Time : 11:00 – 12:30

Venue : Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, 10 Bayfront Avenue, Singapore 018956

Room : Heliconia Jr. 3511 & 3512

### FORMAT (90 Minutes)

1. **Introduction and Panel Discussion:** The facilitator and discussion panel will briefly introduce themselves, their organisations and provide a short overview of SDG 4 to frame the discussion. Speakers will then share their perspectives and examples of action on this goal. The facilitator will then moderate a discussion with questions for the panellists. (55 minutes)
2. **Audience Roundtable Discussion:** Delegates to share, discuss and agree on priority recommendations for scaling up the kind of initiatives presented during the panel, to measuring their impacts and making these part of an integrated approach to the SDGs. (20 minutes)
3. **Feedback from Roundtables:** Each table will assign a discussion leader to stand and share their recommendations with the room. (10 minutes)

Panel speaker are encouraged to join in the audience discussion. Facilitators will remain as the point of contact for the recommendations.

4. **Wrap Up:** The facilitator will wrap up with a quick summary of the main discussion points and recommendations. (5 minutes)

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

- **Scaling Up:** What can be done to accelerate and scale up these initiatives?
- **Measurement:** What can be done to measure the impact of these SDG actions?
- **Interconnectivity:** How can an integrated approach accelerate progress on this goal?

### RESOURCES

Our knowledge partner, **PwC**, has provided key facts and information about the Goal attached to this briefing note for reference.

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



### SDG 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

ENSURE  
INCLUSIVE AND  
EQUITABLE  
QUALITY  
EDUCATION  
AND PROMOTE  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR ALL.

## WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE?

59 million children are not in primary school and should be. 796 million people are illiterate. Last year, illiteracy cost the global economy over \$1trillion. Education is a major driver behind economic growth – increased educational attainment accounts for 50% of the economic growth in OECD countries.

It is an issue business cannot afford to ignore as it's driving a skills gap – there are nearly 40 million too few college-educated workers in the global labour market, and a 45 million shortfall in secondary or vocational workers in developing countries.

Increased educational attainment accounts for about 50% of economic growth in OECD countries over the past 50 years – over half of which is due to girls experiencing greater access to education.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER FOR BUSINESS?

72% of CEOs are concerned about the availability of key skills, so it's no wonder that many companies are already taking action to address this goal. Businesses that implement education and behaviour change programmes can not only address societal needs but can build new markets for their products at the same time.

## WHERE IS THIS A TOP CHALLENGE?

Iraq (target 4.2), Kenya (target 4.3), Tanzania (target 4.3).

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## POSSIBLE RELEVANT BUSINESS ACTIONS TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS GOAL

- Enforce zero-tolerance child labor policies within own operation, and influence such policies across the supply chain; support children's right to education.
- Support employees to fulfill their responsibility as parents or caregivers, including providing childcare and back up care services, financial assistance, and flexible work options.
- Provide non-discriminative and open access for all employees to vocational training and further education; ensure equal access to all company-supported education and training programs.
- Engage with educational institutions to develop programs for vocational training and employment skills, and improve teaching technical skills with innovative solutions.
- Align business and education priorities in communities of operation, through addressing educational challenges in core business operations such as human resources policies.