

Digital Skills to Succeed in Asia (DS2S)

Future-Ready Learning for Careers in the Digital Age

The challenge

The labour market is currently experiencing profound changes driven by the introduction of digital technologies. This transformation is creating an increased demand for employees equipped with digital skills, particularly impacting young university students entering the job market. The World Economic Forum emphasises that 54% of the global workforce needs to acquire digital skills to meet industry demands. However, young graduates, especially in Asia, face significant challenges:

- According to the World Skills Clock report, a significant digital skills gap exists among young people, with 92% in Bangladesh, 66.3% in India, and 70% in Viet Nam lacking essential digital skills required for technology use, information management, communication and problem-solving.
- Graduates lack practical job-relevant skills directly applicable in the labour market. Project evaluations in three countries show that this is due to the neglect of practical application and industry relevance in higher education curricula, both in tech and non-tech fields.
- The ILO report on “Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020” reveals a concerning gender gap with young women in Asia-Pacific three times more likely to “Not be in Education, Employment and Training” (NEET) than young men. This disparity is exacerbated by inadequate digital skills training across diverse backgrounds, especially impacting women.

In order to tackle these challenges, there is a critical need to bridge the skill-gap and reduce the digital divide by providing targeted education that equips students with job-relevant skills and ethical awareness for a responsible technology use.

Objective

Strengthening digital skills of young university students in Asia, positioning them for labour market success and enhancing careers in the digital era.

Project name	Digital Skills to Succeed in Asia (DS2S)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	Bangladesh India Viet Nam
Duration	2023 - 2026

DS2S contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations:



SDG 4: Enhancing the quality of education by fostering essential digital skills.



SDG 5: Promoting gender equality through inclusive participation and digital skill development for women.

Our approach

The project Digital Skills to Succeed in Asia (DS2S) aims to promote digital skills especially among non-tech university students with a special focus on women and students from underserved regions. By imparting foundational and specialised courses on Artificial Intelligence (AI), data, and digital entrepreneurship, an innovative course programme based on micro-credentials is developed. By focusing on specific, highly relevant digital skills, micro-credentials enable students to quickly adapt to current requirements and offer an agile and contemporary solution to strengthen students’ employability.

With an international multi-stakeholder approach involving universities, private sector partners, organisations, and government agencies, DS2S shares and consolidates theoretical and practical knowledge to co-design micro-credentials. The Digital Skills Network facilitates this exchange, integrating insights from Bangladesh, India, and Viet Nam. Digital Skills Country hubs serve as innovation incubators for cutting-edge digital skills education. Thus, DS2S efficiently leverages shared expertise and resources to collectively bridge the skill gap and contribute to long-term skills development by generating three main outputs: Establishing the Digital Skills Network, faculty training and micro-credentials.



Digital Skills Network

Establishing a Digital Skills Network in Asia and Digital Skills Country Hubs

- Network at the national and regional level across Bangladesh, India, Viet Nam and Germany.
- A dynamic exchange network representing stakeholders from academia, industry, government, and students.
- Exchanging a wide array of best practices, innovative application-focused learning, and cutting-edge educational methodologies.



Faculty Training

Equipping faculty with advanced digital competencies and new teaching methodologies

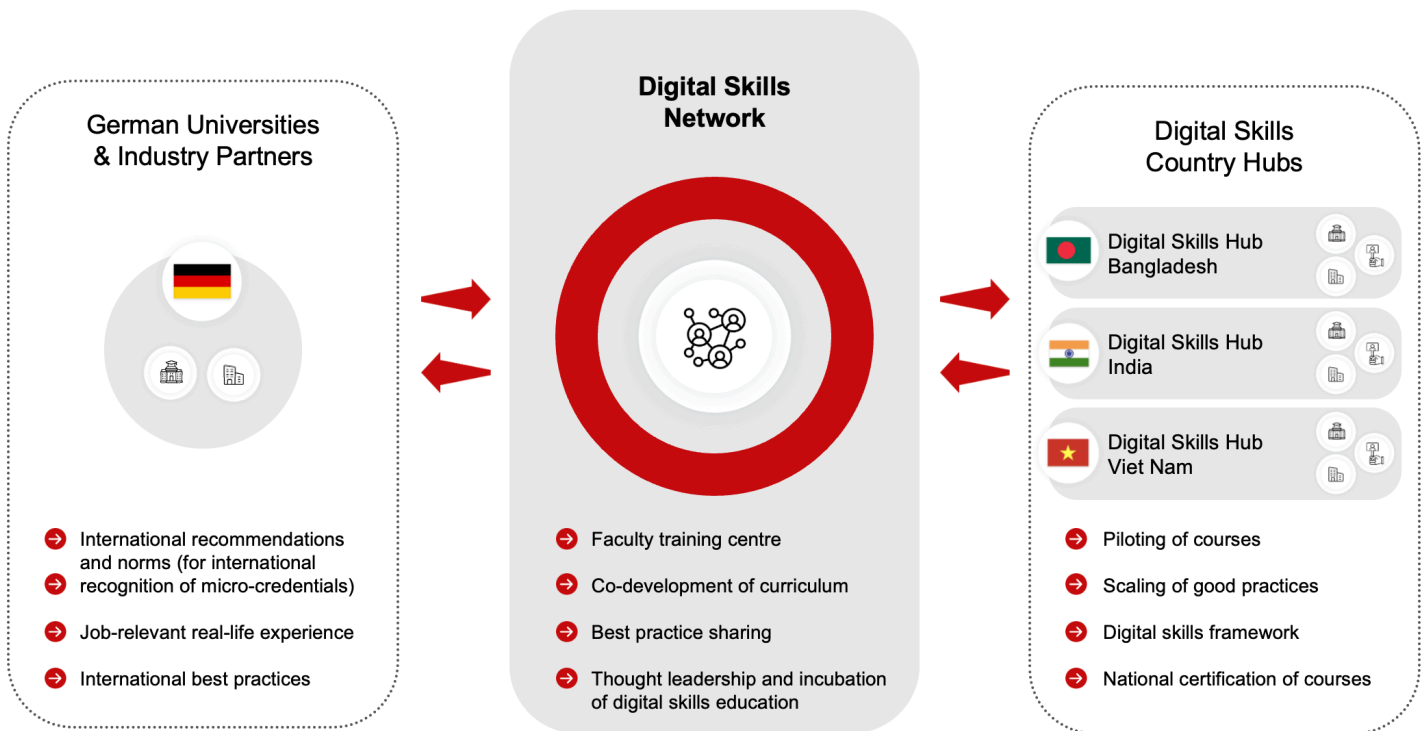
- Provide comprehensive training on essential digital tools and innovative technologies.
- Equipping faculty with training materials and methodologies to foster new teaching methods, smart learning, design thinking and the responsible use of new technologies.



Micro-Credentials

Developing a course programme with micro-credentials in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data and Digital Entrepreneurship

- Collaborate with German universities to ensure alignment with global standards.
- Partnering with the private sector to design challenge-based micro-credentials that meet future employer demands and enhance employability.
- Real-world applications to foster digital creativity and prepare students for entry into the job market.



Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Digital Skills to Succeed in Asia (DS2S)
 succeed@giz.de
 www.giz.de

Responsible Sabrina Garcia
 E: sabrina.garcia@giz.de

As at March 2024
 GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

Country contacts

Bangladesh Contact
 Christian Bochmann
 E: christian.bochmann@giz.de

India Contact
 Preyansi Mani
 E: preyansi.mani@giz.de

Viet Nam Contact
 Sita Zimpel
 E: sita.zimpel@giz.de

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)