

Press release

EMS 2016: Young People and the Future of Emerging Markets

Emerging Markets Symposium

GROWTH AND STABILITY IN EMERGING MARKETS DEPENDS ON A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINDSETS

Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, 20 May 2016: More than one billion young people now live in the emerging market countries of Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. A new report, [*Young People and the Future of Emerging Markets*](#), to be launched on 24 May in the House of Lords, London, urges their governments to address the specific needs of these young people in order to sustain economic growth, social cohesion and political stability.

The report, produced by the Emerging Markets Symposium at Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, identifies key challenges:

- High levels of unemployment among highly skilled and educated as well as unskilled young people represent not just a 'lost generation' but a squandered opportunity to capitalise on the economic dividend of a 'youth bulge'
- Suicide in some emerging market countries now runs second to transport accidents (males) and maternity (females) as a leading cause of death
- Girls aged between 15 and 19 are twice as likely – and girls under 15 five times more likely - to die of complications during pregnancy or childbirth as women aged 20 or over
- Rates of adolescent obesity are growing alarmingly in emerging markets.

The report draws attention to findings from recent neurological studies suggesting that the brain is not fully developed until the third decade of life. This biological transition may help explain some of these vulnerabilities, underlining the need for knowledgeable and empathetic guidance from authorities, teachers and health professionals. The resolution of inter-generational tensions may depend on changing generational perceptions and improving inter-generational communications.

Ian Scott, Executive Director of the Emerging Markets Symposium, said: “This report emphasises the need for practical solutions. Because emerging markets have ample recent experience of managing rapid social change, they may be better-placed to succeed than many richer countries.”

The recommendations of the report, which are aimed at multilateral institutions, business, civil society and academia as well as governments, include:

- A re-design of systems for physical and mental healthcare to make them more sensitive to the needs of young people and better integrated with social care
- A radical overhaul of education strategies to tackle weaknesses in leadership, teacher quality, curricula and technology, and in particular to increase the extent and quality of primary education as the bedrock of subsequent education and training
- A realignment of education and training with emerging labour markets and the promotion of young entrepreneurship through measures to improve financial literacy, access to credit and other services and to alleviate legislative and bureaucratic constraints.

Ian Scott added: “The challenge for the twenty emerging market countries featured in this report is to pick and mix specific agendas from generic propositions”.

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Read the Report at

https://ems.gtc.ox.ac.uk/sites/ems.gtc.ox.ac.uk/files/Young_People_Report_2016.pdf

For further information or for interviews, please contact:

- i) Paddy Coulter, EMS Head of Communications Strategy
paddy.coulter@gtc.ox.ac.uk +44 77 11 267 797
- ii) Bailey Jones, EMS Communications Officer
bailey.jones@gtc.ox.ac.uk +44 74 63 328 817

Notes to Editors

1. Emerging Markets Symposium (EMS) was created in 2008 as an initiative of Green Templeton College to promote solutions to high priority problems of human welfare in

emerging market countries. It brings together authoritative and influential leaders from governments, the public and private sectors and academe to address critical sectoral issues. Previous Symposia have focused on Health and Healthcare (2009); Urbanisation, Health and Human Security (2011), Tertiary Education (2012) Gender Inequality (2013), Maternal and Child Health (2014) and Ageing (2015) <http://ems.gtc.ox.ac.uk/>

2. Sponsorship for the Emerging Markets Symposium is generously provided on a multi-year basis by the C&C Alpha Group.

3. Green Templeton College is a graduate-only college of Oxford University with an intellectual agenda focusing on understanding the challenges of human welfare in the 21st century www.gtc.ox.ac.uk