56TH COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Why are Digital Skills Critical for Older Persons?

2 February 2018
1:15 - 2:30 pm, Conference Room 12
United Nations Headquarters, New York

MODERATOR:
Mr. Bradley Schurman, Director for Global Partnerships and Strategic Engagements, AARP

OPENING REMARKS:
Ms. Rosemary Lane, Senior Social Affairs Officer, UNDESA DSPD
H.E. Ambassador Toshiya Hoshino, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Ms. Masako Wakamiya, Retired banker and an application developer

SPEAKERS:

Mr. Obi Toshio
Director, Institute of e-Government, Waseda University, Japan

Ms. Rosalie Wang
Assistant Professor, Intelligent Assistive Technology and Systems Lab, University of Toronto

Ms. Marisa Giorgi
Director of Curriculum Development, Older Adults Technology Services (OATS)

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

*Permanent Mission of Japan
to the United Nations*

WASEDA University

NGO Committee on
AGEING
UNITED NATIONS, NY

TOPIC: Why are digital skills critical for older persons?

FORMAT: Interactive panel discussion

CONCEPT:

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), which promotes the foundation of a "Society for all Ages", recognized that technological capacity has presented extraordinary opportunities to empower older persons and to seek the full inclusion and participation of older persons in their societies. Technology can be used to bring persons together and thereby contribute to the reduction of marginalization, loneliness and segregation between the ages. Measures that enable older persons to have access to, take part in and adjust to technological changes should therefore be taken.

The 2030 Agenda recognized that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has enormous potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy.

The event will explore why digital skills are vital for older persons to participate in their societies and to better access public and private services.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How can we invest in life-long learning and continuing education to ensure that older persons have the chance to acquire digital skills?
- In what ways can we make innovation and technology accessible to older persons so that they don't miss out on their benefits?
- How can older persons use innovative technologies to contribute to poverty eradication and the well-being and prosperity of their societies?
- How can we develop and disseminate user-friendly information to assist older persons to respond to the technological demands of everyday life?