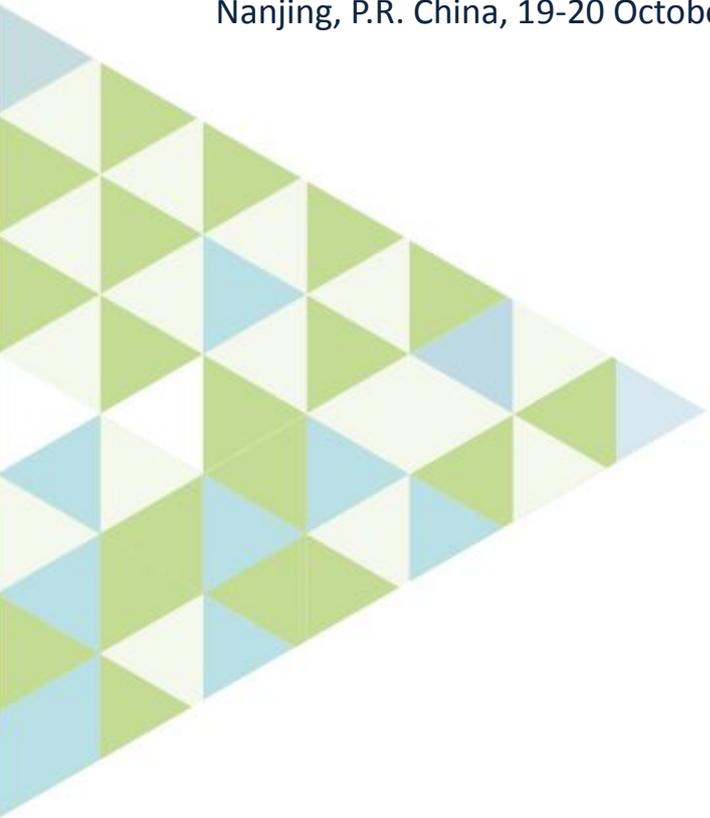




Eva Hanau

Summary Report

BIBB Asia-Pacific Networking Meeting
Nanjing, P.R. China, 19-20 October 2017



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Summary Report

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Context

Following the invitation of BIBB, representatives from partner institutions and VET experts from the Asia-Pacific region got together for the BIBB Asia-Pacific Networking Meeting 2017 in Nanjing, PR China on 19-20 October 2017. The event took place in the context of Education+, the first exhibition in China with a focus on vocational education organized by Messe Nanjing, a subsidiary of the German based Landesmesse Stuttgart.

The 2017 regional event brought together representatives from the following institutions:

- Institute of Vocational and Adult Education, Beijing Normal University, China
- Future Education Research Centre, South China Normal University, China
- Shenzhen Polytechnic, China
- Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education (CIVTE), China
- Vocational Training Council Hong Kong (VTC), Hong Kong/ China
- National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), Australia
- Korean Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET), South Korea
- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines
- Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Human Resources Development Foundation (PCCI HRDF), Philippines
- Federal Institute for the Development of Education (FIRO), Russia
- Office of Vocational Education Commission (OVEC), Thailand
- Thailand Professional Qualification Institute (TPQI), Thailand

The meeting aimed at providing a forum for exchange of country experiences and discussion of good practices as well as challenges faced in the development and reform of TVET in Asia-Pacific and beyond.

Topics of this year's event were the qualification of training personnel, digitalisation and Greening TVET, which had been identified by the participants as focal points of interest at the regional partners meeting in 2016. In cooperation with Messe Nanjing, the Ministry of Culture of Baden-Württemberg and the Landesakademie Esslingen, the programme for the "Education+ Summit" has been developed in recent months along these lines of content.

Insights and Findings

Day 1 - Taking stock:

How can VET systems respond to challenges of sustainable development?

On 19 October 2017, the first day of Education+, BIBB organized a panel discussion with German and Chinese representatives on the Education+ Summit entitled "Making VET fit for a sustainable future". The topic of the panel discussion was "How can VET systems respond to challenges of sustainable development?" and was moderated by BIBB's Michael Schwarz. The panel discussion was attended by Mr. Michael Härtel, Head of BIBB's division "Digital Media, VET personnel and distance learning" and Mr. Eugen Straubinger, President of the Federal Association of Teachers at Vocational Schools (BLBS) and Director of the Balingen Commercial School Centre. Prof. Dayue Fan of Shenzhen Polytechnic and Prof. Zhiqun Zhao from the Institute of Vocational and Adult Education at Beijing Normal University participated from the Chinese side.



Following a thematic introduction on current global trends and challenges such as digitalization, effects of globalization, demographic developments and migration for the education sector and qualifications, the panelists discussed the future role of vocational education and training and approaches to tackling current challenges in order to ensure the sustainability of VET. All in all, there

was consensus on the German and Chinese sides that VET plays an outstanding role in bridging the gap between schools and companies. In the Chinese context of the "China 2025" strategy, vocational education and training is also seen as a driving force to accompany and promote changes in the world of work. In the view of the German participants, there is a particularly urgent need for action with regard to the training of teachers in Germany, which is adapted to the new demands, a better integration and coordination of the learning venues school and company, and increasing flexibility with regard to the timing of training. On the Chinese side, particular emphasis was placed on new learning and pedagogical concepts to improve the quality of teaching and on improving the practical skills and professional experience (practical-based competence profile) of vocational teachers. Furthermore, the importance of cultivating an understanding of the benefits of VET and improving its quality was emphasized in particular for sustainable vocational education and training. In Germany, it will be of crucial importance in the future to secure the common interest of the state and industry in supporting VET, to familiarize teaching and training staff with the technological challenges and to integrate these into the lessons in an application-oriented manner.

In addition to various inputs from Baden-Württemberg and Chinese experts during the course of the summit, the President of the "Technological & Higher Education Institute

Hong Kong", Prof. Christina Hong, presented current approaches to designing a learner-centred vocational education and training system in Hong Kong to ensure students' competences for the 21st century.

Day 2 - Current approaches for sustainable VET: Digital qualification & Greening VET

On the second day of the event, Prof. Jianli Jiao, Director of the Future Education Research Centre at South China Normal University in Guangzhou, gave an overview of current developments in the field of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and the associated challenges in the field of education in China. MOOCs are attracting a large audience in China. Prof. Jiao also emphasised the challenges of ensuring the quality and effectiveness of digital teaching services, in particular the need for a pedagogical conceptualisation of digital learning services (e.g. blended learning as a promising concept) and a stronger focus on Vocational Education and Training Open Online Courses (VOOCs).

In his lecture "New approaches in the use of digital media in VET", Michael Härtel (BIBB) then highlighted the German perspective on digital qualification requirements in VET, highlighting the key characteristics of new teaching and learning methods and the changed role of training personnel, particularly in the context of in-company vocational training.



The subsequent panel discussion entitled "The use of digital media for teaching in VET - competency requirements for VET personnel and good practices" was moderated by Eva Hanau (BIBB). On the German side, BIBB representative Michael Härtel and BLBS President Eugen Straubinger took part. On the Chinese side, Prof. Jianli Jiao from South China Normal University, Dr. Ricky Ng, Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning at VTC Hong Kong, as well as a headmaster of a vocational school in Nanjing, took part in the discussion. The panel focused on the future role of training personnel and qualification requirements associated with the use of digital media in VET. On the Chinese and German sides, there was agreement that training personnel in schools and companies should continue to play a central role in the learning and training process as pedagogically trained experts, despite the increasing range of digital learning opportunities. In addition to social and professional competences, however, media-pedagogical competences on the part of the training staff are increasingly indispensable for this purpose, in order to design training processes with the use of digital media in a targeted manner and to offer orientation in the handling of digital media.



The Chinese representatives in particular stressed that the willingness of the teaching and training personnel to take part in further qualification was a central challenge. In view of the high workload of teachers, there is great scepticism about further requirements. At the same time, digital media are very popular on the pupil's side. Therefore, it is important to close the existing "gap" and to

systematically develop concepts for how the transfer of knowledge and competences with the support of digital media can be shaped in the future in order to exploit the attractiveness and innovation potential of digitally supported teaching and learning processes.

Supporting transparency of teaching and learning in VET – Good practices from BIBB

During a workshop, Michael Härtel, Head of BIBB's division "Digital Media, VET personnel and distance learning", presented the BIBB web portal for trainers "foraus.de" and the online report book "BLoK", which was developed and tested with the help of BMBF funding under the "Digital Media in Vocational Education and Training" programme.

These online services illustrate the increasing importance of digital change in VET: The foraus.de website documents the possibilities of providing targeted and result-oriented support for the transformation processes associated with digital change in designing in-company training practice. The provision of relevant information on in-company training, communication offers for the exchange of experience and web-based learning opportunities are a central reference point for training personnel. The subsequent discussion showed that this concept can be an interesting option for countries in Asia-Pacific, since it is possible to implement offers for the development of (company-based) vocational training that are independent of location and time with the help of appropriate web services.



At the same time, the example of the online report book "BLoK" illustrated that a result-oriented use of such a feature only makes sense on the basis of a basic media competence of the users, i. e. of trainees and trainees (at the respective learning locations involved). Despite the high affinity for technology, it

was found that there is a high demand for qualification of training personnel. This qualification requirement goes far beyond the competent operation of (mobile) end devices (operating competence) and aims rather to impart media and IT competence in such a way that in training contexts a reflected selection of digital media and thus a consciously supported teaching and learning process is made possible. It became clear that questions relating to the design of the digital transformation of vocational education and training systems will be even more focused in the future under the aspect of an appropriate qualification of training officers (and trainees). It is only by embedding digital tools in a coherent methodological-didactic concept that their effectiveness in terms of sustainable vocational education and training can develop.

BLok - Online report booklet to strengthen cooperation between learning locations

BLok is Germany's first online training record that works across all places of learning in vocational education and training. The trainees of a training company can keep their report books online. The responsible in-company trainers will then have the opportunity to view and approve the report portfolio weeks independently of time and location, as well as the vocational school teachers and inter-company trainers. Even the chamber itself can take part and receive the report books online for review.

Functions

- Online report book with a daily and weekly format
- Integrated development portfolio with document filing
- Administrative areas for trainers and trainees
- Messaging, commentary and reminder function
- Actual versus target comparison of the status of training
- Stored and adaptable general training plans
- Weekly and annual views for monitoring purposes
- PDF export of the report book for trainees
- Detailed and role-specific instruction material

For the entire training course, no paper, no files or unreadable handwriting. BLok is extremely flexible. If the company, vocational school or chamber of commerce does not wish to participate, the other participants can still use BLok.

International Marketplace:

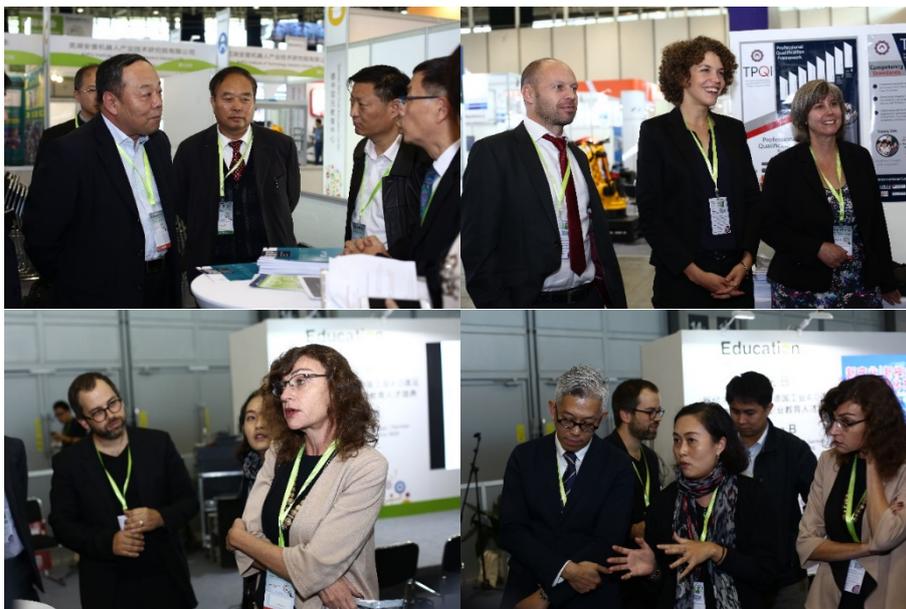
Discussing country experiences & current approaches in VET

In the afternoon, the participants of the BIBB partner institutions met in a public "international marketplace" format, which comprised the two thematic blocks "digital qualification" and "greening TVET" and was facilitated by regional experts. The aim of the marketplace was to initiate an active discussion between international representatives and other participants on the basis of a short introduction to the content and questions derived from it, and thus to promote the exchange of ideas.



Dr. Ricky Ng, Director of the Centre for Learning and Teaching at the VTC Hong Kong, organized the expert discussion entitled "Preparing VPET teachers with technology-enhanced learning and e-pedagogies". The discussion participants provided insights into the respective country contexts with regard to the perception and acceptance of technology-enhanced learning (TEL) among VET

actors, the current situation of institutional implementation and strategy development as well as pedagogical concepts for the design of media-based teaching and learning situations. As the discussion showed, there are only a few systematic approaches in the region to qualify teaching and training personnel digitally.



The representative of FIRO, BIBB's Russian partner institute, reported on the successful "prof-mayak" project for the qualification and networking of training personnel, which was developed in cooperation with BIBB on the model of the German platform foraus.de and has meanwhile been fully implemented and adapted in the Russian vocational education and training context. One of the greatest challenges in the Russian context, as well as in other countries in the region, was the willingness of the educational staff to pursue further training. Primarily time constraints, but also a lack of familiarity with digital media play a role. Dr. Ricky Ng explained that in Hong Kong a systematic service offer for the educational staff was developed, which contained clear qualification modules that were tailored to the time capacities, in order to take away the feeling of overstraining on the part of the educational staff. Furthermore, an underdeveloped IT infrastructure, especially in rural

regions (e. g. Thailand, Philippines), was cited as an obstacle which hitherto prevented digital teaching and learning concepts from being widely used in national education systems.

Prof. Dayue Fan, coordinator of the UNEVOC Center at Shenzhen Polytechnic, gave insights into the "Greening TVET and core challenges in China" concept of UNESCO-UNEVOC's "Greening TVET" concept and discussed the activities derived from it on a political and institutional level in China. In the discussion with other international representatives, it became clear that the sustainability aspect, especially in the political discourse, has already been well received in China and the Asia-Pacific region for several years. Despite this, however, there is still a lack of clear guidelines, not only in China, on how sustainability concepts can be anchored in vocational education and training.



Feedback and outlook

For BIBB, the two-day event was a good opportunity to continue the thematic dialogue of the previous year with the partners and further institutions present. As a leading institution, BIBB thus strengthens the quality of cooperation in the region, complementary to bilateral activities, and promotes peer learning activities and synergy effects within the network of partner institutions.

As part of the feedback survey, participants identified the following topics as a possible thematic focus for future events:

- Assessment of qualifications / skills / competencies / learning outcomes
- Key competencies in VET / 21st century skills in VET
- Company-based VET; Professional training & qualification of in-company trainers for quality assurance of company-based VET
- Cost-benefit of VET / Efficiency of VET

These topics could be subject of future bi- or multilateral projects in collaboration with BIBB and other stakeholders or could form a thematic focus of future partners meetings.

Overall, the event met with a very positive response from the guests and, as in the previous year. The meeting's strong focus on the exchange among partners received very positive feedback. The format was seen as a good opportunity for professional exchange and a shared learning experience at regional level. In particular, the participants considered the use of interactive methods during the partners meeting very useful. On the other hand, the participants stated that in future more time should be allocated to the interaction and discussion in the respective sessions in order to increase the quality of the discussion and

to involve all participants. In addition, the participants expressed a desire for more concrete examples so that future discussions could focus on practical experience in the region. In this context, the dissemination of information material beforehand could better support the participants to prepare for upcoming events.

The BIBB team will take this feedback into account when designing the format and content for future networking events.

Acknowledgements

“Overall, it was a great experience interacting with different VET educators around the globe. Sharing our experiences and obstacles in the progressing sector of vocational education is wonderful. We need more interactions and engagements on different topics surrounding VET to further study and later adapt an appropriate TVET model to different institutions, districts, cities and countries. Thank you for the opportunity.”

Venzel Concoles, Senior TESD specialist, Philippines

“We are grateful to the organizer for the warm reception. The event provided a very timely opportunity for us to gain more understanding of the current practices of other countries as well as the challenges deemed in the future TVET and that we must do our share of relevant preparations and actions to be able to sustain TVET in the global society.”

Mercedes Javier, Supervising TESD specialist, Philippines



*Participants of the BIBB Asia-Pacific Networking Meeting 2017
(missing: CIVTE, VTC Hong Kong, Prof. David Fan, Prof. Zhiqun Zhao, Prof. Jianli Jiao)*

