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Summary Report

2nd Regional BIBB Partners Meeting Asia-Pacific
Nanjing, P.R. China, 13-14 October 2016



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Context

Following the invitation of BIBB, TVET experts from partner institutions in the Asia-Pacific region got together for the second regional BIBB partners meeting in Nanjing, PR China on 13-14 October 2016. 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.

As of 2016, 30 cooperation agreements are in place between BIBB and partner institutions from all over the world, one of the main focuses in this regard being on the Asia-Pacific region.

The BIBB regional partners meeting 2016 brought together representatives from the following institutions:

- Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education (CIVTE), China
- National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), Australia
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India
- 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.

Info Box: BIBB Partners Meetings – A core element of international cooperation in VET

BIBB Partners Meetings have been taking place on a regular basis for more than 10 years. In this context, BIBB partner institutions discuss questions related to TVET and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Regional Partners Meetings have been established since 2010. After 2011, this year's BIBB Partners Meeting with a regional focus on Asia-Pacific took place for the second time. This development illustrates the increased relevance for international cooperation in the field of TVET in the region. In an attempt to strengthen existing cooperation and foster the role and development of TVET, BIBB aims at enhancing the exchange about current topics and trends related to TVET to respond to arising global challenges in the manufacturing and service sector.

Insights and Findings

Day 1

The future of TVET in China and the overall situation of TVET in Asia-Pacific were the central topics of discussion on the first day of the meeting, held on the occasion of the Education+ Summit.

The Education+ Summit featured a series of seminars, presentations, workshops and panel discussions. Sharing international best practices and discussing latest trends within the TVET sector, the event was attended by education executives, educators and education professionals.

International cooperation in TVET: Exchange of experiences to meet challenges in education and the world of work

During her keynote, Birgit Thomann, Head of the Department “Internationalization of VET & Knowledge Management” at BIBB, stressed the importance of international cooperation in the face of ever growing challenges due to trends of globalisation and technological developments going hand in hand with economic transformations.

“Human capital is considered a key determinant to ensure economic and social prosperity. As a matter of fact, the ability of education systems to meet skills needs is considered a crucial challenge that must be met in order to enable national economies to transform into knowledge- and technology-intensive industries.

Thus, emphasizing the crucial role of TVET and enhancing the effective delivery of TVET against the backdrop of globalization and technological progress have become a major priority of many economies in the Asia-Pacific region. Here, governments in collaboration with stakeholders can play a vital role not only in the identification of key challenges but in bringing forward new ideas and suggesting solutions.

Networking platforms such as the BIBB Partners Meetings can stimulate the exchange between relevant stakeholders in the region, strengthen existing collaboration, and ensure a better understanding of current developments and common topics of interest.”

Regional good practices:

Increasing the effectiveness of governance & delivery of TVET

The subsequent panel discussions on regional good practices in the reform of TVET systems were facilitated by Mr. Michael Wiechert, Head of the Division for International Cooperation & Advisory Services and the German Office for Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (GOVET) and Mr. Michael Schwarz, Deputy Head of the Division.

During the first panel, experts from Australia and the Philippines, namely Mrs. Jodieann Dawe, National Manager for Research and Engagement at NCVER, Mrs. Marissa Legaspi, Executive Director at TESDA and Mrs. Maricris Capistrano, Program Manager at PCCI HRDF discussed the use of evidence-based research in the governance of TVET. In general, the experts agreed that monitoring and research activities can provide useful information on current developments and challenges in the field of TVET.

Mrs. Legaspi and Mrs. Capistrano gave the implementation of empirically-based cost-benefit analyses in the Philippines as an example. Here, cost-benefit analyses are aimed at gaining insights on the effectiveness of TVET programmes. The outcomes serve to inform political decision-makers, enterprises and stakeholders as well as the development of effective TVET policies to provide young people with the necessary skills and qualifications for the labour market. In view of the results, the experts hope to strengthen stakeholders' commitment for dual TVET in the Philippines.

Mrs. Dawe highlighted NCVET's mandate to inform and influence vocational education and training in Australia through credible, reliable and responsive research and statistical services. NCVET provides stakeholders from the government, the VET sector, industry and community with research findings and evidence-based information on VET in Australia. In the future, links with similar international organisations should be strengthened to foster comparative analysis and collaboration on issues of mutual interest.

During the second panel, experts from South Korea, Russia and Thailand, namely Dr. Namchul Lee, Director General of the Center for Global Cooperation at KRIVET, Mrs. Ekaterina Esenina, Leading Staff Scientist at FIRO and Mrs. Jullada Meejul, Director of the Bureau of the General Director at TPQI discussed main objectives for the development and implementation of practice-oriented standards and curricula in TVET. In this context, they also presented their countries' approaches to address the demands of industry for adequately-skilled workforce.

As the discussion showed, the increased focus of policy-makers on the development and implementation of practice- and competency-oriented standards and curricula is mainly driven by two factors: First, economic transformation and technological progress require a continuous and effective alignment of TVET with the realities of the world of work. Second, processes of globalization and increasing regional integration enhance, amongst other things, labour mobility and hence require greater transparency of qualifications and certificates.

Overall the discussions showed that the relevance of mechanisms for the governance of TVET systems, such as empirically-based research and the institutionalisation of practice-oriented training standards and curricula, seeking to increase the quality of TVET, is now widely acknowledged. However, the panelists also pointed out challenges for achieving a sustainable and effective institutionalisation of those mechanisms in national contexts.

UNESCO-UNEVOC:

Fostering international collaboration & capacities of network partners

In her keynote, Mrs. Miki Nozawa, Programme Specialist at the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical Vocational Education and Training, introduced the audience to the activities of the UNESCO-UNEVOC network.

The overall goal of UNESCO-UNEVOC's work is to foster international collaboration and strengthen the capacities of its network partners and TVET practitioners. In this context, the main activities of network partners on global and regional level include policy

dialogue, research and capacity development. Mrs. Nozawa also highlighted the manifold opportunities of UNESCO-UNEVOC's online services to enhance exchange and peer learning among the community. Current ongoing cooperation in Asia-Pacific focuses on topics such as return on investment in TVET and supporting the transition to a green economy ("Greening TVET "). Future activities of the network are aimed to be based on UNESCO's new TVET Strategy (2016-2021) which is the outcome of a collaborative work. It reviews the development of policies and offers normative instruments and guidelines as well as opportunities for networking and peer learning activities.

The importance of quality education is also acknowledged in the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The goal is to equip all youth and adult with the skills required for employment, decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

Day 2

World Café: Discussing country experiences & current topics in TVET

The second day of the partners meeting focused on active exchange and discussion between the partner institutions.

During a world café the participants discussed country-specific experiences and topics such as

- the development and implementation of national competency standards and competency-based curricula (moderated by TPQI),
- the Meister High School approach as a recent reform project in South Korea (moderated by KRIVET),
- the internationalization in TVET and the importance for international cooperation (moderated by CIVTE)
- Training approaches for TVET teachers and company trainers (moderated by FIRO)
- The experiences from the Philippines with cost-benefit-analyses in TVET (moderated by TESDA and PCCI HRDF)
- The development of green skills in VET (moderated by CIVTE)

Info Box: World Café

A World Café (or Knowledge Café) is a workshop method which aims to provide an open and creative conversation on a topic of mutual interest. Small groups of participants gather around a table and discuss an open-ended question for a structured amount of time. Individuals switch tables after the agreed upon amount of time. The table host briefly welcomes people and introduces them on highlights of the previous discussion. Participants have multiple rounds of conversation in response to defined questions, taking the ideas from one group and adding to them, developing insights through multiple conversations with a diverse number of people, and expanding the collective knowledge of the group.

In the following, some findings of the discussions are presented:

INTERNATIONALIZATION: INFORMATION DEFICITS POSE MAJOR OBSTACLE FOR COLLABORATION

In a global perspective, current economic developments and other factors such as the uneven demographic development point to the importance of internationalization in TVET. The establishment of international bilateral / multilateral partnerships e.g. in TVET research could help to identify general trends and common good practices. In this context, the experts identified information deficits in the region as a current challenge. This was, amongst other things, attributed to a lack of reliable resources in a common language and different terminologies.

TRAINING OF TVET PERSONNEL MUST REFLECT CHANGING REQUIREMENTS

During the group discussion on training approaches for TVET personnel, participants exchanged experiences about approaches and current practices for the professional development of TVET teachers and trainers in their respective countries. In general the experts agreed that socio-economic developments require new training approaches for training personnel in TVET. In this context, hands-on experience of TVET teachers is of primary concern and could be enhanced through internships and traineeships in enterprises, taking place on a continuous basis. The experts also discussed the need for adjustments of training modules. In their opinion, changing requirements of today's labour market should be reflected through a stronger focus e.g. on methods of instruction, information technology and foreign languages in the professional development of TVET personnel.

INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS CRUCIAL FOR SUCCESS OF POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH

During the session on the Philippine's experiences with cost-benefit analyses in TVET, the participants discussed potential challenges in the implementation of cost-benefit-analyses, such as the definition of parameters and indicators used as a measure for the costs and benefits of dual TVET. As the Filipino experts pointed out, it is important that all involved stakeholders' agree on those measures in order to succeed in this undertaking. Furthermore, the participants exchanged their experiences about common challenges faced during the data collection process and discussed questions regarding the reliability of the collected data. As the discussion showed, the collaboration with BIBB has strengthened the research capacities of the national bodies in charge of TVET and TVET research in the Philippines. Overall, the Philippine's experiences with cost-benefit-analyses as means to enhance transparency and strengthen support for dual TVET aroused interest among other participants. In the course of the discussion, representatives from other countries also shared information on other approaches for monitoring the implementation of dual TVET and enhance industry's support.

FUTURE OF TVET: ECONOMY 4.0 – UNDERSTANDING CURRENT TRENDS

Moreover, the discussion showed that trends of automatization and digitization of industrial processes and their significance for TVET are of high relevance for all partner institutions. During the afternoon session, Eva Hanau, BIBB Research Associate, introduced the attendees to the current research activities of BIBB in the framework of the joint initiative "Skills for Economy 4.0 / TVET 4.0" of BIBB and the Federal Ministry for

Education and Research (BMBF) that has been initiated in 2014. All participants expressed their interest for exchange and closer research collaboration on topics in the context of TVET 4.0.

Feedback and outlook

During the wrap-up discussion the participants identified the following topics of common interest:

- Institutionalisation of TVET-related research, with a particular focus on
 - Monitoring & forecasting of labour markets and TVET systems
 - Governance of TVET
 - Financing of TVET
- Training and qualification approaches of teachers and trainers in TVET
- Practice-oriented standards and curricula in TVET

Equally relevant are questions related to trends of automatization and digitization of industrial processes and their significance for TVET. In addition, the concept of “Green Skills” discussed in the context of sustainable economic development is of great relevance to the Asia-Pacific region.

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

All parties involved expressed their keen interest to participate in BIBB’s regional partners meetings in the future. This year’s event proved, that partners meeting have the potential to lay the foundation for close exchange between stakeholders and hence enhance peer learning and collaboration on regional level. All participants agreed that future BIBB Regional Partners Meetings in the region should take place on a regular basis. In addition, email exchange and other web-based tools could further deepen exchange and cooperation among the institutions.

The meeting’s strong focus on the exchange among partners received very positive feedback. In particular, the participants considered the use of interactive methods during the partners meeting very useful. This approach should be therefore maintained during future events.

For future meetings, the participants expressed the need for more time dedicated for exchange and discussion of topics. In addition, a stronger thematic focus of the overall meeting and the dissemination of information material beforehand could better support the participants to prepare for upcoming partners meetings.

Summing up, the regional partners meeting received very positive feedback from the partners. Furthermore, the overall event proved to be quite satisfactory for all stakeholders involved in Education+.

Acknowledgements

Thank you very much for the opportunity to be part of the BIBB's Asia Pacific Partners Meeting. Overall the workshop was very informative. It provided an excellent opportunity to learn from and exchange experiences with the other partners of BIBB. It also helped in understanding the current initiatives in improving the implementation of the dual training agenda in the different partner countries."

Maricris Capistrano, PCCI HRDF, Philippines

"The meeting was informative, productive and was organized in a friendly atmosphere. It also provided a useful opportunity to learn about the developments in TVET in China."

Miki Nozawa, UNESCO UNEVOC

"This is the second time that I attended and participated in an interactive World Café. It was very focused and well organized and thus provided useful input for the participants."

Ursula Mendoza, TESDA, Philippines

"The event was well organized and offered the opportunity to make new contacts and to learn about the experiences of other countries."

Ekaterina Esenina, FIRO, Russia

"Not only were the logistics but also the topics of the summit well organized. Especially, it was great to meet all TVET related organizations from the region at the same time. It was insightful to share and receive information on rising agendas and on research topics that each country is interested in."

Chan Ju Lee, KRIVET, South Korea



Participants of the 2nd Regional BIBB Partners Meeting Asia-Pacific 2016