



Statement and Framework of Action: Regional Capacity Building Workshop for UNEVOC Centres in the Arab Region (Amman, 2-4 July 2012)

Preamble

In accordance with the new UNESCO Strategy for TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC has repositioned its role and function as the UNESCO's lead agency for worldwide service in TVET development, with the unique mandate to promote and assist countries implement a holistic vision of TVET, which encompasses the notions of education and training in an equal manner, which is lifelong, and accessible to all.

In March 2012, the experts in the Arab Regional Experts Meeting at Muscat discussed the status of TVET and its relationship to the labour market in the Arab States, as well as the accomplishments that have been achieved since the Second International Congress on TVE which was held in Seoul (1999), in addition to the persistent challenges that still continue to arise. Moreover, the Arab region shares the international concerns in making TVET an essential tool for achieving sustainable development and lifelong learning.

In May 2012, the participants in the Third International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training Congress at Shanghai reviewed the major trends and policy developments in TVET since the Second International Congress held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in 1999. The challenges faced by TVET systems were discussed to explore appropriate responses aimed at building a better understanding of the contribution of TVET to sustainable development and at defining strategic directions for cooperation among countries and with the international community to support TVET for all, within the framework of the overall efforts in favour of access, inclusion and equity, education for sustainable development and a culture of peace

In this context, UNESCO -UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn, and the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Beirut, with the support of the UNESCO Offices in Amman, Doha, Cairo, Rabat and Iraq and its UNEVOC Centres in the Arab States, with the active support of the NCHRD-Jordan organised a 3-day Regional Capacity Building Workshop for UNEVOC Centres in the Arab States in Amman, Jordan (2-4 July 2012).

The workshop aims at achieving the following objectives:

1. To consider the present roles and responsibilities of the UNEVOC centres in the priority intervention areas identified in the Muscat meeting in March 2012 and the role UNEVOC centres should play in these areas as well as the capacity that is needed to achieve them;
2. To share experiences with participants from other countries on good practices in different parts of the Arab region; and
3. To consider the follow up that can be given to the Third International Congress on TVET (Shanghai, May 2012) and the TVET Regional Expert Meeting (Muscat, March 2012).

The workshop also considered the role of the UNEVOC Centres within the national policy framework and considered how to involve them more directly in:

1. A national policy review and related policy development;
2. Establishing the required data base for TVET; and
3. The production of information and knowledge needed at national and sub-regional level.

The Workshop provided an opportunity for UNEVOC Bonn and the other UNESCO Offices in the Arab region to share with the UNEVOC Centres:

1. The orientations of the UNESCO TVET strategies for the region and countries in the cluster;
2. The present and planned activities of the UNESCO Offices;
3. The repositioning of the UNEVOC International Centre;
4. The new UNEVOC Network strategy; and
5. The online services available at UNEVOC International Centre, Bonn.

Participants

Participants were the Directors and Deans of UNEVOC Centres in the Arab region, Programme Specialists responsible for Education/TVET from the UNESCO Regional Bureau – Beirut, and other UNESCO Field Offices in the Arab region (Amman, Iraq, Doha). Participants came from the following countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Country presentations and group work enabled the sharing of good practices, the identification of capacity-building needs and opportunities, and agreement on areas where actions can be taken most productively. The three working groups were asked to propose some activities within the five domains: governance, pedagogy, equal opportunity, awareness and media, and cooperation and coordination. The main themes of the three working groups can be summarized as follows:

- **Group 1 (Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon):** to develop and enhance the quality assurance systems in TEVT; conduct research of an interest topic in education and training to all group members; organize exhibit for families and labour market; and use all types of media to raise the awareness of the importance of TEVT for working and life.
- **Group 2 (Oman, Qatar, and Yemen):** to organize workshops on Instructional Skills -ISW; collaborate with experts to design training programmes to prepare TEVT teachers and instructors, organize a regional conference about the community colleges as an intermediate technical education to link their outputs with labour market; and to prepare a joint activity about integrating entrepreneurship education in the curricula.
- **Group 3 (Egypt, Libya, Sudan, and Tunisia):** to strengthen the governance in TEVT sector in terms of regulations, legislations and rules, benefit from success stories in TEVT; enhance cooperation among TEVT centre of excellence; exchange some disciplines between Egypt and Sudan in the Egyptian schools in Sudan; and conduct regular coordination meetings for these countries to follow-up what have been agreed on.

The 20 participants from 10 Arab countries, UNESCO Specialists from the Regional Bureau and three other Field Offices (Amman, Iraq, and Doha), including directors and policy makers, and representatives from UNEVOC Centres pledged commitment to the following:

- Assist in a national policy dialogue and to review related policy development;
- Produce TVET information, knowledge and data needed at national and sub-regional level;
- Enhance the visibility of the UNEVOC Centres;
- Strengthen communication and collaboration with relevant stakeholders at national, regional and global levels; and
- Organise national and sub-regional network activities on TVET issues, and actively participate in events organised by the UNEVOC Network.

The participants have been informed of the new UNEVOC Strategy and agree with the four action lines proposed:

1. Strengthen the capacities and define the roles of the International Centre and the national Centers within the network;
2. Revamp the Network for better coordination and increased effectiveness;
3. Active engagement of the Network in the resource and knowledge management and online services; and
4. Scale up South and North South collaboration Centres and other partners.

In this connection, they commit themselves to taking the following actions:

NATIONAL ACTIONS

Promote the visibility of the UNEVOC Network, through:

UNEVOC CENTRES

- To organize in their country at least ONE activity piloted by their Centre UNEVOC, aiming at sharing with the maximum of stakeholders the synthesis of tasks defined in the different groups at the Amman meeting to foster the implementation of the recommendations of the Muscat meeting and the Shanghai 3rd TVET World Congress in May, 2012.
- To increase their visibility at national level by developing and leading the TVET national network and taking an active part in promoting and scaling up good practices at national and regional levels.
- To gather information on national TVET policies, systems and good practices, national needs regarding the development and strengthening of TVET, and innovative approaches that could be documented, disseminated, transferred and adapted.
- To make more use of the UNEVOC online services and share information with other national and regional institutions and to ensure information flow to and from UNESCO and other UNEVOC Centres on topics related to network development and upgrading.
- To report on experiences regarding TVET in their own country and report back to the Network and engage in trans-national cooperation processes and projects.
- To contribute to research, UNESCO publications and data bases by providing examples of best practices, of national initiatives and other activities carried out by the Centre.

- To update relevant data concerning the UNEVOC Centres.

UNEVOC International Centre and UNESCO Offices

- To distribute to all Member States in the Arab region the Amman Statement and the Final Report of the Capacity Development meeting and monitor progress of agreed actions.
- To assist the UNEVOC Centres by providing them with resources needed to effectively play their role at national and regional level.
- To disseminate more information on the UNEVOC online services and develop capacity at different levels for the use of these services through the issue of additional instructions.
- To facilitate networking and cooperation among TVET stakeholders within the ARAB region and with other regions through information and experience exchange, study visits, North-South-South cooperation.
- To engage in advocacy and awareness raising related to TVET through meetings, the use of ICTs and other channels as well as promotes the recommendations of the Third International Congress on TVET (Shanghai 2012).