



News submitted by: Mr. WANG Bingfeng, from the UNEVOC Centre Coordinator at Shenzhen Polytechnic (People's Republic of China)

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Chinese UNEVOC Centre hosts an International Conference

From May 11, 2018 to May 12, 2018, the Belt & Road International Conference on TVET themed at "Mutual Learning and Mutual Benefit" was successfully held at Shenzhen Polytechnic. Under the guidance of the Department of Vocational and Adult Education of the Ministry of Education and the Secretariat of National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, the conference was sponsored by the Chinese Society of Vocational and Technical Education, the Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education of the Ministry of Education and the Department of Education of Guangdong Province, and organized by Shenzhen Polytechnic. More than 100 renowned TVET experts from 21 countries and regions and more than 200 experts, scholars and representatives from vocational colleges, enterprises and sectors in China (including 110 presidents of domestic and international colleges) gathered at Shenzhen Polytechnic to have in-depth dialogues on topics like "Belt and Road" construction and TVET. The purpose was to give advices and suggestions on building a "Belt and Road" TVET community, facilitating the reform and development of regional TVET and providing more high-level technical talents for the "Belt and Road" Initiative. The conference was divided into eight sessions, respectively opening ceremony, keynote speeches, policy dialogues, dialogue about cutting-edge topics, college-enterprise dialogue, presidents' dialogue, culture performance of culture-oriented education and closing ceremony. During the conference, an in-depth dialogue was made on international cooperation in and development of TVET under the context of the "Belt and Road" Initiative, an inauguration ceremony was held respectively for two TVET research centres, four cooperation agreements were signed and a Shenzhen Consensus was reached.

I. Experts Gathered to Discuss T

1. *Addresses by leaders: Stress upon giving full play to the role of TVET in serving the "Belt and Road" Initiative*

Ms. Lu Xin, Vice Director of the Office of the Central Coordination Group for Xinjiang Affairs, Former Minister of the Ministry of Education and Member of the 13th CPPCC National Committee, Ms. Marielza Oliveira, Representative of Five Northeast Asian Countries and Director of Beijing Office of the UNESCO, Mr. Xing Feng, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Education of Guangdong Province, and Mr. Wu You, Deputy Secretary General of the People's Government of Shenzhen Municipality delivered their speeches on the opening ceremony.

Ms. Lu Xin said on the ceremony that talents were critical to promoting the building of the "Belt and Road", to which education was the fundamental; therefore, TVET must fully play its role in it. TVET is a key part of national education and human resource development and a key pathway for young people towards success. A key purpose of TVET is to train diversified talents, pass on technologies and skills and promote employment and entrepreneurship. Ms. Lu Xin believed that, maintaining the foremost position in China's Reform and Opening-up, Shenzhen set a typical example in innovation and development; while Shenzhen Polytechnic set an example in educating high-quality technical talents and delivering frontline technical HR to the modern service industry and enterprises. She also



said that China was willing to enhance cooperation with other countries in TVET and actively promote vocation education to serve the building of the "Belt and Road"; and China would also continue to learn from good experiences and practices of other countries to improve the quality and standard of its vocation education, play a constructive role in the development of the world's TVET, and make new contributions to upgrading the world's TVET to a higher level.

Dr. Marielza Oliveira emphasized the importance of TVET in serving the development of countries along the "Belt and Road" in her speech. She said that the UNESCO would continue to expect the increasingly important role that China would play in TVET, especially TVET in countries along the "Belt and Road", and would deepen cooperation and share information with the foregoing countries to create a bright future for the world.

In his speech, Mr. Xing Feng expressed his hope to make a discussion on the model of enhancing exchanges and cooperation on this conference. He also hoped that vocational colleges in Guangdong province should seize this opportunity to learn from advanced experience of colleges at home and abroad, continue to improve their own standard of school running, and better serve the building of the "Belt and Road". He said that the Department of Education of Guangdong Province would continue to promote TVET cooperation and development under the "Belt and Road" Initiative, actively build a platform for dialogues and exchanges, and contribute more to building a TVET community for countries and regions along the "Belt and Road". Mr. Wu Yong said that Shenzhen had made huge successes in leading the opening-up as a special economic zone, actively serving the "Belt and Road" Initiative, and promoting industrial cooperation and education globalization in recent years. With regard to TVET, Shenzhen continued to spend more efforts in its involvement in the building of the "Belt and Road", actively promote vocation education cooperation and exchange at home and abroad, introduce high-level talents and teams from abroad, and strive to improve its capability in training internationalized technical talents. He hoped that TVET and research institutions at home and abroad would make cooperation and exchange with Shenzhen.

2. Keynote speech: Seek for development and explore the future of TVET

In the keynote speech session convened by Mr. Wang Yangnan, Director of Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Ge Weiwei, Deputy Inspector of the Department of Vocational and Adult Education of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Peter Norman Greenwood, Consultant of the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Center for Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Professor Xu Qinhu, Director of the Belt and Road Research Center of the National Academy of Development and Strategy of the RUC respectively made a great speech to offer professional interpretations and in-depth analysis on problems like future development concept of China's TVET, a series of action plans proposed by the UNESCO on TVET, and opportunities and challenges brought by the "Belt and Road" Initiative to China's vocation education.

In his speech titled Adhering to the Reform and Opening-up and Developing the Chinese-style TVET, Mr. Ge Weiwei explained the importance of TVET in the "Belt and Road" Initiative from three perspectives of major progresses in reform and development of China's TVET, major results from carrying out international cooperation under the "Belt and Road" Initiative and next step working concept of TVET. He also emphasized the point to solve new problems that limit the development of TVET and contribute to building a community with a shared future for mankind by strengthening efforts in discussion and cooperation. Themed at Transforming TVET for Sustainable Development - UNESCO-UNEVOC and the Belt and Road Initiative, Mr. Peter Greenwood analyzed the situations of TVET in the world, introduced the 2018-2020 strategic plan of the UNESCO-UNEVOC, and explained the complementary and cooperative relationship between the UNESCO-UNEVOC and the "Belt and



Road" Initiative. He proposed to establish a new TVET system and develop a new model of TVET to offer more opportunities and resources to students for their future development. Themed at Belt and Road Initiative: Opportunities and Challenges, Professor Xu Qinhua started from the opinions of different countries in the world on China's "Belt and Road" Initiative and presented actual cases to discuss the impacts of the ancient and modern "Silk Roads" on the world in aspects like politics, economy and culture. She also stressed upon the importance of international cooperation, and the necessity of developing TVET under the "Belt and Road" Initiative facing huge challenges that the global higher education transformation could not satisfy the talent demands for the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

2. **Policy dialogue: Develop a healthy and sound mechanism and reach a consensus**

This dialogue session was a platform for exchange of TVET policies in various countries, covering national TVET development experience, and measures on promoting youth employment, advancing industrial development, and raising people's living standards. This also served as a platform to discuss the approaches and policies on human resource development and TVET cooperation under the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

Education-related government officials from six countries made their speeches on TVET policies of various countries in this dialogue session, respectively Technical Vocational Education and Training Policy of Cambodia in context of Belt and Road by Nuon Vansoeurn, Deputy Director of the Department of Vocational Orientation of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Supporting Greater Awareness of Vocational Education and Training by Ms. Katherine Vickers, Minister-Counsellor (Education and Research) of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, UK Skills System by Mr. Ralph Rogers, Director of Education of British Council China, An Insight of Malaysia TVET Initiative by Dato' Amir bin Md. Noor, Ex-Director General of Polytechnic and Community College Malaysia of the Ministry of Higher Education, Direction TVET Policy in Lao PDR: Issues, Challenges, and Step Forward 2020 by Saykham Phanthavong, Representative of Deputy Director or General of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education of the Ministry of Education and Sport, LAO P.D.R, and TANZANIA's Perspective: Skills are the Key to Belt & Road Construction by Hussein Mtoro, Assistant to Tanzania Ambassador to China. These education-related government officials and experts shared their analysis and opinions on the existing TVET system, as well as characteristics and advantages of local policies on TVET. Each country had formulated its own governing policies on TVET that suit its development for the purpose of promoting youth employment, eliminating poverty and facilitating economic and social development. Some officials suggested that strengthening policy communication and economic cooperation is a key assurance to promoting common development of the "Belt and Road" and TVET. Therefore, it is necessary to initiate bilateral and multi-lateral dialogues and exchanges on TVET policies, and brainstorm to reach a consensus on TVET.

3. ***Dialogue about cutting-edge topics: Identify and follow the trend***

This session was a dialogue platform for TVET and industry experts to discuss the development trend and features of the new technology revolutions and industry reforms, the challenges faced by TVET, as well as measures or strategies to be taken by TVET.

In this session, Dr. Chen Qiuming, Chairman of College Board of Shenzhen Polytechnic, Dr. Carrie Yau, Executive Director of the Vocational Training Council (Hong Kong), Dr. Jessie Harman, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Federation University, Australia, Mr. Chen Xiaoming, Director of the Education



Development Center of China National Machinery Industry, Dr. Oliver Diehl, Expert of TVET of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany, Mr. Shen Zhiyong, Chief Data Scientist of Baidu Cloud Corp., and Zhao Lingzhi, Business Director of Ping'an International Smart City Technology Limited Liability Company discussed the future development trends of TVET from perspectives of cutting-edge topics in technology, industry and education. Speeches made by these seven guests were respectively titled: How Shall Higher Vocational Colleges Transform in the Context of Artificial Intelligence, TVET, New Technology and Industry Reform, Industry Reform: TVET in Australia, From Imbalance and Insufficiency to High Quality and High Standard - Thinking on Industry-Education Development in TVET Facing the Reform in the Manufacturing Industry, TVET 2018 – Meeting the Challenges - Cutting Edge Topics in German Vocational Training, Talent Development in the Context of Artificial Intelligence, and Educational Reform Driven by Technology. In his speech titled How Shall Higher Vocational Colleges Transform in the Context of Artificial Intelligence, Mr. Chen Qiuming explained that TVET must evolve with social and economic development on the ground of transformation and upgrade of vocation education caused by three technological and industrial revolutions. Regarding characteristics of technological and industrial revolution, he introduced the practice of Shenzhen Polytechnic and proposed that Shenzhen Polytechnic had to transform itself into a cradle for technical talents in the age of intelligence, a cradle for entrepreneurs, a technology R&D center for micro, small and medium enterprises, and a school for life-long education of citizens by carrying out "six integrations" and training innovative technical talents. Only by doing so can it meet the talent demands of artificial intelligence and industrial upgrade and better serve the countries and regions along the "Belt and Road" by delivering technical talents.

4. ***University-enterprise dialogue: Join hands with each other to deepen integration***

University-enterprise cooperation and industry-education integration are inevitable courses towards the development of vocation education, and are also key assurance to improve the talent training quality of vocation education. This session was the dialogue platform between Chinese and foreign presidents and entrepreneurs to exchange the successful experience of university-enterprise cooperation, to discuss the new forms and mechanisms of university-enterprise cooperation, to understand the enterprises' demand for talents and their expectations for TVET, and to talk about how TVET institutions better serve enterprises.

In this session convened by Mr. Wu Xianwei, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Society of Vocational and Technical Education, Ms. Zhang Yan, Chairman of the Board of AVIC-INTL Project Engineering Company, Mr. Zhao Pengfei, President of Guangdong Construction Polytechnic, Mr. Zhang Renjun, Chairman of the Board of ZTEICT Technology Co., Ltd., Professor Claudio Boër, Vice President of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland, Mr. Yang Jianxin, Chairman of College Board of Wuxi Vocational Institute of Commerce, Mr. Lin Wuchuan, General Manager Assistant of Shekou Container Terminals Ltd. and Mr. Dai Lianhua, President of Hunan Vocational College of Railway Technology delivered their speeches. Speeches made by these seven college and enterprise representatives were respectively titled: Industry-Education Integration Serves the Building of the "Belt and Road", Making Use of University and Enterprise Resources to Train Local Talents for the "Belt and Road", New Paths for University-Enterprise Cooperation under the Vision of Globalization, University-Enterprise Cooperation in Switzerland, Practice and Thinking of Serving the "Belt and Road" through "Going-out" University-Enterprise Cooperation, New Opportunities for University-Enterprise Cooperation in the Context of the "Belt and Road", and Implementing the "Three-step" Model to Create an International Railway TVET Brand. They shared their successful experience in university-enterprise cooperation, and discussed new forms and mechanisms of



university-enterprise cooperation, as well as demands of enterprises on talents and expectations of enterprises on TVET. They also gave their opinions on how to deepen the university-enterprise cooperation so as to serve the building of the "Belt and Road", and promote youth employment and social and economic development.

5. ***Presidents' dialogue: Learn from each other and explore the model***

This session was a dialogue platform for the presidents from Chinese and foreign institutions of higher education to discuss the development strategies and practices of internationalization, to explore the practices and experience of running a school abroad, to explore the opportunities of cooperation between universities in various countries under Belt and Road initiative and to discuss how Chinese TVET institutions provide technical and human resources support to "Belt and Road" projects.

In this session convened by Mr. Chen Xiaoming, Director of the Education Development Center of China National Machinery Industry, Professor Christina Hong, President of Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, Mr. Yang Qunxiang, Chairman of College Board of Guangdong AIB Polytechnic, Prof. Dr. Wolrad Rommel, President of Saarland University of Applied Sciences, Mr. Alister Mathieson, Vice-President, Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, Mr. Yu Lanping, President of Tianjin Bohai Vocational Technical College, Dr. Heikki Malinen, Vice-President of Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences (JAMK), Finland and Mr. Marc Doesburg, Vice President of Otago Polytechnic delivered their speeches. The speeches made by these seven presidents from renowned colleges and universities at home and abroad were respectively titled How TVET Serves the Belt and Road Initiative, Taking Industry-University Advantages to Realize Education Interconnection - AIB's Scheme for Serving the "Belt and Road", Pathways to Future Engineering, Educational Leadership and the Belt and Road Global Initiative, "Luban Workshop"-- TVET International Cooperation New Platform, TVET Contributing to Belt & Road Initiative, and Belt & Road: International Development Driver. The presidents had an intense discussion on how to serve the "Belt and Road", shared their practices and experiences in exploring the "going-out" strategy and realizing global and industrial cooperation.

II. **Inauguration Ceremonies for Two Centers of TVET**

On the opening and closing ceremonies of the conference, an inauguration ceremony was respectively held for Research and Training Center for UNESCO Asia–Africa TVET Project and Belt and Road TVET Research Center of the Chinese Society of Vocational and Technical Education. The former will make use of modern industrial and technological advantages of Shenzhen and refer to school running experience of Shenzhen Polytechnic to launch TVET research and training programs suitable for actual local demands in Asia and Africa so as to help Asian and African countries improve their TVET quality and promote sustainable development of TVET.

III. **Four Agreements Signing Ceremonies for Serving the "Belt and Road"**

On the closing ceremony, Mr. Jia Xingdong, President of Shenzhen Polytechnic, signed a cooperation agreement respectively with Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Saarland University of Applied Sciences, Vocational Training Council (Hong Kong) and Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) on behalf of Shenzhen Polytechnic. Shenzhen Polytechnic will set up a "TVET Center" and a "Mandarin Test Center" at Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, and assign excellent teachers to offer courses on communication engineering, logistics management and e-commerce. This will be a strong action taken by Shenzhen Polytechnic with regard to running a school abroad and serving



countries along the "Belt and Road" through standard talent delivery. Shenzhen Polytechnic will also work with CDRI to carry out regional TVET research and organize relevant exchange and training programs.

IV. Iconic Result from Deepened Cooperation - Shenzhen Consensus

After wisdom collision and idea exchange for one day and a half, the conference deepened the international cooperation in TVET, and enabled a consensus to be reached in several field - Shenzhen Consensus. The purpose of the consensus is to directly face the impacts and challenges brought by new technological and industrial revolutions to TVET, deepen international cooperation in TVET, innovate the mode of TVET and improve the overall TVET development.

V. Demonstrate the Attraction of the Traditional Chinese Culture and the Achievements Made in Culture-oriented Education

At 19:00 p.m. May 11, 2018, a culture performance of culture-oriented education (as a demonstration session of the conference) was unveiled on Xili Lake Campus, Shenzhen Polytechnic, and won a lot of praise from guests and spectators with its brilliant programs and diversified forms of performance. Guests like Mr. Liu Zhanshan, Standing Vice Chairman of the Chinese Society of Vocational and Technical Education, Mr. Yu Zhongwen, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Society of Vocational and Technical Education, Ms. Qian Yonghong, Deputy Secretary of the Leading Party Members' Group and Deputy Chief of the Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of Guangdong Province, and Mr. Liang Guosheng, Editor-in-Chief of TVET of China Youth Daily watched the performance as accompanied by Mr. Chen Qiuming and Mr. Jia Xingdong of Shenzhen Polytechnic.

The performance, a joint result of creation, adaptation and performance by teachers and students of Shenzhen Polytechnic, presented a cultural party that demonstrated Shenzhen Polytechnic's achievements made in culture-oriented education. Themed at traditional culture, the performance mainly presented historical background of the Silk Road, and traditional Chinese and ethnic artistic songs and programs, and was a high-quality high-standard cultural and art performance.

VI. Media Report

As of May 15, the conference was covered in more than 10 reports on 11 traditional paper media including China Youth Daily, Guangming Daily, Shenzhen Special Zone Daily, Hong Kong Commercial Daily and more than 10 reports on nine traditional network media including Guangming Online and China News Service (CNS). As an innovative introduction of this conference, a 3.5-hour live video of the opening ceremony and the first session of keynote speeches and policy dialogues was played on XINHUANET and was watched by an accumulated number of hundreds of thousands of people/time and a number of simultaneous online viewers up to 42,862 people/time by May 15, 2018. 11 promotional articles, news releases, in-depth interpretations and tweets on key views relating to this conference were posted on the official WeChat account of Shenzhen Polytechnic and were viewed by nearly 40,000 users. Major articles were extensively forwarded by national and provincial education platforms like Toutiao.com, Chinazy.org, K618.cn, China Youth Daily Qingluban, Zjteachers.com and Mingshishuo.

The conference was held successfully under the guidance and strong support of various authorities and sponsors. Shenzhen Polytechnic will fully learn from the conference, continue to actively respond to the "Belt and Road" Initiative, take actions by following the Action Plan on Promoting



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Education While Jointly Advancing the "Belt and Road" Initiative issued by the Ministry of Education, deepen university-enterprise integration, serve the building of the "Belt and Road", enhance international cooperation, promote international exchange and cooperation in TVET and strive to build a leading higher TVET institution with Chinese characteristics.