



Innovation & Technology

Co-creation Centre

Innovation and Learning Practice

Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Project

Submitted by Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong, China

The Innovation & Technology Co-Creation Centre at Hong Kong's Vocational Training Council focuses on providing young entrepreneurs with the resources and technical knowledge they need to develop innovative prototypes and concepts. The initiative also enhances awareness among students and teachers about the need for entrepreneurial practices and mindsets within the labour market and at companies.

Start date: January 2019

Type of implementing institution: National body

Target group: VTC students, alumni, staff and industry partners

Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong, China

Established in 1982, VTC is the largest vocational and professional education and training provider in Hong Kong, offering valuable credentials for some 200,000 students each year through a full range of pre-employment and in-service programmes with internationally recognized qualifications. The VTC's 'think and do' approach cultivates passion for learning while imparting necessary skills and know-how for success.

Description of activities

The Innovation & Technology Co-creation Centre at Hong Kong's Vocational Training Council (VTC) nurtures young talent and fosters a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Through strong partnership and collaboration with industry partners, the initiative seeks to build a successful and robust innovation ecosystem.

A number of training programmes are designed to develop future skills and competencies for students. These include the Xccelerate Programme, the Entrepreneurship Programme and the Innovation & Technology Ambassador Programme. Through guidance and mentorship by industry practitioners and academic staff, these programmes are designed to encourage an exchange of ideas, development of concepts and integration into the working world and society.

The Centre is set up in a convenient location in Hong Kong and consists of three zones:

- Stage21 is a start-up pitch training platform for young entrepreneurs to exchange ideas and cultivate entrepreneurial mindsets.
- iTech Xchange showcases outstanding collaboration projects to industry partners.
- Co-creation Square provides a stimulating working space, resources and equipment to support student research and innovative ideas.

Relevance

Why is a centre dedicated to entrepreneurship necessary?

As increasing number of young people enter the job market with a perceived lack of confidence to address challenges of the modern labour market and mismatched skills to navigate workplace requirements, the Co-Creation Centre equips students with the latest digital and essential soft skills. Thanks to close collaboration with industry partners, students tackle real-life problems through training programmes that include the latest technology, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet-of-Things (IoT) and Cloud technologies, as well as relevant soft skills.

How are entrepreneurial mindsets aligned with larger initiatives?

One of VTC's strategic initiatives is called 'Nurturing Talents for Smart City Development'. It aims to strengthen industrial partnership and collaboration, create opportunities for students to engage in industrial and commercial projects and provide a platform for open innovation and co-creation of applications with industries. This focuses the work conducted within the Co-Creation Centre on innovations that are relevant to an urban area like Hong Kong.

Added value

How does the Co-Creation Centre improve TVET across Hong Kong?

VTC is a large organization: thirteen member institutions provide a range of TVET opportunities to more than 200,000 students. The Co-Creation Centre bridges relevant disciplines, technology and knowledge centres in member institutions with industry partners from different domains. To support the development of TVET in Hong Kong, the Centre:

- initiates and coordinates multi-disciplinary collaboration and supports project-based learning
- provides industry-relevant training and acceleration programmes to young talents
- promotes integration of concepts and ideas with industry partners
- supports innovation capability development
- advocates for technology transfer and commercialization of co-creation projects.

What resources are available to students and instructors?

In addition to Stage 21, iTech Xchange, and Co-Creation Square, the Centre also utilizes two innovative tools. The **Pitch Coaching System** is an award-winning AI-powered interactive presentation analysis tool that measures the effectiveness of a presentation and helps hone pitching and presentation skills. The **Knowledge Management System** collects and showcases outstanding innovative co-creation projects in a platform for knowledge sharing and new idea generation. With the support of industry partners, students and trainers can take part in a series of training programmes and activities, such as a project pitching competition, AI and IoT introductory courses, or train-the-trainer workshops. Students are also encouraged to apply for funding for commercializing their innovations.

What are some direct benefits to having close ties to large industry stakeholders?

By collaborating with industry partners such as Microsoft and IBM, existing learning and teaching materials in platforms like the Microsoft Imagine Academy and IBM SkillsBuild are used to enhance the curriculum in higher diploma programmes. The new curricula and training are better suited to prepare students for future workplaces. By working with partners such as the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks, students gain access to funding opportunities.

Transferability

What aspects of the initiative have been transferred so far?

The Co-Creation Centre serves as a good reference for similar initiatives at other institutions. VTC is planning to replicate the model and set up a new Innovation & Technology Co-creation Centre with Shenzhen Polytechnic, a peer UNEVOC Centre.

What preconditions need to be fulfilled before an initiative of this scale can succeed?

It takes time, effort and resources to build a new ecosystem in other contexts. The implementation team has to form close collaboration with companies and organizations. Strong support from VTC member institutions, as well as public and private sectors, has been crucial for overcoming these challenges. Engaging and supporting students to dedicate their time and efforts to the learning activities is another challenge, which is best facilitated by creating programmes within the initiative that are challenging, attractive and easily accessible.

The Vocational Training Council's Co-Creation Centre is one of the BILT project's Innovation and Learning Practices that address systemic challenges within the five work streams of the project. Specifically, the VTC initiative addresses entrepreneurship in TVET:



Entrepreneurship in TVET

Unlocking the potential of innovative entrepreneurial activities and fostering entrepreneurial culture

Additional Innovation and Learning Practices cover the following areas:



New Qualifications and Competencies



Digitalization in TVET



Greening TVET



Migration and TVET

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For more information about this practice:
<https://vco-create.vtc.edu.hk/en/>

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About the BILT Project

UNESCO-UNEVOC's Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) project is a reference point for innovation and learning in TVET. It utilizes the international UNEVOC Network to create opportunities for collaboration and a platform for bridging innovation and learning between Europe, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. BILT complements developments at the national level in supporting innovative, market-oriented and attractive modes of learning and cooperation in TVET.

The BILT project explores the process of identifying, integrating and implementing new qualifications and competencies in TVET. This is known as the 'three I's process'. In addition to the broad focus on new qualifications and competencies, BILT addresses four complementary themes: Digitalization and TVET, Greening TVET, Entrepreneurship in TVET, and Migration and TVET.

For more information, please visit
www.unevoc.unesco.org/bilt

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New Qualifications and Competencies in TVET

- **Identifying** new qualifications and competencies in a timely manner;
- **Integrating** them into appealing and flexible curricula and training regulations; and
- **Implementing** them in innovative training approaches

Entrepreneurship in TVET

Unlocking the potential of innovative entrepreneurial activities and fostering entrepreneurial culture

Greening TVET

Responding to new development paradigms for sustainability and reduced environmental impact

Digitalization in TVET

Providing response to new skills demands, as technology has permeated the world of work and is changing the profile of jobs

Migration and TVET

Accelerating the integration of migrants into their host communities, and allowing them to become productive members of the workforce

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