

# **ASEM Technical and Vocational Education Symposium**

## **Declaration of Qingdao**

( Qingdao·11-12/1/2011 )

From January 11th to January 12th, 2011, the People's Republic of China hosted the first ASEM Technical and Vocational Education Symposium in Qingdao, China. The meeting was attended by 220 delegates from Austria, Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEM Education Secretariat and China.

The theme of the Symposium is “How to Improve the Attractiveness and Employability of TVET in the Current Global Economic Situation”. Delegates actively discussed their national strategies, national policies and national systems to enhance TVET reform and development, and shared their useful experiences.

The hosting of the ASEM Technical and Vocational Education Symposium has shown China's firm commitment to advocating and promoting Asian and European cooperation in TVET development.

### **During this Symposium :**

1. The Symposium thanks China as hosting country, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the ASEM Education Secretariat for their support.
2. The Symposium affirms actions taken by all ASEM member countries in human resource and TVET development, such as formulation of national skills strategies and action plans, enhancement of national skill level, promotion of employment, and speed-up of economic recovery. TVET can facilitate industrial upgrading and steadily increase the member countries' national competitiveness.

3. The symposium recognizes the member countries' efforts to improve the attractiveness of TVET, appreciates their experiences and successful examples in developing TVET and improving employability.

4. All member countries highlight the role of industry and enterprise participation in TVET and the need to actively mobilize stakeholders to improve TVET attractiveness.

**The Symposium agrees that :**

1. All members recognize the important role of TVET in their education system. They should implement measures to put TVET into a more important position, and develop TVET by determining its strategic goal and key policy. A stronger, more vigorous, flexible and transparent TVET system that allows gender equity and inclusion should be established to support the country's economic development.

2. All agreed that making TVET more attractive for potential students is a key challenge and this includes maximizing their employability. Attention should be paid to students' needs and teaching quality improvement. To allow for lifelong learning and personal development in all educational systems. and to encourage students' exchange among members so as to make TVET more attractive.

3. Dialogue and cooperation among members at national, industrial and TVET institutional levels are to be developed. Members are encouraged to strengthen cooperation in fields like curriculum reform, standards and quality assurance, personnel exchange, research and lifelong learning, etc.

**The Symposium proposes the following initiatives :**

1. Making ASEM Technical and Vocational Education Symposium a regular event is advisable to establish and enhance an international TVET policy dialogue mechanism.

2. Establishing an expert group in order to elaborate the development of joint TVET initiatives.

3. Sharing good practice between Asia and Europe on cooperation modes between multinational enterprises and local vocational schools.
4. Encouraging Asian and European member countries to conduct bilateral and multilateral TVET technical assistant programmes.
5. Supporting Asian and European member countries to cooperate in areas such as curriculum and teacher professional development, quality assurance, recognition of prior-learning experience and learning methods.
6. Documenting best practices, particularly those reflecting industry-school partnerships which can be shared by all participating countries.

**The Symposium welcomes :**

The Symposium welcomes Germany's proactive consideration in hosting the 2nd ASEM Technical and Vocational Education Symposium, and calls for all members to make related preparations for the next Symposium.