

## UK-China Policy Dialogue Developing an International Strategy for TVET Excellence

**17 March 2016, Beijing**

### **Background**

The development of employee's skills and employability, particularly in younger generations, is crucial to a nation's sustainable development, global competitiveness and long-term prosperity. A skilled workforce not only contributes to economic growth, but also promotes social mobility.

Both the UK and Chinese governments are committed to increasing youth employment, with skills and technical vocational education and training (TVET) development a key component of the national strategy. Since 2012, the two countries have worked closely together in skills development.

The Chinese Ministry of Education recently published an 'Action Plan for Tertiary Vocational Education (2015-2018)', which encourages Chinese universities to become universities of applied technology in order to strengthen vocational based tertiary education and training to students. It also calls for more international collaboration to support China in reforming its vast vocational education system and develop a world-class workforce, including setting up joint programmes in priority subjects and industry areas. These new developments provide an unprecedented opportunity for the UK's skills sector to further deepen collaboration with China to benefit young people in both countries.

### **Opportunity**

The British Council, working with partners in China, is organising the 2016 UK-China Policy Dialogue to capitalise on this opportunity. Specifically, the event's objectives are to:

1. Build mutual understanding of the development contexts, policy approaches and national strategies shaping skills development in the UK and China.
2. Identify common challenges, share good practice and explore opportunities for the UK and China to work together in TVET development.
3. Develop a joint vision and roadmap towards greater UK-China collaboration in TVET.

This policy dialogue is also part of the 2016 UK-China Education Policy Week, taking place in Beijing 14-20 March 2016.

### **Event Details**

Date:	17 March 2016
Location:	Landmark Hotel Beijing
Chinese Partners:	China Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education China Education Association for International Exchange
Supported by:	Association of College Colleges Wales

## Programme

Time	Action
Day 1	
08.00-09.00	<b>Registration</b> Open marketplace/mini-exhibitions of UK TVET colleges (session I)
09.00-09.15	<b>Opening</b>
09.15-10.05	<b>Plenary Session I: Policy Priorities and Direction of Travel</b>  2 Keynote speeches to set out government priorities, the latest policy thinking, and the direction of travel in China and the UK  <div style="text-align: right;"> <b>Chaired by: ZONG Wa</b>              Deputy Director-General              China Education Association for International Exchanges           </div> <b>TBC</b> Ministry of Education  <b>John Widdowson</b> President Association of College Principal and Chief Executive New College Durham
10.05-10.30	Tea break
10.30-11.30	<b>Plenary Session II: Creating a More Open and Internationally Connected TVET Sector</b>  2 Keynote speeches from national bodies to introduce international trends and TVET strategies of the UK and China  <b>TBC</b> Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education Ministry of Education  <b>Mark Froud</b> Managing Director, Federation of Skills  <b>John Mountford</b> International Director, Association of Colleges
11.30-12.15	<b>Panel discussion with speakers from the plenary sessions</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"> <b>Facilitator: Dr. LIU Yufeng</b>              International Director              Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education           </div>
12.15-14.00	Lunch Open marketplace and mini-exhibition (session II)
14.00-16.00	<b>Breakout Sessions: Cultivating Institutional Excellence and Innovation</b>

	<p><u>Group I: Education-Sector-Business Alliances</u> Policy makers, sector skills councils, awarding bodies, businesses and colleges will debate effective models for education-sector-business alliances, with case studies and discussions looking at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How vocational education can take a more proactive role in supporting local and international businesses and vice versa?</li> <li>2. Case studies and lesson learnt from previous UK-China sector collaborations.</li> <li>3. Steps to develop more sector-based engagement between the UK and China.</li> </ol> <p><b>John Simpson, CEO RSL Awards (Chair)</b></p> <p><b>John Parkes, Head of Commercial &amp; International Dev, SEMTA (case study 1)</b></p> <p><b>Jonathan Eaton, Director of HE Resarch and Engagement, Newcastle College (case study 2)</b></p> <p><b>Paul Davies, Executive Director Finance &amp; Resources, Coleg Y Cymoedd (feedback/rapporteur)</b></p> <p><u>Group II: From Good to Great</u> College leaders will discuss the role of leaders in continuously driving up quality standards and achieving significant growth. This is particularly relevant in China, where leading colleges are seeking new inspiration to bring their colleges to the next level, with key challenges around governance, quality frameworks and internationalisation.</p> <p><b>Alison Birkinshaw, Principal, York College (Chair)</b></p> <p><b>David Corke, Policy Director, Association of College (case study 1)</b></p> <p><b>Deborah Eagle, Teaching and Learning Quality Manager, Barnet &amp; Southgate College (case study 2)</b></p> <p><b>Fiona Ross, Deputy Principal, Kensington &amp; Chelsea College (feedback/rapporteur)</b></p> <p><u>Group III: A More Internationalised TVET Sector</u> Policy officials, college leaders and senior practitioners will discuss how international engagement can speed up sector development, and develop a roadmap to deliver an ambitious plan for UK-China partnership in TVET.</p> <p><b>John Mountford, International Director, Association of College (Chair)</b></p> <p><b>Melanie Jarman, Head of International, Walsall College (case study 1)</b></p> <p><b>Sharon James, Vice Principal, Cardiff &amp; Vale College (case study 2)</b></p> <p><b>Janette Donjon, Director of International Development, Sunderland College (feedback/rapporteur)</b></p>
16.30-16.00	Tea Break
16.00-16:30	Report back from the three working groups (10 minutes each)

	<p><b>Paul Davies, Executive Director Finance &amp; Resources, Coleg Y Cymoedd (feedback/rapporteur)</b></p> <p><b>Fiona Ross, Kensington &amp; Chelsea College (feedback/rapporteur)</b></p> <p><b>Janette Donjon, Sunderland College (feedback/rapporteur)</b></p>
16:30-17.00	<p><b>Plenary Session III:</b> Conclusions and the Way Forward</p> <p>Keynote speeches to summarise key points, consensus and action plans</p>
17.00	End of the Policy Dialogue
17.00-18.30	Marketplace and mini-exhibition of UK TVET colleges (session III)
18.30-20.00	Dinner Reception for all participants