24 September 2012

Invitation to attend East Asia Summit (EAS) TVET Provider Network workshop
Australian Government Initiative 2012

The Australian Government and the Republic of Korea have jointly initiated the establishment of a dedicated TVET Provider Network, across the 18-nations of the East Asia Summit region.

TAFE Directors Australia (‘TDA’) has been commissioned by the Australian Government to make contact with you, to invite you to a residential workshop in Melbourne, Australia. TDA will host this important TVET engagement, to enable coordination of education for technical and vocational education for skills. Australian and Korean TVET officials will participate.

Accordingly, I have much pleasure in inviting you to nominate up to two representatives to attend a residential workshop on Wednesday 14 to Friday 16 November 2012 in Melbourne, Australia.

Delegates will also be invited to attend the 2012 Australian Training Awards dinner on the Friday evening.

RSVP - All nominations to attend the workshop must be received by Friday 5 October 2012 and should be sent to Peter Holden at pholden@tda.edu.au.

1. About the proposed network

At the 5 July 2012 EAS Education Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) Ministers welcomed the commitments made by Australia and the Republic of Korea to work together in relation to the development of a network of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) providers in the East Asia region. This project is one of 13 priority education cooperation projects endorsed at the 2010 EAS Senior Education Official Taskforce and noted by EAS Education Ministers at the information EAS EMM in 2011.

The Australian government has provided funding for the establishment of the network and the first step will be to hold a residential workshop for representatives from each of the 18 countries. TAFE Directors Australia, the peak body for all government owned TVET providers in Australia, has been commissioned by the Australian government to organize this workshop. For more information on TDA please visit www.tda.edu.au

The purpose of the workshop is to establish improved coordination of TVET education and role of an East Asia TVET provider network. An overview of the workshop is attached for your information and further details will be sent to all participants three weeks before the workshop commences. Delegates will discuss the basic principles and operational plans for TVET network.
2. Who should attend the workshop?

The success of the network will depend on government support and endorsement in each of the 18 countries.

Participants in the workshop should hold a senior government position, preferably in the area of vocational education and training with a focus on policy. Alternatively or in addition, senior officials who represent national associations of training providers or who hold a senior position with a major training provider in their country can be nominated as long as they have their government’s endorsement.

3. Funding support for eligible countries

The Australian Government, through the AusAID public sector linkages program, will provide financial support for two representatives from each of these countries to attend the workshop: China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The following expenses will be covered for up to two people from the countries listed above:

- economy return flights to Melbourne
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airport transfers and transport to and from the workshop location
- Up to four nights accommodation (Tuesday to Friday inclusive)
- All meals from Wednesday morning to Friday evening
- Per diems for incidental expenses
- Australian Training Awards dinner ticket.

All other costs, including internet use, phone calls, room service and personal expenses must be paid by all participants.

4. Indicative costs for other participants

Representatives from Brunei, Japan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea and the USA must cover the costs of their participation in the workshop and optional attendance at the Australian Training Awards dinner. TDA will cover the cost of attendance at the dinner for all representatives.

As a guide, the following expenses in Australia should be allowed for:

- Accommodation in Melbourne $AUD 230 per night
- Airport transfers $50 one way

We look forward to your nominations and participation in this very important initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact the project director, Peter Holden if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

MARTIN RIORDAN
Chief Executive Officer
TAFE Directors Australia
Deputy Chair
World Federation of Colleges & Polytechnics

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