

For immediate release

Establishment of the Australia China Centre for Skills Excellence

Meeting an Industry skills research priority

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) and the Central Institute for Vocational and Technical Education (CIVTE) will sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding on Friday 11th April 2014 in Shanghai.

This MoU sets out the commitment of both parties to establish an Australia China Centre for Skills Excellence. The Centre will seek partnerships with Chinese and Australian industry to research skills training and innovation in technical and vocational education in China.

A key purpose of the inaugural Australia China Centre for Skills Excellence is to enhance existing China College/TAFE relationships. These include mentoring programs between Chinese tertiary vocational college principals and TAFE institute directors which are now in their fifth year of operation. The Centre will also support the 91 direct institute to institute partnerships which enrol more than 45,000 China students each year in a dual Chinese and Australian qualification.

The Centre for Skills Excellence will focus on research with strategic industries to identify and meet skills shortages, enhance the quality of provision, expand the use of technology to support English language acquisition, and ensure teaching and assessment practices are aligned to occupational standards.

Regular updates on technical and vocational education developments in both countries, innovative approaches to engaging with industry, and strategies for improving the management and administration of tertiary vocational colleges will all form part of the Centre's role. An annual symposium will enable the results of this research to be discussed and promoted.

The Centre will be self-funding and its activities guided by a Governing Council with representation from both the Australian and PRC governments.

The MoU will be signed by the Chair of the TDA Board of Directors, **Mr Stephen Conway** and **Ms. Gao Ying**, Vice Director-General of CIVTE.

CIVTE is the national pre-eminent research institute on vocational and technical education in China and a significant amount of their work is directed through the China Ministry of Education. TDA is the peak body representing Australia's 61 technical and further education (TAFE) institutes across Australia

Both parties are coordinating centres for UNESCO UNEVOC and TDA is a council member of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics.

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