MEDIA RELEASE

CHINA’S LARGEST ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETITION

TAFE Australia & China polytechnics sign agreement

20 October 2012

One of the largest English language competitions in China will be part of a new bilateral agreement between Chinese polytechnics and Australian TAFE institutes, marking the continuing celebrations for the 40th anniversary of Australian and China diplomatic relations.

Agreement has been reached for TAFE Directors Australia to launch an English language speaking competition for students attending China’s 1200 public polytechnics and colleges. The competition is aimed at supporting the several hundred thousands of students attending vocational college institutions, with the competition to reach across all eight geographic regions of the Chinese mainland.

The competition will be promoted through China’s 1200 public polytechnics and colleges early next year under the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), and the competition will then move to Australia with finalist competition events expected June or July 2013.

A key theme for the competition will be green skills and sustainability. Cash prizes and air fares will be included for winners.

Linkages with industry that demonstrate innovation and leading edge sustainability skills will be encouraged in the competition.

The eight-year long bilateral relationship forged between TAFE Directors Australia, representing Australia’s 61 TAFE institutes including five dual sector universities with TAFE divisions, and the China CEAIE, representing the 1200 China polytechnics and colleges, has resulted in unprecedented outreach of the Australian skills system into China. Australian Education International (AEI) data shows more than 40,000 student enrolments completing a joint Chinese and Australian qualification – in China.
Martin Riordan, Chief Executive Officer of TAFE Directors Australia, said the English language competition would complement the gains made to bring closer technical and vocational education between China and Australia.

Attending the International CEAIE Conference in Beijing, Mr. Riordan said the number of Chinese students taking advantage of Australian qualifications was a testament to quality teaching and skills developed over decades by TAFE in Australia.

He added: “We acknowledge support from the Australian Government, which has implemented regular TAFE Australian executive mentoring with China Institute leadership.

“Under prior bilateral agreements, TDA in Australia, through its TAFE members have hosted China senior polytechnic and college executives for leadership development in Australia. From 2009-12, almost 500 senior Chinese college officials have enrolled in TDA-led vocational education leadership training, along a similar pattern of college mentoring other major TVET partners for US, Canada, Korea and United Kingdom colleges.”

The MoU signing took place in Beijing, and formed part of the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Australian and China diplomatic relations agreement.

The 2012 CEAIE featured a join conference between Australian TDA/China CEAIE on green skills and sustainability, with China and Australian technical college and industry leaders speaking on experience in taking forward the green skills challenge in vocational education and technical training.

For further information –

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EDITORS NOTE

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between TAFE Directors Australia and the China Education Association for International Exchange will take place at China World Hotel, Beijing. Details --

Time:          10.00am
Date:           Saturday 20th October 2012.
Room:        China World Hotel – SW31, CWSW