

# China-Australia Symposium on Vocational Education and Training Held Successfully in Shanghai

30 June 2010 CEAIE website

The 1st China-Australia Symposium on Vocational Education and Training co-hosted by TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) and CEAIE was held successfully on June 23-24 in Shanghai. CEAIE vice president Qian Yicheng and TDA vice president Dianne Murray attended the meeting and delivered speeches. Mr. Lin Zuoping, CEAIE deputy secretary general, and Mr. Peter Holden, director of international engagement and business development co-chaired the event. Mr. Iain Watt, Australian Minister Counselor of Education, and Mr. Tom Conner, Australian Consul General in Shanghai, also attended the symposium.



CEAIE vice president Qian Yicheng pointed out in his opening speech that the Chinese government attaches great importance to vocational education, and regards vocational education as the essential foundation for Chinese economic development and social progress and the strategic focus in education. The leadership training program in tertiary vocational education jointly developed by TDA and CEAIE has provided an opportunity for Chinese tertiary vocational school leaders to have a comprehensive understanding of the Australian vocational and training system and study the advanced management model and experiences in Australian TAFE colleges. It has not only broadened the international horizon of these leaders and improved their management capacity, but also promoted the exchanges between tertiary vocational school leaders in the two countries, and improved bilateral understanding and cooperation.



TDA vice president Dianne Murray pointed out in her speech that Australia values greatly the exchanges and cooperation with China in vocational education and training. Australia is glad to see the development in China's vocational education and wishes to provide continuous help and enhance cooperation in this area. Ms. Dianne Murray stated that the 1st China-Australia Symposium on Vocational Education and Training being held during 2010 Shanghai Expo is of great significance. Since the Australian participants come from various vocational and technical fields and tertiary education colleges, the symposium has provided a good channel for both sides to share information and draw on each others' experiences, thus building a platform to jointly cultivate innovative vocational and technical talents in the two countries.

The 1st China-Australia Symposium on Vocational Education and Training is aimed at promoting the reform and development of vocational and technical education in China and Australia and enhancing bilateral cooperation and exchanges. Over 70 Chinese and Australian tertiary vocational college leaders attended the symposium. The participants held group discussions over student and teacher exchange programs, mutual recognition of institutions and courses, models of joint delivery, and improving our vocational systems – building capacity, etc.

During the symposium, CEAIE secretary general Lin Zuoping announced future cooperation plans with TDA, including: to jointly hold the "China-Australia Symposium on Vocational Education and Training" regularly, once every two years in the two countries by turn; to select promising leaders from tertiary vocational colleges to participate in the Vocational Education Leadership Training Program; to carry out net-working activities for participants of the vocational education leadership training program; to send a group to Australia to study the quality assurance system in vocational education sector; to invite TDA members to participate in CEAIE annual conference, etc.