OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first newsletter.

We want to use these newsletters to share our experiences with our colleagues and friends back in Kiribati and to say thanks to those people and organisations we have visited. The newsletters will also be sent to our future hosts so you know what we have seen and heard so we can make the most of your valuable time when we eventually arrive on your doorstep.

This newsletter provides you with an overview of our first study tour day in Sydney.

Thank you to everybody for the support to date.

Akka Rimon, Tour Leader, and Antoine Barnaart, Tour Convener

TDA OPENING SESSION PROVIDES SOUND FOUNDATION

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) hosted the opening session of the 2012 TVETSSP Study Tour and provided a sound foundation for the remaining tour visits. Our host, Peter Holden, TDA Director International Engagement, gave an overview of TDA, outlined the recent changes to Australia’s TVET framework and best practice approaches to TVET international partnerships.

Of particular interest was hearing about TDA’s view on the key features of a modern and functioning TVET system: governance & funding, industry engagement, competency based standards, qualifications framework, quality standards for providers and delivery assessment. These key features have been identified by TDA from the current research work they are undertaking with 5 outer countries.

Acting Director Labour, Batetaake Taoieta, said “we are pleased that our 4 pillars of quality, provider recognition, course accreditation and industry engagement all feature in TDA’s key features, however we will consider adding more pillars, based on what we have heard today”

Peter, also identified and accessed a number of key TVET websites during his presentation showing that there is an enormous amount of useful information already developed and easily available of the web. Tour Convener, Antoine Barnaart, emphasized the need for TVETSSP to access and consider much of this work, particularly the lessons learned from many organizations involved in the TVET reforms in Australia and avoid “reinventing the wheel.”
**GOOD DATA : GOOD DECISIONS !!**
SAYS TAFE NSW

Vivian Nguyen, R/Planning Coordinator, TAFE NSW Strategy Unit made this comment when she gave an overview of TAFE NSW’s approach to resource planning and ensuring their training delivery focus is on meeting industry demand for skills.

Good clean and relevant data, collected in an efficient and timely manner from a range of industry stakeholders is critical in assisting to identify training needs and to advise students where training will help them gain employment.

We were very pleased to have Vivian walk us through the detailed planning process used by TAFE NSW to ensure their course delivery meets student and employer needs. The TAFE NSW Institute Performance Agreement template will help guide us as we develop similar processes in the Ministry and KIT.

**LEARNING VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING !!!**

Learning key business skills is essential if entry level employees are to be productive on the first day of their real work. This is a key goal for students enrolled in Business Administration courses at Ultimo College, Sydney Institute TAFE, which offers learning within a Virtual Enterprise (VE).

Acting Head Teacher, Marion Ashworth, said “VEs provide students with a good opportunity to apply the theory they have learnt in a virtual, but realistic, work environment”. Marion answered a long list of questions on VEs, the answers being very useful for all our delegates as we go about the planning for the KIT VE that will be established in 2013.

Obwaia Mataroa, HOS Applied Technology at KIT, was puzzled when we were invited to speak to the students during their class. He thought when we first entered the VE that it was an actual College office. He was surprised to learn that the receptionist who had greeted us and all the other “staff” in the office were actual students who were going about their learning. What impressed us was how engaged and enthusiastic the students were as they all interacted in the virtual workplace but a real place of learning.

**THANK YOU AND WHAT IS NEXT**

The Study Tour Group would like to thank our Sydney hosts for providing interesting presentations.

We are now in Adelaide, South Australia, from 21 to 28 March.