

Media Release

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Australia and China reach new deal on VET partnership

A senior representative of the Chinese Government today signalled an expansion of the high-level partnership between Chinese vocational colleges and Australia's TAFE Institutes.

The agreement opens the way for Australian TAFE Institutes to expand through joint cooperation with vocational education and training (VET) colleges in China.

A delegation of 25 senior Chinese VET college leaders were in Melbourne today, led by Mr Liu Jiantong, Vice Director, Department of Vocational and Adult Education, Ministry of Education, People's Republic of China.

The discussions took place at the National Conference of TAFE Directors Australia.

Mr Liu reaffirmed a commitment to existing partnerships and foreshadowed expanded activities, noting the quality of the Australian VET system and its relevance to China's future skills priorities.

The Chief Executive of TAFE Directors Australia, Martin Riordan, welcomed the further high-level partnership between the two countries.

"It is very encouraging that Australia's TAFE Institutes and China's VET counterparts will be cooperating and opening up further business opportunities in the future.

"The Chinese delegation has made very clear their high regard for the quality of Australia's VET system including course content, facilities and teacher quality."

Australia already has some 200 partnership agreements with VET-level programs in China, and there are more than 7,000 Chinese students enrolled in TAFE programs in Australia.

Mr Liu stressed the importance of Chinese provincial governments in final decision making on VET partnerships and in financing college activities.

Media contact: Bob Bowden, 02 9241 2811, 0412 753 298, bbowden@bowmac.com.au