Australia Africa Fellowships

Wow, eye opening, mind blowing. These were some of the words used by the Australia Africa Fellows for TVET Reform to describe their three week visit to Australia.

The Fellowship program being led by the University of Newcastle and in partnership with TAFE NSW Hunter Institute is funded through the Australian Government’s AusAid program. It has involved eleven Fellows, eight from South Africa and three from Namibia from national departments, industry and colleges. The Fellows have had the opportunity to have a close look at various aspects of VET systems in Australia. During the first week, a workshop was held on a range of current issues impacting on skills development and training in Australia and the Fellows had the opportunity to hear from VET colleagues including TDA Australia and TVET Australia.

Photo by Conor Ashleigh

An official welcome dinner was provided by hosts, Professor Nicholas Saunders Vice Chancellor, University of Newcastle and Mr Phil Cox, Director of TAFE NSW Hunter Institute. His Excellency Mr Mauritz Lindeque Acting High Commissioner, South Africa High Commission spoke about the importance of international collaboration and working together for skills development.

Photo by Conor Ashleigh

During the second week the Fellows undertook a professional placement at TAFE NSW Hunter Institute. All the Fellows have been impressed with the strong relationships that have been developed between industry and training in Australia.
Industry visits included Ampcontrol and Coal Services Australia and their very impressive virtual reality training facility. The training allows staff to experience and respond to real hazards in a safe and controlled environment… before actually encountering them in the workplace.

During the last week the Fellows were in Adelaide and met with the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, the Australian Flexible Learning Framework and attended the national Biennial VETNetwork Conference.

There has been significant information and knowledge shared with the Fellows in Australia and in the words of one of the Fellows

“What remains for us is to make an analysis, carefully synthesise the information and make key decisions on implementable initiatives. This opportunity has been invaluable in opening up our minds to the possibilities for further developing our vocational systems and networking with our colleagues in Australia”

For further information please contact-

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