

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW EDUCATION CONNECTS WITH WORLD EXPO 2010 IN SHANGHAI AND SYDNEY

Shanghai and Sydney events conducted nearly 8,000 kilometres apart were held on 14 July 2010 to acknowledge and celebrate the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Education and Training's (DET) participation in the formidable World Expo Shanghai 2010, and NSW's relationship with the People's Republic of China.

The two events coincided with 'New South Wales Week' at the Expo.

DET International, the global education and training arm of NSW DET, manages international education projects, study tours, official delegations, and international students with NSW public schools and TAFE NSW Institutes.

In Shanghai, DET International welcomed 120 guests to the Australian Pavilion at the World Expo 2010. Guests included Chinese Ministry of Education and senior government officials from Beijing, Shanghai and a number of provinces.

Renowned Shanghai classical pianist, William Chen, a graduate of the New South Wales Conservatorium High School, delighted guests when he accompanied vocalists and musicians from the Conservatorium High School who also performed on the night.

The Premier's Reception Room in Governor Macquarie Tower was the venue for the Sydney event. Guests included Vice Consul of Education, Demin Zheng, from the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Sydney and 100 business clients with entertainment provided by the DET Jazz Ensemble.

In a pre-recorded broadcast to Sydney and Shanghai guests, the NSW Minister of Education and Training, Verity Firth, said the World Expo enabled Australia to showcase the Australian lifestyle and its educational expertise and business capabilities.

Student Ambassadors, representing New South Wales government schools and TAFE NSW Institutes, also attended the Shanghai and Sydney events and spoke of their Australian study experiences with dignitaries and guests.

The NSW education sector maintains an excellent reputation across China due to its expertise, quality assurance, expanse of courses, and ability to deliver a range of vocational education and workforce training services.

A mutual appreciation of complementary strengths and experience has led to many productive Chinese and Australian educational partnerships.

Twenty per cent of TAFE NSW's international students and 48 per cent of international students in NSW public schools are from China. Many NSW public schools have formed sister-school relationships with Chinese schools.

In addition to the diversity of NSW public schools and TAFE NSW vocational education and training, DET International offers expertise in workforce development training and projects, particularly in the area of large-scale events.

Examples include the development of the World Expo Shanghai's Workforce Training Master Plan by TAFE NSW, a blueprint for the organising committee to manage the delivery of training to a workforce involving 180,000 people.

DET International provided training planning and advice for the International Venue Group (Australian Pavilion service provider) at the World Expo, and the Workforce Master



Training Plan for the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events in Hong Kong.

Seven million people are expected to visit the Australian Pavilion during the Expo.

Ranked number three on a global scale behind the Olympics and World Cup events, each World Expo generates interest worldwide. To date over 30 million people have visited the expo and, by the time the Expo closes on 31 October, visitor numbers are expected to have reached the 70 million mark.

For further information contact:

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Photograph:

Shanghai_Sydney_1 (left to right) – Mr Des Gorman, General Manager – Learning and Development, NSW DET; Mr Demin Zheng, Consul of Education, Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China; Ms Pam Christie, Deputy Director-General, TAFE and Community Education; and The Hon Mr Michael Lee, TAFE NSW Commission Board.

Shanghai_event_1 (left to right) – Mr Peter Sams, Pavilion Director and Deputy Commissioner General for Australia, Australia Pavilion of Shanghai World Expo; Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director – General, NSW Department of Education and Training; Mr Kevin Harris, Institute Director, TAFE NSW – Northern Sydney Institute; and Mr William Chen.