

## Media Release

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### **Australia-China vocational education and training initiatives announced at Shanghai World Expo 2010**

Cooperation between the two major vocational education and training organizations in China and Australia was further enhanced during a two day Symposium held at World Expo in Shanghai last week.

The China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) jointly announced a number of new initiatives to strengthen their relationship and enhance vocational education and training in both their countries.

These initiatives include:

- LEADERSHIP TRAINING -- A vocational leadership training program in Australia for 20 vocational Principals and Vice Principals from China to commence in September this year
- BI LATERAL NETWORKS -- A bi-annual Symposium between the two countries to focus on key issues relevant to both countries and the broader Asia Pacific region including mutual recognition of institutions and courses, student and teacher exchange programs, and industry engagement
- COMMUNICATIONS -- Joint publications focusing on case studies of effective partnerships and cooperation
- ALUMNI -- An Australia-China alumni of participants in previous and future vocational leadership programs

Invitations were also extended to attend each other's national conferences this year.

These initiatives were the culmination of a TDA Mission to China led by Ms Dianne Murray, Deputy Chair of the TDA Board of Directors and Institute Director of TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute.

"The dialogue with senior members of the Chinese vocational education and training sector reaffirmed our belief that we now have a very mature relationship between our two countries," said Ms Murray.

“We have gone beyond viewing international education as just about international students and are now committed to working together to enhance the capabilities of our two vocational education and training systems.”

Members of the Mission included Deputy Chairs of TDA – Dianne Murray (Illawarra Institute of TAFE NSW), and Stephen Conway (TAFE SA South), along with Institute directors Dr Anne Jones (Victoria University), Linda Brown (Swinburne University of Technology), and Antoine Baarnart (Australia Pacific Technical College) and Directors and Senior Managers from Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and NSW TAFE Institutes.

The Mission visited a number of vocational colleges in Chongqing and participated in a TDA/CEAIE Symposium in Shanghai with over 50 participants discussing key issues relevant to both countries. The Mission culminated in a special plenary session in the Australian Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo where the Delegates were joined by senior Australian and Chinese officials, industry representatives and partner institutions.

TDA wishes to acknowledge the excellent support from the Australian Government through AEI and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We also thank the CEAIE for their commitment to our relationship and their support for the Mission and Symposium.

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