

International Expert Consultation Meeting on Technical and Vocational Education

**12 – 13 January 2009
Bonn**

**Summary Report
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The Goal

The Moment

The issues

Towards a UNESCO strategy

Some remaining challenges

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The Goal

- **Contribute to a new UNESCO TVET strategy**
 - **To give TVET a stronger profile within UNESCO's action in education**
 - **To sharpen and focus UNESCO's assistance in TVET to Member States**

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The moment

- **Historical progression: 1962 – 2001
what did we do with the ‘sacred texts’?**
- **Heightened attention: after primary, what next?**
- **Financial crisis: an opportunity, a threat**
- **UNESCO process: EFA ~ Executive Board**

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The issues

- **Conceptual issues**
- **Operational issues**

Conceptual issues

- **Multiple meanings of ‘skills’**
- **‘Skills, education, training’ and more... in other languages and cultures**
- **Inequalities, roles and stereotypes → inclusion**
- **Rights-based, demand-led, supply-led**
- **TVET framed within country development plans**
- **Demographic and economic change**
- **Perspective of lifelong learning**

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Operational issues - 1

- **Links to other parts of the education system**
- **Data, monitoring and evaluation**
- **Standards and normative work ~~ diversity**
- **Qualification frameworks**

Operational issues - 2

- **Advocacy: status and image**
- **Learning / policy learning**
- **Governance and management: a frame?**
- **Private sector role and engagement**
- **Multiple sources of financing ~ costly**

Towards a UNESCO strategy

UNESCO's niche?

Or a BOLD strategy?

→ Identify and use UNESCO's comparative advantage

- Laboratory of ideas
- Standard-setter
- Clearing-house
- Capacity builder
- Catalyst of international cooperation

1. Laboratory of ideas

- **Conceptual clarification around TVET**
- **Language and translation issues: a glossary?**
- **Focus on key organizing principle:
employability**
- **Analysis of diverse forms and providers of
TVET**
- **Identify themes and priorities in the longer
term**

2. Standard-setter

- **Normative work: review existing instruments ~ consider need for others**
- **Promoting quality:**
 - **Appropriate, professional teacher training**
 - **Quality assurance systems, also across countries**

3. Clearing-house

- **Identifying and sharing good practice**
- **Analysing experiences and learning lessons**
- **Draw on and share results of research**

4. Capacity builder

- **Policy advice**
- **Better statistics: data collection and analysis**

5. Catalyst of international cooperation

- **Partnerships and alliances: key partners**
- **Convening power: regionally, internationally**
- **Inter-agency cooperation and 'One UN' process**
- **Promote South-South and South-South-North cooperation**

Some remaining challenges

- **Skills development in the informal economy**
- **Re-invigorating inter-agency cooperation**
- **Articulate and strengthen place of TVET within EFA, ESD and the MDGs**
- **Engagement with civil society, especially NGOs and unions**
- **Resources and capacity**

Funding the strategy...??