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CONFERENCE 2015

Closing the global skills gap – opportunities for
the UK

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Introductions

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Conference delegate introductions

Traditional international activity

- Student recruitment
- Transnational education partnerships e.g. 2+2
- Research collaborations
- Summer schools
- Erasmus+
- Other funded projects e.g. World Bank
- International consultancy
- Overseas/branch campuses
- Professional and skills training

Who is active internationally?

- Universities
- Colleges
- Language schools
- Large corporations
- Online education providers
- Publishers
- Public sector
- Private sector

= Buoyant and diverse education industry

Where does the UK college offer fit in?

- Broad, specialist and competitive offer for the international marketplace

The bad news ☹️

- International student recruitment = higher risk activity
- Erasmus+ = more competitive

The good news 😊

- Global appetite for skills training & development
- UK college expertise
- UK college support and representation networks e.g. AoC, Colleges Scotland
- Opportunity to work on standalone basis, in consortia, in partnership with HE

Global VET trends – why?

- Rapidly evolving industry requirements transforming credentials valued by employers
- OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) – 2/3 of overall employment growth in the EU forecast to be in technician and associate professionals category
- Impetus to make education systems more targeted to labour market gaps/skills shortages
- Outcomes-based learning – increasing value of core competencies

Global VET trends – where?

- **Saudi Arabia** – Colleges of Excellence project – 53,000 places
- **Thailand** (OVEC) – increase spend on vocational training by 50% in 2015
- **India** – capacity issues
- **China** – increase students in vocational training by 31% by 2020; convert 600 universities into vocational colleges

Brazil, UAE, Kazakhstan...

How do I access these skills opportunities?

- UKTI www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-investment
- TVET UK www.tvetuk.org
- Training Gateway www.thetraininggateway.com
- British Council
- Skills for Employability

What is the British Council offer in Skills overseas?

Skills for Employability – Influencing systems level change for TVET and positioning the UK sector to inform these changes

International Skills Partnerships
Seed grants that link UK Skills sector internationally. To date over 75 ISPs have linked the UK to 30 countries

Donor Funded work – large scale contracts funded through EU, DFID, World Bank

Newton Fund – promoting scientific collaboration between UK and 15 countries. Specific STEM strand for TVET

UK College offer & global 'asks' – how do they match up?

- Capacity building / tutor training
- Systems level support e.g. NQFs, NOS etc
- Employer Links & Sector Skills Councils
- Soft Skills / Employability Skills
- Apprenticeships
- Curriculum development
- Accreditation / Assessment
- Quality Assurance / Inspection
- Forecasting / LMI
- Retention / Social Inclusion

What are the key curriculum area 'asks' right now?

- Entrepreneurship & Enterprise
- Travel and Tourism
- English language
- STEM
- Oil and Gas, Renewables
- Construction
- ICT

Why is the UK college story worth telling internationally?

- Careers Information, Advice & Guidance
- Recognition of 'second chance' for literacy, numeracy and SENs
- Autonomy in governance that enables links with employers and communities e.g. Learning City concept
- Majority of staff have direct industry experience and opportunity to 'top up'
- Recognition of the value of student voice
- Positive about health and wellbeing e.g. mental health, sports facilities
- Commitment to lifelong learning

What happens when I get back to the desk on Monday?

- Am I really a lone voice? Is Internationalisation on everyone's agenda? How can I exert 'new' influence e.g. Student Council; Governors etc
- Can I form alliances? Can I build networks with other FE & HE providers? Can I position my city / region internationally as offering skills solutions?
- How well is my college set up to offer consultancy? Can I inventory the expertise individual staff have?
- Am I accessing the right levels of professional support? Am I taking time to maintain professional peer networks?
- How can I gain more insight from our alumni network?

Case Study – Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) Saudi Arabia

- Saudi VET sector – institutes and technical colleges
- Relationship established 2009 via British Council
- Trained over 600 TVTC lecturers, senior manager, principals and students
- UK-based training in engineering, management, quality assurance, national occupational standards, English language teaching
- In-country quality assurance workshops, TVTC annual conference
- Trust, consistency, intensive support
- Complex and culturally-specific requirements
- Market visits with other colleges and university partners, Colleges of Excellence project

Preparing for a Skills Development Opportunity

The Ministry of Education in Kazakhstan are tendering for a provider to train 30 tutors (focussing on pedagogy / teaching & learning) from state technical colleges who will up skill young Kazaks for jobs in the Oil & Gas Sector. The training will take place in three two-week blocks in the successful country. The tutors will have reached level 6 in IELTS to be eligible. You are aware through the British Council that Kazakhstan has been talking to a wide range of other countries about this opportunity including China, Finland and Turkey. You are also aware that due to the collapse in oil prices there are levels of uncertainty about future jobs in the sector. British Council is in communication with the Ministry so you have the opportunity to ask some questions for clarity.

- What are the internal and external enablers that would make this opportunity work for your College?
- What are the internal and external barriers that would prevent this opportunity working for your College?
- What are the interdependencies that would need to be in place?

Thank you for participating

Any questions?

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