



# The quest for excellence: the skills revolution in South Asia

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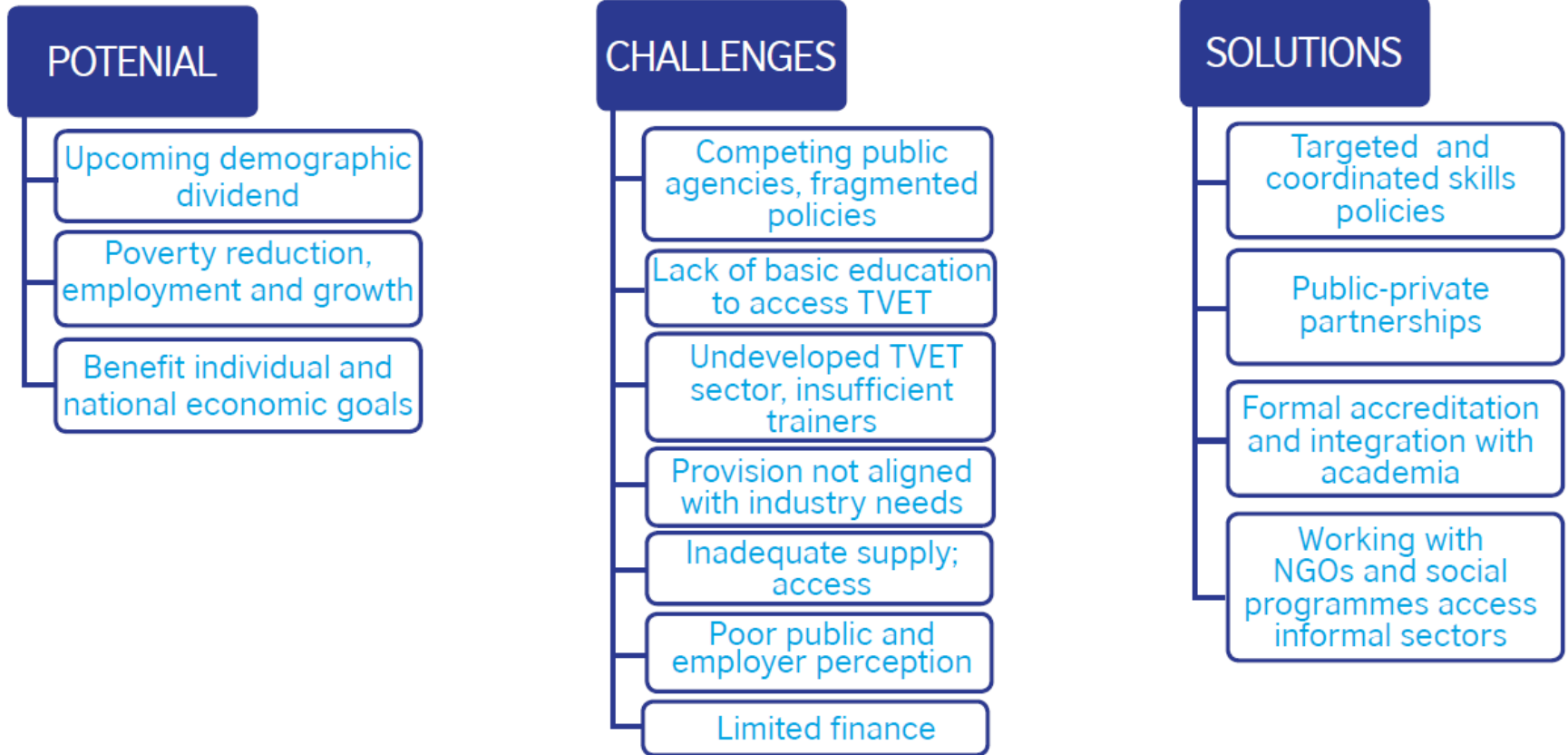
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## South Asia in Numbers

- 1.6bn people (+1bn 2050)
- 1 in 4 call SA home
- 1 in 3 under 18
- 800m + working age – 1.2m new entrants/month (**Where are the jobs!**)
- 40 per cent of working age pop in world
- Youth unemployment - two or three times higher than adult unemployment
- 5% SMEs invest in on the job training
- Four million engaged in formal TVET training
- Capacity for skills development needs to increase by 10 to 12 times
- 35-45 per training to women but.....
- Need 15m trainers – curently 800k (mind the gap!)



<http://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/britishcouncil.uk2/files/south-asia-skills-report-summary.pdf>

# Becoming an international skills partner: an outline of the process

***"International skills partnerships are the future of education."***

Principal, North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, UK.

British Council works with Strategic Partners in country to identify priority sectors and themes, and candidate partner organisations in country

Call announced for travel grant applications from UK organisations to meet candidate partner organisations in country

Travel grant applications assessed and grants awarded to selected UK organisations

Travel visit by UK organisations to meet candidate partners in country

UK and overseas organisations develop and submit project proposal

Project proposals assessed and grants awarded to selected partnerships

Project funding released to partnerships and work begins

Process typically takes around 4 months in total

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/skills-employability>

[www.britishcouncil.org/siem](http://www.britishcouncil.org/siem)



# Association *of* Colleges

Promoting. Representing. Supporting.

## **The Quest for Excellence – The skills revolution in South Asia**

**British Council Conference 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**John Mountford, AoC International Director**

## Context

- South Asia has the youngest workforce among the largest economies in the world
- By 2025, India will have the largest workforce in the world – Demographic dividend
- Strong Government (national and regional) focus on the importance of skills and TVET
- Hugely ambitious training targets
- Strong UK in country support (British Council, UKTI, UKIBC and AoC!)
- For FE providers to be relevant internationally we need to have at least some understanding of the South Asian context

# Opportunities for UK FE providers

- Working through funded programmes; UKIERI, British Council partnerships
- Developing curriculum partnerships with private and state sector college partnerships
- Institutional capacity development (community colleges)
- Working on national and state led skills programmes
- Teacher training and train the trainer
- Approaches to leadership and management
- HVET
- ELT



# Exeter College, Accent International and Big Spring

## Beyond Borders

Developed a range of vocational, EFL and CPD materials to be used in both the UK and India







# Burton and South Derbyshire College, partners and the Lavasa Corporation

## Train the trainer

Working alongside UKIBC, City and Guilds to deliver intensive master Train the Trainer programmes in the construction and security sectors



## Challenges

- Student visas – for student recruitment
- A need to move away from a student recruitment focus
- Scale is an opportunity and challenge
- Getting the right model ‘boiling the ocean’
- Need to develop an in country offer
- Costs, commercial returns are not always immediate and it demands a medium to long term investment
- Expertise

## A tool kit for South Asia

- Whole College buy in
- Underpinning commercial objectives with educational
- Strategic and long term approach
- Realistic budget and resourcing
- Understanding the bigger picture and working through wider initiatives
- Spirit of mutual respect with South Asian partners
- Working with other stakeholders and partners
- **Commitment**