

Principal Shadowing programme



To watch a video of the Principal Shadowing programme, please click the above link

Principals and senior members of staff from eleven British Further Education institutions spent a packed ten days in China this May, job shadowing counterparts from vocational education colleges across the country. The principals learned about China's advanced system of technical skills provision, and shared best practice from the UK on areas such as employer engagement and curriculum design.

Commenting on the unique advantages that principal shadowing has for those wanting to study different TVET systems, Chris Webb, Vice Principal of Barnsley College said, 'Principal shadowing is real life. Lectures show how it's supposed to be, principal shadowing shows how it is.' John Mountford, International Director of the Association of Colleges, added, 'The principal shadowing programme is extremely valuable because it's not just a quick meeting - principals have genuine time to sit down and find out what their peers are doing.'

The links formed during the extended and intensive time the Chinese and British principals spent together have already started to develop into more sustainable forms of partnerships, with a host of new agreements and deals being developed on a range of areas from student exchanges and teacher training programmes to English language provision and E-learning systems.



Kay Taylor, vice principal of Stratford-upon-Avon College visited Ningbo Yong jiang vocational high school. The two colleges have signed an MOU and will work together in a wide range of areas

British Council Skills Director Tracy Ferrier spoke of the importance of establishing these partnerships, pointing out that, 'Establishing partnerships between Chinese and British colleges will help both countries to face the

challenges of the 21st century and an increasingly interconnected world. It will allow colleges to share best practice and equip their young people with a more global outlook.'

Principal shadowing is part of UK-China Partners in Education, a bilateral governmental initiative funded by the UK's Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, the Department for Education, the Devolved Administrations, the British Council and China's Ministry of Education and the Vocational Education strand is managed on behalf of the UK government by the British Council. Principal shadowing is a three year programme and the next round of job shadowing is due to start in October this year.

Ge Daokai, Director General of the Department of Vocational and Adult Education under the Ministry of Education said, 'The development of international co-operation and exchanges, in order to learn from other countries to help improve the education system of your own country, is an important aspect of the reform of modern education systems.'

New partnership keeps the needs of industry at the centre of cooperation



The Chinese delegation visited CEVA, one of the leading logistics companies in the UK near Birmingham, April 2013

With China increasingly moving towards models of vocational education that are led by the demands of industry, the British Council has set up a new partnership that has industry needs at its core. The partnership will be between the British Council, and the British and Chinese professional organisations Skills for Logistics (SfL) and the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP). It will provide a platform for a number a cooperative projects that will improve skill levels in the logistics sectors in both countries.

From the 8-12 April, a delegation of 20 policy makers, educators and industry representatives from China's logistics sector visited UK, studying the UK's advanced vocational education system, and consolidating the partnership between the British Council, SfL and CFLP. The week ended with the three parties signing a Memorandum of Understanding on future cooperation. The CFLP's weeklong visit to the UK saw them visiting colleges and universities, as well as the state of the art facilities of some of the UK's biggest logistics enterprises. The delegates learned about key features of the UK's vocational education and training system, such as occupational standards and apprenticeship frameworks.

CFLP , SfL and British Council signed the three-party collaboration framework- UK-China Logistics Vocational Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding



Skills for Logistics and the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing are both professional organisations who are responsible for overseeing technical and vocational education and training in, respectively, the British and Chinese logistics sectors. Their partnership with the British Council, incorporating heavy involvement from logistics enterprises from both countries, will ensure that any collaboration between the three parties will be led by the demands of the logistics sector.

Mick Jackson, CEO of Skills for Logistics, called the partnership 'an exciting opportunity for meaningful collaboration between two countries that are joined by a number of key global supply chain. "the UK can learn from the areas where China excels, to increase the skill level of our students and create a more competitive workforce."

Media report:

Coventry Evening Telegraph

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/business/smes/acua-solutions-limited-played-host-3473922>

Report of the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing to the UK (in Chinese) http://gj.clpp.org.cn/xyfk_view.asp?newsid=325&lm=99

UK-China competitors participated in pressure test

To prepare for the 42nd World Skills Competition, British Council invited 4 UK experts and 3 competitors to compete with their peers at Guangzhou Industry and Trade Technician College from 9-13 April and Chongqing Wuyi Technician school from 22 -25 April. The competitors competed in three skills, namely Refrigeration, CAD and Hair Dressing. The four-day mocked tests, jointly designed and assessed by UK and Chinese experts, followed the same test rules and modules of the world skills. After withstanding the tests of their skills, physical, mental and psychological strengths, all competitors achieved satisfactory results with UK competitors having narrow win over CAD and Hair Dressing and the Chinese competitor getting an edge over refrigeration. Although the UK competitor in Auto Tech was not able to join the trip to China, Mr. Paul Cooper, the former UK Training Manager worked with the Chinese experts in assessing the skills of the Chinese competitors and shared valuable training experience. The pressure tests strengthened the cooperation between China and the UK in skills competition and build the confidence of competitors in both countries to achieve the best result at the world skills arena.

A number of officials from the UK and China attended the event open ceremony including Angus Bjarnason, Director British Council South China Mr. Songjian, Technical Delegate, World Skills Leipzig 2013, PRC, Zheng chaoyang Department of Human Resources and Social Security of Guangdong Province.



Mr. Songjian , Deputy head of China Employment Training Technical Instruction Center, and Mr. Angus Bjarnason, Area Director of British Council, visited the China National World Skills Training Center in CAD and Refrigeration based in Guangzhou Industry & Trade Technician College



Media news report issued on 17 April:

**Newspaper: Student Post
Media clipping of the 42nd China-UK
WorldSkills Pressure Test**

**News program of Chongqing Satellite
TV**

<http://www.cbg.cn/2013/0425/19051.shtml>

UK Skills Champions showcased world-class skills in China



Mr. Li Changjiang ,
Principal of Xi'An
Technician College,
exchanged gifts with
Ms. Jenny
Shackleton, WorldSkills
International's
Assessment Advisor

Ms Linzi Weare , Hair
dressing expert, worked
with Mr. Joe Massie ,
Floristry expert



China-UK WorldSkills Expert Forum & Workshop were held in Chongqing Wuyi Technician School and Xi'an Technician College from 26th-27th April, 2013. Ms. Jenny Shackleton, WorldSkills International's Assessment Advisor and former UK team leader led a delegation of three former UK awarding-winning competitors to share experience and demonstrate high skills. The events not only provided an opportunities for the Chinese audience to get a better understanding of the world skills competition and high talent standards but also helped enhance the skills competitions levels in Chongqing and Shan'An Xi Province in order to meet the world skills standards.

Jenny shared her knowledge of WorldSkills competitions, and know-how of training managers /competitors selection and training. The skills champions demonstrated their excellent skills in Hair Dressing, Floristry and Mechatronics at the interactive workshops and HAVE-A-Go well attended by enthusiastic teachers, students and the media. The events were highlighted by the cross-over demonstration between hairdressing and floristry. As the winners of worldwide, European and the UK skills competitions , the three skills champions also

shared their personal stories to the Chinese students how they developed their successful careers. Their stories inspired and encouraged all the participants to pursue their future careers as a skill talent. The UK participants were also very impressed by the advanced facilities and innovative training models of the two Chinese colleges.

Sponsored by Guangdong Sanxiang Teaching Apparatus Co. Ltd, the events were co-organized by British Council and the two colleges supported by local Human Resources and Social Security Departments.

Media news release:

Shan Xi Daily

<http://esb.sxdaily.com.cn/shtml/sxrb/20130507/201532.shtml>

Chongqing Evening News

http://www.cqwb.com.cn/cqwb/html/2013-04/30/content_351102.htm

Leadership training in Chengdu

In partnership with Chengdu Education Bureau, the skills leadership training programme for Chinese secondary vocational school leaders was held for the first time in Chengdu from 17 to 20 June 2013. Thirty-five principals attended the four-day training programme delivered by Mr. David Collins, former President of the Association of Colleges and former Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service. Besides the exchanges of management skills between UK and China, the training programme aimed at enhancing leadership, management and innovation skills of the principals.

The training programmes covered broad modules such as self-assessment and improvement, leading teaching and learning, staff recruitment, employer engagement and future planning. The participants would need to provide training reports and action plans after the training. An on-line survey will be conducted in six month to follow-up how the methods taught would be applied into practice.

The training programme aimed at enhancing leadership, management and innovation skills of the principals in Chengdu



In partnership with East China Normal University and China National Associations of Secondary Vocational Schools, British Council successfully launched the Skills leadership training programmes in Wuxi in 2012. As the programme has been well received by the Chinese partners and participants, British Council is planning to expand the programme to other areas in China.

2013 UK-China joint quality assurance training programme kicked off



The training aimed to introduce key tools quality assurance system and improvement activities in the UK

Co-organized by British Council and Chongqing Education Evaluation Institute, the UK-China quality assurance training programme was held from 13th to 15th June 2013, as part of the 3-year programme to introduce the UK quality assurance best practices to Chongqing. The training aimed to introduce key tools in the UK quality assurance system and improvement activities including self-assessment report process, selection, assessment and development of staff, schemes of work, lesson plans and appraisal documentation and etc.

Facilitated by UK expert, David Colliers, the participants also discussed how to adapt the UK best practices into the Chongqing context.

The UK-China joint quality assurance study and practice programme is a three-year partnership between the British Council and Chongqing Educational Evaluation Institute. It started with the UK China Vocational Education Quality assurance and Evaluation Forum held in Chongqing in June 2012.

According to the project plan, a Quality Manual and a Peer Reviewers' Handbook with Chinese characteristics will be jointly developed by the UK and Chinese experts after the training and ten secondary and tertiary colleges will be selected to participate in the pilot. Data on various performance indicators will be collected before the pilot and used as the baseline to compare the pilot result in one year's time. A dissemination conference will be held to share the lessons learnt in the pilot in 2015.

China UK skills talents shined at world skills

The world skills Leipzig 2013 came to an end on 7 July 2013. Both UK and Chinese competitors made their utmost efforts to be the best of themselves and got satisfactory results. Team UK gained 2 gold (cabinet making and bricklaying), 1 silver (architectural stonemasonry), 3 Bronze (Electrical Installation, auto repair and aircraft repair) and 14 Medallion for Excellence, while team China took away 1 silver (hairdressing), 3 bronze medals (Refrigeration, CNC milling and Print Media Technology) and 14 Medallion for Excellence. British Council held a UK-China Reception, inviting several dozens representatives from government organizations, vocational colleges and enterprises to discuss further collaborations in skills competition in the near future.

Before World Skills, British Council organized a series of exchange programmes between UK and Chinese experts and competitors, which had greatly enhanced the competition levels of both sides.



The exchanges between UK and China in world skills competition, facilitated by British Council, have greatly enhanced the training and competition levels of both sides

For more information, welcome to visit:
<http://blog.britishcouncil.org/2013/07/23/how-vocational-education-can-plug-the-skills-gap/>

Best selling book on progression pathways published



The first of its kind in China, the book quickly ranked one of the top-ten bestselling books in vocational education in China

A result of a joint project between British Council China and the Central Institute of Vocational and Technical Education (CIVTE) under the Chinese Ministry of Education, a book of research has been published entitled Theory and Practice of Progression Pathways from Secondary through to Tertiary

Vocational Education - the localization of the UK's experiences in China. Supported by a number of UK and Chinese government organisations, employers and colleges, the two-year project was led by a leading Chinese TVET expert, Dr. Liu Yufeng. A number of seminars and workshops have been held, bringing policy makers and practitioners to share best practice from both countries and explore how the UK's experience could be adapted to fit the Chinese context. A pilot to apply the UK's experience was implemented in Guangdong. The first of its kind in China, the book systematically introduced the UK's experience in developing a learning-outcome based and demand-led curriculum, including National Occupational Standards, the qualification and credit framework, and recognition of prior learning.

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