

**Vientiane Joint Statement
on Inclusive and Labour Market oriented Vocational Education and
Training**

Adopted Version

**3rd Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training
Vientiane / Lao PDR
December 14-15, 2015**

Preamble

We, high ranking representatives of responsible national agencies as well as representatives of German development cooperation in the field of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and their local public and private counterparts and supporters (hereinafter participants) are grateful to the Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR and the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany for hosting this important conference and for continuing to further develop the Asia-wide dialogue and cooperation in the field of vocational education and training in the spirit of the process started in 2012 in Hanoi/Vietnam and taken further in Jakarta/Indonesia 2014.

Noting the progress made in the TVET sector in the region since the first Conference in Hanoi / SR Vietnam (2012) the Jakarta Conference Indonesia (2014) and the recent Conference in Vientiane Lao PDR (2015), in particular the improvement of significance and quality in TVET which will contribute to the goal of the upcoming ASEAN Economic Community, in order to “achieve higher levels of economic dynamism, sustained prosperity, inclusive growth and integrated development of ASEAN”.

Recognizing the below mentioned declarations, recommendations and statements endorsed by all ASEAN member states:

- Recommendations of the “Third International UNESCO Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training “Transforming TVET: Building skills for work and life” Shanghai, People’s Republic of China, from 14 to 16 May 2012;
- ASEAN Leaders Statement on Human Resources and Skills Development for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Growth, Hanoi 28 October 2010;
- Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation on Education to achieve an ASEAN Caring and Sharing Community, 12th ASEAN Summit on 14 January 2007, Cha Am Thailand;
- 1st Regional TVET Conference in Viet Nam, October 2012: Recommendations for TVET Quality Breakthrough, as a result of the Regional TVET Conference in Viet Nam and for the next steps of TVET reform in Viet Nam and across the region;
- 2nd Regional TVET Conference, in Indonesia, documents of the conference as well as “Greetings and follow up of the TVET Conference by MoES’ in Jakarta, 10 April 2014;
- KL Declaration Quality Education and Skills Development for Sustainable Future , Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 3-5 August 2015;
- Chiang Mai Joint Statement on Harmonisation and Internationalisation of TVET in Southeast Asia, adopted on 26 August 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Emphasising that the labour market and inclusive TVET have significant roles in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals for economic growth and a knowledge-based, innovative, inclusive development aimed at a socially balanced civil society.

Recommend that governments and all stakeholders in member states of the Asia region shall support the following focal areas of cooperation and interaction.

We the participants of the 3rd TVET conference express the unanimous wish to intensify our efforts and cooperation in this endeavour on:

1. Strengthen governance and cooperation in the field of the TVET in ASEAN

- Working towards the refinement and alignment of the vocational education and training systems with regard to national and regional requirements (legal acts, procedures etc.),
- Accelerating the establishment of an executive and permanent TVET Policy Dialogue platform at political level among the participating countries,
- Expanding regional cooperation and networks in key areas of TVET development (e.g.: Vocational Teacher Education, TVET research & labour market development, green economy, inclusive education and training etc.)
- Ensuring appropriate financing of TVET on a sustainable basis.

2. Regionalisation and Harmonisation of professional and qualification standards

- Working towards the comparability and recognition of certificates of vocational education by developing and applying regional standards,
- Promoting the establishment of commissions on mutual recognition and the conclusion of bi- or multilateral recognition agreements,
- Mobilising the business sector for responsible participation in the development of comprehensive occupational standards and quality assessment.

3. Enhance efficiency and quality of employment oriented vocational education and training

- Ensuring a work-process and employment oriented vocational education and training at all qualification levels in close partnership with business sector,
- Create and promote mechanism and frameworks that involve representatives from the public and private sector (cf. Trade Working Groups, National Training Council and others).

4. Ensure integration and inclusion of disadvantaged groups into vocational education and training

- Following respective national and regional policies and strategies on inclusive education and preparing a TVET environment for „inclusive vocational education“,
- Ensuring access to TVET for people with socio- economic difficulties and people with disabilities.

5. Accelerate quality and mobility of TVET personnel

- Promoting a coherent framework of academic and non-academic vocational teacher education on national level in line with national and regional requirements,
- Establishing and agreeing upon regional standards and certifications on vocational teacher education,
- Providing systematic and practice related capacity building programs for teachers, trainers, school managers and executive personnel.
- Recruit and retain high qualified TVET personnel and design working conditions in an inviting and attractive way.

6. Consider the main challenges limiting further enhancements and attractiveness of TVET

- Considering harmonisation of TVET policies aiming to attract more interest from users and providers,
- Promote better matching between TVET and employment systems,
- Analysing strength and weaknesses of TVET in order to improve access to and

- attractiveness of TVET institutions,
- Ensuring appropriate and comparable recognition of TVET qualifications and certification region-wide with a strong focus on labour mobility in the context of AEC integration.

We, the representatives and participants of Asian countries, encourage all governments, national and international organisations to put all our efforts into the implementation of the aforementioned orientations and recommendations and, thereby, to contribute to economic growth and to socially and ecologically balanced development of our countries and the entire region.

Adopted on 15 December 2015 in Vientiane Lao PDR

at the 3rd TVET Conference on Inclusive and Labour Market oriented Vocational Education and Training, organized by the Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR and the German Ministry of Cooperation and Development