

CPST

Quarterly



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CPSC DG RECEIVES *EduTech Leadership Award* at the *6th World Education Congress*

What's inside

• Senior Executive's Conference • RP Malaysia • RP India • ICP Nepal • ICP Bangladesh • APACC visits to India Malaysia and Philippines • International Accreditors' Training in Nepal • NVQS Book Launch

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The CPSC Quarterly- the official news magazine of the
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The CPSC Quarterly serves as a medium for convergence and exchange of Technical and Vocational, Education and Training (TVET) ideas, information, events and updates on national and regional efforts as well as innovating strategies for Human Resources Development (HRD) across Asia and the Pacific. It serves to strengthen collaborative relationships among professionals and developers, institutional partners, affiliates and networks, alumni and future clients in the transnational community of CPSC.

The CPSC Quarterly – herald of the center of excellence for Human Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific Region...

The CPSC Quarterly- harbinger of TVET news, keeping member countries vitally connected to HRD development and unifying them to pursue excellence towards global progress.

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Dear Readers,

The year 2017 has brought us numerous opportunities and challenges that further defined CPSC's purpose in the development of TVET in member countries. The last three months of the year, in particular, have been very busy and challenging in terms of the programs organized and the participants involved.

CPSC continued to introduce relevant programs that tackled the improvement of TVET personnel in the member countries through the in-country programs. In Nepal, CPSC targeted the enhancement of ICT capabilities for the benefit of TVET professionals. Meanwhile in Bangladesh, the program focused on enhancing and building the image of TVET through quality improvement, accreditation and promoting inclusiveness and participation. In addition, two regional programs held in Malaysia and India tackled themes such as technopreneurship, quality improvement and TVET sustainability.

Last December, CPSC member country representatives finalized CPSC's strategic plan for the next five years. In their capacity, they have validated the findings of the national consultants and experts and have jointly cooperated to come up with a document that will fully encapsulate the TVET needs of their respective countries. CPSC is now ready to present this document to its governing board for approval.

The aforementioned was also a prelude to CPSC's participation in the Asian Development Bank's 7th International Skills Forum on Anticipating and Preparing for Emerging Skills and Jobs". For seven years in a row, CPSC has sent its representatives to these events to further maximize their training in CPSC and to facilitate the enrichment of their network with other stakeholders in ADB.

In APACC, CPSC has brought the training of its pool of accreditors in Nepal, which is the first time that the said engagement was held in the country. This training is hoped to further increase the composition of possible APACC accreditors and bring the commission closer to South Asian TVET institutions.

I am happy to report that we have intensified our accreditation activities in India in which not one, but three institutions all located in Delhi NCR applied for APACC accreditation. This 9-day activity saw the team to the Indian TVET system, and the participation of the institutions prove the passion and drive of Indian TVET institutes to explore ways to improve their operations through APACC.

In addition, one institution from Malaysia and Philippines went through the rigorous process of an APACC onsite visit- a testament of APACC's unparalleled reputation as a leading provider of TVET institutional accreditation in the region.

We are also proud to feature a new addition to CPSC's long list of publications to enrich TVET knowledge. Entitled "Quality TVET in Asia-Pacific Region", the book compiles the National Vocational Qualification Systems (NVQS) of some of its member countries for an easier reference. It is hoped that this book will guide policymakers, instructors and researchers in understanding the intricate yet interesting qualification systems implemented in the region.

These achievements and highlights featured in this version's quarterly further elaborated CPSC's commitment to work towards an inclusive and sustainable TVET- one that champions the needs and priorities of the member countries while being resilient to the challenges that it anticipated. I am confident that CPSC will continue to carry on its mandate while being of service to the human resource needs and requirements of its member countries. Together, we shall serve as TVET's shining beacon towards economic and social progress.

Truly yours,

Ramhari Lamichhane, PhD
Director General

Senior Executives from CPSC Member Countries Ratify the Draft CPSC Strategic Plan 2018-2023

Fifteen country representatives and liaison officers from the different CPSC member countries, industry partners and other high-profile guests graced the Senior Executives Conference, 3-day event organized to help CPSC chart its direction for the next five years. The conference, held from December 9-11, 2017, is the final phase of the preparations for the Strategic Plan 2018-2023 which saw the organization of the National Consultation Meeting and Workshop and the Experts Meeting which were organized on July 13, 2017 and September 20-21, 2017, respectively.



The participants came from Bhutan, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand in addition to a representative from CPSC's honorary member, the IDEB-Bangladesh. Representatives from the Meralco Foundation, Asian Development Bank and Toyota Foundation, Inc. were also in the venue representing CPSC's multi-sectoral partners.

The program was supervised overall by the CPSC Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane. The program logistics and arrangements meanwhile, were facilitated by Dr. G. Kulanthaivel, CPSC Faculty Consultant and program coordinator.

The opening program was graced by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Philippines, H.E. Asad Alam Siam. His presence signified the commitment of the member countries in CPSC's aspiration to further contribute to the development of the human resources in the region to TVET. In his opening speech, he mentioned CPSC's role in uniting the countries from different regions to focus and aspire for a sustainable economic development

through the development of TVET. He underscored CPSC's contribution to the development of their country, and wished the participants their best on the three days ahead.

During the three-day activity, the participants validated the findings of the participants of the Experts' Meeting

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Presentation of the SEC report by the Director General (second from the left) and the head of the Senior Executives Conference delegates

CPSC Teams up with ADB on 7th International Skills Forum on Anticipating and Preparing for Emerging Skills and Jobs

On its third year collaborative venture, the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) successfully organized the 7th International Skills Forum held from December 12-14, 2017 at the ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines.

The event provided an opportunity to: showcase transformational practices to equip the youth with employable and life skills; bring together representatives from government, private sector and other partners involved in education and training to showcase innovative good practices; and; inspire experts and developing member countries' counterparts, and promote collaboration between key stakeholders to incorporate new approaches and technologies to design and implement innovative projects and programs in education and training.

Inclusive among the approximately 300 participants of the forum were the CPSC member country delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka. The event proved to be a perfect venue for policy makers, government officials, practitioners, and entrepreneurs in highlighting how the private and public sectors are contributing to skills development in preparing workforce needs, and demonstrating cross-sector collaboration including some challenges and issues on skills development in the region particularly among said member countries represented.

The CPSC Director General Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane who were among the select number of international speakers and thinkers during the forum, spoke on Quality Benchmarking and Accrediting TVET Institutions. In his presentation he highlighted the need for standardized quality of TVET delivery in the Asia Pacific region, which the CPSC pioneered through the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission.

CPSC also participated in the forum's booth exhibits with displays of CPSC and APACC publications and informational materials.



Dr. Ramhari delivering his presentation about quality benchmarking at TVET institutions in the lecturer's podium



Some CPSC participants in the Senior Executives' Conference also attended the ADB Conference.

In-Country Program and International Seminar in Nepal Targets Enhancing the ICT Capabilities of TVET Professionals

In its thrust to boost the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) capabilities of TVET professionals in Nepal, an In-Country Program (ICP) focusing on the applications of ICT in the pedagogical and learning process was held at the Training Institute for Technical Instruction (TITI) from October 8-12, 2017 by the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) in collaboration with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) – Nepal.



Attended by 26 participants, the program targeted to expand the knowledge of the participants in ICT through special lectures and theme papers relating to: (1) ICT-based education; (2) training and management, development of rich media e-learning resource; (3) identification of emerging trends in e-learning and relating these in their own institutions and (4) customization of learning management systems to suit their institutional needs and learning capacities for online delivery.

The program provided them with a whole new perspective and appreciation of ICT not only in creating their learning materials and instruments, but also in ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of these information aids to enhance the learning experience and immersion of their student audience.

Steering and supervising the ICP is the CPSC Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane together with CTEVT's Member Secretary Mr. Pushpa Raham Wagle. Program coordination and facilitation, meanwhile, was managed by CPSC Faculty Consultant Prof. Dr. G. Kulanthaivel with the local support of Mr. Tek Bahadur Malla, Mr. Mohan Bahadur Karki, and Mr. Deva Kumar Shrestha of CTVET

To further enhance the reach and distribute the benefits of the ICP, CPSC also organized the International Seminar on "ICT-enabled Teaching and Learning" conducted on October

11, 2017. Participated by TVET administrators, policy makers, academic professionals, experts including as well as representatives and experts from various international and regional organizations including private sector and enthusiasts from Nepal, the seminar was addressed by CTEVT and National Skills Testing Board (NSTB) officials, as well as leading professionals and educators from the academe and private sector. A total of 62 delegates attended the event.



Prof. Pramod B. Shrestha (right) delivering his lecture during National Seminar



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) facilitated a program focusing on the Image-Building Mechanism and Strategies in TVET in Bangladesh at the Technical Teachers' Training College (TTTC) in Dhaka from November 19-23, 2017. The program, which was organized in partnership with the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), was attended by 45 TVET administrators from all over the country.



Some women participants during the program listening attentively to the speaker

TVET Image Building Main Topic of this Year's In-Country Program in Bangladesh

Themes discussed in the program include: (1) Status, strategies and mechanisms in popularizing TVET, (2) Experiences and possible avenues for image building in Bangladesh, (3) Enhancing TVET Image through APACC Accreditation & ICT, (4) Gender Mainstreaming in TVET, (5) Enhancing Employability of Youth for Global Citizenship and (6) Improving Inclusiveness through Access, Equity and Employability in TVET.

The program was supervised by Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane, CPSC Director General and Mr. Ashoke Kumar Biswas, the Additional Secretary of the Technical and Madrasa Education Division, Ministry of Education and also the Director General of the Directorate of Technical Education. Program coordination was facilitated by Dr. H. Chithral Ambawatte, CPSC Governing-Board Engaged Faculty Consultant and Mr. Md. Wahidul Islam Joint Secretary & Director (PIW) Directorate of Technical Education (DTE).

To supplement the lessons generated by program, CPSC also organized a National Seminar with the theme "Initiatives and Practices in Building TVET Image in Bangladesh" at the same venue on November 22, 2017, which was attended by 85 participants. The said seminar elucidated different strategies and approaches towards image building of TVET systems.

Key speakers during the seminar were: Prof. Yusuf Mahbubul Islam, Vice Chancellor of Daffodil International University; Ms. Tahsinah Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer of Underprivileged Children's Education Program (UCEP) Bangladesh and Dr. H. Chithral Ambawatte. The three speakers shared their insights and expertise on various aspects of Building TVET Image in Bangladesh, APACC Accreditation, Sustainable Development Goals and Public-Private Partnership in Sustainable Development and Strengthening TVET through ICT.

Regional Program and International Conference in Kota Bharu, Malaysia Puts Technopreneurship and Entrepreneurship into the Spotlight



Participants discuss with one another on the different strategies on technopreneurship during the Regional Program classroom activities



A participant from Thailand observing a student crafting handmade "batik" at UiTM



Politeknik Kota Bharu (PKB), one of the leading polytechnic institutions in Malaysia and a Gold-Level APACC Accredited Institution is the host of this year's CPSC-PKB Regional Program on "TVET as a Catalyst to Facilitate Technopreneurship" and the 7th International Conference in Education-Technical Vocational Education and Training (CiE-TVET)". The two programs were held in a span of five days, with the former from October 7-8, 2017 and the latter from October 9 -11, 2017.

A total of 14 representatives from CPSC member countries such as Bhutan, Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand attended the regional program. They joined the additional 89 participants that came from all over the host country, Malaysia, in the International Conference.

The regional program was organized to develop understanding and thoroughness of technology entrepreneurship. It opened the possibilities for engineers and individuals with technical backgrounds to venture in reinventing industries and markets and/or start their own businesses. Furthermore, it targetted to improve the awareness of the participants on the relevance of technology entrepreneurship education today especially in TVET. Lastly, it also planned inform the need to redirect a significant critical mass of TVET graduates from wage employment to technopreneurial careers.

The regional program covered themes such as the: (1) anatomy of a Technopreneur & what does it take to become one; (2) The role of TVET in lifelong career growth & development in Technopreneurship and (3): the importance of TVET hosting as an incubation center. In addition, a special lecture entitled "Technopreneurship as a vehicle to facilitate prosperity" was also delivered by the resource persons to supplement the themes mentioned above.

The CPSC Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane and the Director of the Politeknik Kota Bharu, Mr. Noor Azahan bin Othman, facilitated the overall supervision of the program and the international conference. Program coordination and academic resources was facilitated by Dr. Romulita Alto, Faculty Consultant of the Colombo Plan Staff College. Local coordination and arrangements was made possible through Mr. Hazmee bin Abdul Halim and Mr. Rodey Hamza bin Hamza, both lecturers at PKB.

The participants also visited the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in Cawangan, Kelantan on October 8, 2017 to personally see a TVET institution hosting an incubation center for entrepreneurship. They were welcomed with their Director, Dr. Tuan Md. Rosli Tuan Hassan and were given a tour of the facilities.

International Conference focused on creating the "Sustainable Entrepreneurial Workforce"

The three-day international conference tackled some of the inventions, ideas and technical papers developed by the speakers. It became a platform that served as a meeting place of the academe, business and industry in tackling common interests in the field of technology and entrepreneurship.

During the three day event, the papers that were presented revolved around the theme "Translating TVET for Sustainable Entrepreneurial Workforce" and were classified according to the following subthemes: (1) Agriculture; (2) ICT and Creative Computing; (3) TVET Management; (4) Material Composites; (5) Entrepreneurship; (6) Electrical and Electronic Engineering; (7) Green Technology; (8) Mechanical Engineering; (9) Transnational Research; (10) Civil Engineering; (11) Action Research and (12) Other related fields of Engineering. Overall, the program received positive feedback from the participants and audience alike.



CPSC Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane (center) with the participants at an incubation center in Politeknik Kota Bharu



Dr. Alto, the program coordinator, receiving a token from PKB administrators during the Opening Ceremony of the International Conference





The participants of the Regional program listening to the lectures



The participants check on training laboratory equipment during the study tour to Dr. Sudhir Chanda Sur Degree Engineering College



Quality and Sustainability of TVET, TVET Skills Focal Issues in Regional Program, International Seminar in India

A quality delivery of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) that addresses economic progress and at the same time ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come, were the focal points of sharing for the Regional Program and International Seminar held in Kolkata, India from October 24 to 28, 2017. The Regional Program on “Quality and Sustainable TVET” and the International Seminar on “Skills in TVET for Sustainability” were organized by the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) in partnership with the National Institute of Technical Teachers’ Training and Research (NITTTR), Kolkata.

The program convened member country representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka who were composed mainly of principals, deputy directors and policy and planning officials. A total of 18 participants attended the regional program while 56 attendees were present during the seminar.

The program provided the participants with learnings on: the various approaches and innovations on NVQs implemented by the member countries; the need and importance of standards, quality and accreditation relative to the national, regional and global labor market; APACC accreditation as a continuous improvement

approach to organizational excellence in TVET; best practices in TVET and discuss possibilities of realigning TVET skills towards a more sustainable approach.

Dr. Lamichhane provided a Special Lecture on Changing Labor Market Demands and Education Priorities in the Asia Pacific Region and the Trends Towards the Vocationalization of Education. Prof. Urmila Kar, Professor, Education and Management, NITTTR shared her insights on "Organizational Sustainability in TVET: What is it and Why it Does Matter?" Dr. Habiba Hussain, Assistant Professor, Education and Management, NITTTR imparted her knowledge on Enhancing Responsiveness of TVET for Sustainable Future. Prof. Dr. G. Kulanthaivel, CPSC Faculty Consultant & Chairman of ICT Division highlighted the need for quality delivery of TVET through his presentation on "Enhancing Image and Sustainability of TVET".

Shri Madhu Ranjan Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India graced the inaugural ceremonies of the International Seminar and officially signaled the beginning of the seminar by lighting of the lamp (panas). He congratulated NITTTR, Kolkata for pulling through such a big program attended by international delegates. The Joint Secretary commended Director Gupta for heeding the call for and taking action towards the "Skill India Campaign" of India's Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, through such program collaboration with CPSC.

The International Seminar achieved its aims and objectives through inputs from Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), India; Mr. Ketul Acharya, Chief Operating Officer and Group Head for Skills Business IL&FS Skills Development Corporation (IL&FS Skills), Dr. Vinay Kumar Dadhwaj, Director, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) and International delegates.



(top photo)- The program coordinator, Dr. G. Kulanthaivel, interacts with the participants during the lectures. (bottom photo) Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane presenting the CPSC Plaque to Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE



CPSC's Expertise Tapped at a Special Program and Workshop in Marikina City, Philippines



The National TVET Trainers Academy (NTTA), an academic institution under the supervision of the National Institute for Technical Education and Skills Development (NITESD), the trainers' development arm of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) commissioned the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) as an expert to guide them in formulating their 5-year organizational plan during the Special Program and Workshop on Strategic Planning. The said program tapped 34 experts from the different regions of the Philippines and was held on November 20 to 22, 2018 at the NTTA Campus in Marikina City, Philippines.

The overall purpose of the program is to equip the NTTA administrators and leaders with an idea on the institutional planning process or model which is better suited to its current capacity as a non-profit institution. Approaches such as consensus-building, empowerment and constituent's need orientation were adopted in order to arrive at the most ideal scenario for NTTA's institutional plan which will be forwarded to the higher authorities of TESDA.

The program also aims to impart the appreciation for the need and importance of strategic planning to the participants. The lectures and activities were designed for them to be able to understand the concepts, principles, processes and mechanisms of strategic planning and management, as well as to comprehend the steps involved in the process of strategic planning. At the end of this session, it is hoped that they are capable of designing and operationalizing a customized strategic planning framework and use this knowledge in guiding NTTA in developing their own institutional development plan.

The program tapped the expertise of the CPSC Faculty Consultant Dr. Romulita C. Alto, who acted as the overall program coordinator and resource person. She discussed the concepts and different approaches for strategic planning adopted by educational and training institutions. Meanwhile, the

CPSC Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhanne, visited the program on its first day to discuss some measures and insights on strategic planning

The overall feedback and reception of the program was positive, with NTTA officials expressing their gratitude to the participants and CPSC for their efforts to aid the academy's journey towards excellence through strategic planning and organizational development.



Dr. Romulita C. Alto, CPSC Program Coordinator, discussing the strategic planning process

Sixteen (16) TVET institution officers and staff from the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal and Laos went to CPSC's Headquarters in Manila to participate in the Customized Program on Leadership and Management held from November 27 to 29, 2017.

The program emphasized advanced levels of academic challenge in pursuit of quality and excellence in education. It incorporated sound leadership and quality culture for effective decision making, enabling them to become positive change agents in the attainment of learning objectives. Furthermore, the program aimed to impart an appreciation of modern educational management concepts and practices and find its applicability in the management of their own institutions.

To achieve its aims, themes such as educational transformation through leadership, accreditation and quality management, organizational development and the adoption of the plan-check-do-act (PCDA) cycle in the formulation of the action plan were discussed.



The participants showing their skills and knowledge in the tasks prepared by CPSC

TVET Institutional Managers from Different Countries Participate in Customized Program on Leadership and Management

The program was supervised overall by the CPSC Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane. Program logistics and arrangements meanwhile was managed by Dr. H. Chithral Ambawatte, Faculty Consultant of the Colombo Plan Staff College and the Program Coordinator. Academic preparations and support were facilitated by Dr. Romulita Alto and Dr. G. Kulanthaivel, CPSC Faculty Consultants.

To further immerse the participants to the lessons, a study tour to the Enderun Colleges in Taguig City were organized. The college envisions to “develop students to become professionals who cultivate independent thinking and practice effective leadership in the global workplace”. The participants were able to gain new insights on institutional management as demonstrated by Enderun College's outstanding operations.





In Country Program in Nepal



International Conference in Malaysia



Regional Program in Malaysia

CPSC

Quarterly



In Country Program in Bangladesh



National Seminar in Bangladesh



International Seminar in India



Regional Program in India

ACTION



CPSC DG Receives EduTech Leadership Award at the 6th World Education Congress in Mumbai

In recognition to his contribution to the field of TVET in the Asia-Pacific region as CPSC's Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane received the EduTech Leadership Award during the 6th World Education Congress and Awards held in Taj Lands End, Mumbai, India from November 22-24, 2017.

The award was presented in honor of unique and creative leaders that demonstrate guidance, integrity and outstanding commitment to education technology.

Attended by more than 2000 people from various countries, the World Education Congress and Awards focused on connecting Education, Environment and Technology in order to be more effective to increase education standards and at the same time to protect the environment.

The congress comprised of inspirational keynotes from across the world who are pioneering educators' that are already changing education in their classrooms and technology leaders from education and innovative technology companies.

Dr. Lamichhane also presented his lecture on "Fostering 21st Century Skills" in one of the sessions during the three-day event. He also met with renowned professors, educators and leaders around the world including Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, the Bangladesh Education Minister and Dr. R.L Bhatia, the Founder of World CSR Day and World Sustainability

CPSC Director General, Acting RPID Officer, Contributes to the TESDA's National Consultation for the National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan 2017-2022



The CPSC Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane and the Acting Research, Publications and Information Officer, Mr. Rae Emmanuel Echaveria, attended the National Consultation for the 4th Cycle of the National Education and Skills Development Plan (NTESDP) 2017-2022. The event was attended by 75 guests which was composed of senior members of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), industry representatives, partners and vocational school administrators. The event was held at the Makati Diamond Residences on November 29, 2017.

As one of its TVET partners in the Philippines, CPSC became a part of the national formulation of the plan which was designed to outline the strategies in utilizing TVET for its role in the acceleration of the Philippines' economic and social development. The plan was also in-line with the long-term vision of TESDA which sees a "Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Buhay" (Strong, Comfortable and Easy Life) for all Filipinos by ensuring their competitiveness in the global market through TVET.

CPSC contributed to the group composed of vocational school administrators and industry representatives. CPSC suggested that ensuring a high-quality TVET should be a priority not only on the programs but also on the institutions that implement these programs. It forwarded the need for TVET institutions to be accredited by bodies such as the Asia-Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) to ensure that the standards being used in the country are at par with regional standards.



Dr. Lamichhane (right) with Fr. Jose Dindo Vitug, Executive Director of Don Bosco

CPSC Renews MoU with TESDA and National TVET Trainers Academy (NTTA)



The officials of CPSC (left) and TESDA (right) presenting the signed MoU to the audience

Demonstrating the commitment of CPSC in further contributing the TVET development in the member countries, particularly the Philippines, CPSC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the National TVET Trainers Academy held during a special ceremony at TESDA's Headquarters in Taguig City, Philippines on December 7, 2017.

The agreement aims to motivate both organizations to support, cooperate, design and implement human resources development activities which may include organizing joint programs and conferences for sharing knowledge and technologies, to name a few.

In attendance was Mr. Guiling Mamondiong, the Director General of TESDA and Dr. Rosanna Urdaneta, TESDA Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning. CPSC was represented by Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane, CPSC Director General and Dr. G. Kulanthaivel, CPSC Faculty Consultant.

CPSC Receives Visitor from AGC Development Corporation

As part of its efforts to promote APACC to potential visitors, CPSC welcomed a visitor from the Aguila Group of Companies (AGC) Development Corporation, Ms. Eloisa Tinio, on November 17, 2017 at the CPSC Headquarters.

She was warmly received by the members of the CPSC faculty namely the Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane, Dr. G. Kulanthaivel and Dr. Chithhral Ambawatte. They discussed possibilities for collaboration especially in institutional accreditation.



Ms. Eloisa Tinio (3rd from left) with CPSC Faculty and Director General.

Their website states that the Aguila Group of Companies (AGC) Development Corporation was incorporated "as a management and business consultancy to assist and represent various international companies seeking business opportunity through joint ventures (JV's) and co-operation in the Philippines in the field of power, oil and gas, refinery, information technology and semiconductor/electronics technology, land, infrastructure and real estate development". It is hoped that this visit would pave the way for more collaborative activities in the future.

APACC, CTEVT hold fourth International Accreditors' Training in Nepal

The Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC), in collaboration with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), conducted a 2-day APACC International Accreditors' Training at the Airport Hotel Summit Residency, Kathmandu, Nepal on October 13-14, 2017.

A total of 26 high-ranking participants from various CPSC member countries such as Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, attended the training to know more about APACC and to undergo the training to be certified APACC Accreditors. The international accreditors' training is the fourth training and the first one to be held in Nepal. Previous trainings were held in the Philippines since 2013.

The event was organized for the participants to be able to understand accreditation as a tool for improving the quality of TVET institutions. It was also targeted that the participants will be able to build their capacity to undertake an actual accreditation process using APACC criteria.

Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) Director General and APACC President, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane talked about the history, accreditation process and benefits of APACC. In his lecture, he emphasized the role of APACC which is to promote continuous improvement in institutions. His lecture was followed by Dr. Pramod Shrestha's talk on Quality Assessment of TVET Institutions in Nepal through International Accreditation wherein he discussed about the APACC Model and its principles.

The orientation and workshop on the APACC criteria was conducted by Pn. Noor Aidi binti Nadzri, National Coordinator for Accreditation in Malaysia and Director of Curriculum Development Division of the Department of Polytechnic Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia. During the workshop, Pn. Noor Aidi discussed the highlights of the seven APACC Criteria. The lessons were supplemented by practical workshops to enhance participants' understanding of the process of evaluation.

The program ended with an examination to assess the knowledge of the participants after the inputs from resource speakers.



Pn. Noor Aidi bt. Nadzri (standing) providing her lecture to the participants



Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane delivering his opening address



Participants of the International APACC accreditors' training



APACC Affirms its Commitment to Quality TVET in its Onsite Visit to POLIMAS, Kedah, Malaysia

The Asia-Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) conducted its first onsite visit to Malaysia this 2017 at the Politeknik Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzan Shah (POLIMAS) in Jitra, State of Kedah, Malaysia. The accreditation exercise was conducted from October 3-5, 2017.

The institution embarked on its first APACC accreditation exercise as it aims to achieve the feats of other polytechnics in Malaysia who have successfully conducted their own onsite visit preparations and exercises since 2014. The 3-day onsite visit activities aimed to validate and assess whether POLIMAS is competent to carry out specific tasks for assessing and enhancing academic and educational quality.

The accreditors assigned were Dr. Romulita Alto, CPSC Faculty Consultant as Team Leader and Dr. Paiboon Saiyawongs, the APACC Special Officer in the Kingdom of Thailand as Team Member. The accreditors were accompanied by Ms. Aba Bernadine Lim, CPSC Multimedia Artist as Documentation Officer and Ms. Nabil bt. Yaacob, Senior Assistant Director of the Malaysia Department of Polytechnic Education (DPE) and former professional intern of the Colombo Plan Staff College as Translator.

The opening program was attended by the management committee, faculty members and staff of POLIMAS led by the Deputy Director/Acting Director, Mr. Bakri bin Baharom along with the APACC team. In attendance as well were Mr. Abdul Latif bin Halim, Deputy Director of POLIMAS and Pn. Noor Aidi binti Nadzri, National

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Dr. Paiboon in discussion with the faculty and students of POLIMAS



Dr. Alto observing the plasticware laboratory of POLIMAS

APACC Continues Quality Assurance Drive in Eastern Samar, visits SNSAT

The Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) continued to promote quality and excellence in TVET as another team of accreditors conducted another on-site visit in Eastern Samar, Philippines.

The team, led by CPSC Faculty Consultant & Chairman of ICT Division, Prof. Dr. G. Kulanthaivel, along with Iloilo Science and Technology University (ISAT-U) President Dr. Raul Muyong and CPSC Executive Secretary Mr. Bryan Noel Lazaro, went to Samar National School of Arts and Trades (SNSAT) in Taft, Eastern Samar from November 7 to 8, 2017 to assess and validate the school's application for APACC reaccreditation.

The CPSC Director General and concurrent APACC President, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane, joined the team in the first day of the accreditation exercises to grace the Opening Ceremony of the 2-day on-site visit activities. He also visited nearby TESDA schools and universities in Eastern Samar to promote the activities of APACC.

The team was welcomed by the SNSAT Vocational School Administrator, Dr. Antonio Waniwan and the rest of the SNSAT faculty and staff. In the Opening Ceremony, Dr. Lamichhane mentioned the relevance of accreditation as a journey towards achieving institutional excellence. He emphasized the importance of providing quality education and training to students taking into consideration the 3 H, i.e. Head, Hands and Heart. He also praised SNSAT for submitting itself to another accreditation undertaking after being devastated by Typhoon Yolanda in 2013 and Typhoon Ruby in 2014.

SNSAT was established as a trade school under the Department of Education (formerly Department of Education, Culture and Sports) on June 23, 1969 through the Republic Act 5949 and was later transferred to TESDA in 1994 upon the latter's establishment. It occupies 3.3 hectares of land and offers 21 TVET programs in the following sectors: Tourism (Hotel and Restaurant Services), General Infrastructure, Electronics, Health, Social and other Community Services, Automotive, Land Transport and Metals and Engineering. SNSAT undertook its first APACC accreditation exercise in 2010 and was the first TESDA School in Visayas to receive the Silver-Level APACC Accreditation in 2011.



Dr Ramhari Lamichhane giving his opening speech to the faculty and staff of SNSAT



The APACC team inspecting the garments classroom in SNSAT



APACC Accreditors during the tour of the automotive workshops

APACC Intensifies Accreditation Activities in India, Visits Three Institutions in Delhi

The Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) conducted a series of on-site visits in Delhi, India from October 30 to November 7, 2017. The visits were the second to fourth accreditation exercises in India, which started in January 2017 with Nachimuthu Polytechnic College, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu.

The APACC team, composed of Dr. Paiboon Saiyawongs, APACC Special Officer in Thailand and Team Leader, Prof. Dr. Dhinamani Brahadeeswaran, APACC Special Officer in India and Team Member, and Ms. Adrienne Abril, Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) Projects and Consultancy Division Officer, visited Jija Bai Industrial Training Institute for Women on October 30 – 31, 2017, followed by Ambedkar Institute of Technology on November 2 – 3, 2017, and lastly Bhai Parmanand Institute of Business Studies on November 6 – 7, 2017.

The first institution visited, Jija Bai Industrial Training Institute for Women, is a public industrial training institute established in 1969. The institute is one of the premier Women Vocational Training Institutes in Northern India and established under the aegis of National Council on Vocational Training (NCVT) under Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T), Ministry of Labour, Government of India, and State Council of Vocational Training (SCVT) under government of Delhi. It is currently headed by the Principal Sh. Vijay Kumar.

Ambedkar Institute of Technology (AIT), a public polytechnic college, was established in 1986 by the Department of Training & Technical Education (D.T.T.E.), Government of National Capital Territory of New Delhi. The institution was awarded two times, in 2007 and

2016, as Best Institute in Northern Region by the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR) Chandigarh.

The last to be visited was Bhai Parmanand Institute of Business Studies (BPIBS), a public technical college established in 1986 under the Government of NCT of Delhi. It was formerly known as "Institute of Commercial Practice" in 1972, which mainly conducted vocational courses in the area of office management and secretarial practice. At present, apart from Diploma and Bachelor Courses related to TVET, the institution also offers Master Programs in Computer Application and Business Administration. BPIBS has been selected as one of the top 10 institutes among 4800 institutes in India for Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (Financial Literacy Campaign) at national level based on the work done in spreading awareness about Digital Financial Literacy and bringing people on digital platform. It garnered the Best Academic Infrastructure 2017 at Students' Choice Awards 2017.



Onsite Visit to Bhai Parmanand Institute of Business Studies (BPIBS)



Reviewing the documents during the onsite visit to Ambedkar Institute of Technology



Assessing the laboratories at Jija Bai Industrial Training Institute for Women

BOOK LAUNCHING: QUALITY TVET IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: THE NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEMS OF CPSC MEMBER COUNTRIES

When policymakers discuss about quality TVET, they tend to focus on the quality of TVET infrastructure or the efficiency of TVET instructors in imparting the skills, ideas and the necessary preparations in order to ensure the trainees' readiness to face the world of work.

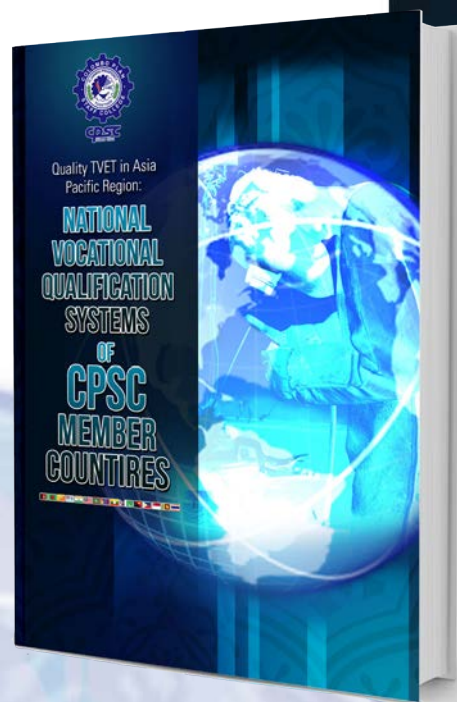
However, this is just one aspect of "quality TVET". More often than so, it involves the adoption of standards, qualifications and certifications that ensure the trainees' readiness to not only perform the skill or task expected in his chosen qualification but also be ready for the challenges of employment.

The establishment of qualification frameworks and systems to formalize, regulate and ensure the success of learning outcomes to its intended goal should be seen as a necessary step in making TVET a relevant and gainful undertaking in education.

In line with this aspiration, this book is a product of the efforts brought upon by the participants of the International Program on Sharing and Learning on National Vocational Qualification Systems (NVQS). Held in Dhulikel, Nepal from March 6-10, 2017. This 5-day event invited TVET experts and policy makers from all-over the region to discuss the various practices and standards on NVQS implemented by different countries and enabled the opportunity for the participants to learn from the unique systems and frameworks implemented by different countries.

The publication entitled : "Quality TVET in Asia-Pacific Region: The National Vocational Qualification Systems of CPSC Member Countries" is an initiative that hopefully lays the ground work for sustainable TVET implementation-one that emphasizes quality TVET operations while documenting the intricacies, ideas and possible challenges that will be important in identifying possibilities to further improve or enhance its operation.

The contents of the book were designed to aid researchers, policymakers and TVET administrators, the NVQS systems of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand were discussed by their respective TVET officers. In addition, papers elaborating on the challenges in implementing NVQS systems in Korea, Nepal and the Philippines were also featured, as well as some of the key concepts in NVQS and the role of the Asia-Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) in strengthening the quality and reliability of TVET systems.



The Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Philippines, H.E. Asad Alam Siam (left) with Dr. Lamichhane and Dr. Kulanthaivel (center and right) during the unveiling ceremony.

The publication was officially unveiled on a simple ceremony during the Senior Executives' Conference on December 9, 2017. The conference was attended by 15 country representatives. The Ambassador of Bangladesh, H.E. Asad Alam Siam, graced the event marked with the official unveiling of the book as witnessed by the Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane and CPSC Faculty Consultant, Dr. G. Kulanthaivel.

The Power of Solar Energy¹

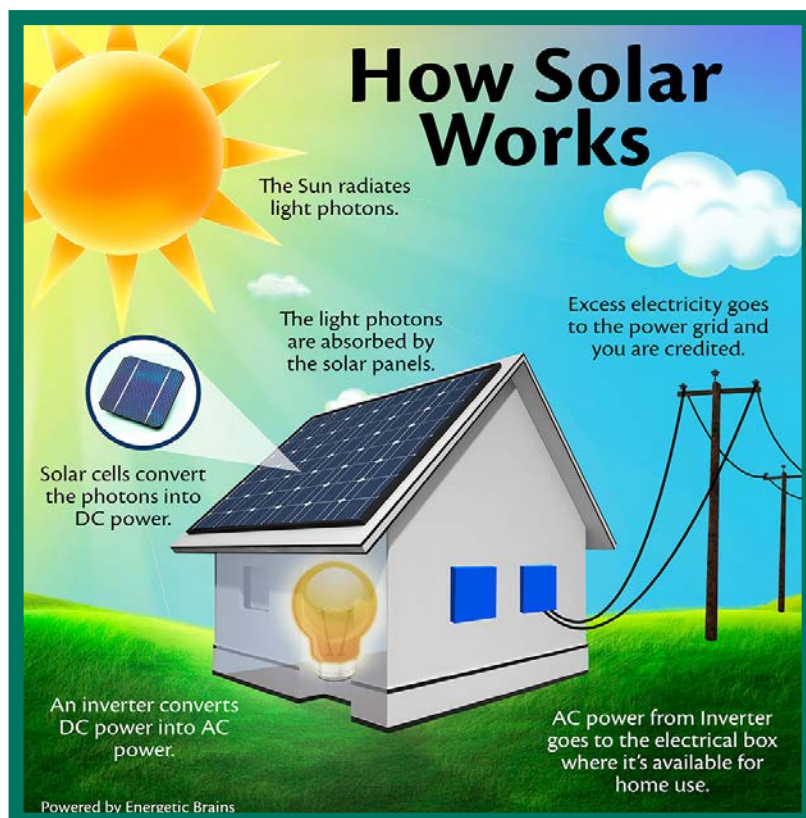
Solar Energy is tapped to be the “renewable energy” of the future (SolarResourceGuide, 2018) due to its clean and abundant source. Because of the increasingly bad effects of greenhouse gases such as climate change, people are exploring solar energy as a viable alternative to power their homes.

Some of the advantages of solar power are the following

1. Even cloudy locations typically receive more than two hours of sunlight per day: Cloudy locations receive an average of 2.5 hours per day of sunlight, while sunny locations receive an average of 5.5 hours of sunlight per day.
2. Solar panels can work even on a cloudy day: While sunny days will produce more solar energy, solar panels will continue to draw energy even when the weather is cloudy. Indirect, or diffused sunlight will still help to power your home. Cloudy days usually produce around 10% to 20% of the amount produced on sunny days.
3. Batteries can make solar energy systems a 24/7/365 power source: When combined with an integrated battery, solar energy systems can provide electricity even when it's dark outside, potentially offering around the clock power for your home and providing for an off grid energy lifestyle.
4. The sun gives off thousands of watts of energy: Per each square meter of the Earth's surface, the sun gives off about 1,000 watts of energy.
5. Solar power is a reliable energy system: When power plants and electrical grids fail, hundreds or thousands of homes can be left without power. In severe natural disasters, that could mean homes are left powerless for several days, even weeks. But solar power systems are distributed and modular, meaning they are spread out over a large geographical area and are composed of numerous solar arrays. If some of the system is damaged, the rest of the system can continue to generate power.

Whittington Solar (2015) detailed how solar energy works, which involved the following process.

1. Solar energy is radiated from the Sun.
2. The radiated energy, in the form of photons (particles of light), is absorbed by a solar panel.
3. Solar cells within the solar panel react to the photons and produce DC power (type produced by batteries.)
4. An inverter takes the DC power and converts it into AC power (type used by your home's lights and household appliances.)
5. Electricity from the inverter travels to your electrical box, where it is available for use in your home to power your lights, air conditioning, appliances and other electrical devices.
6. Any excess electricity your system produces goes through a net energy meter and out to the power grid for others to use. You meter turns backwards, giving you a “credit” that you will see on your next bill.
7. Whenever your system is not producing enough energy to fulfill your power requirements (like at night or on cloudy days) you will draw electricity from the grid, like normal.



¹ References:

1. Solar Resource Guide (2018). *Benefits of Solar Power*. Retrieved from <http://www.solarresourceguide.org/benefits-of-solar/>
 2. Whittington Solar (2015). *How Solar Energy Systems Work*. Retrieved from <http://www.whittingtonsolar.com/home/start-here/how-solar-energy-works/>

CPSC WELCOMES NEW GOVERNING-BOARD ENGAGED FACULTY CONSULTANT MEMBER FROM SRI LANKA

The CPSC family is happy to welcome Seconded Faculty DR. H. Chithral Ambawatte who joined the College on October 01, 2017. He has been a crucial focal person in Sri Lanka, having been the local coordinator and local resource person in many occasions during CPSC's programs in the country.

He was born on November 17, 1966 in Galle, Sri Lanka and he is married and with three children. Prior to joining CPSC, He is a full-time Senior Lecturer of Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna [UoR].

He also worked as a Director General of Department of Technical Education & Training [DTET], Ministry of Youth Affairs & Skills Development of the GOSL from August 2010 to November 2012. During that time he had been involved in the capacity of Program coordinator/resource persons in numerous teachers' training in technical education organized by DTET and CPSC. The newest faculty completed his Bachelor's degree on 1987 followed by obtaining his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering (1st Class Honors) in the year 1993 at Russian Peoples' Friendship University, Moscow, Russia.

In the year 1997 he took a post graduate diploma of a Researcher. He earned his Doctorate Degree in Technical Sciences in the year 1997 and subsequently acquired a Post-graduate Diploma in Diplomacy and International Affairs in the year 2016.

He also served as a Project Manager / Senior Mechanical Engineer from August 1997 to January 2003 in National Engineering Research & Development Centre of Sri Lanka [NERD Centre], Ministry of Science & Technology, and as a Visiting Lecturer from 1997 to 2004 at the Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) former Technical Training Institute (TTI), Katunayaka, respectively.



Senior Executives ...continued from p.4

and finalize the draft Strategic Plan 2018-2023 which will be presented in the anticipated 104th Governing Board Meeting in January 2018. The participants also talked about the emerging institutional issues that CPSC faced in the past five years and anticipate the emerging challenges that CPSC will face in the future.

The delegates elected Dr. Mohammad Naim bin Yaakub, the Deputy Director General of the Department of Polytechnic Education Malaysia and the 10th CPSC Director General as the head of the Senior Executives. He facilitated the responses of the participants to further improve and finalize the Strategic Plan in its current form.

At the end of the three-day event, the participants were able to agree on the draft vision, mission, goal, objectives, strategies and activities which was ratified through a signing ceremony held on the Closing Program on December 11, 2017. Their signatures ratified the approval of the delegates to the document and symbolically gave their guidance to CPSC as it embarks on another phase of its operations.

APACC Affirms ...continued from p.17

Coordinator for Accreditation in Malaysia and the Director of Curriculum Development Division of DPE. The officials warmly welcomed the visitors from APACC and expressed their commitment to further uphold a high quality TVET in Malaysia through the polytechnics. POLIMAS also prepared a venue showcasing the innovations of their own students and faculty members.

Faculty and students from the Songkhla Vocational College in Songkhla, Thailand were invited to showcase their institution's products and services and to personally observe the APACC accreditation exercise. This is in anticipation of their own onsite visit exercise which is tentatively scheduled in November 2017.

POLIMAS is the 3rd polytechnic institute established by the Ministry of Education under technical and vocational education program. It first started its operations on March 14, 1987 and was formally inaugurated by the DYMM Tuanku Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, then the Sultan of Kedah. Since then, the name of this polytechnic was changed from Politeknik Alor Setar to Polytechnic Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, in honor of the Sultan.



CPSC'S CELEBRATES 44th Years OF ESTABLISHMENT

The Colombo Plan Staff College celebrated 44 years of playing its unique and pivotal role of contributing to the progress of TVET through human resource development in Asia Pacific region. A simple ceremony commemorating years of advocating TVET excellence was held on December 11, 2017 at CPSC, Manila, Philippines. This ceremony was also conducted to culmination of the Senior Executives Conference.

Guests of honor were Dr. Mohammad Naim Yaakub, Director General of CPSC from 2011 to 2015 and Dr. Bernardo Adviso, Director General of CPSC from 1997-2002. In addition, the 15 participants of the Senior Executives Conference and ADB Skills Forum from various CPSC and Non-CPSC Member countries were also invited.

The current Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane warmly welcomed the big family of the Asia Pacific Region. He affirmed CPSC's continued commitment towards the improvement of TVET in the region and urged the member countries to foster more initiatives to bolster communication and cooperation. He also briefly gave a statement about CPSC's progress through the years.

A toast and a ceremonial cake slicing followed the exchange of pleasantries and conveyance of positive messages to CPSC.

The event marked a refreshed vigor and strengthened commitment to the goals, ideals, and visions of the College forward looking to more years of service to the TVET systems enhancement in the Asia Pacific region.



CPSC HOLDS Yearend Gathering 2017

The CPSC Yearend Gathering was held on December 15, 2017 at the CPSC Park to celebrate the end of another successful year. The event served as recollection day for the numerous achievements and milestones that the college has achieved. The gathering was also a chance to enhance camaraderie among the staff members, as well as provide a wonderful start to the upcoming Christmas holidays. It also included a tribute of birthday celebrants from October to December.

The Director General, Dr. Ramhari Lamichhane, briefed the staff about CPSC's accomplishments for past months and indicated the future plans and upcoming initiatives that the college will embark in the coming year. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for cooperation and initiatives among the staff members for the benefit of the member countries. Song numbers, parlor games and gift giving filled the day's jolly celebration.

I would like to formally thank you for offering me to participate in such kind of international seminar. We participants from Asia-Pacific region are able to understand TVET and its sustainability in concerned nations. This program enabled us to share our Ideas, views, common agenda, problems and prospect of TVET in other countries. It also made us familiar to such issues and challenges that TVET faces and it's sustainability in future.



Such type of international seminar should be held frequently, so that we can get innovative information and recent activities regarding TVET. We will formulate such acquired knowledge which we received during seminar in working environment. During our field visit, we are blissful to see the amazing linkages of Institutes providing Technical education and Industry where the students are placed to job in future.

Keshab Pokharel
Principal, Panauti Technical School

Greetings of Peace and Mabuhay!

CPSC's conference in India enhanced my knowledge, skills and the level of appreciation and understanding the Role of TVET in Sustainable Development. This endeavor my competency as TVET Trainer also upgraded and I was oriented the role of CPSC towards quality TVET.



I owed so much from CPSC. I hope that this is not the end but the beginning of our journey and collaboration in achieving Quality TVET in the Philippines towards Sustainable Development. I express my profound thanks and gratitude to CPSC for the opportunity to participate a better understanding of culture of other Asian countries.

Mr. Nestor R. Pascual
TESDA-MAIS
Philippines

It was really a great privilege for me to get the opportunity to be a part of such a constructive, fruitful and innovative platform of exchanging views and sharing best practices of TVET in different parts of the Asia Pacific Region.



The ideas and ways shared with us by the capable resource persons and the other fellow participants for achieving quality and sustainable TVET system opened many doors of my mind and broadened the vision to impose new and innovative ideas in TVET system to enhance its capacity and effectiveness. In addition, the industrial visits embarked knowledge sharing opportunities from the local resource persons gave me a total perspective about India's TVET culture.

The hospitality of the program and host venue was outstanding. The higher officials of both CPSC and NITTTR, Kolkata blended themselves with the participants in such manner that we felt comfortable and more open to themselves to share our views more freely.

Rezwanul Haque
Equipment Officer
Directorate of Technical Education (DTE)
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Under your leadership, we hope CPSC and TVET could continuously be a platform in transforming the lives of millions in the Asia Pacific region. As a member of AAA (Association of APACC Accreditees), we in PKB, with your help, would try our level best to foster meaningful relations with institutions in the region.



Thank you.

Noor Azahan Othman
Director
Politeknik Kota Bharu

Your majestic figure and thundering lecture gave us rain of insights on TVET system in our region. It has been an augmentation of looking and understanding TVET through a brighter lens as magnified by intelligence and experiences of DG like you and other well armored knights of TVET like Dr. GK and Director Falguni Gupta among many others. The atmosphere was such that it gave me unprecedented confidence and opportunities to joyfully participate with whatever my little knowledge and experience on TVET allowed. Today, It is so exhilarating to receive note of great appreciation from your honor's end. It definitely inspires me to prepare myself to shoulder extra responsibilities in working towards enhancing excellence in quality and sustainable TVET in the region and in my country. However, given the fact that I possess little knowledge and experience on TVET system, I may not be qualified to propound recommendation of high rationale, but surely I will ensure continuous correspondences with you all to seek unbroken lineage of learning from you all.



We look forward to similar of such activities and knowledge-sharing convergence of CPSC members as that of NITTTR Kolkata in the future days to come.

Mr. Sonam Wangdi
Principal
Technical Training Institute - Rangjung
Trashigang, Bhutan

Thank you very much for all the support that you have extended to me and my husband during our stay there in CPSC. It is a very pleasant place as it feels like home. I wish you can develop more and more opportunities to serve all the member countries.



Ms. P.N.K Malalasekera
Director General
Department of Technical Education and Training (DTET)
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Thank you very much for the letter of appreciation sent to me. It is always a great pleasure to work with CPSC and I also look forward to get an opportunity be with CPSC.



Prof. Urmila Kar
Professor - Education and Management
National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training & Research
Kolkata, India

Shared Vision *Shared Vision 2023*

The Inter-governmental TVET Leader for Sustainable Development

Mission

*Transforming TVET towards Sustainable Societies through
Outcome-Based Quality Training, Accreditation, Research
and Image Building for stakeholders*



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