Editorial

By Rupert Maclean, Director

I am pleased to welcome readers to the initial issue of UNESCO-UNEVOC News, the newsletter of the recently established UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC), in Bonn, Germany.

The purpose of this publication is to provide those who are interested in the work of UNESCO in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and education for the world of work with information on the current range of activities being undertaken by the UNESCO Centre and its partners.

TVET and education for the world of work have been identified by UNESCO Member States as a priority area within UNESCO’s range of programme activities. There is indeed increasing evidence that TVET has played an important role in the economic growth of the industrialized and newly industrialized countries. Furthermore, most work opportunities in the twenty-first century are likely to be centred on new processes and services that require specialized knowledge and skills not yet available in general education institutions. In developing countries more effective TVET skills are needed to cope with the demands of the informal sector.

All of these factors point to the growing importance of TVET for work and responsible citizenship in the contemporary world.

The UNESCO Centre concentrates on providing technical backstopping to strengthen and upgrade TVET, with particular reference to meeting the needs of developing countries.

I trust that the activities reported upon in this newsletter convey the essential flavour of the wide range of activities being undertaken by the UNESCO Centre; and I invite you to contribute items to future issues of UNESCO-UNEVOC News.

Lead Article

UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre Fully Operational

UNESCO and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany signed an agreement for the hosting of a UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Bonn (Germany) on 12 July 2000. UNESCO’s Director-General Koichiro Matsuura and the German Education and Research Minister, Edelgard Bulmahn, signed the agreement at the Petersberg Government Guesthouse. The Centre became operational in September 2000.
The first major initiative launched by the new UNESCO Centre is the initiative ‘Learning for Life, Work and the Future: Stimulating Reform in Southern Africa through Subregional Co-operation’ (see separate article). This initiative has been designed to foster South-South co-operation.

In terms of the range of programme activities to be undertaken by the UNESCO Centre, these will mainly concentrate on:

- **Training courses** to assist developing countries strengthen and upgrade their TVET system, its status in the country, and education for the world of work;
- **A Clearing House** to facilitate sharing of a wide range of information and materials on TVET-related matters between countries, institutions and individuals;
- **Publications** which will focus on promoting best practices in TVET; and
- **Strengthening the worldwide UN/EVOC Network**, which consists of national TVET Centres.

We invite you to explore ways of becoming actively involved with the work of the UNESCO Centre in Bonn.

## Project News

**Botswana Workshop: Learning for Life, Work and the Future**

**Southern African Experts to Foster Subregional Co-operation**

A workshop entitled “Learning for Life, Work and the Future: Stimulating Reform in Southern Africa through Subregional Co-operation” was held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 5 to 8 December 2000.

Decision-makers and experts in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) from twelve Southern African countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) developed proposals for cooperation in the following areas:

- Removing the Barriers to TVET Access
- Reliability of TVET Programmes in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region
- Developing Quality Pedagogical Training for TVET Teachers
- Strengthening Technical/Vocational Teacher Education
- Training for the Informal Sector
- Development of a Regional Qualification Framework for SADC Countries
- Promotion and Development of Information and Communication Technologies in the SADC Region.

The workshop was a consequence of UNESCO’s Second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education held in Seoul in 1999. In order to facilitate the implementation of the Seoul recommendations, the Ministry of Education in Botswana and the UNESCO Centre in Bonn jointly elaborated this initiative.

The initiative received financial support from Botswana, from UNESCO, and from Germany. A Call for Papers was issued in October 2000. An expert from the Department of Vocational Education and Training in Gaborone was detached to the UNESCO Centre in Bonn for several weeks to help prepare the workshop (see separate item “Staff News”).

**Why a New Initiative?**

As the Minister of Education of the Republic of Botswana, Mr. K. G. Kgobora, put it in his opening speech,

“..."The motivation for this initiative was a response to a situation whereby Botswana and most of our countries in the sub-region tended to have closer links to Europe than with each other in respect of Technical and Vocational Education and Training ... This resulted in strong north-south links but few south-south links. No doubt there are some interesting projects in our various countries in the sub-region through which we could learn from each other."
UNESCO Meets with ILO

A meeting was held on 12 March at the UNESCO Centre in Bonn between UNESCO and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to explore areas for cooperation between these two members of the UN system, both of which are concerned with strengthening and upgrading various aspects of education for the world of work. The meeting was convened by the Division for Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education, UNESCO Paris, and included participants from the ILO and the UNESCO Centre.

Important matters discussed at the meeting included:

- **UNESCO-ILO joint activities**: It was agreed that in order to effectively strengthen collaboration, both organisations would exchange a list of possible joint activities within their current priorities.

- **Creation of a UNESCO-ILO Working Group**: UNESCO and the ILO will establish a Working Group to deal with UNESCO-ILO collaboration in TVET-related fields, which will meet at least twice a year.

- **UNESCO-ILO joint Policy Framework on TVET**: The Working Group will explore the possibility of developing a Joint Policy Framework on TVET and Education for the World of Work.

- **Possible participation in the work of UNESCO’s International Centre for TVET, Bonn**: The UNESCO Centre is intended as a platform for inter-agency cooperation within the area of TVET, and so collaboration between the ILO and the UNESCO Centre will be explored.

- **ILO and UNESCO agreed that there are many common interests as a basis for cooperation. A meeting of the ILO-UNESCO Working Group will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 3 July 2001.**

UNESCO News

New Assistant Director-General for Education

Sir John Daniel, a British national, has recently been appointed UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Education. With his appointment as head of the Education Sector, UNESCO managed to attract another high calibre expert for its management team. Sir John Daniel, until recently head of the Open University of the United Kingdom and President of the United States Open University, is a visionary in his field.

“I am very pleased that Sir John Daniel has accepted to bring to UNESCO an experience gained through a prestigious career, which has not only made him one of the pioneers but also one of the leading personalities in open learning and distance education,” UNESCO’s Director-General Koichiro Matsuura said recently in a meeting with the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO.

Inside UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre

Staff News

Mr. Rupert Mclean, the first Director of the UNESCO Centre Bonn, took up his duties in Bonn on 1 May 2001 (see separate article “First Director Appointed”).

Dr. David N. Wilson, Professor at the Comparative, International and Development Education Centre of the University of Toronto, and President of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies, worked at the UNESCO Centre Bonn during his sabbatical leave from September 2000 to February 2001.

Mr. Keith Bao, Canadian intern sponsored by UNEVOC Canada, has been working at the Centre since January 2001.
**UNESCO-UNEVOC News**

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The initial issue is available in English and French. Future editions will also be published in other world languages.

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**Forthcoming Events**

- **Conference “Unlocking Human Potential to Learn”**
  19-25 August 2001, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
  Organizer: UNEVOC Canada and the International Center for the Enhancement of Learning Potential (ICELP)
  Information: Dr. Chris Chinien, Director, UNEVOC Canada; Fax: (+33) (1) 45 68 56 30, Email: tve.section@unesco.org

- **Conference “Bringing Instruction to Learning”, 9th European Conference for Research on Learning and Instruction**
  28 August-1 September 2001, Fribourg, Switzerland
  Organizer: European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction
  Information: Dr. Ulrich Baetz, University of Fribourg, Switzerland; Fax: (+41/26)3.00.75.61, Email: earli@unifr.ch, website: www.earli2001.ch

- **Conference “Technology and Vocational Technical Education: Globalisation and Future Trends”**
  International Conference
  12-13 November 2001, Bangi Selangor, Malaysia
  Organizer: Faculty of Education, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO. Information: Conference Secretariat, Dr Ramlee Mustapha, tel: (+603) 89.29.63.39 or 89.29.62.36, fax (+603) 89.25.43.72, email: ramlee@pkrisc.cc.ukm.my, website: www.geocities.com/voc_tech/

- **Congress “People and Technology ... Bringing the World Together”**
  2nd World Congress of Colleges and Polytechnics
  24-27 March 2002, Melbourne, Australia
  Organizer: World Federation of Associations of Colleges and Polytechnics
  Information: World Congress Secretariat, Australia, tel: (+61) (2) 42.22.29.08, fax: (+61) (2) 42.26.47.48, website: www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au/worldcongress/

An updated list of forthcoming events can be found at http://www.unevoc.de/events

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**Visitors to the Centre**

Since September 2000, many visitors have come to Bonn and visited the Centre. Amongst them were the following:

- **Mr Malcolm Buckby**, South Australian Minister of Education and Children’s Services and his delegation, September 2000
- **Mr Ulrich Hillenkamp**, Deputy Director of the European Training Foundation (ETF), Turin, Italy, November 2000
- **Dr Moo Sub Kang**, President of the Korean Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET), November 2000
- **Mr Qian Tang**, Director, Division for Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education at UNESCO Paris, opened the TVET Strategy Workshop, March 2001
- **Mr Pekca Aro**, Director of the InFocus Programme on Skills, Knowledge and Employability at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, headed a delegation from the ILO, Geneva, March 2001
- **Dr Chris Chinien**, Professor at the University of Manitoba and Coordinator of UNEVOC Canada, March 2001
- **Dr Hermann Müller-Solger**, Director of International Affairs, Comparative Analysis, at the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, and a frequent visitor