Other Partners

The Federal Institute for Vocational Training (BIBB) is currently preparing the “L³” (Life Long Learning) Project, which is part of a broader endeavour, sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, to make worldwide knowledge available for vocational education and training.

For the purpose of the L³ Project, latest information technologies are being used. The development of tools for the provision and updating of the knowledge base is an integral component of the project.

It has been agreed to implement the TVET Website Project in close cooperation with the BIBB under the Memorandum of Cooperation between UNESCO and the BIBB that was signed in Seoul in April 1999.

The concepts as well as the technical design of both the L³ Project and the TVET Website Project have many elements in common. Some of the contents may be the same. Thus it is suggested to develop a common framework for both projects, and to develop a technical design that caters to the needs of both.

BIBB is currently cooperating with SAP AG, a software company that has developed a comprehensive knowledge management software package that is currently being used in a multilingual and multicultural environment.

SAP AG has offered to make its software and expertise available to UNESCO. With BIBB and SAP AG as partners, UNESCO can build on existing expertise in knowledge management for the TVET Website.

Thus, a pilot version of the TVET Website is expected to be demonstrated in 2000. A fully operational version (the content of which will of course be continuously developed over time) will be made available online to Member States later.

What is UNEVOC?

UNEVOC is the International Project on Technical and Vocational Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). It was launched in 1992, following a resolution of UNESCO’s General Conference in 1991. It has established a world wide network of entities that are committed to cooperating to achieve its overall goal. This goal is to strengthen the development and improvement of technical and vocational education in UNESCO Member States.

The objectives are clustered into three programme areas that focus on technical and vocational education and its relationship to the world of work. These areas are:

**Programme Area A:**
This area fosters the international exchange of ideas and experiences and promotes studies on policy issues. It is devoted to the development of technical and vocational education systems.

**Programme Area B:**
This area strengthens national research and development capabilities in order to improve the infrastructures of technical and vocational education.

**Programme Area C:**
This area increases access to data bases and documentation and strengthens the UNEVOC Network. It addresses information, communication and networking.

Since September 2000, UNESCO’s newly established International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Bonn, Germany, maintains and serves the UNEVOC Network.

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Knowledge and Development

Facilitating access to knowledge is crucial for reducing the gaps between developing and industrialized countries. This is increasingly acknowledged by international organizations and development agencies:

“… the future of humankind will become more dependent on the equitable production, distribution and use of knowledge than ever before.”

Declaration on Science and the use of Scientific Knowledge
Adopted by the World Conference on Science on 01 July 1999

“Now that knowledge is recognized as central to development, the development community is taking on a new set of tasks related to the creation, transfer and management of knowledge. Because no one country or organization will create all the international public goods that are needed, it is up to the entire development community to pitch in to do so.”

Knowledge for Development.
The World Bank 1999

UNESCO’s Second Congress on Technical and Vocational Education

National as well as international knowledge management in TVET was a central issue of discussion at the Second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26-30 April 1999. It became evident that there was a strong demand for professional world-wide knowledge management in technical and vocational education and training. Various approaches from the public as well as from the private sector were presented.

From the international public-private dialogue in Seoul, the “TVET Website Project” emerged. It will be implemented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in close cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank and other partners.

The Goal

Based on the Seoul recommendations UNESCO intends to launch the TVET Website with the collaboration of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank and other international agencies.

The TVET Website Project will make worldwide knowledge on technical and vocational education and training globally accessible in order to facilitate planning and renovation of systems of technical and vocational education and training, particularly for developing countries. It will carry extensive references and links to resources at other sites. It will help to increase the efficacy of missions and consultancies.

The TVET Website will make available resources such as normative instruments; policy documents; methodological guidelines; comparative studies; materials on legislation, curriculum development, staff training, and financing, on best practices etc.

The Global Context

Within the United Nations system, UNESCO is the leading Specialized Agency that deals with education. Education, however, is closely interlinked with human, social and economic development, which is a common concern of many UN Agencies.

This is particularly true for technical and vocational education and training, where UNESCO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) are the key partners.

The focus of ILO is on employment and labour market aspects of TVET.

UNESCO, on the other hand, has a specific mandate in matters of TVET as a component of the education system.

In an era that is characterized through increasing integration of learning and working throughout life, it is timely for the United Nations agencies to combine their resources and act together to provide common support for Member States in the field of technical and vocational education and training.

What is Knowledge Management?

In this global context, knowledge can be looked upon as full utilization of available information and data on ideas, concepts, experiences, insights, relationships etc. for the development of TVET.

Knowledge management is the tool to efficiently connect those who know with those who need to know.

For an institution, knowledge management means to convert personal knowledge to institutional knowledge.

For the global community, knowledge management means that knowledge available in countries and international organizations is being converted into globally available knowledge.

What needs to be done?

There are a number of prerequisites for knowledge management:

- We must convince those who know to share their knowledge with those who need to know. This may require a new culture in information and communication.
- Existing knowledge needs to be collected, structured and made available in digital format.
- In an international environment, the linguistic and cultural diversity has to be taken into account.
- Software is required to organize and manage the available knowledge.
- Information and communication technologies must be applied to ensure global access to the knowledge base.