

**Memorandum of Understanding  
On Cooperation in Technical Vocational Education and Training  
Between  
The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority of the  
Republic of the Philippines  
And  
The Department of Education and Training of the Government of Australia**

---

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, as represented by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Government of Australia, as represented by the Department of Education and Training, (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”)

Recognising the importance of technical vocational education and training (TVET) in national development and the value of international cooperation and policy dialogue in TVET;

Desiring to strengthen and broaden cooperation and mutual assistance in TVET in their respective countries;

Have reached the following understandings:

**General Objectives**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides the framework within which detailed proposals for projects in TVET between the Participants are to be jointly considered on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Cooperative activities under this MOU will be subject to the laws and regulations of each country.

**Fields and Forms of Cooperation**

The fields and forms of cooperation under this MOU may include but are not limited to:

- Exchange of information on areas of mutual interest including:
  - TVET systems in both countries;
  - competency standards development, assessment and certification, particularly skills assessments for migration and/or occupational purposes;
  - industry participation in TVET policy development, financing, labour market information, standards development, training delivery, assessment and certification, and formal work-based training such as apprenticeships;
  - research and development in TVET; and
  - TVET system reforms.

- Joint implementation of collaborative projects, including in the areas of:
  - strengthening and promoting apprenticeships as a pathway into employment;
  - benchmarking occupational standards and qualifications in priority industry sectors such as agriculture, logistics, construction and mining;
  - technical assistance for TVET system development including establishment of qualification and quality assurance frameworks to underpin regulation of training delivery and assessment;
  - building industry skills linkages through partnership arrangements; and
  - capability building of TVET trainers and assessors.
  
- Facilitating links between governments, industry organisations, industries and TVET peak bodies in both countries, including in the form of:
  - promoting networks to share successful models;
  - interaction through meetings, conferences and symposia; and
  - exchange of staff through short-term placements in relevant government agencies or industry organisations and only for purposes of and in furtherance of the general objectives of this MOU.

## **Funding**

The costs of cooperative activities under this MOU will be funded as mutually determined. However, by mutual arrangement, the Participants may determine alternative arrangements for funding in relation to specific cooperative activities pursuant to this MOU.

All cooperative activities under this MOU will be subject to the availability of funds.

## **Implementation**

The Participants will establish a Joint Working Group (JWG) to implement the cooperative activities under this MOU. The JWG will meet annually or as the Participants may otherwise mutually determine to review the operation of this MOU. Each country will host the JWG on an alternate basis, or as otherwise mutually determined. The host country will chair the JWG. The members of the JWG will prepare a yearly report about the implementation of this MOU. This report will include proposals for the advancement of programs covered by the fields and forms of cooperation.

The JWG will be chaired on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines by the Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning of TESDA, unless otherwise advised, with participation by other government and non-government agencies as appropriate. The JWG will be chaired on behalf of the Australian Government by the Branch Manager of the Governance and Engagement Branch of the Department of Education and Training, unless otherwise advised, with participation by other government and non-government agencies as appropriate.

The Participants will be jointly responsible for the implementation and coordination of cooperative activities under this MOU.

**Relationship of the Participants**

Nothing contained or implied in this MOU shall be construed to give either Participant the right, power or authority to legally bind or commit the other.

**Dispute Settlement**

Any disputes or differences which may arise in relation to the implementation of this MOU will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Participants.

**Amendment**

This MOU may be modified or amended by mutual written consent of the Participants. Such amendments will come into effect in accordance with the provisions on effectivity on such a date as is mutually determined by the Participants and will form an integral part of this MOU.

**Effect and Termination**

This MOU will come into effect on the date of the latter written notification by the Participants, through diplomatic channels, indicating that the domestic requirements for its effectivity have been complied with.

This MOU will remain in effect for a period of five years and will be automatically renewed for similar periods unless a Participant officially notifies the other, through diplomatic channels, of its desire to terminate this MOU.

SIGNED in duplicate in the English language in Manila, Philippines on 18 November 2015.

ON BEHALF OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



**Albert F. Del Rosario**  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

ON BEHALF OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA



**William Thomas Ross Tweddell**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary to the Philippines