
Closing remarks for the final workshop on TVET TA

Mr. Hao Zhang, Deputy Country Director, ADB PRC Resident Mission,
Dr. Min Tang, Counsellor of the State Council and Vice Chairman of Youcheng Foundation,
and the Team leader,

Dear presenters, panelists, moderators, and participants,

Good afternoon!

I'm delighted to attend this final workshop on Sharing ADB's operational knowledge in TVET in PRC with CAREC member countries. First, I want to thank ADB PRC Resident Mission, in partnership with CAREC Institute and RKSI, for hosting this knowledge-sharing event. Second, I congratulate the TA consultant team for your contributions. Finally, thank all the panelists and participants for your excellent insights.

Human development is the newly increased cluster under CAREC 2030 operational framework. The new cluster covers education and health. Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) dominates essential aspect of education.

TVET in the CAREC region faces significant challenges, reflected in the overall low quality of skills, skills demand and supply gaps, resource constraints, outdated education and training systems, and weak governance. As skills development worldwide improves fast, there is a risk that the region could be left behind and suffer from a "brain drain" situation as its talented workforce is attracted to work elsewhere. The region needs to improve its skill standards to be more competitive to provide a solid basis for increased foreign direct investments and people-to-people connections.

CAREC Institute, by its mandate, is a knowledge hub to provide quality research and capacity-building activities and facilitate knowledge-sharing for CAREC member countries. Today's workshop offers an excellent opportunity to share the PRC's TVET experiences and insights on its replicabilities in other CAREC member countries.

PRC has encountered similar challenges in developing the TVET. Since the reform and opening-up, the PRC economy has generated strong demands for professional and skilled labor. The country has made great progress in many fields of TVET in recent years. The final TA report has provided 8 suggestions for TVET development for other CAREC member countries. It covers TVET infrastructure investment, the improvement of teaching, better matching with the labor market and the partnership with the enterprises, adopting new technology, and regional cooperation on TVET, etc.

Besides those, during today's workshop, ADB colleagues, TVET experts from Georgia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and PRC, and my CI colleagues just shared excellent insights from different perspectives, which could help us to learn better from the PRC's experience and understand better how these experiences and suggestions could be scaled up to other CAREC member countries.

In conclusion, I would say today's workshop is a very informative workshop. I don't have much to add. CAREC Institute will continue to work with our member countries and development partners on this important topic.

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to you all. Wish you have a good rest of the day and stay healthy.

Back to you, Moderator.