



TVET – Key To A WorldClass Workforce

INSIDE TVET

THE Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council on June 18, signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Barbados Vocational Training Board (BVTB) and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP).

The purpose of the MOUs is to establish and expand cooperation and collaboration between the **TVET Council** and the three major tertiary training organisations in an effort to strengthen the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system through the promotion of the competence-based approach to training, assessment and certification. The Council will also sign an MOU with the Barbados Community College (BCC) at a date to be announced later.

During remarks delivered at the signing ceremony, chairman of the TVET Council Dr Hensley Sobers said: “Today’s exercise represents a major leap forward in terms of the formal expression of our collective intention to take workforce training in Barbados, both at the institutional and on-the-job levels, along the path of competence-based education and training, also known as CBET.”

He added: “The accentuation of Barbados’ TVET system along competence-based lines, or standards-based lines, is in keeping with both regional and international best practice in the field of workforce training. National Training Agencies (NTAs) such as the TVET Council have been set up with responsibility for planning and coordination within their respective countries . . . with special emphasis being placed on promoting the use of competence-based workforce training, assessment and certification using occupational standards.”

The TVET Council is the local awarding body for the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), and its regional equivalent the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ), which are both forms of competence-based certification. The BVTB and the SJPP are currently completing centre and qualifications approval, respectively, to deliver NVQs and CVQs.

As the awarding body for NVQs and CVQs in the workforce, the Council’s role includes developing occupational standards in collaboration with employers and practitioners, and, conducting quality assurance procedures for the delivery of NVQs and CVQs – inclusive of training and certifying Assessors, Internal Verifier and External Verifiers. The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) will serve as the awarding body for Level 1 CVQs in secondary schools.

During remarks, chairman of the Barbados Vocational Training Board Dr George Callender expressed satisfaction with the NVQ/CVQ programme and endorsed it as one



CHAIRMAN of the TVET Council Dr Hensley Sobers (second left) handing over a signed copy of the memoranda of understanding (MOU) to SJPP Chairman Desmond Browne. Looking on are BVTB Chairman Dr George Callender (left) and TVET Council’s Executive Director Trevor King (second right). (GP)

TVET Council, institutions sign MOUs

that would add value to the BVTB’s occupational training programmes. “Through this initiative the BVTB would argue that it has a new lease on life. Through this new life, we will strive to be more competitive (and) we will endeavour to modernise our delivery and offerings while at the same time ensuring that our graduates are more saleable.”

The SJPP’s chairman Desmond Browne noted in his remarks that throughout the rest of the academic year the polytechnic would begin to review all of its programmes and begin to bring them in line with the requirements of the TVET Council.

TVET Council is a statutory organisation dedicated to improving the competitive position of Barbados through workforce development. Established by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Act, 1993-11, the Council is mandated to plan, coordinate and establish standards and qualifications for technical and vocational education and training.

The TVET system is the principle engine of workforce development. It can be used as an arm of economic policy to support business competitiveness and growth. It can

be used as an instrument of public policy to address equity concerns about disadvantages in the labour market. TVET alone cannot produce economic growth or social equity, yet it is a fundamental enabling factor. As a workforce development tool, TVET has a crucial role to play in:

- Preparing the economy

for the future

- Helping to close Barbados’ productivity gap with its competitors and
- Contributing to social inclusion.

The TVET Council, whose mission is to “to develop a competent and competitive workforce in Barbados and the wider

Caribbean”, subscribes to the view that competence-based technical and vocational education and training is the key to a world-class workforce.

During the opening remarks, TVET Council’s executive director Trevor King noted that the restructuring of the national TVET system along competence-based lines was in keeping with Barbados’ adoption of both the **Regional Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training** and the **CARICOM Process for Workforce Training, Assessment and Certification** which mandated that all workforce training and certification be competence-based (that is, standards-based).

He said that TVET Council and other regional NTAs had therefore developed competence-based TVET systems that rested on occupational standards which now existed for many occupations and professions and were widely used throughout the world. Occupational standards are statements of competence that describe precisely what people are expected to know and do in employment and how well they should perform – that is, to what standard.

The standards, which are presented as qualifications – NVQs/CVQs – that represent job roles, fit into a five-level framework ranging from Level 1, that is entry level occupations, through to Level 5, which are professional and senior management occupations.

Competence-based TVET equips students and trainees with the knowledge and skills to develop job competence. The use of standards in training, assessment and certification seeks to ensure that prospective workers are trained to employers’ expectations, which helps to increase their marketability nationally, regionally and internationally.

For further information, please contact Technical Officer – Communication and Research, Samantha Jones at 435-3096, or sjones@tvetcouncil.com.bb.



CHAIRMAN of the TVET Council Dr Hensley Sobers (left) and Executive Director Trevor King (centre) signing the memoranda of understanding, at the signing ceremony held on June 18. Looking on are SJPP Chairman Desmond Browne (right), TVET Council’s Administrative Officer Shirleen Inniss (standing left) and Manager, Technical Services Wendy McClean. (GP)