



Made in China: Challenge and Innovation in China's Vocational Education and Training System

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- China has the largest population in the world, but it will need a far more skilled and productive labor force to meet its goals of developing an advanced, high-income economy and society.
- Despite Shanghai's ascent to the top of the international league tables for student achievement, educational opportunities and standards across China are highly uneven.
- Virtually everything that China wants to accomplish depends on a dramatic improvement in the productivity of the Chinese worker, which, in turn, depends on a dramatic improvement in their education, skills, flexibility and ingenuity.
- China is therefore now designing a new approach to human capital, including a major focus on developing a modern vocational education and training (VET) system.
- After dozens of interviews with Chinese government, business and education leaders and visits to vocational schools and colleges in China, the Center on International Education Benchmarking research team identified challenges facing China's VET system as well as key areas of future reform for Chinese policymakers.
- Primary Challenges Facing VET in China:
 - The curriculum design of VET programs is narrow.
 - Connections to industry are weak.
 - VET has low status in the public mind.
 - Structural barriers exist between vocational education and academic education.
 - A mismatch exists between the needs of employers and the capabilities of graduates.
 - VET faculty have limited experience in industry.
 - Occupational standards and qualifications systems need development.
 - Adult education is underdeveloped.
 - Bureaucracy of VET hampers innovation.
- What China Must Do To Improve Its VET System:
 - Given the size of China, create models of systems matched to the different stages of economic development in different provinces.
 - Build a governance system that is substantially employer-driven.
 - Redesign the programs and curricula of VET institutions.
 - Create incentives for employer participation and for institutions to upgrade their programs to international standards.
 - Build bridges between VET and academic and higher education.
 - Address the low public perception of VET.

Read the full report, *Made in China: Challenge and Innovation in China's Vocational Education and Training System*, at <http://www.ncee.org/china-vet/>.