

Going Global Partnerships

Green Skills Advisory Panel - Public/Private Partnerships to improve TVET in Nepal



Delegates from the UK consortium who undertook a successful visit to Kathmandu. The delegation included two leads from Outsourcery Services and representatives from Exeter College, Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce Skills Executive, and Devon & Cornwall Training Provider Network.

Context

Nepal has a population of approximately 30 million people, with more than 65% under working age. Each year, around half a million people enter the labour market, many without relevant skills.

Whilst skills development is a national priority in Nepal, the TVET sector is complex and faces operational and political challenges of devolution to provincial and local government, alongside the roll-out of new educational policy.

The need for effective employer engagement has long been recognised and has been a focus of the British Council work in Nepal where we implemented a highly successful EU-funded Dakchyata TVET Practical Partnership programme. The programme was delivered between 2017-2022 in partnership with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), the apex body for TVET in Nepal, and aimed to strengthen and implement a more effective TVET policy responsive to labour market needs through the piloting of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach. The programme has also sought opportunities to promote transition to a greener, climate-resilient, low-emission economy.

The British Council Going Global Partnership programme builds on the successes of the Dakchyata project and its focus on establishing effective PPPs and supporting the transition to greener economy.

Project Overview

The project brought together a consortium of expert partners to share UK good practice on public/private partnerships to build capacity and contribute to progressing the aims of the Nepalese TVET Sector Strategic Plan 2023-2032.

The aim was to develop partnerships between TVET providers and business and industry which would lead to the latter adopting a stronger role in TVET and supporting the development of green skills.

TVET programmes in Nepal have traditionally been mainly classroom based with little exposure to the world of work. This has a negative impact on their relevance and effectiveness. Whilst CTEVT had established five sector skills committees that operate in the construction, hospitality, automobile, ICT and agriculture sectors, and had undertaken some consultation with employers in the development of occupational standards and curriculum, their role remained underdeveloped. Through this project, the UK partners aimed to advance WBL (Work-Based

Learning) models and effective approaches to employer engagement through sharing experience such as apprenticeships, bootcamps and T-levels.

The UK consortium brought a very experienced team to Katmandu where they hosted a range of private partnership meetings with representatives from the:

- Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI);
- Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI);
- Federation of Nepalese Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI);
- Federation of Contractor's Association of Nepal (FCAN);
- Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN);
- Federation of Professional Training and Employment of Nepal (FPTEN); and
- CTEVT.



UK Consortium members with Nepalese partners during a summit in Katmandu

The essential voice of the private sector in influencing training direction and content was highlighted by Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, sharing their journey and progress to develop a Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) which delivers partnership solutions to local issues.

The Nepalese partners benefitted from learning about the role of the Green Construction Advisory Panel (GCAP), operated by Exeter College. GCAP is a public private partnership group consisting of construction businesses and associated supply chain members plus education providers. GCAP was set up to support and develop training and qualifications in the green construction sector.

The UK consortium shared the successes of GCAP including its contribution to improving and developing sustainable training programmes and offering an agile response to industry needs. They highlighted how GCAP's success has spread beyond its local origins to achieve a national and international presence. The recent establishment of the GSAP National Partnership Board follows the renaming of GCAP to GSAP, the Green Skills Advisory Panel, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of green skills across engineering, manufacturing, and construction. It aims to address the green skills gap in the UK more broadly.

The project also supported the ethos of equality, diversity and inclusion by ensuring input from all organisations had a focus on women. The UK consortium shared how GSAP encourages women into construction and STEM careers in general.

Impact

The International skills partnership has positively influenced policy makers in Nepal to form a Green Skills Advisory Panel (GSAP) learning from similar UK model, which is expected to drive further green skills policy level decisions in TVET in Nepal. The programme has the enthusiastic support of five private sector organisations representing many employers throughout the country. By going beyond its original construction focus it is seen as a key solution to address green skills needs in multiple sectors. The MoEST is keen to see this model embedded in the rollout of the forthcoming Nepalese TVET Act.

Feedback from Nepalese partners was very positive. A representative from FNCCI commented:

“We now have champions from both public and private sector working together to drive the TVET system forward, better aligned to private sector requirements, encouraging engagement - and showcasing GCAP for example to inspire.”

The UK consortium's combined experience and knowledge served to reassure both public and private sector organisations of the credibility of the Advisory Panel approach.

The consortium is keen to continue this work to ensure that GSAP will be implemented effectively in Nepal, contributing to TVET skills reform and growth with a membership of enthusiastic private and public sector members.

The UK consortium benefited from the joint working opportunity and sharing their knowledge and expertise. They believe the experience enhanced their reputation individually and collectively, and are hoping to collaborate on future projects.

Three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed between the UK and Nepalese partners, confirming the intention to collaborate, learn and share best practice that will help future transitions to renewable and sustainable practices.

Durga Kandel from the MoEST commented:

“The coordination and collaboration between the industry and training provider is strong which can contribute to the quality and relevance of the TVET program. The provision of green skills impressed me. If we could take such initiatives in our country, it would be much better. So, we have discussed further work on it and will be forming a committee for the green skills in TVET.”

About the partners

UK Partner: Outsourcery Services led a consortium of the following members:

- Devon and Cornwall Training Provider Network (DCTPN);
- Exeter College; and
- Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.

Nepalese Partner: Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) were supported by:

- Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI);
- Federation of Nepalese Cottage and Small Industries (FNCSI);
- Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN); and
- Federation of Contractor’s Association of Nepal (FCAN).

This partnership is supported by funding from the British Council’s Going Global Partnerships programme.

Going Global Partnerships supports universities, colleges and wider education stakeholders around the world to work together towards stronger, equitable, inclusive, more internationally connected higher education, science and TVET.