Global Skills Spotlight - TVET Governance: The role of Institutional Leaders

The British Council were delighted to welcome a number of stakeholders from across the Skills and International Development Sectors for the launch of our final research paper in the Governance series ‘TVET Governance: The role of Institutional Leaders’. Authored by Faith Graham of Red Box Research and Andrew Dean of the Marchmont Observatory, University of Exeter the paper looks at Institutional Leaders perceptions of, and interactions with, TVET Governance. The survey which forms part of the report looks specifically at four countries England, India, Kazakhstan and Vietnam. TVET governance and how Institutional Leaders view it in different contexts is a really key global issue and we were delighted to welcome a number of partners to discuss this and the research.

The event started with a welcome from Chris Cooper, Global Skills Lead, British Council. Chris highlighted the importance of the topic and the relevance to UK organisations working both domestically and internationally. He emphasised that looking at other systems helps us understand our own better and that international collaboration is vital in addressing significant global and local challenges.

Andrew and Faith who authored the paper ran through some of the key findings. They noted that England stands apart to some degree in the survey in terms of the strength of institutional links with employers. Faith also highlighted that despite many factors affecting institutional leaders, finance and staff capacity were two key elements that all leaders identified as being important. In addition it was noted by Andrew that autonomy is a subjective concept and some who self-identify as having autonomy may not be aware of some of the powers that their peers elsewhere enjoy.

Further comments were made as the discussion widened, including that:

- Scale is an important factor to consider and this may affect the perception of autonomy within a system
- That effective autonomy is not on a simple binary scale, some things are best done locally and some nationally
- The importance of a common understanding and trust between different stakeholders in an system with autonomy
- To what degree autonomy is cause or effect, for example the effect of independent training providers in a marketised system.
- That to some degree autonomy and devolved governance may insulate from change and the uncertainty of political change.

There was a general consensus that this issue is an ever evolving challenge. The British Council has now completed this series but would welcome any other contributions from partners to the discussion or ideas for future collaboration.
Please do get in touch by emailing Andrew.hall@britishcouncil.org if you are interested in supporting the new research, would like to discuss this piece or have any other projects you think would be of interest.