

sunday 7 may 2006 melbourne australia

Transforming the way young people acquire the technical, social and learning skills needed in the 21st century.



Hon Bob Hawke AC

"I am pleased to accept patronage of the WorldSkills Leaders' Forum being held in Melbourne in May 2006. This important international gathering will discuss ways to assist young people around the world with their vocational choice and the challenges they face as they move into the workforce, while, at the same time, integrating as contributors to society and to the welfare of their country.

While governments understand and acknowledge that a skilled labour force is vital to the development, growth and stability of the economy, trends in public expenditure on education in recent years have tended to ignore traditional apprenticeship training.

Today, we see the results of this neglect with a critical shortfall of skilled workers, particularly in the industrial trades. It is a consistent refrain in boardrooms everywhere.

WorldSkills has, for the last fifty years, promoted the importance of excellence and best practice in vocational education and training throughout the world and is wholeheartedly committed to inspiring and encouraging the youth of today in their vocational choice. I am very proud to be associated with the organisation and look forward to making a contribution to its continued success."

Hon Bob Hawke AC – former Prime Minister of Australia
Patron – 2006 WorldSkills Leaders Forum

This year the WorldSkills Leaders Forum will be held in Melbourne, Australia. Melbourne is a sophisticated city nestled in a compact state, providing easy access to an incredible variety of things to see, do and experience year round.



Photo courtesy ninka@mac.com



speakers

Institute of Technical Education – Singapore

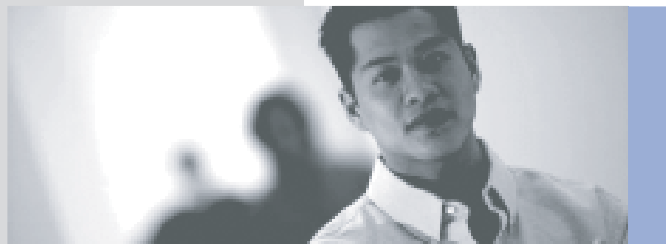


Over the last decade ITE has undergone a major transformation focusing on its mission "to create opportunities for school leavers and adult learners to acquire skills, knowledge and values for lifelong learning in a global economy". This transformation has led it to be a recognized global leader in technical education.

ITE has just coveted the prestigious Singapore Quality Award (SQA) for attaining world-class standards of

business excellence. ITE is the first Educational Institution to win the SQA which symbolises a milestone in ITE's journey towards excellence.

Our speaker will discuss the major changes and key elements that ITE has implemented to aid their transformation into a world-class post secondary institution. ITE now provides a high quality vocational education to the 25% of young people who don't proceed to tertiary education.



National Board of Education – Finland



The Finnish National Board of Education is the agency responsible for the development of education in Finland. It develops and evaluates education, it provides information services, produces support services for education and also provides instruction.

Finland's success in the two most recent PISA surveys of learning results indicates that the Finnish education system is very effective. Finland also has the envious success of attracting and increasing the enrolment of young people in VET - something that all nations would like to achieve.

Our speaker will share the key elements of their approach and implementation and will focus on some examples of the changes that have been implemented in the school system, such as the extensive workplace learning dimension.

Confederation of Indian Industry – India



The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the growth of industry in India, partnering industry and government alike through advisory and consultative

processes. It is India's premier business association, with a direct membership of over 5800 companies from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs and indirect membership of over 95,000 organisations from around 325 national and regional sectoral associations.

"Skilling a Million Indians" is a catalytic project of the CII, validated by international City and Guild standards, to give needed recognition and "add on" skills to the many who are informally trained on the job as well as to help galvanise skills formation across industry in India. Our speaker will share the strategy, implementation and results of this ambitious and important project.

"Skills" are a global currency for a globalising world.



There will be interactive displays and demonstrations in the Leaders Forum foyer.

Holmesglen Institute of TAFE – Australia



Holmesglen Institute of TAFE (Technical And Further Education) provide a practical approach to teaching with state-of-the-art facilities and diverse course options. Promoting the learning of real skills for the real world, Holmesglen focuses on the needs of growth industries including, among others, hospitality, tourism, small business, social and community services, and information technology.

Holmesglen is building a vocational college within the Institute that is being designed on global best practice that squarely aligns with the Leaders Forum theme of "Transforming the way young people acquire technical, social and learning skills needed in the 21st Century." Our speaker will share the research, strategy and planning for this innovative and beneficial college.