

*Council for Technical & Vocational Education
&
Training, Guyana*

***REPORT ON
DEVELOPMENT
&
INNOVATIONS IN TVET.***

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December 2, 2011.*

The Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET) of Guyana wishes to congratulate CANTA for organizing this meeting of its members. It would also like to express its gratitude to the Association of Canadian Community Colleges for co-hosting this meeting. It is hoped that it will be a resounding success.

The Council for TVET is being strengthened so that it has the capability to discharge its functions as articulated in the TVET Act No. 11 of 2004. The professional and clerical staff was increased in keeping with the organizational structure and staff inventory of the Secretariat of the Council and the building which houses the Secretariat of the Council was rehabilitated.

Post-Secondary Institutions:

In Guyana the expansion of TVET is being pursued with the implementation of the provisions of the policy on TVET and the Strategic Plan. It is purposefully being done to satisfy the changing demands of business and industry and the nation as a whole. Consequently, the two new Technical and Vocational Institutions that were established – one in Region Three and the other in Region Five – bear testimony of this. They have increased the number of post – secondary

institutions under the Ministry of Education to four technical institutes, four technical and vocational training centres and one school of home economics.

They are located in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10. There is also the Kuru-Kuru Training Centre, the Burrowes School of Art and the GuySuCo Training Centre.

These institutions complement the work of those that are under the Ministry of Education. In addition, the Board of Industrial Training is responsible for apprenticeship training and training within industry. The Board, therefore, is required to plan, organize and monitor the training of apprentices and short training programmes that are delivered within industry. It also certifies the successful apprentices and trainees of all the training programmes that are conducted under the regulations of the Apprenticeship Act Cap. 39:04.

Secondary Competency Certificate Programme:

The Secondary Competency Certificate Programme (SCCP) is a Vocational Programme, presently being conducted in forty nine (49) Secondary Schools and ten (10) Practical Instructional Centres. It is of two years duration. The aim is to train students as Level I workers. The mode of delivery of the programme is the Competency Based Modularized methodology. Twelve (12) electives are presently being offered in the areas of Industrial Technology, Agricultural Science, Home

Economics and Visual Arts. The core subjects that are being offered are Mathematics, Integrated science, Language and Communication and General Studies. Meaningful Work Study attachments are arranged with employers for the students. This year 733 students graduated from this programme in the various occupational areas.

Competency Based Education & Training:

Guyana's policy on TVET requires that Competency Based Modularized programmes be introduced on a national basis. The policy also requires that all students and trainees in the post – secondary sector including apprentices be prepared for National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) as well as the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ). Consequently, all the institutions mentioned above and the Board of Industrial Training are being prepared to meet the requirements of the NVQ and the CVQ.

Work Plan:

Prior to the study that was done by Dr. Lucy Steward, the Council for TVET found it necessary to prepare a work plan, the execution of which will enable the post - secondary institutions to be recognized to issue the CVQ. That work plan informed the content of the one (work plan) that was prepared by Dr. Steward.

The Council has already undertaken most of the activities that are outlined in the work plan. Consequently, the following was achieved:

- the acquisition of CARICOM Regional Occupational Standards;
- the adaption of the approved Regional Occupational Standards and Facilities Standards that are relevant to Guyana's needs;
- distribution of the adapted and verified Regional Occupational and Facility Standards to the post – secondary institutions in both the public and private sectors;
- the preparation of modules for sixteen occupational areas with the use of approved CARICOM Regional Occupational Standards as the base document. This activity is ongoing;
- promote and monitor the use of the manual entitled “Manual for the Maintenance of Standards and Quality at Post – Secondary Institutions”

which is comprised of the following sections:

- Eligibility Criteria for Appointments and Promotions in Management, Tutorial, Education Technician and Workshop Assistant Positions at Post Secondary Institutions;
 - Testing and Certification at Post-Secondary Institutions;
 - Contact Hours for various Categories of Staff and Lecturer/Instructor –Student /Trainee Ratio; and
 - Rationalization of Departments at the Post-Secondary Institutions.
- monitor the implementation of the policy articulated in the paper entitled “National System for Competency Based Modularized Education and Training”. This manual articulates the strategy for the implementation of Competency Based Modularized Education and Training nationally;
 - monitor the implementation of the provisions of the manual for the Organization and Management of Workshops/Laboratories in TVET institutions;
 - monitor the implementation of CANTA’s Quality Assurance Criteria and Guidelines for the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications”;

- the training of Lecturers/Instructors of each of the post – secondary institutions in the delivery of Competency Based Modularized Curriculum;
- the orientation of all staff members of the post – secondary institutions on the implementation of Competency Based Curriculum. In addition, all staff members of the post – secondary institutions were trained in “Quality Assurance in the Management of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and each institution has established a Quality Assurance Management Committee.

Consultancy:

A consultancy entitled “Developing Occupational Competency Assessment and Certification” will be implemented very shortly to achieve among other things the training of Assessors, Internal Verifiers and External Verifiers; the development of an appropriate and efficient national Occupational Testing and Certification System; the training of suitably qualified persons to prepare Occupational Standards with the use of CANTA’s format and the development of the terms of reference and organization structure for a National Assessment and Certification Board. On completion of this Consultancy the post – secondary institutions under

the Ministry of Education will be ready for CVQ recognition for which an application will be made.

Data Base Records & Management System:

The Council for TVET has undertaken the development and implementation of a Data Base Records and Management System for each of the post – secondary institutions under the Ministry of Education. It is hoped that all the components of this system will be in place and working by the end of February 2012.

Verification Process:

The Council undertook a verification exercise with each of the post – secondary institutions under the Ministry of Education to determine their state of readiness for recognition to deliver Competency Based Modularized Occupational Programmes and to be recognized to issue the CVQ. The Council is working with each of the institutions to correct identified weaknesses so that they become strengths. This exercise will be completed by the end of February, 2012.

Conclusion:

The innovations and developmental initiatives mentioned above are among the main areas of focus to maintain the relevance of TVET and the efficient and effective delivery of Competency Based Modularized Education and Training programmes to satisfy changing industrial development needs. The NVQ and CVQ certification that will be earned by graduates of the system will enhance their employability both at home and in the CARICOM Region.