

## Ensuring the Acquisition of Expertise: Apprenticeship in the Modern Economy

# 4<sup>th</sup> International INAP Conference

Beijing, May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

In cooperation with

Beijing Normal University, China

Chinese Society of Vocational and Technical Education, China

Asian Academic Society for Vocational Education and Training

European Research Network in Vocational Education and Training (VETNET)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) invites contributions to its 4th international research conference, which addresses the following topics related to apprenticeship style learning and the acquisition of expertise:

- Developing curricula and qualification systems
- Learning and development theories and models
- Measuring competence development
- Multiple roles of universities, schools and their teaching and training staff

### General guidelines

The conference organisers welcome contributions based on original research that facilitate knowledge transfer to regional, national and international policy-makers and actors in accordance with best international standards. Papers will be selected for presentation on the basis of the recommendation of an academic review panel according to the procedure outlined below. Contributors are asked to submit a two page outline of their paper that includes:

- a summary of the paper of around 500 - 700 words,
- a provisional table of contents and
- bibliography.

In the summary, the issues addressed in the paper and their relationship to the conference topics (see below) should be described. The research methodology should also be presented. Outlines should be sent to the organisers by Nov. 12th, 2010.

In order to permit a blind review process, contact information on the authors should be provided on a separate sheet. Following completion of the review process, the authors of the most interesting proposals will be invited to give a presentation at the conference in Beijing. In order to be included in the conference proceedings, authors must submit a 2000 words summary of their papers by Jan. 15th 2011. Submission guidelines are available on the INAP Website: [www.innovative-apprenticeship.net](http://www.innovative-apprenticeship.net)

### **Topic 1: Developing curricula and qualification systems**

There are many controversial views on the content and qualification requirements of vocational education and the systematisation of vocational curricula. Questions to be considered in this session are: how do vocational curricula address 'subject-specific' and 'work process knowledge'? which methods are best suited to undertaking expertise and qualification research?. The meaning of "practical" knowledge" in current curriculum development research is also an important topic.

### **Topic 2: Learning and development theories and models**

A great deal of research in this field is concerned with an understanding of vocational learning as "situated learning" and the concept of "developmental tasks" (Havinghurst). Questions to be addressed are: how can the above concepts and theories be applied in practice? What are the implications of 'situated learning' theory for project oriented learning? To what extent is the concept of 'developmental tasks' used in VET practice? How can the concept of 'situated learning' be used to develop professional identity and promote occupational commitment?

### **Topic 3: Measuring competence development**

Competence diagnostics, related to performance assessment by means of examinations play an important role in national VET systems. This session looks at theories and models that can form a basis for competence diagnostics and psychometric test instruments. Papers submitted under this heading should examine how subject-specific and work process knowledge are addressed in the design and use of test instruments and discuss current findings on the design of informal and standardised competence assessment instruments. The concept of motivation and commitment as a dimension of vocational education is also an important topic to be examined.

### **Topic 4: Multiple roles of universities, schools and their teaching and training staff.**

The qualification of teachers and trainers is critical for the quality of VET systems. Internationally, an enormous variety of models exists. Questions to be addressed here are: What is the basis for the professional competence of VET teachers? How can the competence of trainers be enhanced, especially given the heterogeneity of learners? How does 'duality' (alternating/integrated knowledge and experience) determine methods for imparting 'subject specific' and 'work process knowledge'? How do/can universities and polytechnics contribute to the qualification of vocational pedagogues and teachers? And finally: has the 'Hangzhou Declaration' on the establishment of Master programmes been implemented in practice?

### **Conference location, organisation and fees**

INAP 2011 will take place in Beijing, China. Detailed travel information will be provided by the organisers in due course. The working language is English. In order to cover some of the organisational costs there will be fee of 100 Euro/900 CNY for active participants and 150 Euro/1350 CNY for guests. Conference proceedings including summaries of papers will be handed out to all participants. Moreover, authors of the best contributions will be invited to publish their research findings in an edited book.

#### **Conference committee:**

Prof. Felix Rauner (TVET Research Group (IBB), University of Bremen, Chair of the INAP Board), Prof. Erica Smith (University of Ballarat, Australia, Co-Chair), Prof. Shi Weiping (East China Normal University), Prof. Zhiqun Zhao (Beijing Normal University, China), Dr. Ludger Deitmer (ITB, Bremen), N.N.

#### **INAP Conference Organisation:**

Ursel Hauschildt  
TVET Research Group (I:BB)  
University of Bremen, Germany

#### **Local Conference organisation:**

Beijing Normal University  
Institute of Technology and  
Vocational Education, Beijing, China

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#### **Further information:**

<http://www.innovative-apprenticeship.net>