

The 3rd German-Arab Education and Vocational Training Forum

6 - 7 October 2011

H.E. Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan, Federal Minister of Education and Research

Dear Mr. Markus Milwa, Acting Director, iMove Germany

Dear Dr. Thomas Bach, President of Ghorfa, Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Dear Prof. Dr. Friedrich Hubert Esser, President of the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to shed some lights about the education and vocational training in the Arab world in general and in Saudi Arabia in specific. The Arab countries continuously invest in the education sector to provide further education and training for the younger generations and to diversify their economies. The current political changes in some Arab countries, high unemployment rates of younger people and investments into educational and industrial projects enlarge the diversity of opportunities for German training providers to export their services to our region.

The Arab World values the German dual system with Germany as a partner. They can optimize their vocational education and training systems so that the result of education and training activities match the needs of the industry.

Some examples from the Arab World:

1) Iraq:

As the European Technology and Training Center which provides vocational training programme in various vocational training levels.

2) Jordan:

The Vocational Training Corporation is providing vocational training

opportunities to prepare the technical workforce and raising its level of efficiency in the various non-academic vocational training levels.

3) Kuwait:

There are a number of training institutes such as Telecommunications and Navigation Institute, Electricity and Water Institute and the Industrial Training Institute.

4) Oman:

The Ministry of Manpower organizes the vocational training to meet the Sultanate requirements for a qualified national labor force in various vocational and technical areas. The Government has accorded special attention to the vocational training centers which were expanded and developed to cater for more Omani youth. The training centers offer three types of programmes:

General Programm, efficiency upgrade programme and retraining and job seekers qualifying programme.

5) Bahrain:

Bahrain's Government Authority will train 15.015 Bahrainis within two years on basic computer use in the frame of a national project that aims to eliminate computer illiteracy.

6) UAE:

The UAE-German College of Logistics is a joint venture and a consortium of three German universities which conduct vocational and educational training programmes.

7) Katar:

The Government adopted an ambitious programme in providing vocational training opportunities to prepare the technical workforce in various vocational training centers

8) Saudi Arabia allocated 580 billion Riyals (€ 1,2 billion) in its national budget for 2011, that is 26 % of spending to education and training.

My country strives to enhance its system of Technical Education and Vocational Training. In line with these objectives, Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) has decided to foster vocational training in a sustainable way by educating sufficient numbers of qualified vocational trainers.

The Technical Trainer College (TTC) is unique and the first of its kind. It offers a three-year training programme to develop young Saudi college graduates into qualified trainers in Technical and Vocational Education and Training. The project's overall aim is to establish a college at international state-of-the-art level, providing an internationally recognised Bachelors' degree.

The number of students at Colleges of Technology in the Kingdom was raised from 20.000 in the year 2000 to 60.000 in this year.

Most of the Kingdom's vocational training centers are operated by the General Organization for Technical Education along with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The 3rd German-Arab Education and Vocational Training Forum provides institutions and companies which are involved in technical and vocational training and opportunities to discuss the educational teaching in the Arab world.

Thank you