

Conference: Skilling India – Experiences with the Swiss dual VET Model

9.30 am–1.00 pm, Wednesday, April 19, 2017, Tango, Vivanta by Taj-Blue Diamond, Pune

The Indian population is a young one with several million young people entering the job market every year. It is a major challenge to provide the necessary skills to these people to find appropriate employment. The Indian Government is conscious of this and has set itself ambitious targets in skilling the youth. It has also undertaken reforms to pave the way for the introduction of vocational education and training in India.

Vocational education and training (VET) constitutes an important pillar of the Swiss education system. Structured as a private sector driven educational model based on public-private partnership Swiss VET is widely credited as being one of the driving forces of Switzerland's global competitiveness, innovation and thriving economy.

The Swiss Federal Government supports the 'Swiss Vocational Education and Training Initiative India' (SVETII) in order to share elements of its VET model with India. The SVETII was launched as a pilot project on the occasion of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Indo-Swiss bilateral friendship treaty in 2008. It aimed at transferring elements of systemic relevance from the Swiss vocational education and training system to India, bringing together Swiss public and private stakeholders.

To showcase the Swiss vocational education and training system and its relevance for India, the Embassy of Switzerland and the Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce are organising this conference. Its objectives are to discuss the needs of the Indian economy towards its workforce and how the Swiss dual VET model could contribute to skilling individuals for the labour market. A **theme setting session** with high-level speakers from Switzerland and from India will showcase the Swiss VET model and Switzerland's expertise in the field, as well as how India addresses its skill challenges. It will be followed by a session on **Skilling the Indian Workforce**, where representatives from Indian industry associations will present the skills requirement in India and the expectations of the different stakeholders in vocational education and training. The next session on **"Skills, productivity and competitiveness – Swiss experiences in India"** will present insights into the experience of Swiss companies implementing the dual VET model and how they contribute to enhance skills, productivity, and competitiveness within their companies. A **concluding session** will address issues such as the investments necessary to get involved in dual VET; the benefits of implementing dual VET for companies, as well as the major challenges in transferring elements of a dual VET model to India.

This event shall bring together Swiss and Indian companies as well as senior officials of the Government and VET experts to share their experiences and views in the field of vocational education, training, employability and employment.

Programme

09.30 am	Registration
10.00-10:50	Inaugural: Employability to Employment – the dual VET model
10:00	Welcome Address: H.E. Dr Andreas Baum, Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan
10:10	Keynote Address: Mr. Manish Kumar, Managing Director and CEO, National Skill Development Corporation
10:25	Theme Setting: Mr. Jean-Pascal Lüthi, Vice Director and Head of Division for Upper Secondary Education, SERI, Switzerland
10:45	Vote of Thanks: Mr. Ranjit Shahani, President, SICC India & Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Novartis India Ltd.
10:50-11.40	Panel Discussion I: Skilling the India Workforce
10.50	Session Co-ordinator: Mr. Ranjit Shahani, President - SICC India & Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Novartis India Ltd.
10.55	Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confederation of Indian Industry (panelist name to be confirmed) • Dr. Anant Sardeshmukh, Director General, Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Agriculture
11.25-11.40	Interaction between panelists and questions from the audience
11:45 - 12.45	Panel Discussion II: Skills, Productivity and competitiveness – Swiss Experiences in India
11.45	Session Co-ordinator: Mr. Manish Kumar, Managing Director and CEO, National Skill Development Corporation
11.50	Panel Discussion: 7 minutes each <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Upendra Deglurkar, Vice President SICC India-Pune and President, Bobst India Pvt Ltd. • Mr. Sanjib Kumar Pal, Vice President-HR, ABB India Ltd. • Mr. Dinesh Khonde, Head-HR, Burckhardt Compression India Pvt Ltd.
12.10	Panel Discussion: 7 minutes each <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. G.P. Chandra Kumar, Founder & Co-Chairman, Skillsonics India Pvt Ltd. • Mr. Narasimha Rao, Director, Indo-Swiss Centre of Excellence • Mr. Markus Gmeriner, Head of Projects, Rajendra & Ursula Joshi Foundation
12.30	Interaction between panelists and questions from the audience
12:45	Summary and Reflections: 5 minutes each <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swiss perspective: Ms. Laura Antonelli, Head of Unit, Baccalaureates and Projects, SERI, Switzerland • Indian perspective: Mr. Mukesh Malhotra, Managing Director, Weikfield Product Corporation
13:00	Networking Lunch