

Going Global Partnerships

International Skills Partnership in Nepal

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The British Council's Going Global Partnerships Programme is supporting collaboration between stakeholders in the UK and Nepal which aims to enhance employer engagement and workplace-based training models.

It is increasingly challenging for skills systems and their policymakers to create vocational education that is responsive enough to adapt to changes in labour market demand, whilst maintaining quality and oversight. Profound and sudden changes, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change challenges and technological advances, require bold approaches to skills development that can meet current and future employment needs. Whilst skills development is a national priority in Nepal, the TVET sector is complex and faces operational and political challenges like institutionalization of private sector engagement in TVET and devolution of TVET mandates to provincial and local governments under the federal governance structure.

Sometimes, bold solutions evolve from the ground to meet a specific need. Dynamic local partnerships of private and public sector organisations come together to solve a problem with agile, targeted skills development. Once successfully demonstrated, these then act as blueprints and can be replicated across regions, countries and internationally - with the potential to influence and innovate entire skills sectors.

Such an enterprising focus is the basis for the International Skills Partnership between the five private sector organisations in Nepal, led by the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) - CNI, FNCSI, HAN, FCAN - and the consortium of four UK partners led by Outsourcery Services including Devon and Cornwall Training Provider Network (DCTPN), Exeter College, Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, brought together by the British Council under its Going Global Partnership Programme to deliver a one year project, building the capacity of the private sector in Nepal for a stronger role in TVET and the green transformation through an online mentoring support and an in person Summit event hold in March '24 in Kathmandu.

The International Skills Partnership in Nepal is part of the British Council's [Going Global Partnerships](#) programme which builds stronger, more inclusive, internationally connected [higher education](#) and [TVET systems](#). The programme supports partnerships between universities, colleges, education policy makers, civil society organisations and industry partners in the UK and around the world. This partnership project has created an opportunity for collaboration and exchange between the TVET stakeholders in the UK and Nepal.

The project has generated enthusiastic participation from Nepali private sector federations, TVET provider networks, as well as government Ministry of Education, Science & Technology and CTEVT, the apex body for TVET in Nepal, building a willingness and appetite for change and effective partnership working.

Rather than simply showcasing the best practices happening in Exeter College's Green Construction Advisory Panel (GCAP), the UK team instead offered a dynamic and interactive series of workshops, culminating in a Summit event in Kathmandu, "Supporting Private/Public sector engagement in TVET", that sought to inspire and inform champions from both the private and public sectors. GCAP's Mike Blakeley explained how the accredited training model is led by the private sector, improving, and developing sustainable training opportunities and offering an agile approach to industry needs and new sector opportunities. It has quickly expanded beyond its local origins to demonstrate how to deliver net zero in construction throughout England. Through this international partnership project, the proactive model will now be replicated in

Nepal, going beyond its original construction focus to create green skills solutions in multiple sectors.

At the Summit, the practical GCAP model was contextualised within the UK's work-based learning framework through the expert input of Devon & Cornwall Training Provider Network's CEO, Sharron Robbie MBE, providing vital insight into the critical process of building value and parity of esteem within vocational provision. The essential voice of the private sector in influencing training direction and content was highlighted by Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, sharing their journey and progress to develop a local skills improvement plan that delivers partnership solutions to local issues.

The project is building on the willingness of the Nepalese private sector to collaborate within the TVET sector of Nepal. Foundations have been laid to deliver real and meaningful change: the first Nepalese Green Skills Advisory Panel has been instigated, with the enthusiastic commitment of the five private sector organisations in Nepal representing a large swathe of employers throughout the country.

The UK team's combined experience and knowledge also served to reassure both public and private sector organisations of the credibility of the Advisory Panel approach. The proposed Green Skills Advisory Panel (GSAP) has been well received by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST), which is keen to see this model embedded within the rollout of the forthcoming Nepalese TVET Act.

Three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) have also been signed between the UK and Nepalese partners as a direct result of this project, with partners aspiring to collaborate, learn and instigate best practices that will help future transitions to renewable and sustainable practices.