

Activity brief (December 2013)

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Mining Study Tour to Australia

21 October – 3 November 2012



Background: Mining has been a driving force for Australia's industrial, economic and social development. The mining sector accounts for approximately eight per cent of the Australian economy, 50 per cent of Australia's exports and the employment of approximately 320 000 Australians.

This translates to a unique opportunity for transformation and sustained growth – well managed exploitation of natural resources could be one of the most important sources of financing for economic and social development available to resource-rich countries in Africa.

Through its Mining for Development (M4D) initiative, the Australian Government aims to support the efforts of partner governments in Africa to build the knowledge, skills and systems to manage their resource wealth in ways that promote economic development.

As part of the M4D initiative, the AAPF proposed a Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Mining Study Tour to Australia. This proposal arose from discussions with participants of previous mining governance study tours, as well as subsequent scoping missions, which indicated that improving technical vocational education in areas relevant for mining is a priority for the African governments in question.

Objective: The objectives of the TVET for Mining Study Tour were to assist participants to understand:

- the role of the mining industry in Australia's training sector in shaping curriculum, developing and monitoring competency frameworks and operating partnerships with training providers and government;
- Australia's education and training framework with emphasis on the role of government agencies in establishing policy settings and forecasting workforce demand;
- the TVET system and its links to the other parts of the education system;
- TVET governance structures, management and operational systems and training products, including those relating to institutions for technical and further education (TAFEs), private training providers and community-based, not-for-profit training providers; and
- possible partnership models between Australian training

providers and international partners, including contracting and joint accreditation.

Activity description: Senior government officials representing government ministries of mining and education, as well as TVET schools, participated in the study tour.

During the 14-day program, participants were hosted by different institutions at formal and informal functions, and met with federal and state government officials. Participants met community-based training organisations and industry representatives. The study tour ended in Perth, where participants presented their country action plans.

Participation:

Country	M	F	Total
Ethiopia	2	0	2
Ghana	4	0	4
Liberia	3	0	3
Malawi	3	0	3
Mozambique	4	1	5
Namibia	1	0	1
Rwanda	2	0	2
Sierra Leone	1	0	1
South Sudan	2	1	3
Zambia	3	2	5
TOTAL	25	4	29

Participant feedback: Participant feedback, via the Study Tour Participant Survey and verbal feedback to facilitators and the AAPF indicated that the study tour was successful and generally met its objectives. Participants were very happy with the program and the exposure it offered to the various stakeholders. The survey revealed that participants rated the overall usefulness of the tour at 4.5/5.

Activity number:	164/01
Date approved:	20/09/2012
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Total cost:	AUD 770 781