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## TVET-PORTAL NEWSLETTER



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### TVET-GLOSSARY Mubarak-Kohl-Initiative

The story of the **Mubarak-Kohl-Initiative** is a story of success in the field of German-Egyptian cooperation. Initiated in 1991 by **Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak** and **former German chancellor Helmut Kohl**, the programme aims to enhance the quality of vocational training. The cooperative approach is based on a training in which firms are very closely linked with training centers and vocational schools and has so far **trained 15.000 young people** according to the needs of the labor market.

### Editorial

The third issue of the TVET-Portal Newsletter gives you an update on the latest developments on the Portal. The TVET-Portal has enjoyed growing popularity for the past two months. In July and August there were about 650 visitors per month on the Portal. Most of them visited the Forum area, to take part in the manifold discussions in the fields of TVET and e-learning – or at least to read the contributions of other members.

To make the TVET-Portal even more interesting, we will start a series of interviews with TVET- and e-learning experts on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

We'll begin with an interview of General Ali Ahmed Sayed, long-standing director of the "Mubarak-Kohl-Initiative", a German-Egyptian project aiming to up-grade vocational education and training in Egypt (see TVET-Glossary). The special approach of this project is a combination of the theoretical aspects of technical secondary schools with practical training in the workplace. General Ali will share his opinion about the current challenges of TVET in Egypt and about the possibilities how TVET could benefit from e-learning methods. His ideas promise to be interesting!

In another interview in this newsletter you furthermore can learn about the work of a moderator of several discussion forums in our "discussion area" on the Portal, which is sometimes not as simple as it seems to be. Mr. Mohamed Abdelwaged Alkilany (Egypt) gives insights in his activities as moderator.

We wish you an exiting reading.

*Uwe Wieckenberg*

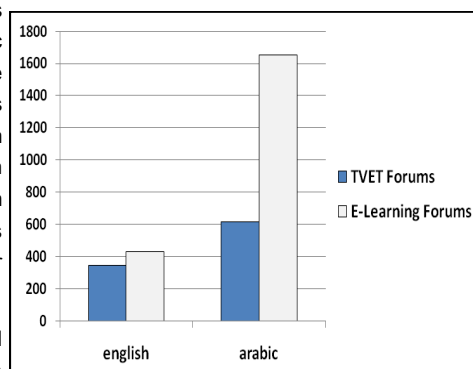
*E-learning Consultant on behalf of InWent – Capacity Building International, Germany*

### The most popular Discussion Forums

Regarding the overall statistics of the forum usage on the TVET-Portal, it is noticeable that the Arabic discussion forums are more popular than forums in English language. In total we have more than 3.000 postings in both English and Arabic forums (deadline: September 1<sup>st</sup>).

About 75 percent of all contributions (2268) are in Arabic language and 25 percent (776 contribu-

#### Contributions to discussion forums



Deadline: September 1<sup>st</sup>

tions) in English language.

This gives a clear impression that most of the users are from Arab countries.

Looking at the topics which are being discussed in the forums we notice that the most lively discussions in TVET are in the forum dealing with "TVET Curricula" and in e-learning it's the topic "Tutoring". Both forums are moderated by Mohamed Abdelwaged Alkilany (see interview with him on page 2).

## Interview with a Moderator of Discussion Forums on the TVET-Portal

**TVET-Portal Newsletter:** Mr. Abdelwaged, you have been moderating several discussion forums on different topics in TVET and E-Learning. What is your impression about the general interest of TVET-Portal members in the discussions after two months of moderating?

**Mr. Abdelwaged:** It's very interesting work; I can help myself and others to exchange ideas about a lot of important topics. Many members of the forums have experience in the field of pedagogy, and meanwhile - through our interaction - some of



Mohamed Abdelwaged Alkilany

them have learned how to deal with and write in discussion forums. There is one problem: some members like to read only without writing in forums; but I and my colleagues try hard to attract them to share their ideas with others.

**TVET-Portal Newsletter:** You are moderating forums both in English and Arabic language. Is there significant difference in popularity? Are more members using either the English or the Arabic forums?

**Mr. Abdelwaged:** I think that a lot of members prefer to write in

Arabic forums and only read topics in English forums. This is probably because most of the members are from Arab countries and maybe some of them are not very good in English. So, I think I should offer English courses through the Arabic forums to help the members in this field.

**TVET-Portal Newsletter:** What countries do the members of your discussion forums come from?

**Mr. Abdelwaged:** I have members from many countries. Most of the members are from Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

**TVET-Portal Newsletter:** Related to your experience, what are the main obstacles to make an effective use of e-learning in TVET?

**Mr. Abdelwaged:** In all countries of the MENA region there is a lack of awareness of this new type of learning. Both students and teachers are used to learn and teach by traditional learning methods and when the few experts in e-learning who we have in our region want to implement an e-learning format they face these problems. We also have the problem of necessary equipment that is needed to implement e-learning, but now in Egypt we succeeded to establish an e-learning unit which is a very good beginning for this modern type of learning.

**TVET-Portal Newsletter:** Mr. Abdelwaged, thank you very much for this interview.

### IMPRINT

Institut fuer Bildungstransfer e.V.  
Reiterstr. 29, 76829 Landau, Germany  
Uwe Wieckenberg  
Fon: +49 (0) 6341 283089-0  
Fax: +49 (0) 6341 283089-5  
E-Mail: info@bildungstransfer.de  
<http://www.bildungstransfer.de>  
Responsible:  
Uwe Wieckenberg  
Realisation:  
Amrei Schommers

### On behalf of:

InWEnt - Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH, Division 4.01  
Technological Cooperation, System Development and Management in Vocational Training  
Käthe-Kollwitz-Straße 15  
68169 Mannheim  
Germany  
Fon: +49 (0) 621-3002-0  
Fax: +49 (0) 621-3002-132  
<http://www.inwent.org>

**"Anyone who stops learning is old wether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning is young."**

Henry Ford ( 1863-1947 ), American Industrialist & Founder of the Ford Motor Company

## Siemens Media Portal

The Siemens Stiftung is offering through its media portal a wide range of media for teachers on a non commercial basis.

The Portal is using modern web technologies for sophisticated search functions and distribution of teaching materials. After completing a simple registration process, teachers can carry out highly targeted searches for appropriate material and download

it free of charge with just a few clicks.

The portal includes both single media such as interactive graphics, animations, videos, audio files and information sheets, as well as thematically grouped media packages.

For more information see:

<http://www.medienportal.siemens-stiftung.org/start.php>

## New Twitter Followers win Surprise Sets

Among all new followers of TVET-Portal on Twitter registering until July 31, InWEnt has raffled 3 InWEnt Surprise Sets. Congratulations to the lucky winners:

**Khalid Alakhali, Yemen**

**Yousef Arikat, Palestinian Territories**

**Hamdy Ragb, Egypt**

If you also wish to become a follower of TVET Forum on Twitter:

[http://twitter.com/TVET\\_Portal](http://twitter.com/TVET_Portal)