Architectures for apprenticeship: Achieving economic and social goals

6th International INAP Conference

September 1st-2nd 2015, Ballarat, Australia

in cooperation with

Federation University Australia; Department of Industry, Australia; Research Network in Vocational Education and Training (VETNET), TVET Research Group (I:BB), University of Bremen, Germany, and University of Zurich, Switzerland.

The International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) invites contributions to its 6th international research conference, which will address the following topics:

- Governance, including stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities
- Didactics (teaching & learning)
- What makes a high quality apprenticeship?
- Economic investment and benefit of apprenticeship
- School to work transition and youth employment
- Status of apprenticeship as a career path
- Apprenticeship’s contribution to social justice

Keynote speakers already confirmed:

- Dr Raymond Patel, MERSETA, South Africa
- Dr Paul Comyn, International Labor Organization, New Delhi
- Professor Stephen Billett, Griffith University, Brisbane

General guidelines

The conference organisers welcome contributions based on original research that facilitate knowledge transfer to regional, national and international policy-makers and actors in accordance with best international standards. Papers will be selected for presentation on the basis of the recommendation of an academic review panel. Contributors are asked to submit a two page outline of their paper that includes:

- the conference topic to which the paper most closely relates, or specify ‘open topic’;
- a summary (including research question, research methodology and findings) of the paper of around 500 - 700 words;
- a provisional table of contents; and
- a brief bibliography.

In the outline, the issues addressed in the paper and their relationship to the conference topics (more details of these are below) should be described. Outlines should be sent to the organisers by April 17th 2015 (extended date). In order to permit a blind review process, contact information for the authors should be provided on a separate sheet. Successful authors will be invited to give a presentation at the conference in Ballarat. (Early submissions will be reviewed early). In order to be included in the conference proceedings, authors will be required to submit a 2000 word summary of their papers by June 19th 2015.
Topic 1: Governance, including stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities
Apprenticeship systems are generally a concern of governments and other stakeholders such as industry and trade unions. Papers should address the governance of apprenticeships and the rights and responsibilities of different stakeholder groups.

Topic 2: Didactics (teaching and learning)
Apprenticeships always have learning at their core. What makes for good teaching and learning, both on and off the job? Who is responsible for delivering this, and how?

Topic 3: What makes a high quality apprenticeship?
Papers in this section should address various measures of quality in apprenticeship. These might include completion rates, the standard of completed apprentices, retention into the labour market, and so on.

Topic 4: Economic investment and benefit of apprenticeship
Among apprenticeship’s aims is the contribution of the system to countries’ economic health. How can this be measured and what evidence supports expenditure by nations, by countries and by individuals on apprenticeships?

Topic 5: School to work transition and youth employment
What is the role of apprenticeship in improving youth employment outcomes? Papers should address the part that apprenticeship plays, among other initiatives, in school to work transitions, and how the transition through apprenticeship into permanent employment in good jobs can be best attained. What support is required for young people and for employers to achieve this?

Topic 6: Status of apprenticeship as a career path
It is a common complaint that apprenticeship is often seen as a less-valued route, particularly for young people, compared with academic studies at university. How can this be addressed and what pathways are possible so that apprenticeship is seen to offer comparable career prospects?

Topic 7: Apprenticeship’s contribution to social justice
Apprenticeship is often seen as contributing to social justice but the exact nature of this contribution is not always clear. The incorporation of informal apprenticeships into formal systems may be one way of achieving this. What are some examples of this and other practices that could be more widely applicable?

Conference location, organisation and fees
INAP 2015 will take place in Ballarat, Australia. Detailed travel information will be provided by the organisers in due course, and initial enquiries can be made to INAP2015@federation.edu.au

Ballarat is an historic town, about 100km from Melbourne, which has many tourist attractions related to the 1850s Australian Gold Rush. It is the home of technical education in the State of Victoria, and the University incorporates a TAFE (Technical and Further Education) Institute. For those interested, VET-related visits will be organised for the day before the conference (31st August), and a tourist trip the day after the conference (September 3rd).

The working language is English. In order to cover some of the organisational costs there will be a fee (provisional-yet to be confirmed) of 200 Euro/$300 AUD for people presenting papers and 170 Euro/ $250AUD for others. Conference proceedings including summaries of papers will be handed out to all people attending.

International conference committee:
Prof. Erica Smith, Federation University Australia (Head of Committee); Prof Philipp Gonon, University of Zurich; Ursel Hauschildt, Bremen University; Prof. Robert I. Lerman, American University; Prof. Felix Rauner, Bremen University; Prof Michele Tiraboschi, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia Italy; Bonnie Watt, University of Alberta; Prof. Zhiqun Zhao, Beijing Normal University; Craig Robertson, Head of Skills Policy Division, Department of Industry, Australia.

Conference Organisation
Mail: INAP2015@federation.edu.au