

UNESCO UNEVOC @ RMIT: **VET, Disruptions, Skills and the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

UNESCO UNEVOC @ RMIT is re-launching itself to be an active member of a global network of 230+ centres in 160+ member states.

We re-launch at a time of profound disruptions - digital, climatic, and the movements of millions of migrants and refugees - that are transforming the ways that we work, live and learn.

At the global level, the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) are driving change in the ways that communities, institutions, governments, and businesses re-think what sustainable development means. Particularly in terms of quality education for all, lifelong learning, gender equality, decent work and the unfolding ecological crisis.

The presentations and discussions at this seminar will seek to explore the following key questions:

- i. What do the SDGs mean for good practice in VE curriculum and pedagogy?
- ii. How will VE students benefit from a learning agenda shaped by the SDGs?
- iii. How might VE managers be better educational leaders by developing their awareness of the SDGs?
- iv. What implications does the SDG agenda have for re-shaping future VE research?

Friday August 10th, 1.00pm-4.00pm
RMIT City Campus, Building 11, level 3, room 1, 11.03.001
Register for this free event [here](#)

1.00-1.45 Opening

What is UNESCO UNEVOC? (Rupert Maclean)

UNESCO UNEVOC @ RMIT (Peter Kelly)

1.45-2.30: Keynote 1

Andrew Williamson (Executive Director Vic TAFE)

Why we Need VET in a Time of Disruption

2.30-3.30pm: Keynote 2

Rupert Maclean (College of the North Atlantic-Qatar) and **John Fien** (RMIT University)

21st Century Skills for Work and Life and a Move to the Greening of Economies for Sustainable Development

3.30-4.00pm

Summary/next moves/networking

Contact

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blog: [Art based social enterprise and marginalised young people's transitions](#)

Why we Need VET in a Time of Disruption

Andrew Williamson

In the last decade, Victorian and Australian policies around vocational education and training have changed the way we think and talk about VET. More than for any other education sector, we have applied a retail model for provision and – implicitly and explicitly – encouraged stakeholders to value VET against retail metrics.

But times are changing. A chorus of stakeholders, from teachers to scientists to vice chancellors to captains of industry, are calling for VET to be recognised and resourced as a vital element of our educational platform. It is timely to reflect on the state of VET locally and nationally, and seek to identify some of the prospects being considered for the future.

Andrew Williamson is Executive Director of the Victorian TAFE Association, the peak body for Victoria’s public VET sector TAFE institutes and dual sector universities. He has worked in executive and leadership roles in Victorian TAFE, dual sector university, technical college and government. Andrew is a passionate advocate for the public VET sector. Andrew has degree qualifications in Philosophy (Bachelor) and Vocational Education & Training (Masters) and is qualified as a VET teacher and chef. (awilliamson@vta.vic.edu.au)

21st Century Skills for Work and Life and a Move to the Greening of Economies for Sustainable Development

Rupert Maclean and John Fien

This presentation examines key aspects of the global challenges for TVET arising from the fundamental changes in society, technology and global economic shifts. Global warming and other environmental issues are increasingly driving many of these changes, and the movement towards “greening the economy” is impacting on the skills needed for employability. This is the green skills agenda. In doing this it examines the relationship between green skills and 21st Century skills and analyses contributions to human capital development. The paper draws on findings from research undertaken by the presenters for the Asian Development Bank on ‘Education and Skills for Inclusive Growth, Green Jobs and the Greening of Economies in Asia’, and research they are currently undertaking on ‘Improving and Enriching the Human Capital of Qatar through the Identification and Development of 21st Century Skills for Sustainability and Employability’. Case studies will be provided from Australia, SE Asia, South Asia and Qatar.

Rupert Maclean AO is currently Qatar Petrochemical Company professional chair in Vocational Studies, and concurrently UNESCO chair on Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Sustainable Development, and coordinator of the UNESCO-UNEVO Centre for Qatar, in the College of the North Atlantic-Qatar. Dr Maclean was also foundation director of the UNESCO-UNEVO International Centre for TVET, Bonn, Germany. (rupert.maclean@cna-qatar.edu.qa)

John Fien is a Professor of Practice in the School of Architecture and Urban Design, at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. He has served as an advisor for UNEP and UNESCO on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Dr Fien has pioneered the field of TVET for Sustainable Development and wrote the international review on “Greening TVET” for the 2014 evaluation of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. (john.fien@rmit.edu.au)