

Organisation internationale  
chargée de promouvoir  
la formation professionnelle  
et les concours internationaux  
de formation professionnelle  
destinés à la jeunesse

International Organisation  
for the promotion  
of vocational training  
and the International Youth  
Skill Olympics



Internationale Organisation  
zur Förderung  
der Berufsbildung und  
der Internationalen Berufs-  
wettbewerbe für die Jugend

Organización internacional  
para promocionar  
la formación profesional  
y los Concursos  
Internacionales de formación  
profesional para la Juventud

So/rg

Mr. Tseng-Yu Chu  
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Zurich, 26th April, 1984

Dear Mr. Chu,

On behalf of president Albert and the members of the standing commission, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for your warmhearted hospitality, your friendly reception and the spontaneous contacts which we had the pleasure and honour to enjoy during our stay in Taipei.

In the short time available, we experienced many interesting things, I am referring especially to the flight to Hualien. We were pleased to have as guides Mr. Wang, Mr. H'su and Mr. Liu, who provided us with much valuable information.

The national competition for handicapped people and the closing ceremony will be remembered as an impressive experience. I must admit that as far as the integration of handicapped people is concerned, we have not made as much progress as you have.

From personal contacts made in Taiwan, we have learnt of your pre-occupations regarding vocational training. However, I would like to add that in all the other countries, similar and other problems also exist.

It is important to keep contact in this respect, as an exchange of ideas can be very positive. Speaking from long years of experience, I hope that you and your country will succeed in finding the best possible system adapted to the Eastern way of life and to develop it successfully. There is one danger in copying someone else's system : it is often difficult to transfer to different circumstances and it has no long-term value.

The Republic of China, with its thousands-years-old culture, would be well advised to perpetuate its own traditions in future developments. In our country also, where for reasons of tradition, the rapid technical progress does not satisfy everybody, objective analysis has proved that the vocational training system has survived well.

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Until the beginning of this century, the Chinese training system was comparable to the Swiss one, but the interruption of war and the assault of time did not have any adverse effect on us, so that our existing structures could develop peacefully, which was unfortunately not the case for you.

I am convinced that if you succeed in developing a wide-based, healthy industrial middle-class, many training problems will be easier to solve, also in industry. When comparing training systems, I am always forced to point out that in Switzerland, 75% of all employers employ 1 - 10 people, 20% employ between 10 - 50 and very few employ more than 300. As a result, 85% of all apprentices can be trained in a decentralised manner in small enterprises, specifically regional requirements can be promoted and the young people do not have to commute far to their place of training.

We are closely related to the practical world, we have direct contact with clients' needs and specific quality requirements and because our market reacts immediately to any structural changes in individual trades, the number of apprenticeships can be controlled and rapidly adapted. In this way, youth unemployment can be avoided. I have referred here to the real advantages of our particular system of master training, even though it is generally accepted that in-school training is more systematic.

In practice, however, it is a fact that work methods in small industries are not systematic, improvisation is often necessary and these are the realities with which the apprentice has to live.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I am at your disposal for any further exchange of ideas on the above subject and I would like to thank you once again for your kindness and generosity.

With kind regards,

yours truly,

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING COMPETITIONS:



Daniel Sommer  
secretary-general