JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

AND

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

WITH RESPECT TO FOSTERING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL AND
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of
Germany ("BMZ") and the Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), hereinafter separately referred
to as a “Side” and jointly referred to as the “Sides” are committed to ensure equal access for
all women and men to affordable and quality technical and vocational education and training
leading to equitable employment opportunities for all.

They recognize the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
in ADB member countries and German development partner countries.

BMZ and ADB each have a broad set of instruments to foster TVET and extensive
experience in running regional programs in addition to bilateral cooperation.

BMZ and ADB both believe that structural reforms are needed to (a) make it easier to access
the TVET system; (b) transfer within and build strong two-way paths between TVET and
general education; (c) align TVET systems more with the labor market by working together
with the private sector; and (d) make TVET programs more comparable in ADB member
countries and German development partner countries;

BMZ and ADB recognize that economic development has to be as environmentally sound as
possible, by including green skills in vocational education and training, as appropriate.

BMZ and ADB further recognize the importance of increasing, by 2030, the number of
women and girls who receive vocational education in ADB member countries and German
development partner countries.

BMZ and ADB share the conviction that there is big potential in linking TVET with ongoing
joint efforts with policy makers and other stakeholders.
Thus, BMZ and ADB have come to the following understanding:

1. ADB and BMZ aim to foster cooperation in common fields of interest such as:
   a. Climate Change (e.g. renewable energy, energy efficiency), in particular green skills/jobs;
   b. Empowerment of women, in particular gender balanced TVET approaches (in the spirit of the respective G7 initiative of Elmau);
   c. Workplace-based training, in particular encouraging employers to invest in structured training;
   d. Cooperation with and involvement of local administration and private sector in planning, provisioning and financing of TVET, labor market policies and employment promotion; and
   e. Quality of TVET and lifelong learning for continuous skills upgrading.

2. BMZ and ADB aim to explore a common set of instruments which may include, among others:
   a. Capacity building for professionals working in TVET (teachers, assessors, in company trainers and vocational education and training management, professionals involved in planning processes, and professionals involved in on-the-job training and job placements);
   b. Provision of adequate TVET infrastructure, in particular teaching and training equipment and materials, including Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based;
   c. Innovative, demand-oriented financing instruments (such as TVET funds, voucher programs, stipends, student loans);
   d. Development of policy recommendations, including training levies and other financial levers;
   e. Innovative results-based lending approaches;
   f. Quality development and quality assurance including development of standards, benchmarking, curricula and blended learning, qualification framework, assessment and certification; and
   g. Fostering partnerships with centers of excellence in ADB member countries and German development partner countries.

3. ADB and BMZ aim to foster their TVET related cooperation by developing and sharing good practices and knowledge, avoiding duplication and ensuring value addition.

4. BMZ and ADB aim to exchange information regularly on intended TVET interventions in ADB member countries and German development partner countries at an early stage and, as appropriate, to coordinate planning and conceptual processes, acknowledging support to both formal long-term TVET offers, competency-based training, as well as integrated approaches.

5. Furthermore, ADB and BMZ aim to jointly decide on common areas of action for the period 2016-2018, with a focus on the following areas:
a. Assessing possibilities for German co-financing or other mutually agreed modalities;
b. Enhancing the cooperation between ADB and GIZ to increase the efficiency of technical support in priority areas of design and implementation of common programs/projects;
c. Supporting joint programs/projects to improve project readiness, detailed design work and expeditious fielding of high quality technical support for effective implementation;
d. Providing full access to a range of high quality German technical services and German training providers, practical models and related technologies to enhance TVET design and implementation and meet client needs;
e. Mobilizing experts for secondment to ADB from GIZ and other German institutions as per emerging priorities;
f. Developing knowledge management products and sharing good practices;
g. Designing, organizing, holding and financing a regional conference on TVET in South-East Asia, in the first half-year of 2017; and
h. Exploring additional joint financial and technical support to address priority areas (section 1 and 2) in TVET.

6. ADB and BMZ furthermore will seek possibilities for developing and testing new financing models and financial instruments.

7. BMZ and ADB aim to develop a joint work plan on how to achieve the areas set out in para 5 above and will annually jointly review progress on achievements of such joint work plan during the period of 2016-2018. Such annual review can be in addition to organizing technical dialogues on specific matters on a regular basis and cooperating in running together programs and sector specific dialogues, whenever feasible.

8. This Joint Declaration may be amended with the prior mutual written consent of the Sides.

9. Channels of communications on matters related to this Joint Declaration will be as follows:

For BMZ:

Mailing address: Stresemannstraße 94, 10963 Berlin, Germany
Attention: Division 403 – Regional Development Banks and IFAD

For ADB:

Mailing address: ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550 Metro Manila, Philippines
Attention: Head, Office of Cofinancing Operations
10. Nothing in this Joint Declaration is intended to confer any legal rights or obligations on either Side or create a legal relationship between the Sides.

Signed in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, on 2nd May 2016

For the
Asian Development Bank

Takehiko Nakao
President

For the
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Hans-Joachim Fuchtel
Parliamentary State Secretary