

Learning together, developing our Vocational Education through International Cooperation with the great Olympics spirit

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Dear Ladies and gentlemen,

Today I am delighted and honored coming over to London, specially in such beautiful season, meeting so many colleagues from London FE colleges and officials from Skills Sector to share the experience of how Beijing Vocational Colleges engaged in Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and hope we can further more to develop the collaborations in FE Sector between two great cities London and Beijing. First of all if I may, I would like to thank to London Beijing World City Links for the invitation, hospitalities and the support.

Now I would like to share with you a general information of how Beijing FE Colleges engaged in 2008 Olympic Games and how my college involved and served in Beijing Olympic Games, we are hoping to sharing our experience and contribute more to 2012 Olympics and make it a greater success.

1. General information – How Beijing vocational schools participated in Beijing Olympic Game

In Aug and Sep 2008, Beijing successfully hosted the 29th Olympics and the 13th Paralympics, which has been a dream for a century to Chinese people. It has demonstrated a rich and brilliant Chinese culture to the world and its great achievement in the development and modernization, the **assimilation** of Chinese culture and modern civilization, an open, welcoming, and rapidly developed China. Beijing Olympics is considered unparalleled and consummate by the world. The former Chairman of IOC Mr. Samaranch said that “the Beijing Olympic Games is the best one among all the Olympics”. Its success is not only based on the first-class facilities like stadiums and sport centers, but also the skills and quality of the service. To FE Skills Sector, ‘the quality skills and top service are the key philosophy’. No matter we involved in the Olympic Games directly or indirectly is always meaningful to FE skills sector. The Olympic Games is not only the **arena** for athletes from all over the world, but also the showcase for vocational students to demonstrate their glamour, skills, high-standard service. Vocational education demonstrate its value and meaning in the Olympic Games.

1.1 Unprecedented involvements (in terms of number of people and wide range of services)

The total number of teachers and students from vocational schools/colleges (it included all vocational colleges in china)

participated in Beijing Olympic Games was more than any other education sectors/ industries. It is unprecedented. Among them, there were 8000 students from Beijing FE schools/ colleges as volunteers, working and serving at the National Stadium (the bird nest), Olympics headquarter Hotel and the athlete village. There were 190 students from 7 vocational colleges, they were from different cities, for instance Zhengzhou , Haikou, Beihai and Guilin, and so on, worked in the central area of Bird Nest , provided services to athletes and audience at and around the fields and the transport station.

1.2 The Quality Service and High Achievement

We believe Smile is the card of Beijing, the qualified volunteers and their high standard service are the important foundation and a key for a successful Olympic and Paralympics Games. The students responsibilities from vocational colleges included the guide for the Opening and Closing ceremony, medal-awarding ceremony **etiquette** guide, field service, food and cooking, securities , information equipment maintenance and water and electricity supply. There were many touching/moving stories behind the successfully deliveries.

Our student guides were trained to smile brilliantly and stand continuously for 3 hours; 28 professional teachers in floriculture and their students made the medal-awarding bouquet for 302 different events, this demonstrate their art and design skills. The Olympic

Games provided us a stage to study and practice. The vocational colleges' students enjoyed the engagement, practice their skills in the world event, they also learned a lot from serving the Olympic Games. Meanwhile serving Olympics also gives us a practical experience of the world-class standard. However, Beijing Olympics has speeded up the reform and development, increased learning opportunities. It has not only test the quality and standard of the vocational/ skills education, but also is an opportunity for the further development.

1.3 The Value and the Higher Reputation of FE Colleges has been demonstrated and recognized ever.

The vocational colleges' student provided many ranges of service at the Olympic sites that shows the achievement of vocational education has been fully recognized by local society and internationally, the students also find a stage to improve and show their skills.

Firstly, the foundation of vocational education is to meet and serve the needs of society. Vocational education has the advantages by providing professionally skills training and skills practice opportunities. Service is the soul in vocational education, and getting engaged is the nature in vocational education, so volunteering is becoming a part of culture of vocational education. Secondly, training skills, for instance, vocational college trained the volunteers acquire; Many professional athletes were educated and trained by the vocational sports colleges or

schools. Therefore we could say that FE Colleges have the capacities to train excellent talents, and FE still got more great potentials to be explored.

2. How Beijing Commerce and Trade College engaged in Beijing Olympics and our experience.

Beijing Commerce and Trade School was founded in 1964 and is managed by Beijing Municipal Education Committee and Beijing Ershang Group. We provide wide-range full-time programs, Adults programs at varies level, is a comprehensive college with vocational and further education programs. We are a leading college in china, has won many rewards, including National Centre of Excellence of vocational education, National Centre of Excellence of Employment. Currently we have 8000 students, including 5000 full-time students, college campus covers an area of 110,000 square meters and provides 17 curriculum areas. We are well known in the industry as an excellent college who could provide young people quality skills with medium and higher levels in business and finance. We have made the best of our strength in engaging and participating Beijing Olympic Games. Beijing Municipal Government, Beijing Municipal Education commission, Beijing Municipal Youth League Committee and Beijing Municipal Student Union together have awarded us 'Excellent Institute for serving

2008 Olympics and 'Excellent Cheer Squad Team in Beijing Olympics and Paralympics..

2.1 Promoting Olympic and increasing enthusiasm among college's teachers, staffs and students

In order to create Olympic atmosphere and let our students and college staffs have better understanding of Olympic Games, we had many different Olympic promotion projects, for instance, the open lectures for Olympic schemes' Olympic photography project, and Olympic calligraphy project and so on , about 4000 students and staffs participated. The Beijing Bureau of Labor and Social Security and Beijing Municipal Education Commission jointly organized city wised Olympic Vocational Skills Competition, there were 1800 students from Shangmao attended the Retail Cashier Competition, and there were 1600 students qualified and the top three places in the competition were also students from Shangmao college.

2.2 Integrate our strength and unique skills curriculum to serve Beijing Olympic Games and local community.

Tea Art is our college one of unique skills training curriculum, Beijing Bureau of Labor and Social Security, Beijing Bureau of Travel and Tourism has appointed our college to train the professionals for industry and employers. Our students were on behalf of Beijing visited Japan and France presented Tea Art Performance, which enhanced the

culture understanding. Before the Beijing Olympic Games, our college had to organized professionals teachers regulate the service standard and provide the training curriculum for the Tea House in the Olympic Village.

During the Olympic Games, the tea art was shown in the Opening Ceremony and the tea-making ceremony performed at many tea houses, the dance of picking up the tea and the tea culture, etc, all the unique and the glamorous tea culture has impressed the world, which shows the riches Chinese culture. Tea has been a bridge for international links.

Base on the ideas of 'Serving Olympic' and 'Serving local community', our college and Beijing Radio worked together organized and delivered an English Training Programme for Beijing Taxi Drivers. We provided Free Oral English lessons for 50 Taxi Companies and trained hundreds Taxi drivers during the weekends. It included the taxi English, Beijing tourism information and free English program CDs and books, which had received very positive feedback. And Many local newspapers and Beijing TV has reported this training programme and its stories.

2.3 Supporting Beijing Olympic Games, Participating the Volunteer Service and to achieve the 'green Olympics, technology Olympics, and Humane Olympics'

In order to response Beijing Municipal Workers Union and Er Shang Group's requests, We organized and selected 28 students and set up a Cheer-Squad volunteer service. We also had Olympic service management team was

led by Principal, party secretary and chair of worker's union that guaranteed the full support , in terms of human resource, rehearsal facilities and logistic , etc.

Members of Cheer Squad used their spare time to have the training and learning the knowledge about Olympic Games. During the Olympic Games and Paralympics, they attend the torch relay at Tiananmen Square , served at Olympic sport centers and bird nets. We are also very proud of our students, one of our students who is studying in Finance, served as torch **escort** during the torch relay ceremony. There were also 30 students who are learning the Hotel Service and they worked in the Olympic stadiums, sport centers and provide serve for athletes. Our students not only provided best service during the Olympic, but also but also added the tremendous value to vocational education, and it revealed the **soul of humane Olympics..**

2.4 One game, one dream, harmonious Olympic. Harmonious community.

17th September, the Beijing Paralympics ended. Beijing Olympic impressed the world, Beijing has not only delivered an unprecedented great games , but also has won a medal for a harmonious Olympic. Beijing has successfully delivered 29th Olympic, is a great achievement to Chinese Government and Chinese People. As a vocational college, during Beijing Olympic, we not only accomplished the Olympic Tasks,

but also have the responsibilities to maintain a harmonious environment, college, campus, which are also important support to Beijing Olympics. Our college also set up Health and Safety committee during Olympics to ensure safe college, safe campus, and everyone has the responsibility for the safe and peaceful Olympics. We strict the Health and safety checking procedure, improve the college's security system. And we also improved the emergency response system, make sure there is no accident occurs in the college

“Engaging, Contributing, and Enjoying”, as a vocational college, no matter we provide a direct service or indirect service to Beijing Olympic Game, vocational education should be all based on one principle is that to meet the needs of industry, provide service to the community, which we believed it is also a contribution to Beijing Olympics.

3. Olympic Games is a great opportunity for developing more links on skills education between London and Beijing

London and Beijing has many year collaboration experiences on vocational education, which I believed it has established a strong foundation to explore more potential collaboration opportunities. We are partners and friends. These two great cities -London and Beijing have been becoming ever so close since the moment London Mayor Boris **hand/got** the Olympics Flag from Beijing Mayor. We have more

common ground and common interests. Therefore I believe there are few areas that we may possibly could work together.

3.1 Projects Orientated for Sharing the Olympic Experience and promoting the mutual development, between two cities, FE colleges' Teachers and students visit exchange programme, set up project forum. We are happy to share our experience with our uk colleagues partners, for instance, how we select and training volunteers, and services we provided during Olympic Games

3.2 Exploring and Developing more curriculum links projects. On one hand, Beijing may be able to adopt London college's some excellent curriculum with good practice records. For instance, Property /and community management; Car Decoration; housekeeping services . On the other hand you may like to consider to provide some tailored Chinese training course in your college. For instance, Business Chinese, training course for HSK, which will not only help you communicate during 2012 Olympics, but also help people understand the culture differences between two countries and wider the service ranges.

3.3 Establishing 3 channels Linking System between London and Beijing colleges .

Firstly, leaders/ principals dialogue linking system, so that the

principals/ leaders can share the issues, challenges and solutions. For instance, to visit and meet partners college/ a forum once a year or once 2 years for the dissection and exchanges management ideas. Secondly Teachers linking system, to have regular discussion for the project, curriculum and other relevant issues. Third is student exchanges. Students can discuss the project with their partners in Beijing via internet, or exchange visit during summer and winter holiday. For instance, how to provide service in Olympics, how to be a volunteer, how to be a member of cheer squad, these scheme or project will help students understand both Chinese Culture and English Culture .

3.4 Developing an international work experience programme for students. Through this programme that students would be able to visit partner country and go to local industry to have an international work experience, meanwhile it will be very helpful to issue recognized international certificate, which will give students a good opportunity to get employed.

One world one dream, Olympic Games not only belongs to the host country, is a **celebration for the world**. Beijing and London are from different country, we have got different culture, but we are members of the Olympic family. Tying to understand each other and enjoy

friendship.

I believe London Beijing FE Links Project is a great consortium for developing the vocational education, let's learning together, developing through international cooperation. Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish a good future on the vocational education collaboration between London and Beijing, wish this conference success, and wish London 2012 Olympics great success.