



PRESS RELEASE

16 July 2010

Stevenson College Edinburgh Bids Fond Farewell to Saudi Arabian Delegates

Over the past two days 60 delegates from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have celebrated the completion of a range of study programmes at Stevenson College Edinburgh.

Stevenson ran four separate programmes for the delegates from April 2010 in the areas of Marketing, Quality Assurance, Accounting and Office Management with up to 15 delegates per programme. The groups represented colleges across Saudi Arabia and comprised teacher trainers and professionals working for the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation Saudi Arabia (TVTC), who were also the programme's sponsors.

The TVTC was set up by the Saudi Arabian government following a period of rapid development in the Kingdom. TVTC provides technical and vocational educational and training programmes for the nation's young people in specialist colleges across the Kingdom. The purpose of the programmes at Stevenson College was to up-skill TVTC's teacher-trainers to go back and deliver courses in their specialist subject areas at their respective colleges and to integrate best practice in teaching methodology and learner engagement.

As part of the part of their extended programme, each group was given the opportunity to visit or attend seminars from organisations operating in an area directly relevant to the delegates' studies, which gave context and a framework to their learning experience at Stevenson. This included workshops with marketing

agencies and visits to local businesses, as well as visits to some of Stevenson's partners including Scotland's Colleges and the SQA. The Saudi delegates also had some free time to visit tourist attractions throughout Scotland including a visit to the Scottish Parliament, kindly hosted by Robin Harper MSP.

Stevenson College Edinburgh has also just completed delivery of a 2-week National Occupational Standards (NOS) course for another 15 Saudi senior delegates, which will help them to prepare for accreditation and curriculum development back in Saudi Arabia. The graduation ceremony for the NOS group will take place at Stevenson College today (Friday 16 July).

Brian Lister OBE, Principal and Chief Executive at Stevenson College Edinburgh, said: "We were delighted to host the TVTC delegates from Saudi Arabia at Stevenson over the last three months and to be able to share best practice with them. I know from direct feedback that they have enjoyed their experience here and that they will be able to translate this learning to the benefit of students in their respective colleges back home."

The College's international development team, SCE International, work with a number of international partners to provide courses tailored to the country and sector where Stevenson College Edinburgh's partners operate.

SCE International is currently working with TVTC on a number of education and training projects as part of the College's overall international activity, and has partners in China and Spain as well as Saudi Arabia.

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Notes to Editors

The TVTC was set up by the Saudi government to plan and supervise educational and training programs due to the Kingdom experiencing a period of rapid development. As a result of the strong support given by the government the TVTC

has been able to increase the number of its graduates and to spread technical education and vocational training in the cities and the provinces of the Kingdom.

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