

## REPORT OF PRESENTATIONS AT THE IVETA AWARDS LUNCHEON 2009 in Nashville Tennessee



Dr Christopher Parkin, Chair of the Awards Committee, introduced each IVETA Award made annually to recognize individuals and organizations for their significant contributions.

**The Silvius-Wolansky Award** (sponsored by IOWA State University) ‘to an Outstanding Leader in Technical Vocational Education’, was presented to **Glen Witter** of Vancouver Canada by IVETA President Klaus Sodemann and received on his behalf by Isaac Goodine, IVETA General Secretary. Glen Witter is a distinguished International Consultant for Workforce Development with over 30 years experience in TVET.

His career began as an apprentice with a fishing company, then with a trading house becoming Assistant Divisional Manager controlling a nationwide sales force. Following experience in market development with an international airline, from 1972 he chose to devote 22 years to TVET at Vancouver Community College, firstly as a teacher and instructor. In due course he fulfilled responsibilities for school-industry liaison, for curriculum development – introducing programs for small and medium employers, and for research into small business and international trade training needs. As Director of Corporate Marketing he established enterprise centres and developed and managed international projects. His work on training needs analysis resulted, in partnership with the Business Development Bank of Canada, in a successful training and consultancy program adopted across Canada and five other countries, to help small manufacturers develop export markets.

For the last two decades Glen has worked in over 30 countries, being in demand as an analyst of workforce development needs and existing TVET provision, a designer of new provision, and as a trainer of trainers. He has been a leader and team member of many international projects funded notably by the Asian Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, the World Bank, US AID and the European Union. Countries include influential projects in Bangladesh, Kyrgystan (see IVETA Newsletter 2003), India, Micronesia, Nigeria and Senegal, the Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda (a two million dollar project for Skills Improvement). Examples of his specialist work include: developing school industry partnerships, training for change leadership and management (Kazakhstan 2004); enterprise formation and growth - training personnel of enterprise and business development centres in China (2004-7) and in Micronesia (2006): international technology transfer – setting up factories in India (1995-2000) and China (2000 -03).

Glen has degrees of BCom (University of British Columbia) and MBA (Toronto). His projects have led to numerous publications, training materials for SME’s in use in over 20 countries and contributions to many conferences. A member of IVETA since 1989, he was IVETA Vice-President, North America 2001 & 2002.



**The Joel Magisos Exceptional Service Award** ‘in recognition of long-term individual achievement in support of IVETA’ was presented to **Kenneth Morrison** by Joel Magisos in whose name the award is dedicated since 1995 in tribute to his own distinguished service.

Kenneth Morrison is Director of Operation and Planning at HEART (Human, Employment and Resource Training) Trust / National Training Agency in Jamaica. Kenneth has been a strong and enthusiastic supporter of IVETA since he became a member in 1996 and one of the most regular participants at

IVETA's Annual Conferences and Business meetings - and at International conferences when possible. As Regional Vice-President for Latin America and the Caribbean for almost six years until 2008, Kenneth kept us well informed through his annual reports of the developments in TVET in his region, particularly across the CARICOM (Caribbean Community) countries, and the strategies being adopted to bring about change. He identified IVETA Country Liaison Representatives. Being concerned to gain greater involvement of the non-English speaking countries in his region and beyond and to overcome language barriers he was instrumental in the development of the Spanish language version of the IVETA Brochure, enabling promotion of IVETA in Argentina and to regional TVET institutions and which has since led to the website in Spanish and other languages. This award recognizes Kenneth's responsive contribution and willing service to IVETA's objectives and development.



**The Valued Supporter of IVETA award**, to an IVETA member, 'for exceptional support during the year' was presented to **Hemachandra Obeyesekera** by Carmel Thomson Regional Vice-President, East Asia and Pacific and received on his behalf by the Regional Vice-President for South Asia, Dr Pramod Shrivastava. Dr Obeyesekera is Director General of the Department of Technical Vocational Education and Training, of the Ministry of Vocational Education and Training in Sri Lanka. He was IVETA's Regional Vice –President for South Asia from 2007 -2008 and continues as IVETA's Country Representative in Sri Lanka. In August 2009 as Chairman of the Conference in Sri Lanka he achieved his vision and ambition to organize IVETA's First 1st South - Asian Regional conference) "*Innovative TVET Initiatives to Support Sustainable Economic Development and Poverty Reduction- and the Role of TVET in Improving Social Equality.*" ([www.ivetasouthasia.org](http://www.ivetasouthasia.org)).

Independent reports indicate this well organized conference, attended by almost 200 participants including contributions from Australia, Austria, Germany, Japan, Malaysia., Philippines, Sri Lanka, USA was a major success, '...a friendly conference where many relationships were formed and exchanges of ideas took place' Participants appreciated 'the welcome ..warmth and help of members of the conference team' led Hemachandra ...'who did a great job under difficult circumstances'.... and also 'opportunity to see the country.' Without Dr Obeyesekera's leadership there would have been no conference.

**Robert D Cain Business/Organization Awards** 'in recognition of new or continuing support to IVETA' were made to the **Ministry of Vocational and Technical Training (MVTT) and the Department of Technical Education and Training (DTET) of Sri Lanka** and to **Lucas-Nülle Lehr- und Messgeräte GmbH, Germany**

**The MVTT** supported and **the DTET** hosted the above South Asian IVETA Regional Conference. The Minister, Hon. Piyasena Gamage and the Secretary to the Minister, Tilak Hapangama, gave their full commitment to the conference, welcoming delegates and the conference as part of a process of enhancing and strengthening TVET, assisting network activities that foster and facilitate the sharing of resources, experience, expertise and information in the region and beyond. The DTET formulates policy, administers the 38 technical colleges, and aims to manage relevant and quality provision of apprenticeship training. teacher training, technician and diploma qualifications and some higher awards in Engineering and Technology. It works in partnership with industry, business and other organisations to cater for the socio-economic needs of the country. The conference was honoured to be addressed by the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakshas, who later met participants. The support from the Ministry, and the team at the DTET ensured that the Conference made a significant contribution to IVETA's objectives of promoting professional linkages among vocational educators and trainers, sharing problems and solutions and facilitating further worldwide development of VET. The award was presented by Carmel Thomson and received by Pramod Shrivastava to deliver on his return.



® The second **Robert D Cain Award** to **Lucas-Nülle Lehr- und Messgeräte GmbH, Germany** was awarded for the company's commitment and generous support to the 25th Anniversary meeting, and presented by Jeanette Daines Past - President and organizer of the anniversary evening arrangements. IVETA is delighted that Gerald Schex, Sales Director of Lucas-Nülle for Europe, Africa and America was present to receive IVETA's appreciation. The Lucas-Nülle company designs training systems for vocational and advanced training to meet customer requirements, and modelled on real applications. Their clients include vocational and engineering schools, industrial training centres, trade and business schools, technical colleges and universities. Their products include training systems for electrical, electronic and power engineering; instrumentation and process control automation; information and communications technology and automotive technology.



Two **Special 25th IVETA Anniversary Founder Awards** were made to acknowledge the commitment and dedication to the organization of two Founder members during the critical formative years. Jean Decker Mathews, herself a founder member and a former President recalled the exceptional work and service of Joel Magisos and Valija Axelrod over the first 12 years which ensured that IVETA's future would be secure. **Certificates of Appreciation** were given to ten other Founder members, in recognition of 25 years continuing support of the organization and its members, those present being Jean Decker Mathews, Curtis Finch, David Fretwell, Ron McCage, Robert Norton and Sandra Pritz. The Special Awards and Certificates were presented by President Klaus Sodemann who warmly thanked the recipients for their sustained contributions for without them we would not be here today.



In conclusion, Christopher Parkin thanked those who had made nominations and provided information and Jim Daines and Abel Modungwa in particular for their support. There were no doubt other members who deserved recognition for their contributions. He encouraged members to nominate those who they felt should be considered for awards in the future to which we look forward.

Joel and Val receive Founder Awards

Chris Parkin - December 2009