



India and Switzerland join hands on Skill Development Agenda

- **Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy addresses the International Congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training in Winterthur**
- **Meets President of Swiss Confederation, Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann**

India: June 22, 2016: India and Switzerland today signed an agreement to establish formal cooperation in the fields of skills development and vocational and professional education and training.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Winterthur between State Secretary, Mr. Mauro Dell' Ambrogio, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of the Swiss Confederation (SERI) and Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

The MoU was signed during Hon'ble Minister Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy's visit to Switzerland where he addressed the International Congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training. Shri Rudy delivered a keynote address to the audience which had representation from different countries and spoke about the opportunities and challenges in the global skill ecosystem today and how India is collaborating with different countries like UK, US, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, EU and UAE on the international skills agenda.

Under the MoU, the two countries desire to promote and expand the bilateral relations based their joint efforts in the area of skill development as well as vocational and professional education and training. Both India and Switzerland agreed to identify suitable institutions/organisations that could support the realisation of key activities/areas of collaboration identified under this MOU.

"With the signing of this agreement, the two countries intend to complement the existing commitment of Swiss and Indian players to professional skills development and vocational and professional education and training."



"The agreement institutionalises cooperation between the two countries in these areas and aims to promote Swiss vocational and professional education and training internationally," the Swiss Government said.

Commenting on the partnership, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy said, "The Swiss Vocational Education and Training system is attributed respect and regarded as desirable entry point to a successful career for majority of the youth in Switzerland. It is one of the best models we can learn from. We aspire to bring in the same respect and aspiration for skills in India so that India produces some of the best working cohorts for the international market and make India the skill capital of the World."

Shri Rudy also met with President of Swiss Confederation, Johann Schneider-Ammann who had visited India in May 2015 and had met with the Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; initiating conversations with India on scope for partnership of two countries on skill development.

The MoU is consistent with the strategy of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI on international cooperation in vocational and professional education and training.

The agreement will ensure sharing of good practices in the area of skill development and vocational and professional education and training along with capacity building of relevant stakeholders of those areas through facilitating networks and partnerships. A Joint Working Group has also been constituted with representation from both the countries and its first ever meeting was held which resolved to work together towards mutual recognition of qualifications, assessments and certification systems.

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