MEDIA RELEASE
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Education and Training Turns Marginalised Youth Away From Terrorism
Leading Philanthropist Urges Australia to Do More

One of the world’s leading philanthropists will today urge delegates at the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) national conference to combat high youth unemployment and marginalisation that are root causes of terrorism and social unrest in the developing world.

Mr Ron Bruder, founder of the Education for Employment Foundation (EFE), and one of TIME Magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world in 2011, will deliver the keynote presentation at Australia’s largest, most prestigious, gathering of private and not-for-profit educators and trainers.

EFE is a network of affiliated non-profits that develop and deliver tailored courses for unemployed youth in the Middle East and North Africa. Its courses, from administration to construction, airconditioning repair and entrepreneurship, improve life opportunities for disadvantaged youth, but also act as a weapon against the causes of terrorism. EFE is growing exponentially, with 1,300 graduates in 2011, 2,000 projected for 2012 and 5,000 for 2013.

“As a thriving, productive nation, Australia has an opportunity to assume a leadership role in providing education and training that improves the lives of students in other countries, particularly the Asia Pacific region,” Mr Bruder said.

“Job-related education, informed by public-private partnerships that are highly responsive to market needs, is crucial in developing regions where stunningly high unemployment and a still-burgeoning youth bubble are the norm."

“When education and training encourage and enable a nation’s youth to work, individuals reach their potential, companies and organisations grow, and stable societies flourish,” he said.

ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said the opportunity to be inspired by an international industry leader of Mr Bruder’s calibre was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for conference delegates.

“Education and training that combats burgeoning skills crises and social disadvantage in the developing world is the very epitome of what Australia’s high quality educational providers can achieve in our region,” Ms Field said.

“To hear from an industry visionary who has achieved such success in changing lives through education is a rare treat indeed, and affords us the opportunity to consider how Australian government and industry could be doing more.”

Mr Bruder established EFE in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when fear for his own daughter’s life instilled in him a profound determination to do good in the world.

As the world prepares to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Mr Bruder is being hailed as a positive example of how a well connected businessman can change the world for the better.

Mr Bruder is addressing the ACPET National Conference on Thursday 25th August, before delivering select public lectures in Melbourne on Monday 29th August and Sydney on Wednesday 31st August. For more information visit www.acpet.edu.au

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