

Dear participants in the UNESCO-UNEVOC Electronic Mail Forum,

May I introduce myself. I am Armoogum Parsuramen. Since July last year I have been the Director of the Division for the Renovation of Secondary and Vocational Education at UNESCO. Some of you have met me at the recent Second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education in Seoul. Many of you will know Mr Tang, Chief of the Section for Technical and Vocational Education, and Mr Kronner, Chief of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Unit in Berlin. Both of them work in my Division.

I have been watching closely your interaction in the E-Forum since last autumn. I understand that the E-Forum has welcomed the 200th participant this week, and that participants come from about 70 countries and from a number of international agencies with an interest in TVE have joined so far.

The E-Forum has indeed facilitated greatly worldwide professional exchange among professionals. I wish to congratulate the UNEVOC Team in Berlin on this achievement. At the same time, I would like to appeal to you to make full use of this tremendous facility on the Internet, and to let me or the Berlin Team know of any comments and suggestions that you may have for its further development.

As you may know, UNESCO is underway to develop a Long Term Programme on Technical and Vocational Education to be launched from the year 2000. Furthermore, the Government of Germany has submitted a generous offer for UNESCO to set up an International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education in Bonn next year. Both will add to the potential of UNESCO to support technical and vocational education in Member States, and will provide a platform for cooperation among the agencies with an interest in the development of technical and vocational education and training, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank.

The General Conference of UNESCO will meet in October/November this year to decide on UNESCO's programme and budget from the year 2000. Thus it will be the Member States of UNESCO that take the decision on the future role of UNESCO in this field of action. Let your national authorities know what your needs are with respect to UNESCO's programme in technical and vocational education, so that they can take them into account.

I wish you all the best of success in your professional activities.

With kind regards

Mr A. Parsuramen
Division for the Renovation of Secondary and Vocational Education
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
a.parsuramen@unesco.org