

**Hans-Wolf Rissom, Speech given at the farewell party for Rupert Maclean, Director of the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Center for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Bonn, 19 March 2009**

Dear Rupert,

it is a great honour and pleasure for me to take the floor to day on the occasion of your farewell party and to thank you for all you have done throughout your career in UNESCO. If I take the floor, I do so in a triple capacity, as former staff member of UNESCO, as a former staff member of the German Commission for UNESCO and as a German citizen who is spending his retirement in Bonn.

- Firstly, as former UNESCO-staff member and colleague I wish to thank you on behalf of the professional family that is UNESCO's Education Sector. The Sector, as you know, includes more than 400 colleagues working at Headquarters in Paris, in the field offices, institutes and specialized centers, some of them are among us today. We all will remember you as an outstanding colleague, devoted to the ideals of the Organization, full of initiative and dynamism, a true intellectual trained in the field of educational research and sociology, a fine human being and team worker with an excellent output. I recall well your arrival at UNESCO's Regional Office for Education in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, where you joined the well known APEID-Programme, the Asia and Pacific Programme for Educational Innovation for Development. APEID was at that time the biggest educational cooperation programme in the Region. As I was in the 80-ies responsible for a similar although much smaller programme in South-East Europe, I often turned to my colleagues in Bangkok for advice and support. The Asia and Pacific Region was at that time the most advanced region of the developing world and was fascinating to see and experience the spirit of cooperation, the willingness to share information and experiences and to advance the educational reform process.
- Secondly, I wish to thank you in my capacity as former staff member of the German National Commission for UNESCO which represents a great number educators, teachers as well as institutions committed to the goals of UNESCO and to the advancement of education world wide. Since the 70-ties the German Natcom and the Federal Ministry took an interest in promoting international cooperation in the field of technical and vocational education and developed a number of activities to this effect. *ref. H. Müller-Solger and H. Krönner.* Two international Congresses on TVET were organized by UNESCO, the first in Berlin (East), which was at that time still the capital of the GDR, and the second in Seoul. Slowly

the idea made it way that an international cooperation network in the field of TVET should be developed and a permanent coordination unit be set up. That was the beginning of UNEVOC. Together with UNESCO we started a small project unit in Berlin, which later, after the political transformation in our country, became the International UNESCO-Unevoc Centre for TVET. You have been for eight years the director of this unit and have contributed to its growth and international reputation. You have always been a loyal partner of the German Natcom and I wish to use this opportunity to express our appreciation and high esteem.

- Thirdly, I wish to thank you as a German citizen living in Bonn who is proud to see the former office building of the German parliamentarians, the Langer Eugen, converted into the United Nations' Campus of Bonn and who is also proud to see a small, but important UNESCO-unit working in this environment. Through your work, your commitment and your personality you have confirmed UNESCO's presence in this building and demonstrated the important role the Organization has to play within the United Nations' family.

Rupert, we know each other for many years and became friends. But you know that there is a third person who is part of our friendship, because we worked under his guidance and leadership. That is Colin Power, former Assistant Director General for Education and Deputy Director General of UNESCO from 1989 until the year 2000, Australian as you are. As I am still in contact with him, I asked him to write a short message for this occasion. He did and I am happy to be able to hand the message over to you on his behalf. Its title is „Tribute for Rupert Maclean“. The text may be too long to be read out in extenso, but if you permit I would like to read at least a few important paragraphs:

*(follows text Colin Power, which is handed over to Rupert)*