

Message from the Chief Editor: JTET December 2025

Dear Readers,

While counting days to a New Year! it is my pleasure to present this issue of the Journal of Technical Education and Training (JTET), featuring 21 manuscripts from researchers across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. This collection highlights the dynamic evolution of TVET as nations collectively modernize pedagogy and respond to emerging demands, critically reflecting the shifting priorities of TVET ecosystems as they harmonize traditional practices with new workforce and workplace needs.

Research from Asia–Southeast Asia, with authors from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, China, and Korea. Notable collaborations such as Yee Mei Heong et al., Sarala Thulasi Palpanadan et al., and Zheng et al. demonstrate the growing importance of cross-country research partnerships, underscoring the urgent need for harmonized standards, shared knowledge, and policy alignment across fast-developing TVET ecosystems in this regional and beyond.

In addition, a key theme is technology-enabled transformation. Papers by Rizky Ema Wulansari et al. (Indonesia & Kazakhstan) on extended reality, Sultono et al. (Indonesia) on digital ecosystems, and Zulkifli et al. (Malaysia + Indonesia) on digitization readiness illustrate the sector's rapid development toward immersive learning, indicating a critical transition from technology as a supportive tool to a transformative catalyst that redefines learning spaces, assessment models, and future workforce skills.

Also, this issue remains the human dimension of TVET as well, especially motivation, engagement, and career pathways. Manuscripts from Sigritch C. David et al. (Philippines) on motivation in Home Economics, Juli Sardi et al. (Indonesia) on mobile learning, and Khairol Anuar Kamri et al. (Malaysia) on career pathways reflect the importance of psychological and affective elements, emphasizing that contemporary TVET must equally cultivate learner agency, self-efficacy, and career identity to prepare students for increasingly complex labour markets.

Next, this issue offers critical insights into competency development at multiple levels. Studies by Chimparos Suranat et al. (Thailand), Sonia Abdul Fattah Shehadeh (Palestine) on technical competencies, and Seungchul Park and Hyeseung Park (Korea) on practice-oriented curricula highlight systemic gaps between frameworks and real-world practice, urging policymakers to re-examine how competencies are defined, measured, and integrated into sustainable training architectures.

Furthermore, manuscripts addressing equity, diversity, and inclusion, such as those by Mokgadi Elsa Machaka and Asheena Singh-Pillay (South Africa) on female engineering students and Michelle Samantha Gutierrez et al. (Philippines) on gender stereotypes, present an ongoing need to confront structural inequities within TVET environments, particularly as digitalization may further widen access gaps without intentional gender-sensitive and socially inclusive interventions.

Research by Kurniawan Sigit Wahyudi et al. (Indonesia + Malaysia) on university–industry partnerships and Nor Hazana Abdullah et al. (Malaysia) on TVET leadership illuminates a persistent tension between institutional practices and industry expectations, reinforcing the importance of leadership-driven reforms to sustain relevance and ensure mutual value creation in workforce development initiatives.

We believe that this breadth underscores JTET's role as a regional and international platform for advancing scholarly research. Such diversity illustrates the global convergence of TVET challenges—digital readiness, competency alignment, and systemic reform, despite differing national contexts, suggesting the need for a more coordinated international research agenda.

On behalf of the editorial team, I extend our gratitude to all authors, reviewers, and partners. We hope these insights inspire further innovation, collaborative inquiry, and evidence-based reforms, catalysing deeper comparative research, stronger cross-border collaboration, and more inclusive policy frameworks that strengthen the impact of TVET globally.

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