

IAU International Conference
“Internationalization of Higher Education”
Beijing, China, 13 October 2006

Opening Remarks

by

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IAU in China

- Welcome
- Last meeting in China in 1994 in Tianjin
- 70th Administrative Board Meeting in Tianjin, 9-11 October 2006, hosted by Nankai University
- This conference in partnership with CEAIE

IAU

- Created in 1950, UNESCO-based international NGO
- Brings together HEIs and associations worldwide for debate and reflection
- Promotes international networking among HEIs
- Has over 600 HEIs as members + 25 associations, representing about 2500 HEIs
- Only a few HEIs from China, situation needs to be redressed
- Chinese HEIs should join IAU to create a truly worldwide HE community

Internationalization of Higher Education (1)

- Universities always international in outlook, part of global structure
- Over past couple of decades, internationalization has assumed much greater importance
- Because of globalization, greater mobility of staff & students, graduates take employment in other countries
- Therefore HEIs must ensure degrees are recognised internationally
- International collaboration is best approach

Internationalization of HE (2)

- Because of knowledge economy, large demand for HE
- In developed countries, increased competition for foreign students from developing countries
- Tertiary education enrolment 10% in developing countries, 60% in industrialised countries
- For economic development, enrolment must be about 50%
- Most developing countries cannot provide additional funding for expansion of HE
- Hence opening up to foreign providers
- With globalization and GATS, cross-border education has taken shape

Internationalization of HE (3)

- Need for promoting intercultural dialogue and international understanding imperative
- Interactions among people of different countries and cultures have increased dramatically
- Regional groupings for political or economic reasons
- Outsourcing of business services in foreign countries
- Greater international mobility of workforce
- Increasing preference for cultural tourism
- Religious fundamentalism and cultural misunderstanding given rise to terrorism, violence & conflicts across nations

Internationalization of HE (4)

- Businesses, professionals have to interact with people of different cultures
- HEIs must produce graduates who understand different cultures, can discuss critically, can accept differences, who are citizens of the world
- Most important but most challenging reason for promoting internationalisation in HE across the world

IAU & Internationalization (1)

- Internationalization, including CBHE and intercultural dialogue, an important focus for IAU for a decade
- 2000: Statement on Internationalization of HE
- Thematic Working Group on Internationalization established
- 2002: Conference in Lyon, France
- Special section on internationalization on IAU website

IAU & Internationalization (2)

- 2004: Statement on “*Sharing Quality HE Across Borders*”
- Sets out principles & recommendations to HEIs and governments on CBHE
- Statement signed by 35 university associations worldwide
- Follow-up with “*Checklist for Good Practice*”
- Documents available on IAU website:

www.unesco.org/iau

IAU & Internationalization (3)

- Intercultural learning & dialogue a priority for IAU
- July 2004: IAU General Conference in Brazil on *“Role of Universities in Promoting Dialogue & Development”*
- Nov 2004: Seminar on *“Intercultural Learning and Dialogue”*, Hungary
- 2006 Essay Competition on *“HE and Intercultural Learning and Dialogue”*
- Winner of competition: Dr Loo Seng Pien of Universiti Brunei Darussalam
- Essay to be published in Higher Education Policy

IAU & Internationalization (4)

- IAU's worldwide survey on internationalisation of HE
- 2003: first survey, covered only IAU members. Report of findings published
- 2005: second survey, covered larger no. of institutions worldwide. Responses from 95 countries received
- Findings of 2005 survey presented by Dr Jane Knight
- Book on 2005 survey to be launched later
- Plans for third survey in 2008

IAU & Internationalization (5)

- Joint CEAIE-IAU Workshop on 15 October
- Will build on outcomes of this conference
- Will look at pressing issues at international and specific regional levels

- Internationalization of HE has taken new directions but raised new challenges
- 2005 Survey: 2/3 of institutions consider it of high priority, all feel there are benefits, 70% feel there are risks
- Need to highlight benefits and minimize risks
- IAU ready to assist in any way possible

- IAU thanks Nankai University and CEAIE for collaboration and assistance
- IAU looks forward to continued collaboration

THANK YOU