



Science, Mathematics and Technology – the key factors for HR development for ASEAN

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Introduction

This presentation considers the development of the European Higher Education Area and three key factors for consideration in developing higher education convergence in ASEAN

- culture and society
- economy
- external pressure

Regional Challenges

- net outflow of students,
- loss of educational investment
- lack of strong regional identity
- systematic barriers to student mobility
- weakly integrated labour market
- economic performance
- lack of higher education competitiveness

Culture and Society – The Bologna Process

- The challenge of mediating diversity and convergence
- harmonization rather than standardisation
- structural convergence whilst retaining institutional and national diversity
- widening access to education, promoting inclusiveness employability
- a range of tools and strategies are adopted to retain diversity amongst the 47 signatory countries on the principal basis of transparency, which is seen as promoting comparability
- the process is voluntary and intergovernmental; each nation is not compelled by any centralized laws to comply

External pressure

- student mobility
- the inflow and outflow of the international students is dramatically unbalanced
- incompatible degree system, non-transferable credit system and language barriers

Economic factors

- employment links HEI's with the employer, the government, the labour force, and the education outcomes with the practical abilities and skills
- globalised and integrated markets require upgraded individual capability professional skills and international vision; easily interpreted readable qualifications which can be recognised by employers and revised education content leading to more practical outcomes of higher education
- a strong knowledge based society, the labour market needs innovation, entrepreneurship and other outcomes of higher education
- curriculum based on the dialogues between institutions and enterprises made the outcomes match the practical requirement of the employer

Conclusion

an integrated economic community requires a transparent and integrated higher education system which can provide the necessary intellectual and cultural support for sustainable economic and social development of the countries within the community

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Reference Qian Zeng, John Adams & Andy Gibbs (2012): Are China and the ASEAN ready for a Bologna Process? Factors affecting the establishment of the China-ASEAN higher education area, Educational Review, DOI:10.1080/00131911.2012.668872