

Chinese Higher Education on an overpass of 4 fold transitions

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Abstract

Chinese Higher Education (CHE) has eventually changed its elite nature since its birth a Century ago and embarked on the internationally recognized path of massification of higher education as a result of the dramatic expansion of enrolment (DEE) since 1999[1]. However, the DEE has caused nation-wide concern over and debate on graduate unemployment. However, an embarrassing situation is that so many employers could not find satisfactory graduates, while big percentage of graduates is unemployed. Although EE caused multiple deep seated conflicts, it is not their source but the four fold transitions Chinese higher education is experiencing now, i.e. in terms of nature from the elite to mass higher education, in terms of target Client – from An agricultural and commodity Economy to an Open, Export-oriented and Market one; in status – from the social margin to the social center; in system environment– from planned control to a new mechanism. Each transition requires change and renovation in values, mechanism, management, teaching contents and methods, teacher’s qualification and training, etc., and conflicts with the present values. The multiple conflicts facing IHL’s of China today tell us the fact that IHLs of China have embarked on the road and the overpass of 4 fold transitions already but in an embarrassing situation that president of IHLs is in the driver’s seat of his university’s vehicle, could start the engine and making the vehicle moving but has no control of the steering wheel, which is held by someone, who is not there.

Of future direction of an IHL in the 4 fold transitions:

Two Recommendations: Renovating your values and reconceptulization of HE, in order to identify your future direction in the 4 fold transitions; and Deepen the control system and mechanism reform in order to: Nurture the motivation, dynamics, and capability and potential of IHLs. Achieving a leap in HE not just quantitatively But in quality as well and Bring a hope to be a nation with a HE of not just big size but in strength and potential.

Reference

[1] EE 1998-2005, in 10,000

Source: Statistics of MOE, China, 1998-2006

Year	Enrolment at regular IHLs	Enrolment of post graduates	EE %	Total	Gross Enrolment rate
1998	108.36	7.25	7.5%	642.98	9.8%
1999	159.68	9.22	47%	742.3	10.5%
2000	220.61	12.85	25%	939.85	12.5%
2001	268.28	16.52	17%	1214.38	13.3%
2002	320.50	20.26	19.4%	1600	15%
2003	382.17	26.89	19%	1900	17%
2004	447.34	32.63	17.3%	2000	19%
2005	504.46	36.48	12.7%	2300	21%

[2] A survey of 8777 graduates by China Youth Daily revealed that 34.7 of surveyed regretted about their university life. China Youth Daily, 14.08.2006

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