15th AUPF

Paper on
Establishing Innovative
Collaboration in Higher Education in Asia

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Contents

- Abstract of the Paper

- Introduction

- Innovation in Higher Education

- Disruptive Innovation in Higher Education

- Accreditation & its Necessity

- Regional Accreditation, Ranking of Universities, Journal Indexation & Research

- Regional Accreditation: Examples of some South Asian Countries

- Model for Regional Collaboration in Higher Education

- Initiative of Bangladesh towards Accreditation

- Initiatives of Daffodil International University

- Conclusion

Daffodil *International* **University**

Abstract

The mission of any university is to pursue quality education and research of international distinction for the benefit of human society. The paper explores the establishment of collaboration focusing innovation in the arena of higher education, especially in Asian region. It also stresses on the critical role of higher education plays in driving Asia forward and suggests for working on innovation in higher education collaboration amongst Asian countries. In establishing innovative collaboration, the paper also addresses the issue of regional cooperation in education within the framework of BIMSTEC, BCIM, ASEAN, SAARC through introducing regional ranking system, accreditation body, journal indexing etc. The paper also discusses the innovative tools of teaching learning methods like Google class room, Global Access Asia, Moodle which facilitate the internationalization process of the university.

Daffodil International University

Abstract, Cont….

To fit into the innovative collaboration in higher education, this research paper also shares the experience of Daffodil International University (DIU) with its initiatives in innovative collaboration in outcome based teaching learning, industry-academia alliances, business incubation model, entrepreneurship drive. In the delivery of educational programs on campus and beyond, the university draws heavily upon the new instructional and outreach technologies available in the present information age. With a view to focusing digitized learning, the paper shows the development of innovation, cultural harmony, information technology, ethics and quality education as well as international flavor focusing inbound and outbound student and faculty exchange programs in higher education and introducing the blended education.

Introduction

In this glocalization (globalization and localization), technology and innovation are creating increasingly attractive alternatives to existing systems in higher education. A higher education innovation system can be seen as a set of functions, components and relationships, which allow us to disaggregate the various levels of interactions among the elements of the system and analyze the unfolding of innovation in higher education.

Innovation in Higher Education

The traditional system of higher education was giving lecture to students in a classroom, but there has been a drastic change in the styles of teaching over the period of time. These innovative and interactive teaching-learning method methods are moving away the conventional style of teaching-learning towards a significant focus on the outcome based teaching and learning (OBTL). Some of them are:

1. Google class room
2. Moodle at the e-Learning Center
3. Flipped Class Room
4. Graphics Novel
5. 2+2 Programs
6. E-learning
7. Blended mode of education
8. Online courses in the Moodle
9. Global Access Asia (GAA)

Disruptive Innovation in Higher Education

There is a tendency for policy makers and institutional leaders to take any kind of technological advancement which is called a 'disruptive innovation' and cram it into the classroom experience and then expect that by hook or by crook efficiencies are going to appear. Constant striving for improvement and excellence in one's products and services is widely accepted as an appropriate and fruitful strategy in both higher education and the business world. Clayton Christensen, a professor of business administration at Harvard Business School, is the proponent of this system.

Accreditation & its Necessity

Accreditation increases the quality of education through improving the effectiveness of institutions and making sure that institutions meet the established standards. It matches the shared values and practices among different institutions. Hence, accreditation relies on integrity, considerate judgment, meticulous application of requirements, and confidence. It provides an evaluation of an institution's effectiveness in the implementation of its mission, its conformity with the necessities of its accrediting body, and its continuing efforts to enhance the quality of student learning.

Regional Accreditation, Ranking of Universities, Journal Indexation & Research

- More extensive regional cooperation is required, in the field of education especially higher education. Investment in higher education leads to social welfare.

- Participatory teaching-learning system at HEI is very important for teachers to create congenial classroom atmosphere in transforming students to employability plus.

- Regional cooperation will give us better market access and improvement of standardization in the regional perspective so that it will work as catalyst to attain competitive advantage and long run sustainability.

- Regional cooperation is very important to have a win-win situation for which one should use the platform of BIMSTEC, BCIM, and ASEAN with special attention in the field of higher education.

- Investment in building human capital has a positive impact on the economy which needs regional cooperation.

- To develop a perfect model in the educational arena we can use PPF which means Public-Private-Foreign collaboration.

Daffodil International University

Regional Accreditation: Examples of some South Asian Countries

▶ **Bhutan:** Bhutan Accreditation Council (BAC) is the national accrediting agency, which accredits institutions of higher learning in Bhutan.

▶ **Nepal:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched the Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) program as an important aspect of reform in higher education in Nepal. Accordingly, a Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee (QAAC) has been formed for the development and implementation of QAA activities in higher education in Nepal in 2007

▶ **India:** A set of professional councils established by statute and other autonomous coordinative or regulatory bodies established or recognized by the University Grants Commission of India.

▶ **Sri Lanka:** The University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka empowered by Section 4(2) of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978, as and when required appoints Standing Committees for specific purposes,. As such Sri Lanka formed Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Accreditation which functions as the advisory body to UGC - QAAC and vigorously pursue/promote QA programmes according to universities.

Model for Regional Collaboration in Higher Education

- **Asian University Presidents Forum**

  AUPF works as channel in developing the quality of higher education in Asian region.

- **ASEAN University Network (AUN)**

  - AUN-QA network
  - AUN Academic Collaboration
  - ASEAN Cyber University
  - Youth Platform

- **Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA)**

AMDISA is a SAARC recognized body and a network of Management Education and Management Development Institutions in South Asia with 243 members from the SAARC region.

Initiative of Bangladesh towards Accreditation

The government approved in principle the draft rules of Accreditation Council Act-2016 to ensure quality and standard of higher education in Bangladesh. A chairman will be recruited by the government who lead the 11-member council. No university will be able to tender certificates of higher education without the prior-approval of the council.

Initiatives of Daffodil International University

- ✓ Outcome Based Teaching Learning (OBTL)

- ✓ 4-year 'Bachelor of Entrepreneurship' program

- ✓ Daffodil Business Incubator (DBI)

- ✓ DIU Short Term Mobility Programs in Asia:
  - ✓ Asia Summer Program-2013 in Dongseo University, South Korea
  - ✓ Asia Summer Program-2014 in University Malaysia Parlis, Malaysia
  - ✓ Asia Summer Program-2015 in Josai International University, Japan
  - ✓ Petra Summer Program-2015 at the Petra Christian University, Indonesia

- ✓ Asian University Students Forum

Conclusion

- Regional and cross-border collaboration and cooperation in higher education is a growing trend.

- A unique platform can be established for all Accreditation Councils of Asian countries.

- Opportunities and prospects for such collaborative cultures are enhancing in a rapid pace.

- A number of countries, especially across Asia, are initiating and participating in regional collaboration and cross-border cooperation as a strategy for intensifying and modernizing their higher education systems.

- This cooperation and collaboration in higher education among Asian countries could benefit from more transparency, easily accessible information about program designs, and frankness about how these programs work, and wider regional appreciation of academic degrees and programs.