Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO) 2019: Education Innovation
Zhou Zhong, Hamish Coates, and Jinghuan Shi
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Background

Institutions of higher learning have long been cherished as a pillar of Asian societies. As Asia thrives both economically and socially, this diverse region has also spurred the progress and significance of a diverse group of leading universities. The founding of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) in 2017 by fifteen leading universities has created both need and opportunity to study public research universities in Asia and their broader socioeconomic contributions. Such study is supported by AUA as one of its four pillars in the form of the annual research series the Asian Higher Education Outlook.

AHEO 2018, the first of the series, engaged in deliberation and exploration of the mission and vision of AUA through the collective and individual strengths and expectations of its members. AHEO 2018 examined major trends in the transformation of Asia and Asian higher education, the nature and diverse characteristics of AUA universities, and the roles of AUA members in expanding and diversifying provision through international education, the university-society alignment, the rise of entrepreneurial universities, and emerging trends in the field of Asia's higher education studies.

This book AHEO 2019, the second of the series, focuses on education innovation in AUA universities. It responds to an urgent need to better understand education, teaching and learning at leading Asian universities. Educating highly talented people is core to AUA universities, and a major global contribution. Yet, there is little shared insight into what education is going on, and what is being achieved.

Key Findings

Altogether, this research produced the following broad findings:

1. There is much to be gained by finding ways to further distinguish the value created by leading universities
2. There is substantial value in creating research-driven insights into leading Asian universities

As well, six specific findings were formed:

3. Profound value will be realized by building a platform for education innovation

4. Adopting an effective doctoral education architecture has the potential to improve experiences and outcomes
5. Flagship universities have region-leading potential to build effective blended and online education
6. Leading Asian universities have a responsibility to demonstrate the value of social engagement
7. Flagship universities must play a leading role in promoting sustainability development
8. Flagship universities must play a leading global role in designing future higher education

Leading Education Innovation

Overall, within the broad frame of sustainable development, the book proposes a three-phase approach for building capability:

1. AUA universities should invest in education innovation in very coordinated, calculated and consequential ways. The ongoing cultivation of teachers and teaching capability including infrastructure is crucial. The idea of sustainability can serve as an important excellence model and organising frame for structure this investment.
2. Leverage is essential. A key leverage is creating major intersections that involve broader multilateral and multi-disciplinary institutional collaborations and exchanges by way of identifying and tackling large 'grand challenges' such as Asian sustainability.
3. Leading Asian universities must achieve. Leading Asian universities must tell of the public value they create as well of the infinite academic contributions. The key value involves, among others, articulating what is distinctively 'Asian' about the educational achievement? And what then, most broadly, is the role of leading Asian universities in world?

Research Approach

This book was generated in a highly collaborative way. It was written by 24 authors from AUA member universities. A similar number of advisers and administrators from these universities and beyond provided generous support throughout the project. The rich array of viewpoints and data are drawn from institutional surveys, expert meetings and consultations, conferences, a variety of research methods, and special sessions in the AUA Summit and AUA Executives Meeting.

AHEO 2019 Authors

- Darkhan Bilyalov, Nazarbayev University
- Hamish Coates, Tsinghua University
- Oshin Dharap, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- Xi Gao, Tsinghua University
- Ding Guan, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Xi Hong, Tsinghua University
- Yuto Kitamura, The University of Tokyo
- James Lee, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- HeeJin Rachel Lim, Seoul National University
- Jing Liu, The University of Tokyo
- Liu Liu, Tsinghua University
- Lu Liu, Tsinghua University
- Mohamed Madi, United Arab Emirates University
- Khin Khin Oo, University of Yangon
- Juliana Othman, University of Malaya
- Jinghuan Shi, Tsinghua University
- Keshia Lai Shu-Hui, National University of Singapore
- Tharushika Parthirinage, University of Colombo
- Marie Perera, University of Colombo
- Milind Sohoni, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- Indah Widyahening, Universitas Indonesia
- Jiewei Wu, Peking University
- See Zein, University of Yangon
- Zhou Zhong, Tsinghua University

AHEO 2019 Supporting Team

- Ahmed Akawy, King Saud University
- Ackadej Chaiperm, Chulalongkorn University
- Jiao Lu, Peking University
- Zaw Lynn Aung, University of Yangon
- Fitriyatun Ni'mah, Universitas Indonesia
- Yuko Ohkuma, The University of Tokyo
- Ahn Sihun, Seoul National University
- Lele Wynn, University of Yangon