



*Internationalization of Higher  
education: challenges and  
cooperation opportunities for EU  
and Thai-Lao-Cambodian HE  
institutions*

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## *Internationalization of Higher Education (HE)- some characteristics*

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- International standard
- International faculty and staff
- International students
- International campuses
- International cooperation in teaching and research
- International student and staff exchange



## *Internationalization of Higher Education- push factors*

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- Globalization and free trade agreement
- Change in government policy in HE funding
- Increase in demand for HE
- Advancement in knowledge and new ICT technology



## *Globalization and free trade agreement*

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- **Borderless education- Mobilization of**
  - workers (graduates)
  - educational programs/ services
  - academic institutions
  - students
- **Global : Internationalization**



## *Characteristics of ideal future graduates*

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- Sound knowledge and life long learning skills
  - Good language, IT and management skills
  - Good analytical skills, critical thinking
  - Good interpersonal skills, leadership, creativity
  - International standard
  - Good cross cultural knowledge and understanding of other countries and people
- faculty and student exchange



## *Change in HE funding*

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- Trend of decreasing public funding of HE
- HE institutions have to be more financially self sustained
- Entrepreneurial universities



## *Increase in demand for HE*

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- Demand for HE increases in most countries
- Mass HE → increase in proportion of population with HE
- New target group of HE → Life long learners/workers
- International demand



## *Advancement in knowledge and ICT*

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- Speed and volume of new knowledge
- New technology: ICT → new opportunity in teaching and learning
- Virtual campuses



## *current situation of the Thai Universities*

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- 78 public universities- 4 autonomous
- Around 50 private universities
- The HE commission office
- Undergraduate—national admissions
- Increasing demand for HE- both undergraduate and graduate
- National standard on operation requirements of degree programs



## *current situation of the Thai Universities (cont.)*

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- Quality assurance system
- Diversity in characteristics and status of HE institutions:
  - research, teaching or both
  - quality of faculty and students
  - closed and open universities
  - face to face and e-learning
  - etc
- Concern for quality of teaching and research



## *current situation of the Thai Universities (cont.)*

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- Change in budget allocation system for public u.
- Limited research funds
- Diversified revenue: tuition and fees, grants, donation, commercialized Intellectual property, etc
- More collaboration with national research institutes and private sectors



## *current situation of the Thai Universities (cont.)*

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- More international programs
- More international faculty and staff
- More international students
- More collaboration with international universities
- More student exchange



## *Perception towards internationalization of Higher Education*

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- Understand internationalization of HE
- Realize the threats :
  - Recruitment of students
  - Opening universities or campuses in the country
  - Distance education programs, etc
- See the opportunities
  - Recruitment of students
  - Partnership and networking
  - Collaborative activities
  - Benefits to our students- cross cultural, ....



## *Perception towards internationalization of Higher Education*

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- Feel the challenges
  - How to gain or have a win-win situation?
- Diversified strategies
  - The path to world class universities
  - Partnership and networking with foreign universities
  - Collaborative degree programs
  - Joint training
  - Joint research
  - Distance education
  - etc



## *expectations*

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- A win-win situation for all
- Better Joint efforts in knowledge creation and dissemination
- Better quality of higher education
- Better quality graduates
- Better understanding among universities
- Better knowledge management
- Better partnership for better world citizens

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## *Relation of Thai Universities with European Universities*

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- Many Thai faculty members graduated from European universities
- Example of types of collaborations :
  - students and faculty exchange
  - Collaborative degree programs
  - Collaborative training and staff development
  - Collaborative research
  - Collaborative advisory for Ph.D. students



## *Examples of collaborative programs*

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- Chulalongkorn U. and Warwick Manufacturing Group, University of Warwick, UK. :Engineering program
- Srinakharinwirot U. and U. of Nottingham: Master of Pharmacy joint degree program
- Assumption University joint graduate programs MBA in Finance with U. of Exeter, U.K.
- U. of Thai Chamber of Commerce MBA joint program with U. of Birmingham, U.K.
- etc



## *Growing intra-ASEAN dimension of higher education*

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- Through AUN—ASEAN University Network with member universities from ASEAN countries : ongoing activities include
  - Collaborative programs such as the AUN-SEEDNet Engineering program, the ASEAN Studies Master's degree program
  - Cultural exchange for students
  - Joint research
- Through bilateral agreements between universities



## *Relations between Thai, Lao PDR and Cambodian universities*

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- Through ASEAN and also individual interest, Thai, Lao and Cambodian universities have strong relationship
- Thai Government encourages and supports collaborative activities between Thai universities and Lao and Cambodian universities
- Bilateral agreements between universities promoting academic collaboration and assistance
- Expect more diversified activities as well as expanded collaboration
- **Asia Link Program**

## Final Remarks

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- How can we join hand in hand in educating the new generation to be good citizens of the world?
- The role of government
- The role of university
- others



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