From National to International: The Changing Role of QA Agency from the HEEACT’s Experiences

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Introduction

• How to respond to highly global competitiveness Higher Education
  – Strategies of the university
• The key elements of internationalization: Cross border education
  – Mobility of student, faculty, institutional and program
  – China has the largest number of students studying overseas
Introduction

• For non-English speaking countries especially Asian countries
  – have tried to attract more Chinese students by promoting English as the medium of instruction.

• This led to a demand by the government and HEIs to call for the help of international accreditations.
Introduction

• Respond to this need, QA services in Asia started to develop internationally and leading to the emergence of international accreditors.

• The main purpose of this paper
  – to introduce the current international accreditation of academic programs by accrediting body agency in Taiwan
  – the challenges that Asian accrediting agencies are facing.
• Over the past decade, most Asian nations have developed their national QA systems.

• Asian national QA agencies are now being challenged to demonstrate that the quality of their own operations as well as international standards
  – the Association of Asian Nations University Network (ASEAN University Network, AUN) would be the good example.
Cross Border Higher Education In Asia

• ASEAN was established in 1987
  – by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand
  – has expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), and Vietnam

• The ASEAN started AUN from 1995
  – One of the most important project of AUN is established **AUN Quality Assurance Guideline** from 2004
Cross Border Higher Education In Asia

• However, most Asian countries do not have any international guidelines or principles for cross border education

• To conclude, the internationalization policies and practices in Asian countries needs to include QA dimension and element
HEEACT’s Role Since Establishment

• Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan, HEEACT

• Established jointed by the MOE and 153 higher education institutions in Taiwan on 2005

• HEEACT adapted U.S. model of accreditation featuring peer review and on-site visit in the process of university evaluation.
HEEACT’s Role Since Establishment

• HEEACT has been conducted program accreditation project from 2006
  – 1st cycle (2006-2010)
  – 2nd cycle (2012-2016)

• Institutional accreditation from 2011
  – 1st cycle (2011)
  – 2nd cycle (2017-2018)
In the context of the decentralized HE system, the MOE launched the self-accrediting policy in 2013, so the number of accreditation activities by HEEACT has been decreased rapidly.

• HEEACT either has to downsize by itself or to transform into an international accreditor.
In February 8, 2017, the MOE announced the program evaluation of higher education will be changed from compulsory to voluntary.

In the critical times, HEEACT will continue its fundamental role as a QA agency, and transform towards a multifunctional set-up.
HEEACT’s Changing Role

• HEEACT’s development strategies
  – Recognition body for the other accrediting bodies
  – Serve as the think tank for the government
  – Develop partnership with higher education providers
  – As an international QA network platform

• HEEACT initiated implemented international evaluation with Macao and Russia
• The first discussion in 2012
  – Macao has no accreditation agency
  – To promote continuous enhancement in academic quality
  – The evaluation framework has not completed the legislative assembly
• HEEACT has conducted
  – Bachelor of Arts in Musical program (Accredited, 201503)
  – Bachelor of Visual Art program (2016-)
  – Bachelor of Physical Education program (2016-)

• The evaluation is based on the concept of the HEEACT’s second-cycle program evaluation
  – To improve their mechanisms for assessing student learning outcomes
  – To establish self-improvement mechanisms
International Accreditation With Musical Program of Macao Polytechnic Institute

• The standards
  – Goals, core competency, and curriculum
  – Teacher, teaching, and support system
  – Student, learning, and support system
  – Research, service, and support system
  – Self-analysis, improvement, and development

• The accreditation results
  – Accredited, conditionally accredited, or denied
Joint Accreditation With the National Centre for Public Accreditation of Russia

• The first joint accreditation collaboration in Taiwan

• Jointly accredit bachelor and master history programs for Far Eastern Federal University (Accredited, 201602)
Joint Accreditation With the National Centre for Public Accreditation of Russia

- HEEACT and NCPA developed the “Joint Guidelines for External Reviews of Educational Programmes”
  - Policies and procedures for QA
  - Approval, monitoring, and periodic review of educational programs
  - Assessment of student learning outcomes
  - QA of teaching staff
  - Learning resources and student support
  - Information systems for effective implementation of the educational program
  - Public information
## Comparison of MPI and NCPA Cases

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Challenges and Conclusion

• The explosion of cross border HE has led to the internationalization of QA, in accompanied with challenges, changes and chances

• In the globalized context, national accreditators should develop internationalization strategies
Challenges and Conclusion

- Owing to language barriers and lack of mutual recognition agreements, most national accreditors have rarely opportunities for undertaking international accreditation.
- Therefore, both the NCPA of Russia and MPI of Macao by HEEACT are very valuable practices in Asia.
Challenges and Conclusion

• There are big differences between the two cases, including standards, panel, language, etc.

• As a national accreditor HEEACT should be committed to the QA profession
  – Especially collaboration with foreign institution or agency, HEEACT needs to think more of how to strike get a balance between professionalism and flexibility
THANK YOU!