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Abstracts of presentations

EU – Vietnam Higher-Education Policy Forum Grand Plaza Hanoi Hotel, Friday 14 November 2014

Parallel Session 1: Internationalisation – Perspectives on developments in South-East Asia and cooperation with the European Union

Ms Elizabeth Shepherd, Senior Research Manager, British Council: *‘Higher education in South-East Asia – the race to become world class’*

The unique demographic and economic landscape of South East Asia is set to drive the demand for and growth in higher education across the region. An examination of the changing policy environment, growth in education provision, the use of educational technology, language usage and linking future provision to industrial sectors with a shortage of skills come together to show the potential shape of higher education in the region.

Mr Darren McDermott, International Education Development Consultant, Ireland: *‘Balanced mobility as a catalyst for quality and integration of Higher Education within the EU and ASEAN’*

The European Union’s experience of the integration of its higher education systems has been deemed a valuable point of reference for the higher education harmonisation initiatives within ASEAN. This is of particular salience to the structures facilitating student/staff mobility and quality as we approach the formalisation of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

Mobility has been the foundation of the integration and harmonisation initiatives that have occurred in European higher education over the last quarter of a century. The critical mass created by Erasmus led to the establishment the Bologna Process and in turn the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Just as Erasmus has been intrinsic to driving mobility and the provision of support structures through the Bologna process, the expansion of ASEAN mobility programmes is seen as a significant catalyst for greater integration and the engendering of quality at the core of its member states’ education systems.

Within the higher education systems of ASEAN Member States the critical mass of demand for mobility is building and being facilitated by a variety of regional exchange programmes.



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Balanced-mobility is seen to be optimal as it shares the attendant costs and benefits of mobility between countries to their mutual benefit and that of the participants. However this should be weighed against scaling opportunities for mobility and augmenting integration of international students. Ensuring wider participation and equity of access across all member states is critical to the success of these nascent mobility programmes.

This presentation examines the overwhelmingly positive contributions mobility programmes have made to the EU and have the potential to make to the ASEAN Economic Community.

Dr Roberto Napoli, University of Trento, Italy: *'Internationalisation of higher education and cooperation between EU and Asian universities'*

UniTrento's long-term strategy to offer borderless innovative education bases on two main pillars: international relations, and innovative on-campus initiatives to enrich students experience. International relations are carried out with an innovative approach: not only existing partnerships are constantly reinforced and expanded, but also new kinds of agreements are promoted which ensure mutual benefits and cooperation on specific projects (e.g. laboratories, seminars, etc) which aim at adding a substantial value to the student experience. Moreover, Trento offers an "International experience at home" even to students who do not go abroad for their studies and for international students who study in Trento: we intend internationalization as a need for all students, even those who do not participate in mobility programmes. Specific examples will be provided in the presentation.

Trento has been involved in a number of international programs for cooperation with South East Asia, in many cases as a Project leader or coordinator (e.g. Erasmus Mundus, ASEA Uninet, etc.), including a high number of bilateral and multilateral collaborations specifically with Vietnamese Universities. Trento's current strategy of consolidating the South-East Asian network rests on that fruitful experience. Relations between Trento and Vietnam last since the early 80's and have been first formalized in 1983 with the bilateral agreement with the Hanoi University of Technology. Steady relationships have gradually expanded ever since and more sectors have been included. The presentation will describe the most successful joint initiatives with South East Asia and specifically with Vietnam.



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Parallel Session 2: Case Studies of EU – Vietnam cooperation in developing new models of higher education

Mr Gérard Gasquet, Director of Administration, University of Science and Technology of Hanoi: *Presentation on aspects of governance and lessons learned from the USTH*

USTH’s creation results from the intergovernmental agreement signed on Nov 12 2009 between Mr. Nguyễn Thiện Nhân, Vice - Prime Minister of Vietnam (former Minister of Education and Training) and Mme Valerie Pécresse, Minister of Higher Education and Research of France.

Six departments have been created corresponding to the scientific and technological fields most wished by Vietnam to help it in its economic development and to provide the country with skilled teachers and researchers trained overseas.

Professor Jürgen Mallon, President of the Vietnamese-German University: *‘The Vietnamese-German University - A new model for education and research in Vietnam’*

VGU is a public Vietnamese research university with a high-tech Engineering and Economics profile. The school was the first of the so-called New Model Universities assuming a vanguard role in the attempt at reforming higher education in Vietnam.

VGU provides German standards across all sectors within the university, cooperates closely with the industry and contributes in no small measure to Vietnam’s socioeconomic development by delivering the kind of graduates the industry needs.

To realize Humboldt’s vision of the unity of teaching and research, quality assurance and autonomy guarantee that VGU’s modern university administration, adapted to the Vietnamese environment, is the joint where teaching and research converge to produce one of the most fascinating and successful study environments in Southeast Asia.

Dr Duong Mong Ha, Rector, VN-UK Institute for Research and Executive Education, The University of Danang: *‘VN-UK International Standard University as the new model of higher education cooperation between Vietnam and the UK’*

An initiative to establish a VN-UK University in Danang was introduced in the Joint Statement between Vietnam’s and the UK’s governments in March 2010. The VN-UK



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University is developed, based on the available resources of the University of Danang, incremental investment of Vietnamese government and support from UK partners. Its development is implemented in two phases, with the first phase is to establish the VN-UK Institute for Research and Executive Education (VNUK), a higher education member of the University of Danang.

In cooperation with UK universities, VNUK offers international-standard undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in English, focusing on the strong link with business and the trend of international labour market. Research activities begin with the UK-ASEAN Research Hub, a joint project with British Council Vietnam and Aston University, to create an inspirational research community in Danang. With the commitment of support from both governments, infrastructure of VNUK will be invested step by step while capacity development will be strongly made through 911 scholarship scheme. VNUK has officially started its activities with the aim of becoming the VN-UK International Standard University in the near future.



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Plenary Session 2: Higher Education and Socio-Economic Development

Professor Wim Boomkamp, President, Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands: *‘Saxion UAS contribution to regional development through strategic plan: National Higher Education reforms as strategic driver towards social engagement’*

National reforms in Higher Education policy in the Netherlands were generated by a national reform commission in 2010. Rather than generic and identical higher education programmes delivered across the country, each university was to focus on regional and/or sectoral priorities. The Saxion board initiated a series of consultative meetings with internal and external stakeholders. Industry leaders and local governments contributed to the strategy development by listing their human capital education priorities. Internal consultation rounds at board and directorate level generated a new strategic profile under the label Living Technology. The strategic priorities impact on research as well as on teaching, both in terms of quality as in terms of substantive and professional focus.

While educating a broad range of disciplines, Saxion has adopted a strong focus, which impacts, stimulates and enhances the development of local and international partnerships. Through more intensive collaboration with industry and business the importance and impact of technology on the professions is clarified. Strategic networks are now pursued in order to share insights on challenges, pool research capacity and circulate knowledge with mutual benefits. Lessons learned from the strategy development process are applicable in developing Saxion ties with local, European and certainly also Vietnamese partners.

Ms Anke Stahl, Director, DAAD Regional Office Hanoi; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Tung Phong, Vice Director General, Vietnam Academy for Water Resources (VAWR): *‘How can Higher Education Institutions contribute to Development? The example of the Center of Natural Resource Development (CNRD) – a co-operation between the Vietnam Academy of Water Resources and the University of Applied Sciences Cologne’*

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers a variety of funding schemes related to Development Co-operation. We have some excellent examples of university partnerships between Germany and Vietnam which combine teaching, research, higher education management, alumni activities and regional/global networking. These activities are especially practice-oriented and include also partners and stakeholders from the outside university sector.



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The presentation will focus on a concrete university network “Center for Natural Resources and Development – CNRD” of the University of Applied Sciences Cologne. Since 2009 the Vietnam Academy of Water Resources in Hanoi is partner of this global university network.

Sustainability starts with awareness. Students and young professionals have to be trained and educated in various aspects of sustainable development and local solutions for global problems have to be found through research and education.

So the presentation will also touch on several issues as internationalisation and access to regional/global networks (incl. student mobility, researchers’ mobility, HE management)

The CNRD network is funded by the DAAD under the scheme “exceed - Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation”.

Professor Pasi Malinen, Brahea – Development, Innovation and Business Development, University of Turku, Finland: ‘Developing Vietnamese University education towards the Bologna model: The case of HUST and UTU collaboration’

The presentation deals with university-industry collaboration in developing Master’s level curricula for Vietnamese Universities of Technology. Industry collaboration is of great importance in this development for especially in the ICT sector the changes are fast and university-industry collaboration increases the relevance of the education. The presentation gives an example of Finnish Foreign Ministry funded development project conducted in Hanoi and Danang.



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Matchmaking activity and reception for higher-education institutions from Vietnam and EU Member States

Mr Adrian Veale, Policy Officer, European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture (International cooperation; higher education in the world; Erasmus+):
‘Erasmus+: EU-funded opportunities for institutions and individuals from Vietnam’

Erasmus+ is the European Union's programme for 2014 to 2020 to support projects, partnerships, events and mobility in the areas of education, training youth and sport. It provides funding opportunities for cooperation in all these areas, both among European countries, and between these European countries and Partner Countries throughout the world. This international dimension is particularly strong in the higher education field.

The presentation will focus at the opportunities that are available for higher education institutions (HEIs) from Vietnam to cooperate with partner institutions in Europe. It will explain the types of activities that can be carried out, the shape of projects, and the structure of the partnerships that will manage projects. It will also give guidance on how to apply, and how to get involved with partners from other countries.

Erasmus+ also has a strong mobility component: this presentation will also outline the possibilities for student scholarships and staff grants to study, research or teach in Europe.

Mr. Rubén Saornil, University of Valladolid (Spain):

‘Development of university partnerships between Europe and Vietnam: Reflections on the experience of UVa’

Since the political and economic reforms (DoiMoi) were launched in 1986, Vietnam has performed a quick development. Just 25 years ago, Vietnam was seen as one of the poorest countries, and since 2011 it has gained a stable position as a lower middle-income country (MIC) (2011 per capita income of US\$1,260). This growth run forward has drop the poverty rate just about 20% in 2010 and five of Vietnam’s ten Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets have been attained, with two more likely to be met by 2015.

However Vietnam’s new status means in fact new challenges and needs to be covered. Human resources capacities and skills needs to be re-set driving new standards and targets for local Higher Education Institutions.

We are involved in an interconnected world where the basic laws of the market — self-interest and competition — cannot be addressed today without understanding and cooperation premises.



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In this context the Spanish University of Valladolid (UVA) with its 800 years of history, is a relatively new comer to Vietnam. In 2007 having clear basic scheme in which its work is being based, the UVA started cooperation with the Hanoi University (HANU). The first project did perform well, providing specific training to students and teachers from the Chair of Spanish Studies.

The lack of quality specific materials disclosed UVA's mission in the Vietnamese fast developing stage, assuming the great effort to provide new tools. This is the result of UVA's work, which will contribute definitely to boost Vietnam - Spanish relationship, and for extension with more than 400 million people, the Hispano – American community.

Along the way the UVA has established ties with new partners, adapting its scheme to meet Vietnamese society needs at different areas such as: ***Environment Protection and Climate Change, Energy and Water, Food Safety and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development at Rural Areas.***



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