UNESCO and Higher Education
I. UNESCO at a Glance
II. Trends in Higher Education
III. International Standard Setting
IV. Capacity Building
V. Information Sharing
VI. Way Forward
UNESCO: Brief History

• Established on Nov. 16 1945
• Education, Natural Sciences, Social & Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.
• 190 member states and associate states.

MISSION: TO BUILD PEACE IN THE MINDS OF MEN- “于人之思想中建设和平”
UNESCO: Organization Structure

- HQ in Paris
- Regional Bureaux
- Cluster Offices
- National Offices
- Specialized UNESCO Institutes
• Established in 1961
• **Regional Bureau** for Education for the Asia-Pacific region
• **Cluster Office** for Greater Mekong sub-region (Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Singapore)
UNESCO BKK: Divisions

- Education
- Social and Human Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Culture
- Communication and Information
UNESCO BKK: Educational Units

• APPEAL
• APEID
• EPR
• ESD
• AIMS

→ PROGRAMME AREAS: EFA, ESD, Literacy, TVET, Teacher Education and Higher Education
Emerging Trends in HE

- **Massification** – quantitative expansion
- **Diversification** – by funding sources and types of institutions
- **Internationalization** – by students, staff, programmes and institutions
## Gross Enrolment Ratios (%) in Higher Education

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• Types of HEIs
• Types funding mechanisms
• Types of providers
Differentiation of HEIs

- Differentiated missions
- Different types of HEIs – traditional, virtual, technical, open learning, community colleges
- Cross-border education
Different funding mechanisms

- Shift from rigid line budgeting to block grants or formula-based funding
- Emergence of competitive funding and performance-based funding
- University ranking and flagship universities
Diversification in Types of HE Providers

- Government
- Private providers – for-profit, not-for-profit
- Media companies
- Multinational companies
- Corporate universities
- Consortia of universities
Internationalisation of HE

- The increased mobility of students, staff, programmes and institutions
- Greater demand for foreign education – students, families, and governments
- The view that Higher Education is a trade service
- The expanded number of importers and exporters of cross-border education
• 1.85 million in North America and Western Europe
• 83% of total in five countries – USA, UK, Germany, France, Canada
• Changing market share
Students flow in Asia-Pacific region

- Flowing out more than flowing in
- Leading destinations – Australia, UK and USA
- Largest outflow – China
- Regional providers – Australia and Japan
International Mobility of Programmes

- Twinning programmes
- Franchising
- Branch campuses
- E-learning
UNESCO’s Roles

- Standard-setting
- Capacity building
- Information sharing
UNESCO’s Normative Instruments

- UNESCO Regional Conventions
- UNESCO/OECD Guidelines
- ILO/UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers
• 6 regional conventions on recognition of higher education qualifications
• 1997 Lisbon Convention
• Revision of the Africa and A-P Conventions
UNESCO/OECD Guidelines

• Cross-border higher education (CBHE)
• Quality assurance and qualification recognition
• Guidelines for quality provision in CBHE
• Recommendations to 6 groups of stakeholders
Governments

• Establish regulatory system
• Coordinate QA agencies

Higher Education Institutions

• Comparable quality of programme delivered
• Respect the QAA systems
• Financial status
ILO/UNESCO Recommendation

- Status of Teachers
- Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel
- Rights and freedom
- Duties and responsibilities
- Terms and conditions of employment
Capacity Building

- UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN
- Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa (TISSA)
- Distance training programmes
- Regional workshops on QA and QR
- UNESCO/APQN Toolkit
- Guide to GATS
- 632 UNESCO Chairs
- 60 UNITWIN
- 125 Member States
- 750 Higher Education Institutions
Guide to GATS

4 Modes of Supply
• Cross-border supply
• Consumption abroad
• Commercial presence
• Presence of natural persons
Information Sharing

- Global Forum on HE, Research and Knowledge
- Global University Network for Innovation
- UNESCO Portal on HEIs
- Open Distance Learning Portal
Global Forum on HE, Research and Knowledge

- Objectives of Forum
- Regional seminars
- Publications
• More than 100 members
• International Barcelona Conference
• Higher Education in the World
• GUNI-AP
UNESCO Portal on HEIs
http://www.unesco.org/education/portal/hed-institutions
Knowledge Base on ODL
http://asiapacific-odl.oum.edu.my
Way Forward : 2009 WCHE

- **Dates:** 5-8 July 2009
- **Venue:** Paris, France
- **Theme:** *The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Societal Change and Development*
- **Email:** wche2009@unesco.org
Macao Communique

- Demand for greater access and equity
- Role of multi-stakeholders
- Enhancing the diversity and mobility of students
- Greater access to ICT
- Concern for quality of HE
- Multiple modes of knowledge production
New Delhi Declaration

- Role of HE in nation-building
- Need for expanding HE opportunities
- Resource mobilization for HE
- Public spending on HE
- Promoting autonomy of HEIs
- Potential of ICT in HE
- Quality of HE
Concluding Remarks

HE in the context of EFA and beyond for sustainable development

• Human resource development
• International cooperation
• Manila meeting on 6-8 May 2009
THANK YOU ...

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