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CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA: RESPONSES

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POSSIBLE FUTURES

FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA

THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES

CONCLUSION
• The Ministry of High Education, established on 27 Mac 2004, was recently merged with MoE. The higher education sector regulates and supervises both public and private Heis.

• As of 15 Nov 2013, there are 525 higher learning institutions in Malaysia comprising of 20 public universities, 52 private universities/college universities, 30 polytechnics, 70 community colleges and 403 private colleges.

• Enrolment in higher education: 462,780 in 2010 to 519,389 in 2013.

• The National Higher Education Strategic Plan (NHESP), formulated in 2007, provides the planning framework.

• NHESP will be carried out in 4 phases.
  - Phase 1 – Laying of Foundation 2007-2010
  - Phase 2 – Strengthening and Enhancement 2011-2015
  - Phase 3 – Excellence 2016-2020
  - Phase 4- Glory and Sustainability Beyond 2020
IMPLEMENTATION OF NHESP VIA 23 CRITICAL AGENDA PROJECTS

7 STRATEGIC THRUSTS

1. Widening Access and Increasing Equity
2. Improving the Quality of Teaching and Learning
3. Intensifying Research and Innovation
4. Strengthening of Higher Education Institutions
5. Intensifying Internationalization
6. Enculturation of Lifelong Learning
7. Reinforcing Ministry’s Delivery System

23. Knowledge Transfer Program

12. Lifelong Learning
13. Quality Assurance
14. Accessibility and Equity
15. Ministry’s Delivery System
16. Transformation of Polytechnics
17. Industry - Academia
18. e Learning
19. Top Business School
20. Centre's of Excellence
21. Entrepreneurship
22. Transformation of Community Colleges

1. Governance
2. Leadership
3. Academia
4. Learning and Teaching
5. Research and Development
6. Internationalization
7. Graduate Employability
8. Private Higher Institutions
9. Holistic Student Development
10. APEX
11. MyBrain15
Higher Education Is Soft Power

1. Using higher education as a tool for diplomatic relation ‘soft-power’, sharing is caring (phase 2 of the NHESP)

1. There are four (4) important strategies as follows:

- **MyExpert**
  - to develop a knowledge bank with expertise from Malaysia and its partnering countries

- **MySkill**
  - to offer short term program that will leads to future collaboration

- **MyAlumni**
  - To strengthen relationship between HEIs and its alumni
  - Alumni as agent to promote Malaysia

- **MyFellow, MyOdyssey**
  - Broaden diplomatic relationship
  - **MyCommunity**
  - promote Malaysia uniqueness which leads to diplomatic relationship

Empower global linkages through knowledge sharing
Developing knowledge and skills hub through internationalization
Utilizing alumni towards internationalization
Global presence through contribution and reputation
NHESP Involves Transformation Of Higher Education. 
Rationale For Change

- Global trends in education which are highly competitive
- Education is a business commodity for economic generation
- Transforming Malaysia as global education hub
- Internationalization of education
- The need for quality human capital with first class mentality and skills
- Increasing competitiveness in the global economy
- Education for sustainable development
- Technological advancement requires revolution in educational and delivery systems
- Life long education concept
- Enhances success rate and quality in all aspects, including teaching and learning,
  graduate education, research, consultancy, services, corporatization and income generation, internationalization, governance and human qualities.
HE in Malaysia: Drivers

Globalization & Liberalization

Environmental & climatic and geographical changes

Technology advancement & new emerging technologies for the future

Political, lifestyle & social development

Economic survival & competitiveness

Human capital development & Graduate employability

Competitiveness
• Research and Development
• Teaching & Learning
• Quality Education
• International Education hub
Implications Of Driving Forces

- Malaysia vision to be a developed nation by 2020.

- Competition will be the major driver for change towards a developed nation status. (liberalization of education services)

- To be competitive globally, the approaches will be the development and application of new emerging technologies generated through research which will be the tool for wealth creation and for changing human lifestyle and the living/working environment.

- The education system requires reformation to meet the need of human capital development with first class mentality for a modern and industrialized Malaysia. (Education Blueprint and a revised NHESP)

- Teaching and Learning through the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)
Research Intensive University
- Governance/R & D Leadership
- Life long Research
- Network/Benchmarking
- Industrial involvement
- Commercialization of research

Autonomy in Education
- Borderless teaching/learning approaches
- Research based teaching
- Flexibility in knowledge acquisition
- Mitigating Education (Entrepreneurship)
- Market driven education
- Entrepreneurial Education
- English – medium of instruction

Trends and Emerging Issues

Economic revolution
- Hyper competitive
- Innovation based economy
- New emerging technologies
- Wealth creation
- Global economic systems/treaties

Environment
- Social/religion/culture
- Climatic/geographical
- Political
- Globalization

Societal development
- Human values
- Human capital creation
- Cultural intervention
- Local and global responsibilities
- Lifestyle/social structure
Implications of The Trends and Emerging Issues

- Malaysian higher education institutions will need to provide a flexible education system based on research outcomes/findings and market forces which will be the determinant of the activities of HEI.

- Education system will also focus on life long education and will provide curriculum which will exhibit societal, political and environmental impacts with global competitiveness (graduates with desired attributes).

- Research will also be the mode of wealth creation and the emerging of innovative technologies to fulfill the needs of the changing lifestyle of the people.

- Aggressive research and the provision of skill and knowledgeable human capital will commensurate with the hyper competitive global economy.
Creation of Possible Futures

A. Teaching and Learning

Academic Autonomy

- Market driven global curriculum
- Virtual classroom
- Research based teaching
- Trans disciplinary programs
- Flexibility in knowledge acquisition
- Life wide learning

Localization

- Traditional methodologies
- Centralized syllabus

Globalization

- Blended teaching approaches with government inputs (based on global Influences)

Ministry-led bureaucracy, command and control
B. Research, Development and Innovation

High impact on wealth creation

- Relevant, innovative and responsible R&D
- Prioritized funding (for wealth and life quality)
- Accountable governance
- Inter & Trans-disciplinary research programs
- Research culture/lifelong R&D
- Community and industrial involvement
- Technology as enabler

Low impact on quality of life

- Business as usual
- Low priority on commercialization
- Low autonomy in research
- Low industrial/community involvement

High impact on quality of life

- Humanistic
- Greater community
- Long term impact

Low impact on wealth creation
C. Environment and Lifestyles

- Global player
  - Systematic
  - International targets
  - Quality, harmony
  - Adaptable students
  - Total freedom
  - Economic powers
  - Urbanization

- Niche
  - Collaborate
  - Government policies
  - Self oriented system

- Leader
  - Life long learning
  - Responsible citizens
  - Spirituality
  - Ethical and morally conscious

- Glocal player
D. Economic System

Human values and well being – Direct impact

- Highly regulated
- Fully democratized
- Women domination
- Economic pluralism

Human values and well being – Indirect Impact

- Brain business
- Enlightenment
- Idea based economy
- Borderless society
- S & T Investment/literacy

Financial Economics Imperative - Qualitative impact

- Chaotic system
- Fully liberalized
- Decline in competiveness
- Greater divide
- Severe brain drain

Financial Economics Imperative - Quantitative impact

- Profit motive
- Elite specialized
- Education highly politicized
- Private sector driven
- IPTA overwhelm by IPTS
9 Challenges of 2020

1) a One Nation Malaysia

2) a resilient Malaysian community

3) a mature **democratic community**

4) a community known for its high **moral**, and strength in ethic and religion.

5) a community that is matured and tolerant

6) a **progressive** community based on science (and the humanities).

7) a community **rich in universal values**

8) a community with a **fair economy**

9) a **prosperous** community (people prosperous as opposed to place prosperity only)
ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

• Global academic autonomy
• Wealth with enhanced quality of life
• Global leaders

• Human values and well being
• Financial/economic impacts

Education as tool for prosperity

Brain and knowledge are the assets

• No ministry-led
• No bureaucracy
• Non political
• No control

Prosperity Planet

Brain Business

Fully Autonomous

Academics rule
Brain Business

Transformation Processes

- Academic readiness for transformation
- AFAS (ASEAN Framework Agreement in Services)

- HE is fully liberalised
- Evolution of Knowledge

- University autonomy in place, groundwork initiated in 2011 - autonomy for public universities after assessment based on Code of Good Governance

- Financial sustainability: Research innovation & creativity
- European Area of HE

- Academic mobility (structural change)
- Entrepreneurial HEIs
- Dynamic rewards system – retain innovative brains
- GATS (General Agreement on Trade and Services)
- Islamic financial hub and education

2007

2010

2012

2015

2020

2025
Autonomous education
Research Intensive universities
Economic revolution
Societal development
Environmental concerns

Human capital development
Globalization & liberalization
Changes in political, lifestyle and social development
Economic survival
Environmental & climatic changes

Competitiveness
Technology advancement

Prosperity planet
Brain business
Fully Autonomous
Prosperity planet
Brain business
Fully Autonomous

New Possible Scenario?
(HYBRID SCENARIO)

• Highly competitive (but should not dismiss collaboration), locally and globally

• Enhancement in human values and cultures (local and international communities)

• Education as tool for enhancing human prosperity

• Autonomous education systems: substantial reduction in bureaucratic and political influences; efficient and effective delivery system

• Knowledge and intellectuality are the strength in education

• Higher education institutions in Malaysia are centers of excellence in various disciplines.
HYBRID SCENARIO:
(Based on the vision, mission, objectives, planning and strategies of future higher education planning and strategies)

A. Autonomy in Education
• Market demand
• Entrepreneurial education
• Offering of programs and approaches in curriculum development
• Delivery systems/knowledge acquisitions/transdisciplinary programs
• Application of research findings in teaching and learning
• Life long education
• Effective and efficient governance and education management
• Quality of students and staffs

B. Wealth Creation without compromising human values
• Quality human capital with first class mentality (enterprising graduates)
• Development of Research outcomes
• Research with high impact on generation of economic activities involving technologies and innovations
• Research with high impact on the enhancement of quality of life and the prosperity of mankind
• Quality of life – to include social values and cultures
C. Quantitative impact on economy and finance

- Reduces economic constraints and narrowing poverty gap in society
- Enhances economic activities in increasing economic productivity and income generation
- Overcoming problems affecting national economic growth
- Unemployment and poverty free society
- Management of national wealth

D. Leaders in knowledge

- Higher education institutions as centres for academic excellence in many disciplines national and internationally
- Strengthening niche areas
- Criteria for transforming Malaysia as regional and global education hub
HYBRID SCENARIO

- Dynamic concept in higher education: education as tool for excellence
- Leveraging and depending on transformational leaders
- Quality academic programs and research & innovation (brain factor)

HEIs provide Higher education for:
- New generation of human capital endowment: enterprising graduates
- Enhancing industrial competitiveness in economic and financial sectors (financial sustainability)
- Prosperous society with human values and sustainable environment

Complementing Malaysia’s Strategic Planning in Higher Education

- Mode of Implementation: Visionary approach based on the concept of the autonomy in knowledge application with technologies as engines for change
Conclusion

- Internationalization and global competitiveness – educational hub (from international student recruitment to knowledge and skill hub)

- Changing roles of academic profession – entrepreneurial educators

- Strong participation and networking with industries (university-industry strategic alliances – Higher Institution Centre of Excellence; Industry Centre of Excellence)

- Enterprising HEIs – achievements and outcome based strategic planning

- Societal relevancy and regional development – impacts on changing mindset of community

- Highly modified functions of Dept of Higher Education – more devolution and autonomy
Concept of decentralization and autonomy – higher education institutions determine its future (unique, identity, strength and relevance)

Corporatization and income generation – financial sustainability and autonomy

Research intensive universities – wealth creation (+ commercialization and technology transfer)

Dynamic teaching and learning – progressive academic systems, education hub, new approaches, stable curriculum, knowledge generation with high societal impact

Life long education – University CSR (Social entrepreneurship)

Accountable and dynamic governance system (transformational leadership)
The future is not about where we are going but what we are creating.

Thank You