Financial Crisis impact on higher education in Hong Kong

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Unesco, Oct 22-23, 2009
Higher Education: Reform Trends

- **Rebuilding the national system**
  - Expansion of higher education
  - Establishing elite institutions

- **Enhancing private participation**
  - Re-positioning the private sector
  - Fostering the philanthropic culture

- **Redefining student learning**
  - Restructuring the curriculum
  - Redefining student experiences

- **Internationalizing higher education**
  - Globalizing the institutions
  - Cross-border undertaking
  - Facing international competition
Hong Kong

The system

- Enrolment ratio: 68% (18% University)
- 8 public institutions + 1 private + 1 Open
- 5 QS top-200; 3 QS top-50
Hong Kong

Institutions (HKU as example)

- Size
  - 10,000 UG + 15,000 PG
  - 4,000 (non-local) (PG 55% + UG 20% + exchange)

- Financial envelop
  - Government 3.0B HKD (= 4.2B USD)
  - Projects 1.5B
  - Donations 1.0B
Hong Kong

• GDP
  – Still 5-6% growth

• Public Revenues
  – Major shrinking

• Unemployment
  – Fluctuates 4-6%

• Investment returns
  – Dropped drastically

• Real estate market
  – Stands and returns

• Income differentials
  – Increased
Government

• Government revenues
  – Substantial drop, but not fatal

• Reserve
  – Still strong

• Education Spending
  – Stays and slight increase

• Higher Education Spending
  – On the increase
Higher Education

- Block Grant funding
  - Maintained

- Reform 334
  - As promised, major curriculum reforms

- Research funding
  - Substantial increase

- Donation matching
  - 4B attracting 11B, a pause

- Unemployment
  - Substantial, blurred because of free-lancing
Higher Education

• New Initiatives: systemic
  – Education Hub
    • Undefined but good mover
  – Non-local students
    • Substantial increase
  – Private institutions
    • The first, new land
  – Cross-border operations
    • Major breakthrough
  – New research funding
    • New money (2.5B USD), new categories
Higher Education

• New Initiatives: institutions
  – Philanthropic culture
    • New campaigns
  – Internationalization
    • Non-local students
    • Extensive exchange programmes
• Information
  – Survey

• Background studies
  – Over-supply
  – PPP
  – Role of government
  – Elite universities
  – New universities
  – Employment-Education interplay
  – Internationalization

• Policy-sensitive Issues
  – Systems
  – Institutions