The Role of Japanese Higher Education as Cultural and People-to-People Connectivity in East Asia and the World

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Outline

1. Development and Functions of International Higher Education in Asia

2. Significance and Role of higher Education as Cultural and People-to-People Connectivity

3. Some Issues of Regional Higher Education Network
   ---- Quality Assurance
   ---- Internationalization and Localization

4. Role of Japanese Higher Education Policy and Some Cases
Multi-layered Network in Higher Education in Asia

SE Asia: AIMS by SEAMEO-RIHED, AUN CHINA, JAPAN, and South Korea: CAMPUS ASIA, South Asia: SAARC
Multilayered Aspects of International Higher Education Network

- Intra-/inter regional cooperation
  - ASEAN+3
  - AUN
  - SAARC
  - AIMS

- Governments’ cooperation
  - MIT Programme
  - Campus Asia

- Universities/institutions cooperation
  - Each university linkage with universities overseas

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Significance of International Higher Education Network

- To provide mobility among students and faculty members over the boundaries and outside the region.
- To give students, faculty members and even people in general good opportunities to learn and discuss regional issues beyond national boundaries.
- To share ideas for a regional community with people who have different cultures.
- To create new academic fields and subjects of international higher education.
Academic Platform as Cultural and People-to-People connectivity

International Higher Education’s new function for cultural connectivity
--- bringing young leaders together beyond national boundaries
--- thinking together about cross-fields issues from the trans-disciplinary approach

Preparing for an academic platform to discuss and to cooperate together
Quality Assurance
— Program and Institution Level —

• Immigration Control
• Medium of Language
• Curriculum Matching
• Finance
• Academic Staff
• Credit Transfer System
• Credential Evaluation System
How should we construct higher education curriculum between internationalization and localization?

### Internationalization
- Education in English
- Cross-border Program
- More practical based contents
- International students’ needs based
- Many countries/regional interests

### Localization
- Education in Local Language
- Traditional Program
- Theory and practical based contents
- National education based
- Local students’ needs
- Each country’s interests
Internationalization of Higher Education in Japan

- Asian Gateway Initiative

- Global 30 Project (FY2009~2013)

- Re-Inventing Japan Projects (FY2011~)

- Go Global Japan (FY2012~)

- Top Global University Project (FY2014~2023)
Points of Japanese Higher Education Policy

- **To Strengthen internationalization of higher Education**
  ---introduction of various programs taught in English
  ---acceptance of more international students
  ---promotion of sending Japanese students to abroad

- **Classification of Research University and the Others**
  ---Reform of faculties of human and social sciences in public universities in local areas
  ---Top Global University: Type A (13) and TypeB(24)

- **Change of University Governance**
  ---Top-down governance
Japan’s Role of International Higher Education

- **Asian Gateway**
  - To Asia
  - From Asia

- **Academic Platform**
  - To discuss and solve global issues
  - To create knowledge and culture

International Community
Case Study
Sophia’s Mission as Catholic Jesuit University

✔ Promotion of international students and academic staff
✔ Presenting a platform where students and academic staff can discuss cross-border / global issues
✔ Sharing various kinds of culture and way of thinking and respecting differences

Significance of global networking of Catholic Universities
Jesuit Universities--- “Men and women for others, with others”
Mission of Jesuit Universities in a process of globalization

• General Education
• Educating a whole person
• Trans-disciplinary education
Program Structure of Faculty of Liberal Arts, Sophia University

(http://www.fla.sophia.ac.jp/academics/majors)
Sophia ASEAN International Mobility for Students (SAIMS) 2013-2018

Trans-Disciplinary Human Development Education Program
Aiming for Harmonized Diversity

【Aim of project, Ideals of Global Human Resource on the project】
The aim is to establish a new model for international higher education through collaboration between Japan and Southeast Asian countries.

This project provides an educational platform in which students from Southeast Asia and Japan study together to analyze and engage in global issues in Asia and the world.

【Summary of project】
Trans-disciplinary program focused on “Human Development,” which combines the disciplinary frameworks of natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. "Human Ecology: Diversity and Connectivity of Society and Nature" is the main theme, under which students will select courses from the areas of “Engineering” and “Language & Culture,” while taking one required course, "Introduction to Trans-Disciplinary Human Development (TDHD)." Students may also participate in the fieldwork seminar “Human Ecology: Rivers” and the Summer Session in Asian Studies offered in August.
Fieldwork Seminar: Human Ecology “Rivers” as one of the Sophia AIMS

(4 credits)
Two-week intensive course for further learning of TDHD offered from the end of July to mid-August. The seminar focuses on the ecological system of Kushiro river, Kushiro Wetland, and Akkeshi Bay in Eastern Hokkaido.
Japan-Latin America Student Mobility Program (LAP) by Nanzan University and Sophia University

Japan-Latin America Student Mobility Program: Human Dignity and Harmonization in Migration and Coexistence
Peru Study Tour by LAP Program
(March 2016)
Key Points of Higher Education Community

« Possibility of Cultural and People-to-People Connectivity »
- As a result of internationalization of higher education
- De fact of multilayered higher education network in Asia

« For what to promote people to people connectivity »
- Lots of global or cross-border issues to be shared and to be solved—regionalism or regionalization
- University/Country Government/Regional organization’s each mission and social responsibility
- Necessity of education of growing up people who can
  ----understand mutual cultural differences
  ----identify problems beyond borders
  ----live in harmony among diverse cultures with “East Asian Identity”

« How to promote connectivity—feasibility »
- Formation of academic platform through networking
- Consideration in some subjects of networking
Thank you so much for your kind attention.

Sophia University Model G7 Summit (May 18, 2016)

Men and Women for Others, With Other

−Sophia Bringing the World Together−