

From “Brain Drain” to “Brain Circulation” - Rethinking the Global Knowledge Economy: Perspective From Hong Kong

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Changing Economic Landscape in Hong Kong

- Labour-intensive industry (past)→international financial centre (present)→knowledge-based economy (future)
- British colony→part of China: one- country, two-systems
- HK Government's response to financial tsunami:
 - 6 economic pillars: education, medical services, environmental studies, innovation & technology, cultural and creative industries, and food-safety



Changing Landscape of Higher Education in Hong Kong (1)

- One university (HKU)→8 public funded institutes of higher education + 2 private universities
- Admission to higher studies: < 5% school leavers—60%
- Short history of active research (about 17 years)
- Limited research funding (0.81% GDP) (\$2B block grant, \$1.6 RPG, \$600 m competitive grants)→↑ competitive grants (50%), ↑ RPG (800 new places)



Changing Landscape of Higher Education in Hong Kong (2)

- Education reform: 3 year→4 year curriculum in 2012→staff recruitment, campus expansion in preceding years, ↑ student no., double cohorts
- Internationalization
 - Undergrad 4% (past) →10% (now)→20% (soon)
 - RPG – no cap
- Exchange and collaboration with Mainland China



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- Oldest university in Hong Kong (established in 1911)
- Comprehensive (10 faculties)
- English-medium
- International (40% staff-expat)
- Research-intensive
- QS World University Ranking (2009): No. 24



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HKU Statistics

- 1,934 teaching and research staff
- 11,962 undergrad (10,442 FT; 1,520 PT)
- 7,466 taught postgrad (1,818 FT, 5,648 PT)
- 2,364 RPG (1,684 PhD; 680 MPhil)
- MPhil 2 yr, PhD 4 yr, full studentship
- RPGs
 - 10% 1st class honours
 - 50% non-local, > 50 countries
- RPG alumni tracer (1986-2005) - >350 in senior academic positions, > 450 in non-academic top/senior/mid-level management position



New Landscape at HKU (1): Knowledge Exchange

- Knowledge exchange (knowledge transfer) will become one of 3 pillars of academic development (with research, teaching)
- Embracing both technology transfer and non-technology transfer with emphasis on impact on society



New Landscape at HKU (2): Global Outlook

- Research Visiting Professorship Scheme: 11 appointed in 2009
- RPG exchange scheme since 2006 (Columbia, MGH, Imperial College, Liverpool, Groningen, Institute Pasteur)
- Joint PhD framework established in 2009: Kings College, Imperial College, Universitas 21



Conclusions

Brain drain to brain circulation:
the world is flat, and round.

HKU is happy to be part of the
accelerated circulation.





Thank You



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