5th International Conference on World-Class Universities
3-6 November, 2013
Shanghai, China

Regional Reflections on WCU Initiatives

Anchoring globalization in Hong Kong Research Universities
The Hong Kong case

- Managed to establish several WCRU
  - in a Cantonese speaking migrant society
  - no natural resources or major manufacturing
  - High research productivity/low GDP% for R&D

3 decades
Research universities anchoring globalization

- Low Cost Labor Drive Growth
- Low Cost Capital Drives Growth
- Low Cost IP Drives Growth
- Knowledge networks drive innovation

GDP for R&D = 0.7%

Source: De Woskin and Stevenson, April 2005.
Source: Haustein, Tung, Heinrichs, Baetl, 2010
3 decades of change

- 1981 Two universities (2% of age cohort)
- 1988 Research Grants Council
- 1989-1994 Expansion of places 8%>16%
- 1991 University of Science & Technology
- 1994 Upgrade of Colleges&Polytechnics > Univ.
- 1997 Sovereignty retrocession
- 1998 Asian economic crisis+2003 SARS
- 2008 Global economic crisis
- 2012 University re-alignment (Mainland&USA)

Balancing quality&quantity

- Mass higher education 60+%  
  - government funded degree places 18%
  - self-funded sub-degree places 42%
- Teaching+Learning  
  - Cultural tradition - stress on examinations
  - Extra year for liberal arts education
- Research  
  - GDP for R&D 0.7%
  - High output of refereed research publications
% of peer reviewed publications

Enabling environment

- Government steering
- Institutional autonomy
- Academic governance
- Academic freedom
- Academic leadership
- English medium
- Internationalism

- Brain circulation
- Knowledge networks
- Amphibious
  - academics
  - administrators
  - entrepreneurs

Sources:
P. Altbach and G. Postiglione, Hong Kong's Academic Advantage, Peking University Educational Review, 2011;
Internationism

- 40% expatriate academic staff
- Chinese mainland 1% international staff
  - source: CASS

- International (non-local) students – 20%
  - 10% Chinese mainland
  - 10% International

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary research language (%)</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>88.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Multiple Responses Allowed)
% of international publications

除了与自己同事合作之外，
是否与其他国家的同事合作过?

Do you collaborate with colleagues in other countries?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>39.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Do you collaborate with scholars at institutions in other parts of China?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>55.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013 -- A large drop in the global & regional rankings

Can it continue to sustain 3 or 4 WCRU?
Times Higher Education 2013

- Hong Kong’s top research university
  - From #1 Asian university to 4th rank
  - From 21st to 43rd (four years ago) PKU 45
  - Below Tokyo, Singapore, Melbourne.

- “significant drop”
  - Phil Baty (Ranking editor, Times Higher Ed)

- It matters - British heritage of Hong Kong

- One university fell off the list from previous 182nd place
- Another university rose up 15 places to 109th place
Why the drop in rankings?

- Switch from British 3-year model to USA 4-year model with liberal studies?

- Drop in quality or competitors rising?

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Why the drop in rankings?

- Research universities do not seem to be competitive working with industries
  - Ranked below Singapore, Korea, Mainland
  - Sourcing funding for business:
    - 57 points out of 100 point score.
Response from top university

- “The general list [rankings] will serve as a reference. We will continue to seek excellence in teaching, learning and research.”

- Coincidence or response:
  - Appointment of first non-ethnic Chinese president in the history of PRC

University response

- President of one of the universities that rose 8 places to 57th:
  - “We have to keep running to stay in place.”
Government response

- $23 billion fund for research in universities
- $50 million for efforts on:
  - research transfer
  - Collaboration with industry

Univ. Grants Comm. response

- “Hong Kong has an unprecedented opportunity to leverage its celebrated geopolitical location to continue its success story.”
Media response

- “It is impossible to compare universities around the world.”
- “University heads should not fret.”
- “Thomson Reuters is biased toward the West, ...should not take it seriously”
- “Unusual, unrealistic to say the least”
- “Dartmouth is 10th by US News & WR, and 126th in THE, Brown 14th but 52nd on THE, Tufts 28th but 80th on THE”

De-anchor & re-anchor globalization
Volatility and future challenges

- Competitor academic salary rises
- Competitor internationalism rise
- Returnees doctorates and experience
- Academic freedom trends
- Privatization and student body composition
- Research funding sources (incl. industry)

- China 973 plan
  - Ministry of S&T & National Science Foundation
  - agriculture, health, information, energy, environment, resources, population, etc.
- Future global recession?

New recognition:
Potential shift in regional focus

- Current regional focus:
  1. USA + Anglo-English world
  2. Chinese mainland
  3. Other areas of Asia and Europe

- Future regional focus:
  - Chinese mainland
  - Other Asia (East, Southeast, South, Central)
  - USA, Anglo-English, and other Europe
  - Africa and Latin America


Thank you.

postiglione@hku.hk

www.edu.hku/postiglione
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAR---1C+2S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiny land mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-million population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrant heritage</td>
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<tr>
<td>95% Chinese nationality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 languages, 2 scripts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low fertility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-colonial legacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open internet access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High integrity civil service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule of law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibrant civil society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly unequal (Gini Coif)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-ethnocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitalist economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few natural resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little manufacturing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Center Financial, Trade, Transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low unemployment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low violent crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low taxes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low corruption</td>
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<tr>
<td>No terrorism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cosmopolitan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concerns about H5N1, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World highest longevity for women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free schooling Pre-School +9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top tier PISA ranking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 public (1 priv) research universities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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