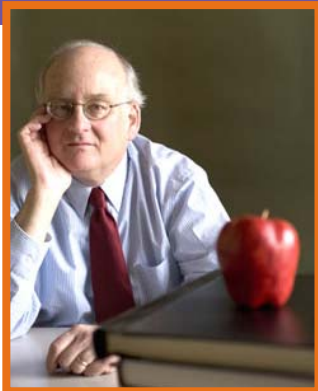


Issues for Asian Universities: Challenges and Prospects



Philip G. Altbach

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Education (CIHE), Boston College**

Chair: Dr. Yang Rui

There is no such thing as the “Asian” university—Asia is highly diverse and is divided by cultural traditions, wealth, political systems, academic history, and other factors. Nonetheless, there are some common elements: most Asian countries are concerned about the future of their universities, and not a few by a concern to achieve “world class” status; the use of English is a key point of discussion; the growing importance of private higher education as a means of “absorbing demand”, and others. This discussion seeks to analyze what both the common realities and the diverse responses among Asian nations to the challenges of higher education.

Philip G. Altbach is J. Donald Monan, S.J. University Professor and Director of the Center for International Higher Education in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. He was the 2004-2006 Distinguished Scholar Leader for the New Century Scholars initiative of the Fulbright program. He has been a senior associate of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and served as editor of the *Review of Higher Education*, *Comparative Education Review*, and as an editor of *Educational Policy*. He is author of *Turmoil and Transition: The International Imperative in Higher Education*, *Comparative Higher Education*, *Student Politics in America*, and other books. He coedited the *International Handbook of Higher Education*. His most recent book is *World Class Worldwide: Transforming Research Universities in Asia and Latin America*. Prof. Altbach holds the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D degrees from the University of Chicago. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the State University of New York at Buffalo, and was a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer on education at Harvard University. He is chairperson of the International Advisory Council of the Graduate School of Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and is a Guest Professor at the Institute of Higher Education at Peking University, both in China. He has been a visiting professor at Stanford University, the Institut de Sciences Politique in Paris, and at the University of Bombay in India. Prof. Altbach has been a Fulbright scholar in India and in Malaysia and Singapore. He has had awards from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), has been an Onwell Fellow at the University of Hong Kong, and a senior scholar of the Taiwan government.



12.45pm – 2.00pm; Monday 27 October 2008
LG01 Hui Oi Chow Science Building, HKU
All are welcome!



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