

Problems in the Internationalization of Chinese Higher Vocational Education under the Strategy of “Belt and Road”

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Abstract: The strategy of “Belt and Road” is crucial and significant for Chinese social and economic development in the new era. Accordingly, higher vocational education is shouldering the great responsibility to cultivate qualified talents to fulfill the ambitious mission of the social and economic development. During the process of globalization, internationalization is the natural option for Chinese higher vocational education itself as well as the necessity of improvement of the age. There exist some problems during the process of the internationalization, such as lack of international competitiveness and recognition, simple international cooperation in running schools and unbalanced input and output of educational resource, serious formalization in internationalization and lack of substantive promotion. Solutions will be found to solve all these problems in international cooperation and common development.

1. Introduction: The Strategy of “Belt and Road” and the Internationalization of Higher Vocational Education in China

With the rapid globalization of Chinese economy, in 2013, President Xi Jinping initiated to build a "Silk Road Economic Belt" and "the 21st century maritime Silk Road", referred to "One Belt, One Road". The strategy aims to promote the development of the international economy, the deep integration of the international market and the efficient allocation of the economic development resources, build a high-level and wide-regional economic development platform for the related countries along the road so as to improve the economic partnership and the regional economic cooperation based on mutual trust, mutual benefit and common development. On March 28, 2015, the birth of "The vision and action to promote the construction of Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road" marks the formation of the strategy.

2. The strategy of “Belt and Road” helps create new opportunities for the internationalization of Chinese higher vocational education.

The strategy of "One Belt One Road" provides new opportunities for the internationalization of Chinese higher vocational education on a broader international stage. For the related countries along the road, especially the neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, Central Asia and South Asian, the vocational education is relatively underdeveloped, where is the priority for Chinese vocational education to go to find cooperation. China should seize this opportunity to give full play to the advantages of its vocational education, outputting quality education resources, strengthening the cooperative management and exploring the diversified mode of school running, so as to cultivate the badly-needed high-quality technical talents for the overseas enterprises, and promote the construction of the combined project and the later administration. Meanwhile, interregional cultural and personnel exchanges should be strengthened by encouraging teachers and students to study abroad and work abroad, under the guideline of "coming in and going out", to realize a virtuous international recycling of the educational resources. A series of policies and regulations have been promulgated by Chinese government to support and encourage the internationalization of higher vocational education. Colleges and universities also actively seize opportunities to carry out educational reform, adjust the ideas of running schools, strengthen cooperation between schools and enterprises and promote international exchanges and cooperation.

3. The strategy of “Belt and Road” provides intellectual and personnel support for the internationalization of Chinese higher vocational education.

The higher vocational education is a critical guarantee for the implementation of the strategy. Under the new historical circumstances, Chinese higher vocational education is shouldering a new historical mission: to provide high-quality technical talents with international vision for the economic and cultural development. At present, it is urgent to cultivate a number of engineering and technical talents with solid technical knowledge and experience, and familiar with the laws, regulations, culture and customs of the countries along the road who also have the ability to communicate in foreign languages. To satisfy this demand, China is vigorously promoting the reform of its higher vocational education and actively explore the various modes of international cooperation. It is of great importance to strengthen international cultural and educational exchanges to create a good cultural atmosphere for international cooperation. Only through the exchanges of higher vocational education resources can we achieve the goal of mutual benefits, win-win and common development. The higher vocational education not only has the responsibility to cultivate qualified talents, but to promote culture exchanges and popularize Chinese culture and the spirit of cooperation to achieve the harmonious development of the related countries along the road.

4. The current situation and existing problems of the internationalization of Chinese Higher Vocational Education

Under the strategy of "One Belt One Road", the internationalization of the higher vocational education in China is facing some new problems. Although China's higher vocational education has developed rapidly in recent years and obtained certain achievements in the internationalization, the overall strength still lacks strong competition. It has not acquire universal recognition from the society, that is, many top students do not like going to vocational colleges and the examination. In addition, the approval and capital investment for opening school abroad are in an awkward situation. Meanwhile, higher requirements are put forward for the teachers to promote the China vocational education and international development. Highly qualified teachers are badly needed with solid professional knowledge, rich teaching experience and international vision of professional foreign teachers, which requires teachers "Going out" to improve their overall abilities and cultivate international visions. Thus, teachers' professional development must be strengthened.

Unlike Chinese foreign trade, Chinese foreign education exchange has been in a "deficit" state. The number of students studying abroad is far greater than the number of foreign students coming to study in China. The number of overseas schools charged by domestic education institutions is far less than the number of introduced foreign colleges and universities. The input and output of teachers is more unbalanced. In general, there are numerous foreign teachers who only get engaged in language teaching. There are few foreign teachers who are engaged in teaching specific majors. Most Chinese teachers in vocational colleges have never stepped out of the country and have never experienced the local educational circumstances of the cooperative countries. In most vocational colleges, international cooperation in running schools is limited to international exchange colleges, lacking the overall planning and support, and the ability to cooperate in running schools is very limited. The current state of cooperation in running schools is limited to some countries whose economy is relatively developed.

The international development of Chinese higher vocational education lacks clear goals and long-term plans, and the international cooperation in many colleges and universities is still in a superficial level. Many cooperative projects are seriously affected by the individual school leaders, which leads to serious instability and lack of institutional support and constraints. At the same time, in response to the strategy of "One Belt One Road", many higher vocational colleges blindly carry out various activities of international cooperation, which badly affected the quality of higher vocational education. In addition, the cooperation between vocational colleges and multinational enterprises is not enough in China. The integration of production and education and the cooperation between schools and enterprises need to be strengthened urgently. It is in great need to cultivate

high quality multinational talents by further cooperation with enterprises, followed the guideline of "One Belt One Road" to promote the internationalization of Chinese higher vocational education.

5. Conclusion

The strategy of "One Belt One Road" provides a broad developing space for Chinese vocational education. Though there exist some problems during the process of internationalization, we should still have confidence to find more international cooperation under the principle of "seeking common ground while reserving differences". It is the requirement of the new times to promote the internationalization of vocational education. Therefore, we must take advantages of our domestic educational resources as we have formed a set of running school system with Chinese characteristics. Higher vocational education has trained a large number of quality talents, and has made great contributions to the development of the country's economy. We should not only inherit the Chinese characteristics in managing schools, but also absorb the international experiences. Chinese higher vocational education should shoulder its responsibilities and play its roles in the international stage to make contributions for the economic and social development.

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