

# Internationalization of Higher Education: The Case of Kenya

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# Introduction

- The government's policy on higher education is geared towards training a skilled and versatile workforce that can meet increasing demands in technical and professional areas.
- There are 7 traditional public universities, 12 newly established university colleges and over 22 private universities with varying levels of accreditation.
- It is estimated that the country has 198,000 university students. (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2010).
- 80 percent of these students are in public universities (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2010).
- In spite of the expansion over the past several years, the capacity of the higher education sector in Kenya is still limited.
- Only about 3 percent of the university aged cohort are enrolled in universities.

# Improving Higher Education in Kenya

- Mechanism being used to improve access to higher education include:
  - Cost-sharing and user charges in public institutions.
  - Privatization of the sector.
  - Internationalization of the sector through collaboration between local and foreign institutions.
- There is no specialized agent for accreditation of collaboration activities in higher education in Kenya.
- Collaboration is therefore, governed through rules that ensure Quality Assurance in private and public universities.

# Rules Governing Collaboration with Public Universities

- Collaboration between any public university and a transnational provider is initiated through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.
- This is allowed in the respective Acts of Parliament for the various public universities.
- The systems of Quality Assurance which govern collaboration with public universities generally involve:
  - Step 1: Presentation of collaboration proposal to relevant Department.
  - Step 2: Presentation of proposal to the University Senate for approval.
  - Step 3: Implementation of the proposal.

# Rules Governing Collaboration with Private Universities

- Collaboration with private universities is governed by accreditation bodies. These include:
  - The Commission of Higher Education (CHE).
  - The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).
- The general requirements for collaboration are:
  - (a) A written agreement specifying respective rights and responsibilities between the collaborating providers.
  - (b) Declaration of ownership and legal responsibility of the program.
  - (c) Declaration of the accreditation status.
  - (d) Academic resources available to support the collaboration.

# Examples of Collaboration

- Collaboration between Kenyatta University (Kenya) and Hiroshima University (Japan).
- Partnership between United States International University (USIU) (Kenya) , Bradford University (UK), Gulu University (Uganda) and University of Lubumbashi (DRC) through the UK funded DelPHE project.
- Collaboration between University of Nairobi (Kenya) and Western Kentucky University(US).
- Universities also collaborate with several non-academic organizations.

# Areas of Collaboration

- Sharing expertise on good practice.
- Sharing resources.
- Exchange programs (for both faculty and student).

# Key Challenges

- Concerns about the appropriateness of the material to be transferred, particularly when the movement is from North to South.
- Concerns about the probability of “turf erosion” which might be occasioned if an external agency is allowed in.



# Conclusion

- The liberalized space created by the current administration in Kenya should be utilized by stakeholders to improve higher education in the country.
- Notable key areas where collaboration will be welcomed include:
  - Establishment of research centers.
  - Academic and technical staff exchange.
  - Student exchange.
  - Sharing expertise on good practice.
  - Sharing resources especially in areas related to e-learning.

**THANK YOU!**