

Abstract

A study on evaluation of university education system of Korea
- The evaluation focuses on Korean Council for University Education (KCUE)-

Hsing-Chew, Phu
Major in Graduate Institute of Korean
Language and Literature
Chinese Culture University

This is an era of information and knowledge, which must be well kept for a country to become powerful. Both advanced and under-developed countries have taken several measures to strengthen their cradle of knowledge — the development of university. For Asian countries, such as Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, China and Japan, they have invested in cultivating the competitiveness of their universities. The governments each year earmark large budgets for different kinds of educational programs to enhance the quality standard of their universities. For that matter, some sort of evaluation for the advanced education is taken to assess the performance in general of a university so as to discover its drawbacks and correct them with an ultimate goal to improve the overall quality.

In Asia, Korea is among the first few countries to adopt a systematic evaluation of university education. In 1982, the “Korean Council for University Education” (KCUE) was established as a private evaluation organization, aiming to set up the best university evaluation system. Its accomplishments have been as good as the other similar organizations in advanced countries. The KCUE plays a crucial role in the growth of quality as well as quantity among universities in Korea. Seeing the positive effects, the other Asian countries have asked Korea to share the know-how.

Since the establishment of the “Korean Council for University Education,” the main purpose has been to have the universities practice self-discipline and improve educational quality. With its related activities well protected by law, the KCUE is the only evaluation organization of great authority in Korea. In 1990, its evaluation scope was divided into two parts: the general evaluation of university and the evaluation of knowledge field. Ever since 1994, new evaluation organizations have been set up with similar names and purposes in a quite faithful manner, compared to the KCUE.

This study is to analyze and introduce the general evaluation and knowledge evaluation taken by the KCUE in the early 1990's. Delving into the problems that occurred in the evaluation, the study attempts to propose solutions for improvement. In terms of the development of educational evaluation, the related literature has not been very sufficient. Hopefully, this research can serve as a reference book for any readers who are interested in the evaluation system of university in Korean.

