

# Strategies of Promoting the Internationalization of Chinese Higher Vocational Education under “the Belt and Road” Initiative

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**Key Words:** “the Belt and Road”, internationalization, Chinese vocational education

**Abstract:** Under the background of globalization, education should also follow the trend to achieve international development. Internationalization is the natural choice and new times’ requirement for the development of Chinese vocational education. It is essential for China to strengthen international educational policy exchanges and establish vocational education international standards, to strengthen policy support and cultural exchanges so as to provide a favorable developing environment and a harmonious cultural atmosphere for the internationalization of higher vocational education, and to renew and adjust the ideas of schools running and deepen international exchanges and cooperation under the guideline of "bring in and go out" to further the internationalization of higher vocational education.

## 1. Introduction

The initiative of "the Belt and Road" is a significant project for Chinese social and economic development, which is a critical action for China to enhance the international status and strive for the international right. Education plays an increasingly important role in the economic and social development. Higher vocational education in China shoulders great responsibility to cultivate high-quality talents for the development of modern economy and society, which is the intellectual support and talent guarantee for the implementation of the strategy of “the Belt and Road”. Today, with the development of economic globalization, the internationalization of Chinese higher vocational education is the unavoidable choice of the new times. We should actively seek international cooperation and exchange, explore a variety of international cooperation models, uphold the concept of peaceful cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win, to promote the internationalization of Chinese higher vocational education.

## 2. To strengthen international educational policy exchanges and establish international standards for vocational education so as to improve the cooperation in vocational education between the related countries along the road.

To satisfy the demand of "the Belt and Road" and create more developing space for the internationalization of vocational education, *the Forum of Production-education Collaboration* was held in Beijing in October, 2016. 18 higher vocational colleges from both China and the related countries, over 10 joint ventures and 21 education delegations of vocational education from both home and abroad attended the meeting. The establishment of “*Production-education Cooperation Alliance*” was initiated by the participants to jointly make the international standards so as to promote the international cooperation and exchange of vocational education. To strive for more cooperation and create a broader space for the internationalization of Chinese vocational education, the government is supposed to hold various international forums in the field of vocational education to discuss and formulate international standards for the development of vocational education, condense the power of vocational education in all countries, and to promote the international development of vocational education in all countries.

**3. To strengthen policy support for the development of higher vocational education so as to provide policy guarantee for the internationalization of higher vocational education.**

Followed the initiative of “the Belt and Road”, Chinese government also issued a series of policies and regulations to promote the internationalization of higher vocational education. In September 2016, the Ministry of Education issued the *“Professional Management Method of Higher Vocational Education in Ordinary Colleges and Universities ”*, to add 13 new majors covering 11 categories and began to recruit students in 2017. The new majors mainly focus on the badly-needed majors by the implementation of “the Belt and Road ”, such as infrastructure, energy, transportation, communications and other industries. Meanwhile, the government also launched a scholarship system, offering scholarships for ten thousand overseas students from the related countries along the road every year to encourage them to study in China, which highly deepens the international exchanges of students.

**4. To strengthen cultural exchanges, provide a favorable developing environment and a harmonious cultural atmosphere for the internationalization of higher vocational education.**

Focusing on the principle of "equal cooperation, mutual benefits and win-win", Chinese higher vocational education is supposed to promote its international development by strengthening international exchanges and cooperation, sharing the superior vocational education resources, so as to jointly cultivate the badly-needed talents for the cooperation and economic development, and achieve the prosperity of the economic cooperation circle. All the countries are equal members of the international community. Mutual respect and equality is the basis for the cooperation between the related countries. Equality is the foundation of cooperation and cooperation is the way to promote equality. Equal cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win" is the basic guarantee to accomplish the internationalization of vocational education of China. Chinese vocational education reform should be carried out by actively introducing foreign advanced teaching concepts and educational resources. Meanwhile, we should strengthen the oversea vocational education aid from China, output our vocational education resources, help the related countries with their vocational education to lay a good talent foundation for the economic and social development of cooperative countries.

**5. To further the internationalization of higher vocational education by renewing and adjusting the ideas of schools running and deepening international exchanges and cooperation under the guideline of "Bring in and Go out".**

First of all, promote international exchanges of the student resources by various exchange projects, such as exchange students, summer camp and winter camps, non-educational training and so on. Secondly, promote the exchanges of teacher resources to improve teacher’s professional development, so as to provide intellectual guarantee for the internationalization of higher vocational education. Schools should actively create opportunities for excellent teachers to study abroad and get training in accordance with the actual needs of cooperation in running schools abroad. Thirdly, introduce the curriculum system to promote cooperation in school running both at home and abroad, and achieve academic credit recognition. We should actively design and adjust talents training programs, strengthen the reform of curriculum system, promote the construction of curriculum system, and carry out courses according to the actual needs of talents training. What’s more, promote overseas employment and entrepreneurship. The initiative of "the Belt and Road" provides a broad space for the international development of college graduates. China should actively encourage students to go abroad for employment and output high-quality technical and skilled talents in many fields, such as engineering or construction. By promoting overseas employment, on the one hand, it can provide university graduates with the opportunities to develop overseas, participating in project construction or seeking entrepreneurship abroad; on the other hand, it can help reduce the current domestic employment pressure and optimize the human resources.

## 6. Conclusion

The initiative of "the Belt and Road" is one of Chinese most profound actions for the social and economic development, exerting a great influence on the overall development both at home and abroad. Education offers great support for the economic and social development. Vocational education in China shoulders the important responsibility of training high-quality talents for the economic and social development of the country, which is the intellectual support and talent guarantee. Today, with the development of economic globalization, the internationalization of vocational education is the choice of the society and the call of the times. We should actively carry out international cooperation and exchange, explore a variety of international cooperation models, uphold the concept of peaceful cooperation, mutual learning, mutual benefit and win-win to promote the international development of Chinese vocational education.

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