

# Exploration on innovation practice of international cooperation in higher universities under Belt and Road Initiative

WenJun Lu

Beifang University of Nationalities Yinchuan City, Ningxia, China

**Keywords:** the Belt and Road Initiative, international cooperation of higher universities, innovation practice

**Abstract:** with the proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative and increasingly close international communication and cooperation, the new requirements of international cooperation and innovation activities in universities are put forward and traditional education modes could not meet the requirements for educating contemporary university talents. Therefore, universities need to combine the cultural environment and education background of large-scope international communication and cooperation under current proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative. In addition, the exploration of international cooperation and innovation should be strengthened, cultivation and communication of international talents in China should be enlarged, thus providing talent support for the Belt and Road strategy, promoting cultural and educational communication as well as technical cooperation, pushing the smooth development of the Belt and Road.

## 1. Introduction

The proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative plays a significant role in the economy development and the promotion of international political status of China. By establishing a community of responsibility, destiny and interest with other countries, the cooperation mode among regions and the methods of economic growth under new historical environment could be explored further by China, which has revealed the good vision of all-round opening of Chinese politics and the development of economic and cultural science. The Belt and Road strategy puts forward new requirements for international communication talents, thus providing new opportunities for the teaching of international communication and cooperation education in university. Based on the cultivation of high-quality talents for international cooperation and communication, Chinese university needs to master the new development period, greatly develop regional open education, thus improving the communication and cooperation level of university and promoting the sustainable and stable development of university.

## 2. Meaning of the Belt and Road to practice activities of international cooperation in university

### 2.1 Rending new direction for teaching activities of university

Affected by history element and objective environment of university in China, the opening degree and ability of attracting talents in Chinese university have certain differences with western university at the same level. Despite keeping a good and objective attitude in international communication and cooperation, the university in China still actively participate in the introduction and research of western scientific model. By learning advanced teaching theories and successful school experience, the ability of running university and the comprehensive benefits are improved continuously. However, the internationalization and openness of degree still have certain limitation, thus influencing the further improvement of teaching and education. The Belt and Road creates new opportunities for the development of university so that university could carry out international communication and cooperation with the new form. Under the background of the Belt and Road, the covering scope of educational activities in university could involve most of developed countries and developing countries across Europe, Asia and Africa, which has provided great conditions for the international education activities in university. At the same time, under the background of the

Belt and Road, the international communication and cooperation has new requirements, transforming the original single mode into high quality education output mode that university in China has advantages. For instance, university in China could set up degree programs to attract full-time foreign students by running schools abroad at a high level, thus promoting the reform of teaching content in university, strengthening international communication and cooperation with countries along the route and fully playing the value of international communication and cooperation. The university in China tries it best to improve its educational influence and enhance comprehensive cultural soft power of China.

## **2.2 Enriching new connotation of international communication and cooperation in university**

By introducing and studying the school principal and school-running method of universities in western developed countries, universities in China carry out their teaching activities in international communication and cooperation. After leading advanced resources, thought and talents cultivation mode into the teaching activities, both school-running level and quality of universities in China have been improved. Despite that, universities in China are still in the passive position for a long time, whose culture output is poor. The proposal of the Belt and Road could change the the passive situation of long-term education in China, encourage China to actively participate in international cooperation and communication. Moreover, when inputting advanced education, it could output educational and teaching contents to countries along the route, promoting the flow of talents and the reform of inner educational model, thus improving the comprehensive ability of international education and enhancing the international status of Chinese universities. At the same time, the diversified cooperation concept and system of the Belt and Road also purpose new requirements of the cooperation mode of international communication and cooperation of universities. China needs to transform the original form of one-to-one cooperation and develop regional alliance cooperation, thereby further integrating the resources of universities, exerting the advantages of educational and teaching activities in university, studying the global hotspot issues together and creating a good environment and platform for local development as well as cultural and educational exchanges.

## **3. Function of innovation practice in international cooperation in university under the background of the Belt and Road**

### **3.1 Talent training and transports**

Under the background of economic globalization, the competition among countries is becoming more and more fierce. As the competition in the comprehensive form becomes serious gradually, talents with high level and skills become the main motive force for developing country economy and promoting political status. And the macro performance of national soft power is to build a high level international think tank and the construction of think tank of universities in China reveals soft power of Chinese culture. The think tank relying on the university could continuously provide talents for the development of social economy and make full use of the consulting and decision-making role of universities in various industries. Under the background of the Belt and Road, university could communicate and cooperate with universities along the way, establish international academy network, thus opening new channels for think tank of university. Attracting the scholars and specialists of oversea think tank to work in China, promoting the communication and cooperation in think tank between domestic universities and countries along the route, developing international cooperative research projects together could improve the whole academy environment and level of China. Moreover, the communication and cooperation between universities of China and university the along the line, could cultivate foreign students and domestic talents with communication ability and internationalization, thus providing talents support for national development and economic construction [1].

### **3.2 Promoting teaching and education development in the area along the railway**

Located at the geopolitical edge of Europe and the United States, the countries along the route of the Belt and Road have poor economy. The economy of the collapse zone between two engines of economic development in Eurasia is developed slowly and its educational level is backward. Across the Asian and European economic corridor, the implementation of the Belt and Road could promote the frequent financial trade and cooperation among Asian inland countries and offset the geographical disadvantages of developing countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. In addition, the Belt and Road could shift the marine civilization dominated by Europe and the United States to the inland Asia dominated by China, thus making a certain shift in the global trade and business center, contending against maritime hegemony dominated by European and American, bringing profits and promoting the regional stability and prosperity in the countries along the route. The international cooperation innovation and communication activities in the universities of China could create a stable outside environment for the smooth promotion of the Belt and Road and provide talents support for the implementation of the policy [2].

### **3.3 Establishing a positive image in China**

The implementation and development of the Belt and Road advocate the important cooperation and development concept with Chinese characteristics. Seeking for new form of communication and cooperation could offer the world a new understanding of the position and development concept of China. In the Belt and Road, China has regarded the international relations as the basic of strategic mutual confidence and positively advocated the peaceful cooperation and openness, win-win situation with Chinese characteristics. The unique and self-contained national culture subsided in Chinese universities, rich national culture as well as modern educational and teaching ideas could cultivate excellent talents and create a good teaching environment for the effective implementation of the Belt and Road. Based on the needs of educational development and intention of educational cooperation in the countries along the Belt and Road, the form of international communication and cooperation of university with Chinese characteristics has been proposed. The content of international cooperation among universities fully reveals the spirit of the Silk Road that emphasizes openness, tolerance, peace, cooperation, mutual benefit, win-win and mutual learning [3].

## **4. Exploration of innovations in international cooperation practice under the background of the Belt and Road**

### **4.1 Deepening reform and opening-up**

The implementation of the Belt and Road makes China face an unprecedented environment of international communication and cooperation. As the important training base for cultivating high-level comprehensive talents in China, universities in China need to take their responsibility of international communication and cooperation. Universities of China could adopt the scientific and educational ideas of the countries along the line, thus absorbing and employing scientific and dialectical methods. Via accumulating experience from advanced quality education and teaching resources in developed countries, the educational system of university in China has been improved. Through innovating the teaching content, the practicality of teaching activity has been enhanced, thereby improving the teaching ability and educational level of university [4]. At the same time, China also needs to strengthen the dissemination of the concept of education and teaching in China. With the improvement of the international status, China has gradually become the leader and conductor of international communication and cooperation in the major national diplomatic strategy of the Belt and Road. Moreover, China has cultivated high-end talents who match the economic development and communication of the countries along the line. Fully integrating the advantages of the policy background, the communication and cooperation in running school have been developed, thus deepening the form of international cooperation and communication of university in China. Bringing quality education and teaching resource into low-level countries not only could spread the

excellent national culture of China and improve the cultural soft power and international influence of China, but also effectively improve the scientific and technological level of the countries along the line and share the high-quality educational resources, which promotes the stable development of national economy and achieve a mutual benefit and win-win result [5].

#### **4.2 Improving the quality of cultivation of foreign students**

China has a set of preferential policies and scholarship subsidy systems in the activities to cultivate foreign students and it gradually expands the original scope of scholarship subsidy under the background of the Belt and Road, thereby increasing the number of foreign students of China and changing the original structure of foreign students from developing countries. The Belt and Road will increase the number of international students and even become the main source of Chinese students in the future. To effectively promote the development of international education cause, China needs to strengthen the innovation and reform of educational and teaching mode in university, encourage domestic universities to conduct systematic education for foreign students, enlarge the educational scope of international students, thus ensuring the educational quality for the international students. Furthermore, combining university education and related businesses concerning economy development and education, China has attracted outstanding foreign students to work and study in China, which will promote the sustained and stable development of social economy in China.

#### **4.3 Establishing win-win teaching concept**

International communication and cooperation in universities is the important part of the complex dynamic system in universities. The strategic thinking should be employed to implement the reform policies and top design of university. The cultivation practice of international cooperation in university is required to serve the total reform and top design activities of university, keep up with the pace of reform and innovation of university. Compared with other system of university, the international communication and cooperation project has its own characteristics, such as high openness, easy to reform and being outward oriented, which could effectively inspire the vitality and potential of international communication and cooperation of university and play the innovation and guidance role of international communication and cooperation. Fundamentally, the international communication and cooperation of university is the communication and cooperation among different culture and countries, thus promoting the harmonious, equal and lasting communication between people. The concepts of international communication and cooperation in university have the common interest and needs with the national strategic background. It is more conducive to realizing the win-win cooperation and communication in the innovation process of international cooperation of universities, thus making full use of teaching activities in international education. At the same time, domestic universities could establish a regional strategic alliance, thus achieving complementary advantages and integrating resources. By cooperating with national universities and integrating educational resources, universities could make full use of advanced educational theories and education form, which creates a good educational environment for the strategy of the Belt and Road.

#### **4.4 Establishing the educational communication mode, such as Confucius College**

Establishing new educational mode matching up with the Belt and Road policy could speed up the development of going-out education of universities and deepen the cultural communication between China and the countries along the line, thus addressing the weaknesses of traditional education and teaching activities. Combining the actual characteristics and national conditions of international cooperation, the communication of teaching is carried out and the Confucius College will be opened. By learning relevant experience of sino-foreign cooperatively-run teaching, the educational mode combining Confucius College and teaching activities could assist to provide high-quality teaching resource and talents for the countries along the line of the Belt and Road. And China could establish the branch school of Confucius College by cooperating with the universities along the line. All those methods could promote the cultural output of China, push the economy and education

development of the countries along the line and improve the total level and international competitiveness in the field of education. At the same time, the form of international communication and cooperation needs to be established on the basis of unique content and traditional culture of China. Universities should focus more on propaganda of Chinese language and culture and establish China higher education talent exchange service organization and oversea Chinese Classics Institute, thus improving cultural soft power and promoting output of Chinese culture.

#### 4.5 Enhancing cultural identity

The implementation of the Belt and Road policy not only brings new development opportunities to relevant countries and regions, but also increases the identity of other countries to the education and teaching activities in international cooperation of universities of China to a great extent, which has laid a stable foundation for national communication and cooperation and deepened the understanding of development model, national culture and national policy of China, thus benefiting the implementation of the Belt and Road. Additionally, during the cultural output process, the universities of China need to consider the course of growth and national belief of both teachers and students in the countries along the line by fully accepting different culture and respecting belief and history of other countries. Apart from those, universities should steadily promote the teaching management of Chinese and foreign students, prompt a better unity of ideology of domestic and foreign young students, strengthen Chinese students' understanding of Chinese culture and encourage Chinese students to play their roles in international communication and cooperation.

#### 5. Conclusions

The effective implementation of the Belt and Road has proposed new requirements for the international communication and cooperation of universities in China. Under the background of the Belt and Road, college education should focus more on the communication among universities, thus improving the soft power of China. From the role of the Belt and Road on international cooperation of universities, this paper puts forward the practical methods of international cooperation and innovation in universities under the background of the Belt and Road, which could further improve the training level of talents in the domain of international communication.

**Acknowledgement:** research on the international cooperative training mechanism of innovative applied talents in northern university for nationalities under the strategy of "One Belt And One Road", a major research project on education and teaching reform of northern university for nationalities -- a case study of college of design and art (2019ZHJY01)

#### References:

- [1] Zheng Yuan, Li Jin. The present situation, method and strategy of the co-operation of higher education in china and the arab league[j]. Journal of South China Normal University (Social Science Edition),2017, (1):66-69.
- [2] Ma Zaoming. Strategic Choice of higher Education Cooperation between China and ASEAN under the background of "Belt and Road Initiative" [J] .Journal of South China normal University (Social Science Edition), 2017, (1): 70-72.
- [3] Li Jun, Tian Xiaohong. In the background of the "One Belt and One Road", non-university international cooperation and development[J]. Journal of South China Normal University (Social Science Edition),2017, (1):73-75.
- [4] Li Sheng-bing. China's higher education cooperation with "One Belt and One Road" countries: the angle of the region[J]. Journal of South China Normal University (Social Science Edition),2017, (1):62-65.

- [5] Wang GE, Yu Xinli, Xu Yi, Li Jing. Review and Prospect of International Education to ASEAN from the Perspective of Belt and Road Initiative [J] .World Education Information, 2016, (21): 5-8.