

# Study on the Innovation of International Talents Training in Colleges and Universities Under the Belt and Road Initiative

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**Abstract—**With the progress of the Belt and Road Initiative, colleges and universities have been challenged by how to advance the international talent training. In the opinion of the author, the core of the Belt and Road Initiative is people to people bond, correspondingly colleges and universities undertake the mission of training international talents being open, inclusive, confident in culture, innovative and quality-mixed. However, at present, no adjustment has been done on the modes of international talent training in colleges and universities, for which this article raises new thoughts as unifying thought, innovating course systems, focusing on innovation and startup, open to the world and intensifying humane sentiments.

**Keywords—***the Belt and Road Initiative; international talent training; innovation*

## I. INTRODUCTION

With the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, the construction from breadth and depth has entered a stage of deepening and lasting development. In order to well advance the Belt and Road Initiative, all have to depend on a large number of comprehensive talents who are outward-look, applied and innovative in order to meet the international demand. Facing such a situation, it is extremely urgent for colleges and universities to adjust and create the international trade talents training modes in light of new situation and missions. And it has been a point to think about carefully and urgent to form a unified understanding for those, who are in charge of international trade development and instruction in colleges and universities, in order to be adjusted to the Belt and Road Initiative, expand and innovative existing international talents training modes, which can not only meet the local economic development but also follow the state strategy.

## II. CORE POINTS OF THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

On Mar 28, 2015, a Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (hereinafter referred to as the Vision and Actions) was released jointly by the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly, which proposed that the

Belt and Road Initiative shall follow the trend of world multipolarization, economic globalization, cultural diversity and social informationization, adhering to the spirit of being open-up and cooperative between regions and safeguarding the global free trade system and the open world economy. Seen from the overall layout, the Belt and Road Initiative involves 64 countries; seen from home, it differs from previous regional strategy as opening up the east, rising in the central plains, and developing the west region, it shall have covered all of the country ranging from the east, the central and the west, as well as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

In order to support and coordinate with the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Education Actions under the Belt and Road Initiative released by the Ministry of Education pointed out that based on Five Points (including policy communication, facility connection,, free trade and flowing funds, people to people bond), the education shall provide support from two aspects, one is people to people bond and the other is talent support to other four points. Accordingly, colleges and universities should back the Belt and Road Initiative, training and preparing a great number of qualified talents for international economy and development.

## III. LITERATURES BACKGROUND

Main literatures, which are devoted studying international talent training under the Belt and Road Initiative, are mainly focusing on what given below:

### A. *The Connotation of International Talent Training and Open Development Path*

Xu Jing (2014) analyzed what international education for international trade in colleges and universities is, thinking that it should be a systematic concept, including faculty, optimization and internationalization of the same, educational philosophy, teaching tools, environment, training programs and goals, etc. and proposed four measures as education system, curriculum, teaching practice, and teaching staff before internalization so as to ensure the successful implementation of international teaching. Wang

Yanxin (2015) thought that relying on advantages in school running of their own, colleges and universities should be active to expand their ideas of talent training to attract students from countries along the Belt and Road Initiative, promoting people to people bond.

#### B. Broadening Channels for International Exchanges

Meng Yinghua (2013), based on the existing talents training of international trade in Shanghai-based colleges and universities, proposed to broaden channels for international exchanges with countries along the Belt and Road Initiative to provide international students with diverse and flexible modes for exchanges as visiting study, exchange study, summer holiday study and more, and suggested that resources of international trade in Shanghai-based colleges and universities should be optimized and integrated to set up an international training platform for international trade undergraduates built by Shanghai International Trade Center. Wang Ganxiang and Zhong Jinglei (2016) thought that it needs to broaden channels for international exchange and communication to give students more chances for international exchanges and training as well as suggesting to introduce a startup tutor system so as to train students with thinking and awareness of startup and innovation.

#### C. International Students Education

Duan Congyu and Li Xinghua (2014), based on the strategy of higher education in Yunnan Province, advocated a way for open higher education in order to promote the talent training via the Belt and Road Initiative. Xue Peng et al (2015) suggested additional practice and exchanges, especially cooperating with colleges and enterprises in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative, with an objective evaluation index system given to evaluate the international talents training models.

#### D. Integration of Industry, College Research and Roles of Enterprise Associations

Bian Jilan and Zhao Guiyan (2017), based on conditions of the college, recommended to set up an international E-commerce-guided E-commerce talents training system with the talents training systems improved. Zhang Qi (2018), based on international trade of the college, suggested to exert the roles of enterprise associations from college-enterprise cooperation so as to create a bridge and link between colleges and enterprises and to promote the integration of industry, study and research, emphasizing the awareness of college-enterprise cooperation for talents training.

In conclusion, all of the literatures have conducted useful analysis related to international talents training under the Belt and Road Initiative. Yet this theme team thinks that the Belt and Road Initiative, has risen to a national strategy, which will produce a long and far-reaching impact on the international trade talents training in colleges and universities, so colleges and universities should conduct an overall consideration and carefully think about what the Belt and Road Initiative raises for international talents training in colleges and universities, main problems it faces and how to train such talents, all of which will be analyzed in this article.

#### IV. NEW MISSIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL TALENTS AGAINST THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

After China's entry to the WTO in 2001, it has got rapid developed in the economic scale and speed. In 2010, China, with its GDP more than that of Japan, became the world's second largest economy after the United States. After the Belt and Road Initiative was launched, it received positive responses from many countries and regions along the route. The economic exchanges between China and countries and regions along the route have expanded rapidly. By the end of 2018, the trade volume of goods between China and the countries along the route reached 1.3 trillion US dollars, up 16.3% year-on-year, 3.7% higher than the growth rate of China's foreign trade over the same period, accounting for 27.4% of the total foreign trade, and non-financial direct investment reached 15.64 billion US dollars, accounting for 13% of the total amount in the same period. Seen from these, the countries and regions along the Belt and Road Initiative are an important orientation for China's diversified international economic development.

With the market development and expansion along the Belt and Road Initiative, it is in an urgent and continuous demand for international talents. However, after conducting a deep understanding of the countries and regions along the route, it has found characteristics given as follow: firstly, needed by trade language, the original trade countries are mostly English speaking, but now the languages along the Belt and Road Initiative are diverse. Secondly, for the orientation of trade region, the original trade countries are mostly developed. But now it needs to orient to countries which are developing or in economic transition. Some trade rules, products and channels will change greatly. Thirdly, for the trade modes, innovation and startup, there will be a great number of innovations in trade mode and startup in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative. It is necessary to put several trade modes, innovation and startup philosophy into students training. Fourthly, for the open and inclusive humanity, the diversified culture in countries along the route needs to train students with thought of being open and win-win.

Therefore, the Belt and Road Initiative has raised new requirements for training international talents in colleges and universities, including:

##### A. Open and Inclusive International Talents

The countries along the Belt and Road Initiative include not only socialist countries in Central Asia, ASEAN, South Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, West Asia and North Africa but also capitalist countries under Western-party systems followed, as well as Arab countries under the monarchy. It is certain that the extremely big difference politics, economy, culture, race and religion among regions will challenge the progress of the Belt and Road Initiative. But we cannot give it up before difficulties; it shall be made clear that the Belt and Road Initiative is a national strategy. China continues the open-up currently and in the future. Therefore, as important base for international talents training for local colleges and universities, students shall be trained

for international vision, fully understand the complexity and diversity of various national cultures, in order to train international talents of being open and inclusive and to be equal and win-win in international economic exchanges.

#### B. International Talents Being Confident in Culture

Confidence in culture refers to the full affirmation and active practice of a nation upon its culture and value. The countries along the Belt and Road Initiative are complex and changing in politics, and diverse in nation and religion. Facing the complicated world situation and various political atmospheres in countries, it is necessary for people to keep a clear mind and firmly believe in the political systems and traditional culture of their own. Meanwhile, during the economic and cultural exchanges with countries and regions along the Belt and Road Initiative, it needs to active to advance and disseminate traditional Chinese culture and raise the confidence and power for the Belt and Road Initiative construction.

#### C. International Talents with Innovative Spirit

An innovation is the drive to continue the economic development and the only way for China to achieve top quality development. An innovation shall include not only the innovation in science and technology, but also that in system, mechanism, method. Quite a few of countries and regions along the Belt and Road Initiative are in the economic transition, where new ways and means will emerge in economic management, international cooperation, trade system and more. For one, China has been actively building international industrial parks and financing service facilities along the Belt and Road Initiative. Accordingly colleges and universities are required to pay more attention to the international talents of being innovative, who should grasp new knowledge as cross-border E-commerce, industrial park operation & management, investment and financing service, international project running and so on, so as to meet the new economic cooperation of the Belt and Road Initiative.

#### D. International Talents Familiar with International Rules, Capital Operations and Other Aspects

The implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative will not only drive the trade relations between China and other countries along the route, but also push China's investment in infrastructure among such countries. The investment in infrastructure as turnkey projects, public-private partnership financing models (PPP) will need international talents mastering both international business management and capital operations. So colleges and universities should focus on students training, to make them have the knowledge of international financial investment and financing, cross-border mergers and acquisitions in the future.

### V. STATUS QUO OF INTERNATIONAL TALENTS TRAINING IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

At present, the international talents training modes have been carried out in international trade in most colleges and universities, which have achieved a lot. For example, in

earlier 2014, the multiple international cooperation for school running was launched in international trade in our college, where quality educational resources in colleges and universities around the world are borrowed to share educational resources, initially an atmosphere of international talents training. Besides, the undergraduate education programs for international trade have been modified several times with two-language teaching added, which deepens the international talents training, however, there are still some shortcomings as unscientific course systems and evaluation systems, lack of two-language faculty, which are more than obvious before the Belt and Road Initiative. Up to now, there are still no courses related to regional trade along the Belt and Road Initiative in many colleges and universities. Hence, based on the Belt and Road Initiative, the international talents training for international trade in colleges and universities shall conduct targeted innovation and reform.

### VI. INNOVATIVE THOUGHT FOR INTERNATIONAL TALENTS TRAINING AGAINST THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

#### A. Innovation of Course Systems for International Talents Training

Course system is the basis for international talents training; a perfect course system will produce a multiplier effect on the international talents training. Considering the Belt and Road Initiative, in our opinion, it is necessary for us to reform and improve existing courses system with the time going, add economic courses about countries along the route. With teachers' support, it is applicable to organize and compile country-based trade geography textbooks, striving to obtain funding for key textbooks. According to the operation, management and financing needed for infrastructure construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, it is suggested to add courses related to project financing and capital operation. Besides, it is recommended to conduct full discussions on the course reforms for international talents training system in order to unify the understanding, and to think deeply about how to screen and arrange existing courses and how to carry out linked reform and coordination on course contents, teaching levels, methods and assessment and so on.

#### B. Integration of Innovation, Startup and International Vision in the International Talents Training

Students in colleges and universities shall be encouraged to participate in competitions of various subjects at state, provincial or city levels. They shall not only put into practice what they have learned, but also are stimulated for innovation, combining the innovation well with the startup in the future. Meanwhile, the competitions shall focus on training students' international vision, who shall be instructed to do as design, organization, and participation. Starting from the perspective of China, colleges and universities should absorb and borrow excellent research achievements around the globe for improvement and integration. For one, our college has explored reliable methods and accumulated rich experience in practice in international research, innovation

and startup as well as public welfare activities. Each year, our students are organized for a short-term research in universities in the United States, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, which have greatly widened the students' visions and stimulated their independent learning capabilities, achieving a good result.

### *C. Integration of Humane Sentiments in the International Talents Training*

Humane sentiments refers to a protection, pursuit and concern of human dignity, value and destiny, highly valuing the spiritual cultures inherited by human beings, which is a general self-care of human being. At present, the world development is shared by human being, with limited resources; global problems have arisen as climate, environment, ecology, disasters and anti-terrorism, etc. In order to train international talents, the talents shall be trained with global brains, humane sentiments, lift and development sharing. And the humane sentiments shall be always integrated to the international talents training in colleges and universities, who are required to form values of respecting nature and life, inclusive and understanding in order to be international talents and participate in global governance and contribute more Chinese wisdom and resolutions and China's sound to solve problems faced in the future.

## VII. CONCLUSION

With the continued progress of the Belt and Road Initiative, the international talents training in colleges and universities at home are in face of challenges and opportunities. The core of the Belt and Road Initiative is the people to people bond, under which, college students shall be trained to be open, inclusive, confident in culture, innovative and more. However, there are still many deficiencies in colleges and universities in the course system, evaluation system, bilingual faculty, and humanities. Therefore, the author gives a new thought for training international talents: First, it is necessary to innovate and improve the existing course systems, and increase courses related to management, financing and capital operation. Second, it is necessary to focus on innovation and startup and train students with international vision. Third, it is needed to use humane sentiments to train students to be confident in culture, establish the values of respect for nature, life, and inclusive understanding, with global awareness and an open and inclusive thinking system.

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