

Analysis of International Students' Education at Hebei University of Technology in “Double First-rate” Construction

Jiangnan Zhang^{1,a}, Kewen Xia^{1,b,*} and Chunyan Niu^{1,c}

¹School of Electronics and Information Engineering, Hebei University of Technology, Tianjin, China

^azhangjn1353@163.com, ^bkwxia@hebut.edu.cn, ^c2053807967@qq.com

*Kewen Xia

Keywords: International students education, Internationalization, “Double First-rate” construction.

Abstract. Under the trend of the “Double First-rate” construction, promoting the international students education in China is the key to advancing the construction of world-class universities and disciplines. In this paper, the background and degree of the internationalization of Hebei University of Technology (Hebut) are analyzed and compared. Then the advantages and disadvantages in Hebut internationalization are pointed out, and the opinions and suggestions are put forward to facilitate the international students education in China and promote university internationalization.

1. Introduction

With the rapid development of science and technology, the trend of economic globalization has become increasingly evident. Economic globalization will bring globalization of talents[1]. Promoting the university internationalization is an important part of promoting talents globalization .

In fact, the developed countries have already increased their attention to the university internationalization and placed it in an important position. As the pioneer of modern higher education, the education reform in the U.S. is an example. In 1876, the U.S. recognized the inadequacy of British university system, combined with the experience of the German university system to transform the original British university system, and formed a strategy of strengthening the university internationalization with the characteristics of research-based openness[2]. Finally, the U.S. has achieved from learning from Europe to surpassing Europe through its internationalization strategy.

Since Chinese Economic Reform and open up in 1978, China has begun the internationalization process. In 2001, China's accession to the WTO officially opened a new chapter in education internationalization. Especially since the 18th national congress of CPC, the trend of China's international talent flow has changed, and the number of returned overseas students in our country has continuously risen, and the international development has a good momentum. In 2017, China put forward the “Double First-rate” Construction, which is undoubtedly the most important thing to strengthen the education and the degree of internationalization of students studying in China.

At present, the status quo of university internationalization in Hebei is not optimistic. There are a large number of universities but few high-level universities, and high quality resources in university are relatively lacking. There are currently no world-famous universities, and there is only one China 211-Project University, Hebei University of Technology(Hebut). Only taking an international university as a leader, it is possible to facilitate the higher education level in the whole province[3].

2. Research and comparison of internationalization of Hebei University of Technology

In the research and comparison of the university internationalization, scholars generally emphasize five aspects of international content and indicators, such as student mobility, teacher mobility, internationalization of curriculum settings, international cooperation, and overseas branches or distance education[4]. Therefore, the following is a comparative analysis of three aspects: the percentage of international students in the total number of students in university, the situation of international cooperative universities, and the establishment of Confucius Institutes overseas.

2.1 The percentage of international students in the total number of students in university

Student mobility includes international students coming to China and Chinese students studying abroad. And the percentage of international students coming to China in the total number of students in university can be regarded as an important measure of student mobility.

2.1.1 National comparison

Several data were selected from the data of more complete and representative universities. Fig.1 shows the percentage of international students coming to China in the total number of students in university in 2016. The data are from the official websites of various universities.

From Fig.1, we can see that 985-Project Universities are generally better than 211-Project Universities, who are generally better than ordinary universities. Among them, compared to Hebut and Zhengzhou University(ZZU) of the same level, Henan and Hebei Province are in the same situation. There is only one 211-Project University and no 985-Project University. However, since ZZU was selected as 211-Project University, Henan Province attaches great importance to the construction and propaganda of ZZU, and ZZU is as a "Little Tsinghua" for Henan people. In 2017, ZZU was rated as world-class universities and disciplines in the list of "Double First-rate", and it is one of only three non-985-Project Universities to be rated as "Double First-rate".

2.1.2 Provincial comparison

The universities in Hebei Province that hold doctoral degrees are Hebei University, Hebei Normal University, Yanshan University, Agricultural University of Hebei, Hebut, Hebei Medical University, and Shijiazhuang Tiedao University. Therefore, the internationalization degree of these universities has been collated and compared. Fig.2 shows the percentage of international students in some universities in Hebei Province in 2016, the data are from their official websites.

As can be seen from Fig.2, although the year of Hebut to recruit international students is not the earliest, the percentage of international students is not the lowest. It is indicated that Hebut has higher international recognition than other universities in Hebei Province. However, the internationalization degree of Hebut is poor at emphasis and investment.

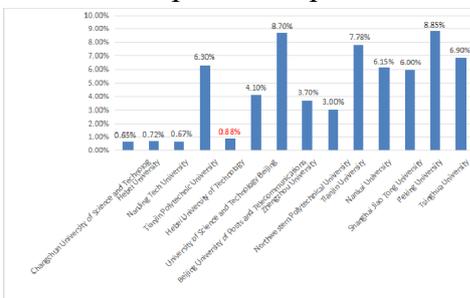


Fig. 1. International students proportion in 2016

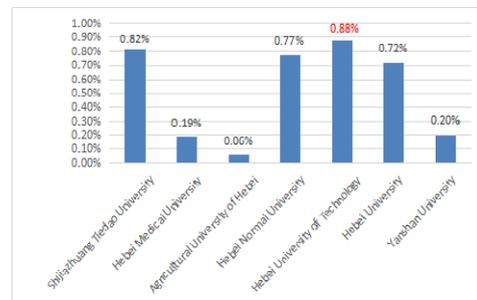


Fig. 2. International students proportion in Hebei Province.

2.2 International Cooperative Universities

An important part of international cooperation is the number of international cooperative universities. Several representative universities with different geographic locations and education levels were selected and collected for comparative analysis. Fig.3 shows the number of cooperation between some Chinese universities and foreign universities in 2016, the data are from their official websites.

From Fig. 3 we can see that universities located in the areas of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are better than universities in other areas, 985-Project universities are generally better than 211-Project universities, and 211-Project universities are better than ordinary universities. In general, Hebut has a good international cooperation level, but has to continue to strengthen cooperation.

2.3 The establishment of Confucius institutes overseas

The number of Confucius Institutes overseas is an important indicator of overseas branch evaluation. Several representative universities including 985-Project universities, 211-Project universities and ordinary universities were selected for comparative analysis. Fig. 4 shows the number of Confucius Institutes in 2016, the data are from their official websites.

From Fig.4, we can see that the comprehensive universities are better than the universities with engineering majors. Universities located in the areas of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are better than universities in other areas.

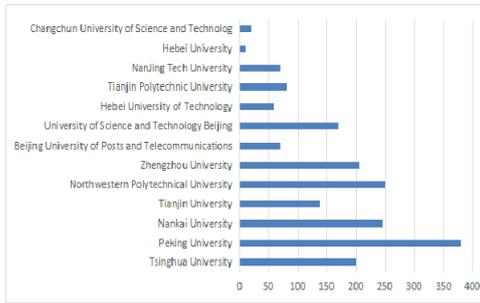


Fig. 3. Number of cooperation in 2016.

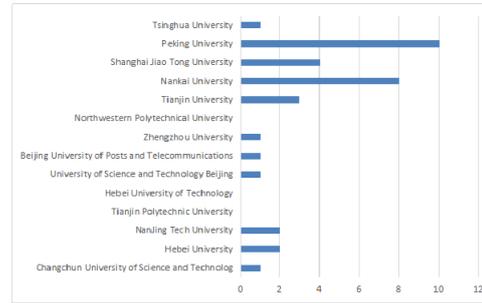


Fig. 4. Number of Confucius Institutes in 2016.

In a word, Hebut has a relatively late international opening time. so its internationalization force and international recognition is insufficient. It is less attractive to international students. The number of international students, and the strength of international teachers compared with the universities of other provinces are less. The situation of the overall internationalization process is very serious. In the “Double First-rate” construction, it is necessary to promote international education level.

3. The suggestions to promote the internationalization of Hebut

3.1 The government guides and establishes a model university

In recent years, China has put forward the “One Belt and One Road” strategy. This strategy will promote interaction and exchanges in the field of higher education[5]. Under the favorable guidance of this policy, the Hebei Provincial Government should pay more attention to the internationalization of universities and build the only China 211-Project university in Hebei Province so that at least one famous university can be found in the province. In the period of reform and opening up, Deng Xiaoping’s Common Prosperity was allowed some people to become rich first, bring wealth to the rich first, and finally achieve common prosperity. This is also true of the university internationalization of Hebei Province. With the high level of one university, it will drive the high level of the university, which will promote the popularity of universities in the whole province, so as to promote the popularity of our universities in the world. In this way, more foreign teachers and students will be attracted to improve the level of universities internationalization in the province.

3.2 Establish the internationalization awareness, and make attraction greater than outflow

Each year, the number of graduate students and doctoral students studying abroad at Hebut is several times than the number of international students. However, this is not truly international. If students and talents stay abroad, this is even a brain drain. In order to achieve a wide range of international students, the important content is to strengthen the incentive methods and service measures for international students in China. Scholarships should be further strengthened to improve the study and protection of international students in China. Hebut should supervise the university's various functional departments to create better support services for international students, and further promote the various services of international students.

3.3 Strengthen key disciplines construction, and stress academic learning and engineering practice equally

After many years of development, international exchanges and cooperation in engineering universities have achieved certain results. As early as ten years ago, our country’s engineering institutions of higher education has been the closest to the world’s advanced level. In the process of building an international university, the international competitiveness of characteristic engineering will be an important guarantee for the university internationalization[6], which provides even greater opportunities for the internationalization in engineering universities. In this age of information, the

Internet is undoubtedly the best means of publicity. When universities focus on the quality of teaching and research, they must not overlook the importance of publicity. For example, the four old majors of Hebut have always been at the leading level in China. Universities should increase the promotion of brand-name professionals on the basis of ensuring a steady increase in professional standards.

3.4 Improve the overall level of teachers, introduce and go out

China has already had the consciousness of absorbing foreign talents early on. As early as the emphasis on English learning and the inclusion of subjects for exams, China has begun to introduce a large number of foreign teachers to improve the country's English proficiency. However, the introduction of foreign teachers in universities often only stays in foreign language teaching, but does not increase the introduction of foreign teachers in the engineering profession. The introduction of foreign teachers is also particularly important for engineering majors. The introduction of foreign engineering talents, the opening of English courses, and the quoting of English original textbooks can improve students' ability to master the world's most advanced scientific research achievements. Among them, foreign teachers at Hebut are particularly lacking in education. They should raise their awareness of introduction, appropriately increase the attractiveness of talents, and attract foreign talents with favorable conditions. Only by keeping the door open and attracting talents, can they open up the visibility of universities and form a virtuous cycle.

4. Conclusions

It is the trend of the times to strengthen the international education in Universities. this paper mainly analyses the internationalization status of Hebut, points out the advantages and disadvantages, and puts forward some opinions and suggestions to facilitate the international students education.

Acknowledgement

This research was financially supported by Research Project on Quality Promotion of Graduate Training for Hebei Univ. of Tech. (No.201801Y006). The Corresponding author is Prof. Xia Kewen.

References

- [1] Zhao Jinping, and Shan Gu, The Enlightenment from Internationalization of Japanese Universities and Talent Strategy, *China Higher Education Research*, vol.10, pp. 84-88, 2014.
- [2] QIU Yanjun, Evolution and Experience of University Internationalization, *Journal of Southwest Jiaotong University(Social Sciences)*, vol.11, pp. 2-3, 2010.
- [3] Wang Zulin, The Difficulties and Countermeasures of the Academic Departments' Internationalization in China's Universities, *Journal of Higher Education Management*, vol.11, pp. 65-70, 2017.
- [4] CHEN Changgui, Mun C. Tsang, WEN Dongmao, WENG Lixia and YU Zhan, The Survey and Evaluation Indication for Internationalization of Research Universities in China, *Peking University Education Review*, vol.7, pp. 116-135, 2009.
- [5] LIU Yan-hong, University International Exchange and Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative, *Heilongjiang Researches on Higher Education*, vol.3, pp. 10-14, 2016.
- [6] Li Yutao, Engineering University International Exchange and Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative, *Course Education Research*, vol.12, pp.3-4, 2017.