

## Academic Mobility: New Development of Internationalization of Chinese Higher Education

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#### Overview

- The number of students mobility increased dramatically
  2001: 2.54 million in total around the world
  2010: 3.70 million, increased about 45.9%
  (Project Atlas, 2011)
  - As the world's largest source country for internationally mobile students, China became the fourth largest host country for such students in the year 2010



#### Laying the groundwork: Focusing on quality and quantity

The last 30 years witnessed profound developments in Chinese higher education. The student population reached about 23 millions in 2010, a 75% increase over enrolment figures from the year 2000.



#### Laying the groundwork: Focusing on quality and quantity

#### A number of national higher education development initiatives—such as:

the "211 project", the "985 project"

the quality of teaching and research

the capacity to support social and economic development of Chinese higher education institutions,

"Guideline for Medium and Long Term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020)"



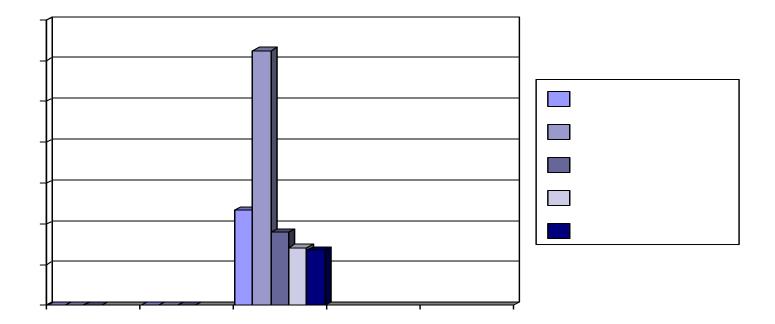
### Laying the groundwork: Focusing on quality and quantity

- 660 Chinese higher education institutions hosted 292,611 international students from 194 countries and regions in the year 2011, a 10.38% increase over the previous year.
- The top five countries of the international students account for 44.9% of the total international student population in China, with the highest year-on-year increase (+18.43%) seen in the student numbers from the United States
- international students were enrolled in both long-term and shortterm programs, with 40.6% in degree programs, an increase of 10.62% when compared to 2010.



# The top five countries of the international

#### students in China





# The most popular fields of study for international students

- Chinese language and culture (61.45%)
- medical science (13.24%)
- engineering (6.48%)
- management (6.31%)
- economics (6.31%).



- from 1978 to 2011, there were in total 2.2 million Chinese students and scholars studying abroad and in the 2010/2011 academic year, about half of them say 1.1 million, were continuing their study outside of China, a figure representing 20% of the global total of mobile students.
  - This situation reflects such key factors as policy support, financial investment, recognition of the value of international education experiences, and interest in high-quality education.



- Currently, the Chinese government provides 25,000 scholarships annually to support study abroad, and runs nearly a dozen national projects designed to attract Chinese graduates returning home after completing their international study and training. As a result, 818,000 Chinese study fellows returned to the country by the end of 2011.
  - the "Study in China Plan (2010-2020)", September 2010. China aims to host 500,000 international students and become one of the most popular destinations by the year 2020



- In 2011, 25,678 international students from 178 countries enjoyed Chinese government scholarships to study in Chinese higher education institutions. Students from Asia and Africa comprised 76.4% of the scholarship recipients.
  - To encourage more US students to study in China and support the US government's "100,000 Strong Initiative", the Chinese government has committed to 10,000 Bridge Scholarships and 10,000 CPE (Consultation on People-to-People Exchange) Scholarships to US students for the period 2010-2014.



- At the first round of the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue (HPPD), the Chinese side announced that it will provide 20,000 scholarships to Chinese students and scholars to study in EU member states, and 10,000 scholarships to support the EU students and scholars to study (2012-2016). The number of "Chinese Government Scholarship—EU Window" will also be increased from 100 to 200 annually.
- China has to-date signed 38 inter-governmental agreements with foreign counterparts on mutual recognition and accreditation of higher education certificates and academic degrees.



## Institutional efforts for internationalization: a key role

- Internationalization is critically important for Chinese higher education institutions
  - International cooperation in higher education is conducted in many different forms.
  - A range of joint and double degree programs between Chinese and foreign institutions enable students participate in study abroad programs around the world.
    - China has great potential to host more international students, and concerted efforts are being made by Chinese universities to attract more such students.



### **Institutional efforts for internationalization:** a key role

Key activities include active recruitment involving organizations such as the China Scholarship Council (CSC), the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE), and the China Education Association of International Exchange (CEAIE). The extensive scholarship opportunities now available (at the national, provincial, municipal and institutional levels) also have a key role to play, as does the provision of English-taught programs (mostly at the master's and doctoral level) and foundation courses for undergraduate degree students.



### Institutional efforts for internationalization: a key role

There are increasingly flexible and high-quality programs for international students, designed to meet the different needs of international students at the bachelor, masters' and doctoral levels. Likewise, student services and program management are improved. There is guaranteed on-campus accommodation and support with such varied issues as internship placements, immigration procedures, new student orientation, health insurance coverage, language assistance, and private tutoring.



#### **Challenges ahead**

- Lacking of information is one of the biggest difficulties.
- Insufficient numbers of international students in China are full degree-seekers.
- Language barriers also present a problem.
  Finally, there is uneven visibility among Chinese institutions.



#### Conclusion

- The fast growth of international students in China reflects the global trends of student mobility.
- Individual students and national policymakers are increasingly aware that international study experiences are crucial for students' professional and career development, as well as the strengthening of economies writ large.
  - Emerging host countries like China can and will provide more diversified choices for international education opportunities.
  - China's pushes hard to internationalize its higher education system and build up its world-class universities, factors such as its rich culture, fast-growing economy, high-quality programs, low cost of tuition and living, scholarship programs, and safe environment, etc.



# Thank you.