China: Education Reform
Impacts for Australia


- Basic education focus – rural areas
- Development of human resource potential
- Quality improvement
- Innovation in VET – close links with industry/employers
- Teaching and Systemic Education Reform
- Graduate Employment Outcomes
- Education Infrastructure
- Distance Education
- International Links
## School Enrolment Statistics: 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Enrolment Numbers</th>
<th>Participation Rates (growth over 2002)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>121.57 m</td>
<td>98% (+ 1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Secondary</td>
<td>66.87 m</td>
<td>92% (+ 2.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Secondary</td>
<td>19.65 m</td>
<td>44% (+ 17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary VET</td>
<td>12.57 m</td>
<td>(+7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>11.7 m</td>
<td>17% (+ 26%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## School Education and Reform

- 91% universalised 9-year compulsory education
- Rural education development and reform
- Implementation of curriculum reform agenda
  - Commencing September 2004
  - Quality Education
  - Examination System overhaul
School Level Opportunities

• Curriculum and assessment systems and products
• Teacher training and exchange
• Senior Secondary partnerships
  – In-country curriculum delivery
• Student exchange/sister schools
• Study tourism for school groups

Vocational Education and Training

• Reform is a major underpinning for the shift to a market economy
• Pressures
  – Closure of SOEs
  – Rising demand for skilled personnel from SMEs and foreign enterprises
  – Demographic changes – increasing urbanisation
“VET Innovation Project”

- Strengthen capacity building of VET institutions
- Training Scheme for In-Demand Skills in manufacturing and service industries
- Skills development for regional economic development and labour market requirements
- High competency, high tech skills training - all sectors
- Change delivery modes – promote LLL
  - Multi-modal, flexible delivery – credit recognition and transfer
  - Modular training - Apprenticeships/internships

VET Level Opportunities

- In-country delivery partnerships
- Project opportunities
  - Corporate training and capacity building
- Technical assistance for systemic reform
  - Aust-China Chongqing VET Project (AusAID)
- VET in China project (AEI)
Higher Education Reforms

• **Massification**
  
  – 19 million students enrolled in HEIs in 2003
  – 2,110 Govt tertiary institutions
  – 20% participation by 2005
  – Increased commencement numbers
  – 1.8 million new entrants in 1998
  – 3.8 million in 2003

• **Quality Improvement**
  
  – ‘985’ and ‘211’ projects

Challenges for China’s HE system

• Institutional quality assessment and assurance mechanisms
• Teaching quality and standards
• Innovation and analysis
• Enhance research and scholarship capability
• Commercialisation of research outcomes
• Graduate employment outcomes
• Adoption of ICTs
HE Level Opportunities

- In-country program partnerships
- Research collaboration
- Student exchange
  - Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Awards
- Systemic linkages
  - China University Administrators’ Shadowing program

Private Education in China

- 70,000+ private schools – 14.6m students
- 214 private tertiary institutions (mainly diploma level)
- Law of Private Education Promotion (Sept 03)
  - Provides equal footing for private education institutions
  - Legal clarity for operations, fees, standards, accounting and taxation, ‘reasonable return’
**Distance Education**

- Focus on rural China
- Aims to increase access to tertiary study and develop continuing education
- 68 HEIs permitted to pilot distance/on-line education programs, including China Central Radio and Television University
  - 1.37 m students
  - 140 programs/10 disciplines
  - 2,000 off-campus learning centres

**International Engagement**

- Government policies encourage strengthening high level international cooperation and exchange
- Bilateral and multilateral engagement
- Qualifications recognition
- Scientific research and training of scholars
- University relationships and partnerships
- *Regulations on Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Education Delivery (2003)*
- Study abroad
Thank You!

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