



A Study on Constructing the Platform of International Exchange and Cooperation in West Yunnan Province: Taking Dali University as an Example

FANG Hui^{[a],*}; ZHANG Jiuzhou^[b]

^[a]Professor, Doctor, Postgraduate Supervisor, Dali University, Dali, China.

^[b]Associate Professor, Postgraduate Supervisor, Dali University, China.

*Corresponding author.

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Abstract

International Exchange and Cooperation are a kind of important means to bring in good foreign education resources and advance the development of higher universities and colleges. It takes west Yunnan University — Dali University as object to study.

key words: Dali university; International exchange and cooperation; Current situation; Development trend

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INTRODUCTION

Internalization of high education is the development trend of higher education in the world. Higher education should focus on home and face world’s mutual communication, cooperation and aid, which are new ideas and the development trend of higher education in 21st century. Dali University will definitely continue to

make its own dedication and efforts to move forward to its goal as an advanced university in Yunnan, an influential one in west China, and a well-known regional comprehensive university in South Asian and Southeaster Asian countries. Under the guidance of the international consciousness and open concept, through multiple ways, such as international academic exchange, joint research program and exchange teachers and students, to promote the international exchange and cooperation; through introduction and promotion of the university to improve the popularity of the university, expand the fame of the university. At the same time, from the actual situation of the university, Dali University will take example of good administrative ideas and experiences from advanced universities home and aboard, and construct and develop diversified platform of international exchange and cooperation to inject new vitality into the university to be regional characteristic innovative university.

1. AN OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION AT DALI UNIVERSITY

Based on the philosophy of “converge all cultures to shape the university’s spirit”, solid steps were taken by Dali University in implementing the “going out” strategy under the principles of giving full play to its advantages, adjusting measures to local conditions, highlighting the key point, offering mutual benefit and achieve common progress, moving forward gradually and promoting common development. Moreover, for seeking and exploring a distinctive path to characteristic development, Dali University develops and expands the international exchange and cooperation mainly with the countries of South Asia and Southeast Asia, which has made notable results as follows.

1.1 Abundant Achievements of International Education

Since 2002, Dali University has enrolled 5 batches, totaling 244 Vietnamese students, 10 batches, totaling 852 South Asian students and more than 500 students for language learning from Western and other countries.

At present, there are totally 862 international students in Dali university (excluding 241 degree international students of the oversea-run school), among them, there are 263 Indian students, 53 Bangladeshi students and 4 Burmese students. Furthermore, Dali University established an International Scholarship for the students of Laos, Cambodia and Burma, which has supported 12 batches, totaling 262 students from Laos and Cambodia. In 2013, approved by superior education department, Dali University enrolled 20 full-time international graduate students which marked the international education level of Dali University reached a new stage. Now we have enrolled 3 batches, totaling 30 international graduate students.

According to the latest statistical data released by Ministry of Education of China, the overall number of international students in 2013 of Dali University ranked 24 among more than 2400 universities national wide.¹

1.2 Continually Exploring the Model of Educational Cooperation

Dali University has a partnership with many universities and education organizations of India, Vietnam, Canada, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Australia, and established the “RUPP-DHY Chinese Language Center” and “Sino-Canada Education Training Center” together with some of them.

Dali University also carries out the joint education model of “3+1”, “2+2” and “0.5+1” for Computer Technology, Chinese, Thailand and English with its educational cooperation partners, which obtained good results.

1.3 Developing Research Cooperation Actively

Dali University is conducting various forms of joint research with its cooperation partners. Meanwhile, it also applies for research funding from international organizations, such as IFS of Sweden, Tokushima University and the Toyota Foundation. Through research cooperation, the scientific research level of Dali University was improved effectively.

1.4 Developing High-Quality Academic and Culture Exchange

1.4.1 Academic Exchange

Dali University pays much attention to academic exchange in international exchange and cooperation. Since the

establishment of Dali University, it has held more than 50 international lectures, reports and conferences (excluding the ones held by secondary colleges). Meanwhile, it has sent experts and scholars of different fields to more than 20 countries, such as Australia, Thailand, U.S.A and Korea, for academic communication, which got highly praised.

1.4.2 Culture Exchange

Dali University made an extensive cultural exchange with India, Thailand, U.S.A, Switzerland and German. Since the beginning of the first “Great Eastern Exhibition of Paintings” in 2002 has so far held 12 sessions of Dali University and Burapha University of Thailand, which has become a cultural brand between universities of Yunnan and universities of Thailand.

Particularly worth mentioning is the “**International Day**” of Dali University. Adhering to the philosophy of “converge the world’s diverse cultures to shape the university’s spirit”, Dali University continues to hold the “International Day” every year. Since the beginning of the first “International Day” in 2002 has so far held 12 sessions. Due to its remarkable achievement and influence, the “International Day” activity was awarded to “Excellent Achievement Prize of Campus Culture Construction” of the Ministry of Education.

1.5 Carrying Out Intelligence Importation Actively

Dali University introduces and uses foreign intellectual to improve its teaching standard and quality. So far, Dali University has introduced 66 foreign teachers and experts with high level and higher academic degree (who worked here at least for a year).

1.6 Chinese Internationalization

1.6.1 Establishment of Oversea Chinese Teaching and Practice Bases

Grounded on its own characteristics, Dali University gives full play to its advantages to promote the mission of Chinese international. 3 oversea Chinese teachings and practice bases were established in Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. 11 batches, totaling about 142 teachers and students were sent to Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and U.S.A for teaching Chinese or Chinese-teaching practice.

1.6.2 DHY Chinese Language Center

In December of 2007, Dali University and Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) have collaborated to establish the “DHY Chinese Language Center” at Cambodia and began to teaching Chinese that marked the Chinese language course officially become one of the training plans of the top university of Cambodia, which drew a great influence and concern of China and countries of South Asia and Southeast Asia. By December of 2013, the DHY Chinese Language Center enrolled 13 batches, totaling 1,446 students to participate in Chinese training.

¹ The International Cooperation and Communication Department of China’s Ministry of Education. Concise Statistics of International Students (Internal Data).

Many society students also attend Chinese training, which made a good reputation in Cambodia.

1.6.3 Construction of Chinese Major Oversea

In 2010, Dali University cooperated with RUPP to start the first Chinese major in Cambodia and to output high quality teaching resources, which drew a great influence and concern of China and countries of Southeast Asia. So far, totally 241 students are in Chinese major there.

1.6.4 Summer Camp

Dali University has been holding summer camps of Chinese learning for foreign students with its international cooperative organization partners from U.S.A, Thailand, Ireland and so on. Up to now, it has organized summer campus for 6 batches, more than 300 students.

1.7 Conducting Exchanges and Visits Actively

1.7.1 Group Visit/Exchange

Till now, Dali University has formed 85 official groups to visit Australia, U.S.A, Canada, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia with clear goals.

1.7.2 High-Level Reciprocal Visits

Based on the work requirements, the leaders of Dali University have visited U.S.A, Australia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia as a priority for university publicity and for enhancing the relationship and cooperation with those countries.

1.7.3 Teachers/Students Exchanges

Dali University has been exploring opportunities for teachers/students exchange program. Up to now, it has received and sent exchange groups with India, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Australia and U.S.A for totally 94 groups, more than 1,000 people.

From small to large, from weak arrive strong, from unitarily to multiplicity, from South and Southeast Asia to Europe and America, the international exchange and cooperation of Dali University promotes the development of itself, enlarge its reputations and earns widespread acclaim from leaders, departments and society at all levels.

Due to the great achievements of international exchange and cooperation were made by Dali University, it was selected by the People's Government of Yunnan province as one of the four "going out" universities. In February of 2008, Dali University was approved to be "The Provincial Training Base for International Applied Talents".

In 2013, the project "construction and practice the international applied talents training mode that facing the South Asia and Southeast Asia" of Dali University rewarded the first prize of "Excellent Teaching Achievement" of Yunnan province, and nominated by provincial education department to apply for National Excellent Teaching Achievement.

2. CONSTRUCTING DIVERSIFIED PLATFORM OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION

In order to improve the international level, accelerate the pace of international exchange and cooperation and enhance the level of running Dali University, there is still lots of work to do.

2.1 Set Up Education Idea of Internalization

It needs to further set up education idea of internalization, enhance our awareness of the importance of internalization and cultivate and introduce a group of administrators whom have international vision. It sees internalization as the important path to improve the university and strengthen the university's competitiveness in the international higher education market.

2.2 Reinforce the Construction of Teaching Staffs

The University should perfect the related policies for employing and promotion, and encourage teachers to study aboard; strengthen mutual communication with universities aboard, and selectively built some overseas teachers' training base; reinforce the management, and increase the pertinence and effectiveness of teachers study aboard; improve the management employment of foreign experts and returnees study aboard, and do a good job in the introduction of overseas high-level talents.

2.3 Enhance the Construction of the International Majors and Curriculum Group

It is a basic element of the curriculum and major internalization in higher education internalization. Under the background of globalization, only if the higher universities provide global and international curricula and majors, could they satisfy the service of the market and attract more students (Huang, Xiong, & Mao, 2006). Firstly, the university should incorporate the characteristics of its own majors, to develop foreign language curriculum or bilingual curriculum, increase the opportunities for the students to practice their foreign language, thus make the talents be in line with the first class universities step by step; secondly, in some teaching, the university could select the most advanced foreign original teaching materials and reference books; last, actively take examples of advanced experiences in curriculum system reform, renewal of teaching content, innovation of teaching method and so on of oversea higher universities on the same level, to enhance the level of the university's international majors and curriculum group.

2.4 Strive to Develop the International Students' Education

Under the background of internalization of higher education, international students' exchange is one of the most important exchange forms. From the government level, it should make preferential policies and increase

the provincial scholarship and expand the delivery scope; from the university's level, it should set up the university level scholarship for the international students as soon as possible to attract more international students. Moreover, the university should take good use of the resources of overseas alumni association to increase the propaganda.

2.5 Actively Introduce Good Overseas Resources of High Education

Dali University should strengthen joint programs with foreign famous universities of the same level, and strive to establish cooperation with foreign universities on programs like exchange staffs and students, mutual recognition of credit and joint degree programs.

CONCLUSION

In July 2010, the National Medium and Long-term Plan for Education Reform and Development was issued, which put forward clearly:

strengthen the international exchange and cooperation...
develop educational exchange and cooperation from all level, to improve China's international level of education...
cultivate large quantities number of international talent whom have international views, have a good knowledge of

international rules and could participate in international affairs and international competition...further enlarge the scale of international students. (*National Medium and Long-Term*, para.4, 2010)

As a main body of international communication of education, higher universities should deeply learn national policies, conform to the trend, through educational internationalization, to improve the international level of staffs and administrators, to reconstruct the curriculum system, to construct international majors, and to develop the education for international students, to promote the international movement of teachers and students and international recognition of degrees, make progress in joint programs, thus to serve the national soft power promotion strategy.

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