

Toward Modernization and Internationalization (M&I) of Higher Education Institution

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Abstract: Knowledge based economy will be a matter of time for Indonesia's future competitiveness. Therefore, to get there, several basic requirements have to be early prepared. Among others, human capital is perhaps the most important requirement for a country to be able to develop an economic condition based on the capability and capacity of knowledge. Human capital is not just Indonesia concern, it is the concern of all countries. In fact, only some countries can create a condition for human capital to grow effectively and efficiently. Mostly, Higher Education Institution (HEI) or university is the main organization that has objective to develop human capital. The pupose of HEI is to develop academic and non-academic capability for student by mean of educating them with a structured curricula. However, in today's environmental condition even with similar curricula, any HEI may ends up with different quality. From this point of view, this paper will discuss and elaborate further on a policy and strategy that enable a HEI can create a competitive education environment for student to grow up to their best competitive conditions.

Keywords: Modernization, internationalization, higher education institution.

Introduction

The ultimate objective of the Republic of Indonesia is to pursue four main goals i.e. (1) protection to national interests, (2) prosperity, (3) education for all, and (4) security (Preamble of Indonesia Constitution 1945). To pursue the objectives, all resources, including but not limited to, its people (considered as subject and object) must be utilized effectively and efficiently. In order to be prosper, it is necessary that Indonesia must be competitive in all aspects. Among other aspects, economy is a main concern for recently and the coming years. Indonesia's economy policy and strategy are influenced by environmental conditions i.e. global, regional, and national. In the past, due to the advantage of low wages worker condition (including knowledge worker), as comparative advantages, Indonesia's economy has grown rapidly especially in industrial and production sectors. However, because of regional development nowadays, this situation is different. Regional countries are nowadays having competitive workers as well. As a consequence, some companies have shifted their production facilities to these countries. This situation in the future may impact to economic conditions if Indonesia human capacity stands still.

In contrast, the leading countries have enjoyed prosperity for long time because of high capacity of their human capital. They have already shifted the economy strategy from production based into knowledge based economy with high wages of their knowledge workers. They have also relocated the production facilities mostly to low wages countries around the world. Looking at this global situation, therefore, it is necessary for Indonesia to prepare for shifting its economy strategy towards knowledge based economy in the near future. For this strategy to succeed requires strong Higher Education Institutions (HEI) or Universities as breeding facilities for high qualified human capital. Among other concepts that enable a university can breed high quality alumni, this paper stressess on Modernization and Internationalization (M&I) of higher education institution as a policy or strategy.

Methods

Reasoning

This paper is aimed to conceptualize the need of M&I for HEI. The reasoning is based on the fact that HEI is a main factor for a country to not only nurture and or educate future leaders but also to develop human civilization. HEI plays also a very important role in order to ensure a nation can realize the prosperity of its people as well as improving quality of life. The success of this role is indicated by, for example, Human Development Index (HDI). However, it is important to note that HEI is not the

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only factor contributing to the HDI index. Nowadays, Indonesia reportedly has suffered decreasing HDI index, released by United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), from 108 in 2010 to become 124 in 2011. Regardless questions and arguments concerning the decreasing of the index, in fact HEI still become an important indicator to measure country achievement in improving human capital. That is why this paper indicated the importance of HEI, as well as other indicator, as a measure of country competitiveness. For this reason, this paper proposing policy, concept, and strategy based on theories, real facts, case studies, and expert opinions to improve competitiveness by improving human capital through M&I of HEI.

Theory of Modernization

“Modern” is a familiar term for everybody and it seemingly has many definitions attach to it. For example, the definition of “modern” may be described as a highly innovated thing. Other may describe modern as a “high-end” technological development of a thing. Modernization, by definition, is a process or action to make modern in any aspects .e.g. technology, style, use, design, method, culture, mindset, etc. However, in this paper, modernization will be defined as a process of (individual) change into a set of condition that will impact to the transformation of quality of thinking and life. The process of (individual) change will be properly managed and driven by education. There are several theories related to modernization that can be referred to, such as:

Classical Modernization Theory

The classical modernization theory was discussed intensely in the year of 60s. This theory elaborates on the process of change in all human aspects, especially due to the impact of industrial revolution. In the classical modernization theory, the focal points are about transition from traditional (agriculture) civilization e.g. economy, society, politics, or culture into industrial (economy) civilization. However, as the progress of innovation in many aspects of life is moving forward, the industrial civilization is not the end point of human civilization. The human civilization is always progressing, therefore the classical theory of modernization is chalanged, may be replaced, with post modernization theory. The characteristic of the classical modernization can be seen in Table 1.

Post Modernization Theory

The post modernization theory further looking at the modernization after the industrial civilization.

Table 1. Characteristic of the classical modernization (He Chuanqi [7])

| Elements | Description |
|------------|---|
| Definition | Classical modernization is the historcial process of the great changes of the transformation from traditional agricultural to the modern industrial society since the industrial revolution in 18 th century |
| Process | The process is revolutionalry, complex, systematic, global, long-term and progressive (Huntington [10]) |
| Results | The crystallization and diffusion of the classical modernity. The classical modernity is the collection of the characteristics of the nations who have finished the classical modernization. |
| Dynamics | There are three schools: economy-decision, culture-decision and the cooperative decision of the economy, politics and culture (Inglehart [11]) |
| Pattern | There ar more than seven patterns, and were path dependable (Black [1]) |

Resource: Group of China Modernization Study [6], China

Therefore, post modernization indicates an advanced industrial civilization. There are no clear cut boundary between the stages of industrial with advanced industrial. Indication of an advanced industrial is about the transformation into a process that are more effective and efficient, more automatic, less human involved, more flexibility, as well as more troughput. In term of mindset and culture, advanced industrial can be regarded as highly technological involvement, less direct interaction, environment friendly, globalized process and sources, as well as more caring to human by means of social responsibility. The post modernization theory, therefore, can be regarded as an advanced civilization that enable faster economic, cultural, and political change in a society. Perhaps, this is the driver of globalization that opens a new boundary of human interaction and civilization in a broader sense (Dirlik, [4]). Inglehart, [11] indicated that moderni-zation is not linear. Inglehart, [11] also described the changes in advanced industrial society since 1970 as the Postmodernization.

Second Modernization Theory

The second modernization theory suggested in 1998 by China scientist, He Chuanqi [8]. He divided the human development process into: Tool Age, Agriculture Age, Industrial Age and Knowledge Age. He also correlated every Ages into a life cycle curve and composed by four phases: start phase, development phase, mature phase and transition phase. He then divided, the human development process into two stages: first modernization, and second modernization. The first modernization is the transformation from agriculture phase into industrial phase. Second modernization is the transforma-

tion from industrial phase into knowledge phase. He Chuanqi [8] considered four elements in every transformation e.g. society, economy, civilization, and then Age. He Chuanqi [9] described the characteristic of the second modernization as in Table 2.

Internationalization and Globalization Theory

Internationalization can be interpreted in many different ways. The interpretation of internationalization vary depends on many factors including, but not limited to, ideology, political, economy, social and culture, or even defence and security. For Indonesia, internationalization in HEI has been known since the age of colonialism long time before the independence. At that time, internationalization in HEI was defined as a very limited opportunity for Indonesian to study abroad especially to Dutch universities. It was an academic mobility concept. However, nowadays, internationalization is a term that is used alongside with globalization (Dirlik [4]). Therefore, in order to understand internationalization it requires comprehensive understanding of globalization itself. It is not necessary to make clear distinction between internationalization and globalization because they can be overlapped each other. Intuitively, the meaning of internationalization nowadays has been shifted because of major global economic trends and influence of commercialization. There are two different perspectives to understand the meaning of internationalization and globalization i.e. the positive or negative perspective. Internationalization for HEI is a situation that enable a HEI accept foreign students, deliver the course in English, compatibility of curriculum with international standard, International academic and research exchange, International reputation, etc. While globalization, involves international production, market, investment, trade, etc. across border either done by transnational companies or any other organizations. Therefore, one indicator of globalization is the internationalization itself.

There are many arguments either advantage and or disadvantage of involving globalization and internationalization of HEI. This paper considers on the different view, this paper indicates that both globalization and internationalization is unavoidable to any country, it just a matter of time for a country to adjust and adapt to the changing world. Therefore, HEI also requires adaptation to this situation and stresses on the advantage factors and reduce the disadvantages. The advantages of international and globalization are that students, lecturers, and universities will be counted as an active partner in global education community. The challenge in internationalization, not disadvantages, is about preserving local/national culture.

Table 2. Second modernization (He, Chuanqi [7])

| Elements | Description |
|------------|---|
| Definition | General modernization is both the process of the great changes of the human civilization since the industrial revolution in 18 th century, which includes the transformations from traditional to modern society, economy, politics and civilization, and the process of the reaching, keeping and catching-up with the frontier level of the global civilization at national and regional level. |
| Process | There are two phases of the general modernizations from 18 th century to the end of 21 st century, and the first modernization was the process of the great transformation from agriculture to industrial civilization, the second modernization was the process of the great transformation from industrial to Knowledge civilization. The economic growth is the top issue, the quality of material life will converge, the styles of the spiritual and cultural life will be highly diversified in the second modernization. |
| Results | The crystallization and diffusion of the first modernity is one kind of the results of the first modernization. The crystallization and diffusion of the second modernity is one kind of the results of the second modernization, the characteristics of the second modernity are coming into view. |
| Dynamics | The dynamics of the first modernization is the capital, technology and democracy, etc. The dynamics of the second modernization is the knowledge and institutional innovation and human capital, etc. |
| Pattern | There are many pattern both in the two phases of the modernization, they are the path dependence, and the comprehensive modernization will be the strategic choice for the developing countries. |

Resource: Group of China Modernization Study [6], China

Result and Discussion

Modernization and Internationalization (M&I) can be considered as a possible strategy especially for Higher Education Institution (HEI) to ensure that future development of HEI aligns with global environmental changing. One of the reason is that it is predicted that in order to be competitive in the global environmental changing requires highly competitive human capital. However, globalization can bring negative impacts related to value preservation. Therefore, M&I must align with local/national culture and values especially to socio-cultural values.

Why do Modernization and Intenationalization?

This is a critical question regarding the urgency to reform HEI by means of M&I and why this is considered important?. The urgency to reform HEI

Table 3. Indexes of Indonesia Development Indicator [3,12,15,16]

| Country | RANK on year 2010 from 139 countries (unless indicated differently) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|------------|
| | Population ¹ | GDP ² | GCI ³ | | | HDI ⁴ | GII ⁵ (2011) | EDI ⁶ (2008) | CPI ⁷ | | | | | | | |
| | (2009) | Per Kapita | Total | Pillar HE* | (169 Cty.) | (125 Cty.) | (127 Cty.) | (178 Cty.) | | | | | | | | |
| China | ↓ | 1 | ↘ | 87 | ↘ | 27 | ↘ | 60 | ↘ | 89 | ↘ | 29 | ↘ | 66 | ↓ | 3,5 |
| India | ↘ | 2 | ↓ | 112 | ↓ | 51 | ↓ | 85 | ↓ | 119 | ↘ | 62 | ↓ | 107 | ↓ | 3,3 |
| USA | ↘ | 3 | ↑ | 9 | ↑ | 4 | ↑ | 9 | ↑ | 4 | ↑ | 7 | ↑ | 33 | ↑ | 7,1 |
| Indonesia | ↘ | 4 | ↓ | 100 | ↘ | 44 | ↘ | 66 | ↓ | 108 | ↓ | 99 | ↘ | 69 | ↓ | 2,8 |
| Brazil | ↑ | 5 | ↘ | 57 | ↓ | 58 | ↘ | 58 | ↘ | 73 | ↘ | 47 | ↘ | 88 | ↘ | 3,7 |

Note:

1: *Global Competitiveness Index (GCI)*; Klaus Schwab, *The Global Competitiveness Report 2010-2011*, WEF

2: *Ibid 1*

3: *Ibid 1*

4: *UNDP Releases 2010 Human Development Index (HDI)*

5: *Global Innovation Index (GII)*, INSEAD

6: *Education For All Development Index (EDI)*, EFA Monitoring report 2011, UNESCO

7: *Corruption Perception Index (CPI)*, *Transparency International*

* HE = *Higher Education*

based on the fact that the indexes to measure Indonesia's development (Tabel 3) in term of i.e. Human Development Index (HDI), Education Development Index (EDI), Global Innovation Index (GII), Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), and Corruption Perception Index (CPI) are considered low, therefore they need an improvement effort. These indexes can be used to indicate the situation of today competitiveness, on the basis of the rate of change of the population, and also can be used to make prediction for future situation. Although no exact figure regarding the changing of future environmental conditions especially on economy, still it can be predicted that in the future the (economy) competition will be more thoughter especially related to the knowledge based economy. Therefore, there is no better choices than to prepare the future human capital by improving the capability and capacity through the concept of M&I in HEI.

How to Align Modernization and Internationalization with Cultural Values?

This question related to the negative impact of M&I that possibly misinterpreted as "Westernization" including either "Americanization" or "Europeanization". If this is the case then the point of misinterpretation regarding "westernization" will be on the culture and values. M&I, in this paper, must be seen as strategy to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of HEI to nurture high qualified of human capital regardless the impact of other factors. If, of course, there is impact on the cultural values as a result of M&I then the impact must be handled

separately. It is not unusual that any effort to make a change in organization free from impact or influences. It is common that the impact of any effort (policy, strategy, or action) should be included in the consideration of a policy/strategy or concept development. What is important to be considered is that the benefit of this policy or strategy for longer period and its influence to community is better than making no change to the present situation of HEI.

What It is Expected to Looks Like?

The modernization and transformation of HEI to become internationally recognized can be seen from two points of view i.e. (1) on the soft aspects and (2) on the hard aspects. On the soft aspects, M&I is expected to influence on the individual thinking that is strengthening the value of pluralism, understanding of other, working in international environment, cross culture understanding, etc. While on the hard aspects, M&I is expected to improve the quality of technology of education into a standard and modern technology. The expectation is that M&I can influence along the process of the HEI system that includes Input, Process, Output, Outcome, and Impact. However, one should remember that the ultimate goal of HEI is to educate young people in any field so that they can transform themselves into a certain level of academic competences, according to design curricula, as well as to enable them to grow to non-academic competences such as any soft skills. Therefore, to enable that, the circumstances during the educational process must be managed to an optimal condition.

Conclusion

The important consideration related to the M&I policy or strategy is that to enable effectiveness of educational process requires well management of the following factors: people, environment, system, and supports. Well management of these factors can create a culture of quality (Campell and Rozsnyani [2]). This is expected to happen in any education including but not limited to HEI. Furthermore, influence of external factor e.g. government policy is also considered important to the effectiveness of the educational process. However, the M&I policy has some drawbacks. For example, it requires financial capability especially related to modernization of technology used for education. Therefore, it is important to have reasonable financial backup whether from government or private sources in order to implement the M&I policy.

Furthermore the concept of M&I may be correlated to HEI management standard in Western Countries. However, in the context of M&I, nowadays China is also moving to the same direction as of Western. In comparison to Western and China HEI, it is observed subjectively that even though Indonesia's HEI already modernized and internationalized, there is still a gap compared to both of them.

Therefore, this paper tries to conclude that M&I is a policy or a strategy for HEI to be competitive nowadays and the coming years. Therefore, HEIs should not wait any longer to modernize and internationalize themselves. Otherwise, the gap between Indonesia's HEI with Western and/or China HEI is getting more difficult to follow. If HEIs fail to modernize themselves, they face the possibility to get trap into dependency of the modernization age by others sources in order for them to cope with the changing of society and other environmental factors. This situation has been further discussed by Frank [4] on the theory of dependency as a contradiction or negation of the modernization theory.

Modernization is actually the development of civilization that stresses from the transition to a knowledge based society (Nils, [13]; Huntington, [10]). While Internationalization is actually the foundation to live in a small village of globalization (Huntington, [10]).

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