

Towards the Development of a Conceptual Framework for Internationalizing Private Higher Education Institutions (0273)

Padama Editha¹, ¹*Arellano University, Manila, NCR, Philippines*

The onset of the twenty first century is generally propelled by globalization (Knight,1997; van der Wende,1997) which makes it imperative for higher education institutions all over the world to utilize innovative and intercultural approaches in their programs and to integrate an international dimension into the teaching/training research and service functions of the university. Hence this study was pursued to determine the conceptions and processes set in place by the HEIs in order to develop a conceptual framework for internationalizing them.

In the Philippines, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has likewise recognized the need for internationalization as it gears up to support significant researches on this innovation. With the thousands of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) composing both the state and private HEIs, there are some that have offered international curricula. Yet this number is still considered few. Faculty members and support staff of these HEIs are not even aware of what internationalization in education is about.

Thus, it is from the mandate of the CHED to provide awareness of many HEIs on internationalization in higher education that a study such as this one be conducted to develop a data base, collect information and establish a conceptual framework to serve as a model for HEIs in the Philippines towards internationalization.

A total of 425 stakeholders, (students, faculty, staff and administrators) from 14 HEI's were the participants of the study. The quantitative and qualitative approaches were employed in the analysis of data. A validated checklist, a two-pronged questionnaire and an interview protocol were utilized in the study.

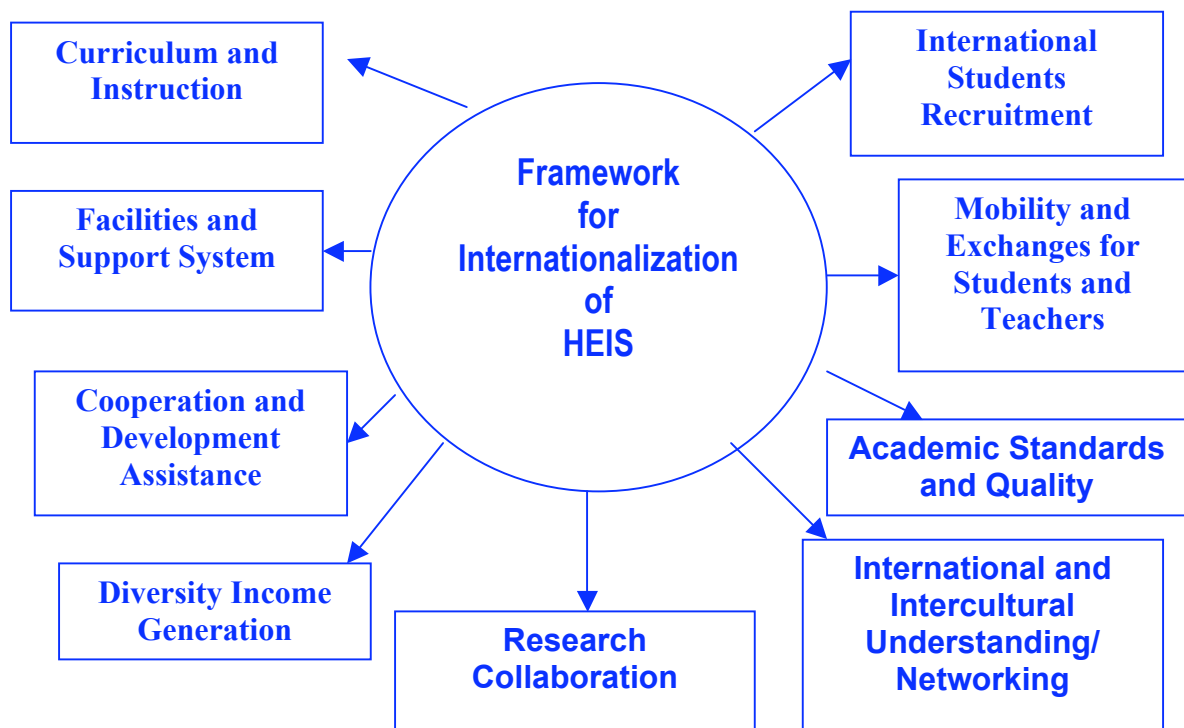
Generally, Internationalization is already a part of the core of operation of HEI's in the National Capital Region. At the conceptual level, the stakeholders share common conceptions of internationalization in higher education. Although some disagreements have been noted from the students, this is however understandable inasmuch as they are beneficiaries of the academic thoughts and actions of the administrators who set leadership directions for the HEI via relevant curriculum, the faculty members who realize curricular mandates and expectations by way of effective instruction, and staff members who extend support to instruction. Students may have other expectations not reflected in the vision-mission that likewise embody the administrators' conceptions of internationalization.

At the practical level, HEIs have been found to have varied processes of realizing their conceptions of internationalization. This difference may be uniqueness in the implementation of concepts of internationalization due to the techniques and strategies;

however, processes and actions should find bed-rock underpinning from common conceptions held by the HEI administrators who must cascade the same to the faculty members who are tasked to realize via effective instruction. The students, being the recipients must manifest such conceptions taking the form of knowledge, skills and attitudes. Learning must be the terminal gauge of internationalization; the ripple effect is bigger enrolment.

THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONALIZING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

A framework on how to internationalize a Higher Education Institution (HEI) is hereby proposed as an offshoot of the investigation. The framework covers nine (9) dimensions, namely: 1) Curriculum and Instruction; 2) Facilities and Support System; 3) Cooperation and Development Assistance; 4) Diversity Income Generation; 5) Research Collaboration; 6) International and Intercultural Understanding/Networking; 7) Academic Standards and Quality; 8) Mobility and Exchanges for Students and Teachers; 9) International Students Recruitment.



Conceptual Framework for Internationalizing Higher Education Institutions in the Philippines
REFERENCES

- Aigner, J.S., Nelson, P. & Stimpfl, J. R. (1992). "Internationalizing the University: Making it Work" Springfield: CBIS Federal
- American Council on Education..(1995). *"Educating Americans for a World in Flux: Ten Ground Rules for Internationalizing Higher Education."* Washington, DC: ACE
- De Wit, H. Strategies for Internationalization of Higher Education: (1995). A Comparative Study of Australia, Canada, Europe, and the USA. Amsterdam: EAIE
- Knight, Jane. "Internationalization: Management Strategies and Issues". International Education Magazine, 1993: pp 6, 21-22.
- Knight, Jane. (1997). " Internationalization of Higher Education. A Conceptual Framework", in J. Knight & H. De Wit (Eds.) Internationalization of Higher Education in Asia Pacific Countries, Amsterdam: European Association for International Education.
- Van der Wende, M. (1994, June). *The contribution of Internationalization to the quality of higher education* in EAIE Newsletter (15), pp. 12-13, 18-19. European Association of International Education.