

WS14 – Academics

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- Current investment are not yet enough to meet the needs of the rapid increase of higher education development
- Quality problems emerge from higher education massification, e.g. quality assurance, students' employability, teachers' number and quality, etc
- Higher education inequity grows more and more obvious resulting from cost-sharing, regional differences and urban-rural divide
- Huge conflicts exist between examination-oriented education and innovation-oriented education
- Imbalance exists between higher education homogenization and diversification, science and humanities, commonness and individuality

Session 2

The European vision

- Challenges posed to quality by massification & the explosion of the knowledge economy.
- Promotion of academic diversity against uniformity created by ranking & quality evaluation systems.
- Need to strengthen the EU academic presence in a competitive global market.
- Encouragement of academic mobility through the removal of administrative & political restraints.
- Need to retain the link between teaching & research.
- Need to balance managerial efficiency with academic collegiality.
- Importance of articulating the social and cultural role of universities while responding to market demand.
- Provision of high quality teaching and research provision across all degree levels to accommodate the needs of a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse society.
- Promotion of academic freedom of expression in the face of economic, religious and ideological pressures.
- Need for significantly increased resources for university teaching & research.

Session 3

The convergences between the European and Chinese society

- Rapidly increase social, economic and cultural demands
- Increased internationalization and mobility
- Insufficient higher education resources
- Challenge of re-conciling quality with massification
- Service to society, directly by teaching and researching, and indirectly by analysis and discussion
- Universities as a major engine for change
- Accountability of universities to wider societies
- Increasing cooperation between university and industry and the wider economy
- To prepare all-round individuals and better citizens
- To reconcile the contradiction between individual benefit and common interest
- Growing importance of transdisciplinary activities to major global issues and challenges
- Increased concern for historical heritage and national identity, as a result of globalization
- Brain-drain of students abroad

The divergences between the European and Chinese society

- More restricted and selective entrance in China
- Chinese tradition is teacher-centered rather than student-centered
- Facilities for students on campus is different
- Greater internal national differences in Europe than in China

Session 4

Acting together on common challenge

- To reinforce mutual academic cooperation as a counterbalance to the homogenizing impact of financial and industrial globalization.
- To improve facilities for, and reduce existing administrative and legal barriers to, student mobility with a view to expanding numbers and balancing students flows.
- To increase the provision of Chinese language and Studies programmes in European universities and of EU languages delivered courses and Chinese language provision in Chinese universities, through extra investment and extended university partnerships.
- To organize regular joint summer schools for Vice-Presidents, administrators and researchers in Higher Education, with possible EU funding, to improve the preparation of selection and exchange processes in student mobility.
- To develop joint degree and research projects addressing pressing issues such as climate change, the diversity of socioeconomic models, etc.
- To work together in reconciling the social and economic demands of the market with the cultural demands of education.
- To work together on reconciling the twin demands of academic freedom and social responsibility.
- To work together, on the basis of our rich and mutual cultural traditions, to balance the imperatives of the university's cultural mission with the social and technological demands of the market economy.