Global Private Higher Education:

Phenomenal Expansion and Implications for Quality Assurance
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Presentation at CHEA Annual Conference, Washington DC, January 28, 2010
Introduction to Talk

- Honor for me
- Private Higher Education (PHE) crucial to HE privatization (with partial privatization of public HE)
- PHE growth = one of HE’s important developments
- 31% of global enrollment! (> US )
- huge HE p-p distinctiveness, so size matters ($, governance & politics, functions & priorities—and QA)
- Talk has 2 Parts: Growth; Types of PHE
- Intersperse Implications for QA (italics)
- (Now to Part I: Growth)
Part I: Growth

US Emergence and Size (quick)

- Pioneer: earliest PHE (continuous)
- Private precedes public (vs rest of world)
- Historically high % fell from 50% to 22% 1950-75; now 26%)
- Stable ratio of PHE/total for decades
- Reflects continued large growth in PHE absolute enrolment—so US still #1 in absolute PHE size
- % remains very high compared to most developed countries
Often marginal or no PHE until latter half 20th
Large PHE growth now in developing world
Japan & Korea only majority PHE in developed
Rare no PHE: N. Korea, Cuba
W Europe & M East sole PHE peripheral but…
So HE was social field very low in private size (even vs. other ed) but now high
Until PHE large, QA not major issue
Largest PHE Regions

- Global data at PROPHE [http](http://www.prophe.org).
- **Asia** greatest size & variability (0 to 80%).
- E. Asia 39% PHE.
- Several PHE > 70% (Korea, Japan, Philippines).
- Others average 20-50% (e.g., India, Malaysia).
- Some small but # potential (e.g., China).
- **Latin America** 45-50%; vs. 3% Sp Am 1950.
- Large PHE majorities (e.g., Brazil, Chile).
Other Regions & Global

**Middle East**: last major region but most countries (gov’t role; across regimes; int’l)

**Africa** = next youngest, but growing; Anglo

**E. Europe** spurt post-communist

PHE global % will continue rising & (with privz of publics), HE more private than public??

threats to PHE size: demographics, political shifts, weak QA amid rising p-p competition; But private resilience (adult, DE, x-border)

Yet rapid growth (esp unplanned, with huge demand) often leads to serious QA issues
Part II: Types of PHE

PHE is not one thing

Subsectors/just p vs p

We look at 4 principal PHE types

Each with its own characteristics (though overlap)

(& you i.d. weight in your country)
First Type = Identity: Religious Rise

- Religion common start for non-profits
- Many PHE globally start with religion
- Early US colleges Protestant
- Catholic main globally
- As public HE became secular (LA)
Shifting Identities

Decline of religious core in society
Less relig weight in post-60s PHE surges
& decline in religiousness of prior religious institutions (e.g. US, LA)
But PHE re-creates self
New religious proliferation, including Islamic (Kenya; Thai; M. East)
(Though also public Islamic)
& Ethnic for minorities (E Europe),
with protective & promotional purposes
Not usually major QA problems (esp in older & larger religious)
Second Type = Semi-Elite: Characteristics

- Lack elite private research u outside US
- Tho academic peak = public, 2nd tier p&p
- Between elite & non-elite
- Students select; teach/basic research
- Entrepreneurial, competitive, professionally managed; jobs; fields
- Very private, even profit
- Some religious but most secular
- Seek academic legitimacy
- Int’l ties & models; often Western-oriented, market, pol conservative
- Fast growing; all regions?
Third Type: Non-elite Demand-Absorbers

Globally, D-A great bulk of PHE
(Sometimes D-A PHE is bulk of total HE)
And fastest expansion (developing countries)
D>S & gov’t can’t or won’t pay
Students choose some HE/none

Here big issues of QA: (rise often unplanned laissez-faire; easy entry & market; then “delayed regulation”)

Crucial to distinguish frauds-poor from “Serious D-A” (an accreditation role & avoid blanket treatment)
Fourth Type: For-Profits

4th type or fit to other 3 types, esp. d-a
Includes ‘phony’ nonprofits
Fp legal rise (US 8%, Bz 20%, S Af most)
& p-p partnerships (for-profit college, public u)
Int’l (Laureate, Apollo, x-border); illegitimate d-a or serious d-a or even semi-elite?
Most distinctive from public ($, gov, mission)
All QA issues of d-a; + legally permit fps?
Market for FP QA > for phony nonprofits?
(Or QA via int’l ties, PPP, branches, chains)
Conclusions

- Huge global growth of PHE
- Breadth: Regions & range of PHE types
- Though P-P blur grows over time, mostly more privateness in PHE; p-p matters
- But also big differences across PHE types
- On QA, it’s the Demand-Absorbers & For Profits that present the greatest challenges & debate
- PHE growth is a major reason for the rise of QA regulations & accreditation agencies