



Shaping the Future Citizens: Fostering Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding

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The Global Challenges/Crises

- On top of the physical limits, modern, industrial & globalized civilization is breeding pathological behaviour:
 - alienation from others and from nature
 - extreme competitiveness and greed
 - media dominated by commercial interests
 - cynicism politics
 - Massive disruption caused by terrorism
 - Loss of the instinct of human community
 - Inter-cultural values conflicts
- How much alienation and misery can humanity experience without eventually damaging our collective psyche and soul?



The Global Challenges/Crises

- Isolated unyielding difficulties/challenges will be merging into a tight and unyielding web of crisis:
 - Financial / economic
 - Ecological / environmental
 - Human relation
 - Identity / spiritual
- Reaching critical thresholds in the next 15 years → a whole-system crisis



The Global Challenges/Crises

- Human beings need to be collectively awake, to respond, choose and act promptly & wisely.
- A choice for a sustainable, satisfying & soulful society.
- What is the role & functions of university education in fostering inter-cultural dialogue and understanding?



Global Opportunities

Four contextual factors of transformation:

- A new perceptual paradigm, worldview or mindset
- Global media / ICT revolution
- Choice of living sustainably, satisfying & soulfully
- Restoring the instinct of human community
- Storing the power of trust, respect and love



Humanity's 3rd Revolution

- Failure or success will hinge upon our choice making on reaching this turning point in human evolution.
- 2 choices: either pull together & co-operate (a shared journey) or pull part & compete (a divided journey).
- Life of separation & division → connection & co-operation
- New partnerships among people/cultures



Humanity's 3rd Revolution

- Diverse networks of communication will be vital to the burst of inter-connection. These will extend from small group discussion to mass global dialogue via the Internet.
- Positive visions can be a catalyst for positive actions.
- The foundation is the individual, the family & the educational institutions.



Promoting Internationalization

In form:

- Internationalized student/faculty population
- Universities signing student/faculty exchange & co-operation agreements,
- International/overseas experiences
- joint programmes/activities

In substance:

- Adopting international teaching, curriculum, & contents
- Nurturing students with global languages, visions, attitude, mindset, and leadership



Promoting Internationalization

- Moving away from simply being aware of globalization to being actively engaged in the process of globalization
- Internationalization has multi-dimensions, except cross-cultural diversity in students/faculty, also a process and a mindset
- Need an overarching internationalization strategy



Switching Cultural Codes

- Different cultural expectations can place university students in uncomfortable situations.
- Students, by learning to 'switch' behaviors, can adapt more successfully to another culture's value system (not just etiquette), while staying true to their own.
- Courses developing students' cross-cultural fluency and preparing them to work, learn and live in a global economy.
- Using interactive learning activities like role-playing in interviews, business meetings and networking talks.



Switching Cultural Codes

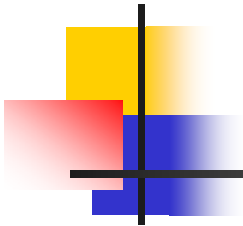
Conflicts of cultural values:

- Humility vs self-promotion
- Overly-positive vs deferential
- 'We' vs 'I'
- harmony vs insist on one's views or debating



Switching Cultural Codes

- Respect/appreciate alternative perspectives/values
- Management of emotion
- Striking a balance and developing a 'zone of appropriateness'



Questions are welcome

