Abstract for WUDSN

Title:

The Internationalization of Higher Education from Institutional and Individual Perspectives: the Case of Vietnam National University, Hanoi

Nguyen Thuy Anh PhD Candidate Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University GIARI Research Assistance

Over the last decades, globalization has become a central component in a number of academic discourses; its impact and influence being increasingly difficult to be ignored. Together with globalization, internationalization is a prominent process that is changing the scene of higher education. There has been a dramatic increase in studies on this topic. However, most of them focus on the developed countries and institutions without paying adequate attention to the internationalization strategies and practices in developing countries and their higher education institutions. Especially, little is known on how internationalization is implemented at leading universities in developing countries. Moreover, most of the studies on internationalization of higher education have concentrated only on the national and institutional levels from the stand points of institutional administrators. Therefore, other actors such as students and faculty members who are key drivers of, and directly influenced by this process have been underrepresented. The main purpose of this study is to investigate how internationalization of higher education is perceived and implemented at the institutional and individual levels in a specific context from the perspectives of the institutional key actors. It bases on the case study of Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU) as a national leading university in a developing country. To this end, the research firstly studies the practices and strategies of internationalization at VNU and its member institutions. Secondly, it examines the rationales, risks, obstacles and priorities attributed to internationalization in VNU by its key actors. Finally, it investigates how key actors' perceptions and practices are different from or similar to one another depending on their backgrounds. The research employs both quantitative and qualitative methodologies using a questionnaire survey and interview survey.

Nguyen Thuy Anh received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Economy from the College of Economics, Vietnam National University, Hanoi in 2003 and 2006 respectively. She is currently a faculty member of the same institution. She entered the doctoral program at GSAPS from September 2007. Her research interests are internationalization of tertiary education and Asian regional cooperation and integration in the field of higher education.