The Chinese Top Level Courses: Improving the quality of online courses in a new educational climate



Stian Håklev, PhD Student, OISE/University of Toronto Presentation to Canadian Institute for Distance Education Research April 7, 2011 - Creative Commons BY

Outline

what is the Chinese Top Level Courses Project, how does it work? how did it come to be, Chinese historical and higher-ed context some thoughts on the future of this project, and distance ed in China

My research approach

participating in an international conference in Dalian in 2008

participation in many international conferences, and communication with people in MIT OCW, Hewlett etc

analysis of Chinese academic papers, and government policies

two visits - summer 2009 and winter 2009-10

formal interviews with professors and academic staff at two universities

visits two a number of Chinese departments of education, interaction with graduate students and professors researching relevant topics

a number of presentations in China, including one for the Top Level National Courses resource center, testing my tentative findings

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Features of the Chinese OER project

selective and competitive

three levels (campus, province, national)

teaching teams

both content and method

financial support, requirement to make course available online for five years

three kinds: undergraduate, vocational, and online courses

Purposes

induce full professors to teach undergraduate courses

encourage professors to use more technology in their teaching

encourage formation of teaching teams, rethinking of course material and teaching methods

courses function as "models" for other professors

(course material used directly by students?)



Lanzhou City University case study

Have already been evaluating best courses internally since 2003. Developed system of indicators of course quality

Issue announcement, meeting of heads of departments

Teaching committee to identify basic and advanced courses they could apply for

Brought teachers together with computer department

School gave certain amount of funding

Clear philosophy:

Construction of CQOCW will improve quality of all courses

Not just about putting old courses online, but rethink content, teaching methodology, etc.

Internal committee to evaluate courses, then invited 20 external experts - used online material, also sat in on classes

In the end, 11 courses were selected for provincial CQOCW

(浅议精品课程在教学工作中的作用, 王雪引)

Honor 茶餐证书

"概率与统计"课程于2004 年度被评关 南京理工大学精品课程,特发此证,以资勤 励。

主要建设者:杨孝平陈萍刘力维韦志辉张正军 南京理工天学

二〇〇四年十二月



Quality Project (质量工程)

The OER project is a key part of the Quality Project, but it's not the only part:

The program targets 1000 universities with 10 million FT students, and will cost approximately USD \$365 million.

Targets:

Help 3000 professors and administrators to develop peer training exchanges Select 1000 national-level teaching teams Give awards to 500 top national teachers Develop

500 experimental teaching centers500 individual talent development andcreativity areas500 high quality bilingual classes



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historical background

Not quite like lightning from a blue sky

French and German model of the medieval university

course teams, course evaluations go way back, from the Soviet Union?

massification

985 - evaluate the best universities (peer-review)

and the key disciplines

evaluating best courses: natural next step

push for increase in use of computers in higher ed already from early 1990's

(evidence from interviews)

future trends

What does the future hold?

New cycle in 2011?

Education Plan 2010-2020: less focus on distance ed for degrees, more focus on life-long learning and <u>continuing ed.</u>

Encouraging reuse of the resources

Key numbers from China's 2010-2020 education plan

	2009	2015	2020
Pre-school			
kids in kindergarten	26M	35M	40M
three year pre-school participation rate	50.9%	62%	75%
one year pre-school participation rate	74%	90%	95%
nine year obligatory schooling			
students	157M	161M	165M
participation rate	90.8%	93%	95%
high school			
students	46M	45M	47M
participation rate	79.2%	87%	90%
vocational education			
secondary vocational education students	21M	22M	23M
higher vocational education students	13M	14M	15M
higher education			
students	30M	33M	35M
students on campus	28M	31M	33M
of which: graduate students	1.4M	1.7M	2M
participation rate	24.2%	36%	40%
continuing education			
employed persons in continuing education	166M	290M	350M
goals for developing human capital			
population having attained higher education	98M	145M	195M
average years of education for working population	9.5Y	10.5Y	11.2Y
of which: received higher education	9.9%	15%	20%
average years of education for new work force	12.4Y	13.3Y	13.5Y
of which: received high school degree	67%	87 %	90%



中文

Establishing Beijing and Shanghai Open Universities



Foreign open course craze

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