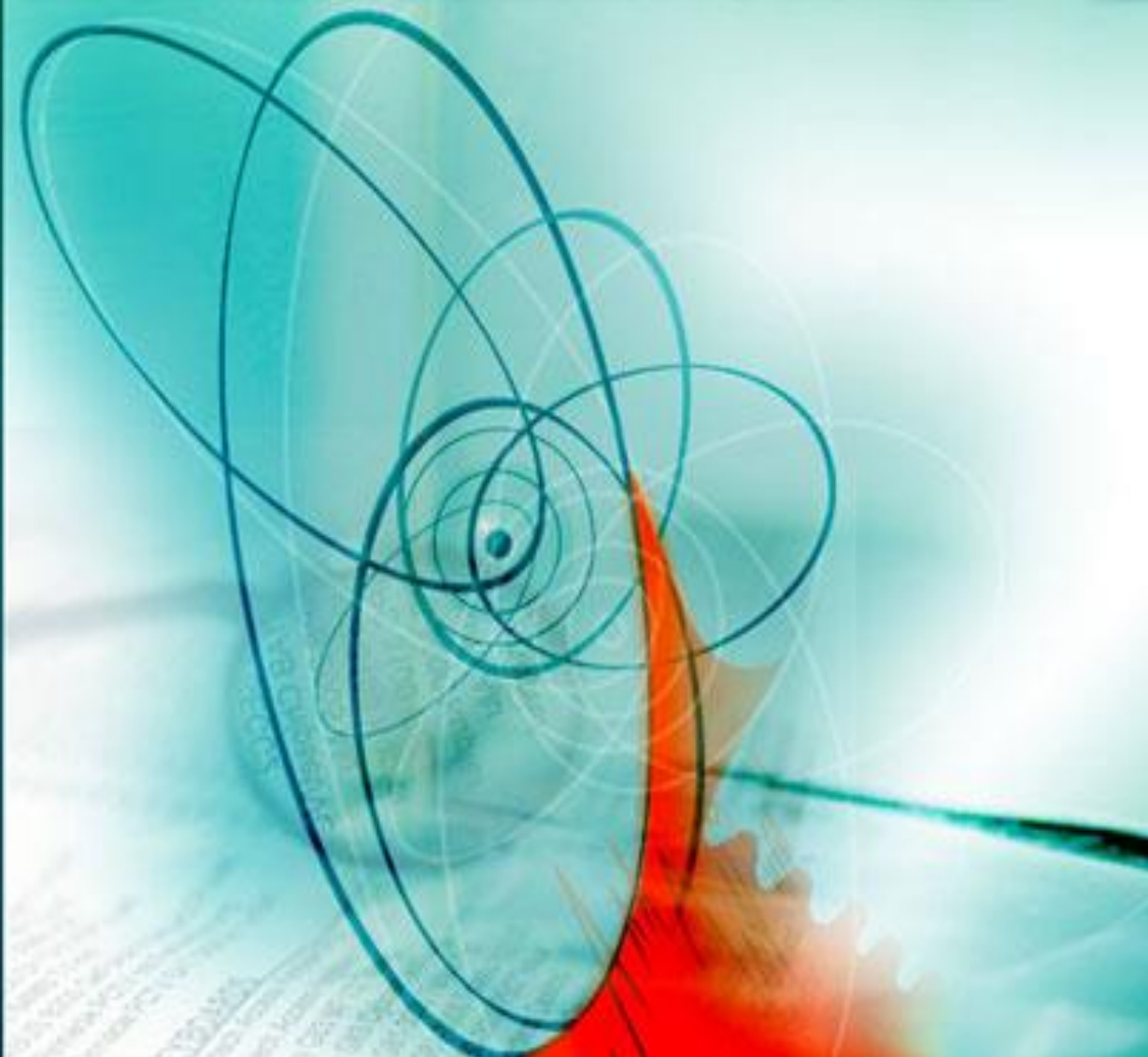




# UNESCO FORUM

ON HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE



# Higher Education, Research and Knowledge in the Asia Pacific Region

*A presentation by the*  
**UNESCO Scientific Committee for Asia and the Pacific**  
**The UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and  
Knowledge**

*Breakfast Panel, World Bank ABCDE Conference Tokyo, Japan,  
29-30 May 2006*

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# The UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge

An initiative resulting from  
the World Conference on Higher Education (1998)  
and the World Science Conference (1999)

Supported by the Swedish International  
Development Agency (SIDA)



United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

# The UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge

Provides a platform for researchers, policy makers and experts to engage critically with research issues and research findings

Aims to widen understanding of systems, structures, policies, trends, and motivations that help shape the development agenda

# The UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge

**Forum Secretariat:** situated at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris; facilitates coordination of the Forum activities in cooperation with the UNESCO regional and national offices, centers and institutes.

**Regional Scientific Committees:** research experts and policy makers, established for each of the five regions involved in the Forum initiative (i.e. Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean).

# The UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge

## Global Scientific Committee:

- carefully balances the research from the regions so as to make sure all regions are visible and represented
- identifies overriding, global issues and challenges in the areas of higher education, research and knowledge.
- Made up of the Chairs from the respective Regional Scientific Committees, thus facilitating the link and continuity of work and ideas between regional and global levels.

# The UNESCO Regional Forum Scientific Committee for Asia and the Pacific

## Approach

- Basically focuses on three points:
  - ❑ Knowledge Systems
  - ❑ Research Management
  - ❑ Higher Education and Research
- Examines the impact of social changes on higher education and research

# The UNESCO Regional Forum Scientific Committee for Asia and the Pacific

## Main themes

- Policy changes and best practices in different countries
- Higher education and research
- Knowledge systems
- Research management

## Publications

- Occasional and Commissioned Papers
- Book

Overview of the major themes and issues;  
country trends

The Thai Experience

The Philippine Experience

# Higher Education, Research and Knowledge in the Asia-Pacific Region

Features, Facts, Figures

Internationalization Issues

Problems and Potentials

Conclusions and Recommendations

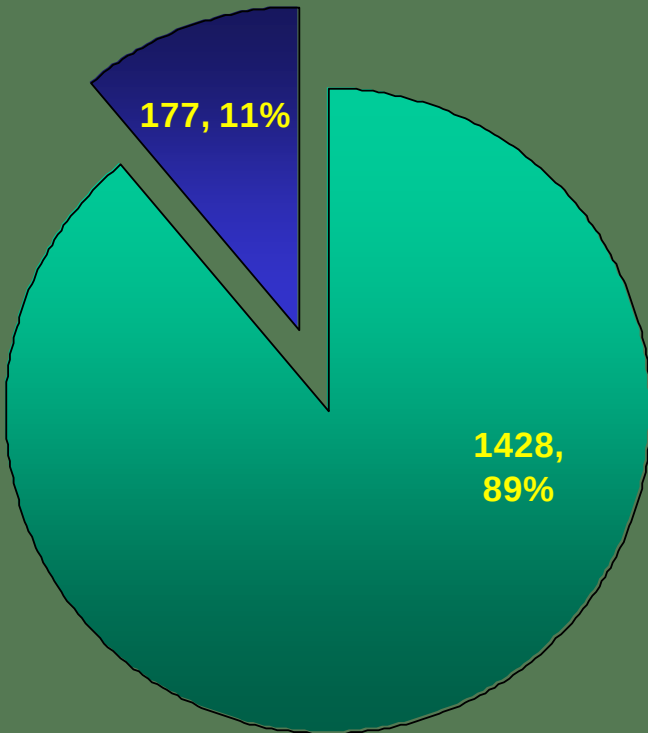
# Higher Education and Higher Education Research in the Philippines: Status, Issues, and Recommendations

# Higher Education Institutions & Students

## Features, Facts, Figures

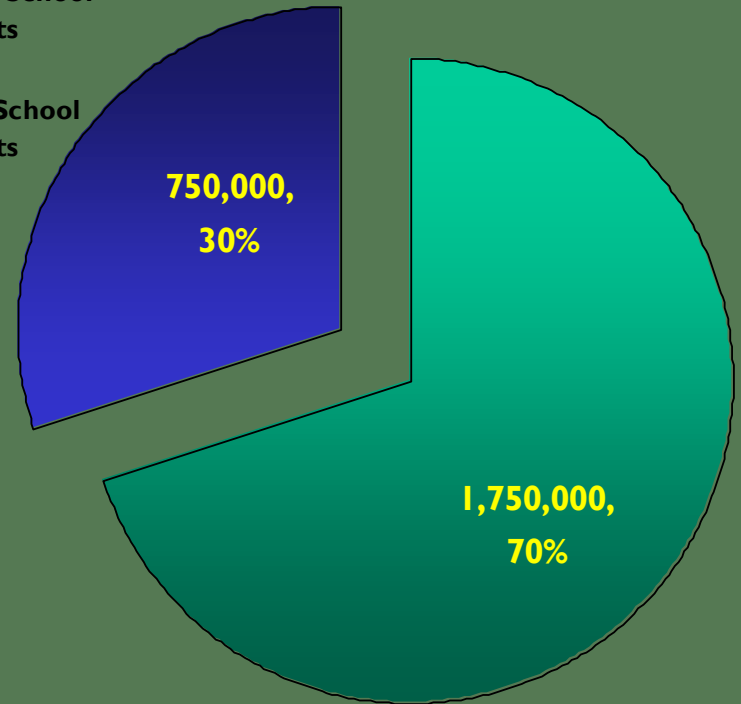
■ Private  
Schools

■ Public  
Schools



■ Private School  
Students

■ Public School  
Students



## Features, Facts, Figures

NUMBER OF GRADUATES

46,000/year

# State of Higher Education

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graph TD; A[State of Higher Education] --> B[ISSUES]; B --> C[Efficiency (internal and external)]; B --> D[Quality and Effectiveness]; B --> E[Equity in Access];
```

## ISSUES

Efficiency (internal and external)

Quality and Effectiveness

Equity in Access

# Efficiency

## Issues

- Lack of a rational system for establishing HEIs
- Poor efficiencies of size
- Poor student flows
- Lack of articulation between performance and budgets
- Low external efficiency of the HE system

# Quality and Effectiveness

## Issues

- Inputs (e.g., faculty credentials and instructional facilities)
- Processes (e.g., curricular offerings and accreditation system)
- Outputs (e.g., graduates' performance in licensure examinations)

# Equity in Access

## Issues

- Geographic distribution of institutions
- College admission requirements
- High cost of education

## Features, Facts, Figures

(a) Lack of broad political and legislative support for real reform;

(b) Unrestrained proliferation of state colleges and universities, local colleges and universities, and educational franchises;

(c) Scarce budgetary allocation;

(d) Imbalance in student distribution.



- Improving quality
- Liberalization of educational services
- Government's role
- Accreditation
- Quality assurance

## Issues, Challenges, and Concerns of Cross- Border Education

# Culture

1. How will schools maintain their core educational mission and preserve the traditions of the academe amid the sea of change brought about by globalization?
2. In creating a generation of *internationalists*, would we be neglecting the development of *nationalism* in the youth?

# HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH

- Research produced by HEIs: repetitive and stereotyped
- Lean heavily on the field of education and allied fields, with the sciences given low priority.
- Quality of research outputs: below world standards
- Lack of studies dealing with the development of unifying theories and models or new programmes and strategies.

# HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH

Reasons for the poor research performance of HEIs (CHED, 1997):

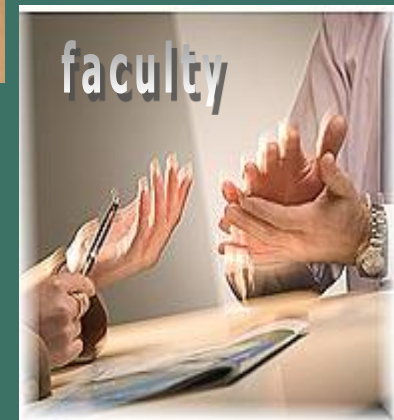
- inadequate public education, information and campaign on research results;
- low rate of public investments in research and development;
- inadequate allocation of funds;

# HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH

Reasons for the poor research performance of HEIs (CHED, 1997):

- weak coordination among higher education institutions;
- inadequate or lack of research facilities and library resources and other logistics to support research;
- the conduct of research by students merely to comply with school requirements

# Problems & Potentials



# Problems and Recommendations

## PROBLEMS

- Research capability
  - facilities
  - technical and logistical support
  - research training
  - research management policies

Lack of financial resources

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- External Funding
  - CHED
  - Private funding agencies

# Problems and Recommendations

## PROBLEMS

- Scope and quality of research
- Human capital: minimal involvement of faculty

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Explore major issues
- Seek innovations
- Human resource development

# Problems and Recommendations

## PROBLEMS

- Teaching-research nexus
- Research Outputs of graduate students
- Lack of adequate database

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clarify goals of HE
- Assess graduate education
- Develop database

- Benefits derived from participation in cross-border education may exacerbate existing *dualism* in HE:
  - Gains for a few universities with enough resources
  - Further sinking into mediocrity for most HEIs
- Possible opportunity to *rationalize* an over-expanded higher education sector
- Need for strong regulatory framework to ensure quality of suppliers for consumer protection. Policies should improve the competence of the incumbents.

# Conclusions and Recommendations



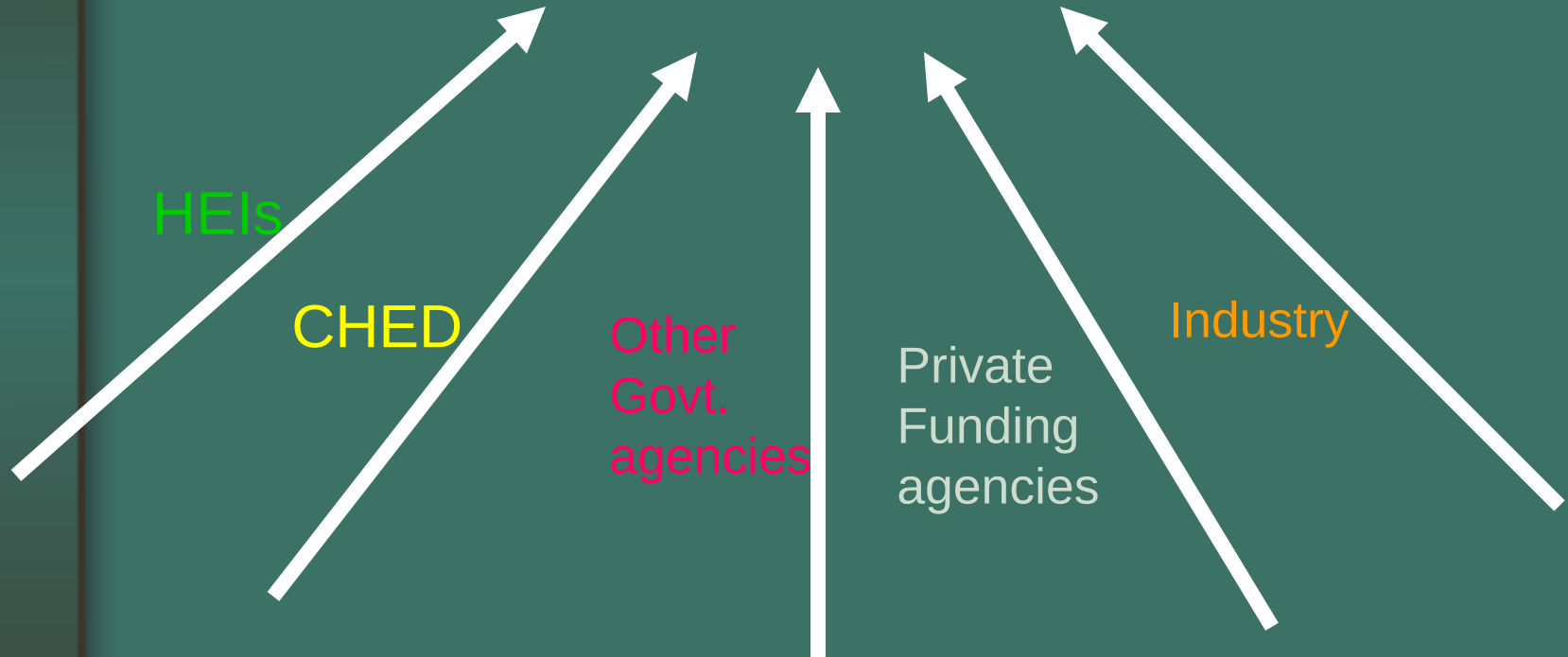
## Questions to answer:

- Should huge amounts be invested for quality improvement? Will doing so ensure access to quality education?
- Who will manage cross-border education?
  - GATS view: commercial undertaking
  - Educators' view: expansion of international linkages

What happens if commercial considerations prevail?
- What is the role of HEIs in the development of human resources?
  - Teaching skills for employment
  - Teaching skills for *lifelong learning*

# Conclusions and Recommendations

# Higher Education Research Goals



# Expanded Vision of the Core Mission of Higher Education

focus on

- equity of access
- increased participation of women
- the advancement of knowledge through research and dissemination
- and the need for increased emphasis on relevance
- closer ties with the world of work and
- anticipation of societal needs

(UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau of Education, 2002)