



“The absolute key is the hiring of a faculty committed to the mission and capable of delivery.”

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By Tran Ai Lien

In your opinion and by priority order, What are the main challenges that faces the construction of an university open to the XXI century in your locality and why?

- ✦ a. Deep commitment to educating good citizens for the benefit of the community not for the market demand.
- ✦ b. Profound belief in the quest of searching for real knowledge and not profit.

What values base that university?

- ✦ Search for truth.
- ✦ Profound respect for the values of diversity.
- ✦ Student creativity and engagement in community services.
- ✦ Belief in education for citizens, not for market demand.

In your experience, How it should be and operate this new university?

A university is not a bounded campus, but an environment for practical work. It must connect to the community’s life politically and socially, and it should require students to do community work.

The university must engage in active learning and democratic pedagogy. Students should be encouraged to do group

work and joint research or writing with professionals and faculty members so that they can learn through real world experience.

What are the specific steps that should be done in order to progress in the construction or strengthening of this type of university?

Hire faculty who deeply believe in students' independence. Faculty members should not be ideological about any fixed idea. They must have empathy and generosity in order to understand students' difficulties and recognize students' strengths and weaknesses. They must be culturally competent and bilingual so that they can deliver the beauty of traditional values, but also able to learn and remain up to date themselves with the international trends of mainstream knowledge.

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How do you think international experience could contribute to strengthen and enhance higher education in Vietnam?

In two levels: national planning and each particular university:

a. A practical partnership could be developed between a Vietnamese university and a university in a developed country, in which students from both institutions can perform joint projects, group work, and hands on experience together - through a student exchange programme or youth culture festival, for example.

✦ b. Practical pedagogy should be practiced genuinely. The learning environment and assignments should be fun and practical in order to engage students and attract talented faculty members.

c. Projects ought to aspire to an international standard, with a foreign language requirement.

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