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**Title**

From elitism to mass higher education in Taiwan : the problems faced

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**Abstract**

The transition from an elitist higher education system to mass education has created a number of concerns in this sector. Among these are fears for the quality of the provision; the rise in the unemployment rate of graduate university leavers; and the increased financial burden on the government. This paper examines the transition period over the last fifty years in Taiwan, in order to promote an understanding of the problems currently being faced, and to give an insight into the political and cultural background in which they have arisen. The USA and Japan are compared, as these countries are seen to be advanced in the provision of mass education. The paper has three main objectives. Firstly to determine whether or not Taiwan can be said to have developed a mass higher education system by international comparison. Secondly, to determine which factors have influenced government policy to achieve mass higher education, and thirdly to identify the problems which remains as barriers to the success of this system. Conclusions are drawn relating to the above objectives and it is noted that similar problems to those experiences by Western countries can be identified. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Wang, Ru-Jer, E-Mail: edujw14@cc.ntnu.edu.tw