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Abstract

The South-east Asian region has experienced waves of rapid change when countries moved towards greater liberalization in their socio-economic activities and closer interdependence regionally and globally. The changing landscape in higher education is chiefly characterized by massification, diversification, marketization, and internationalization. The increase in demands for higher education has manifested in three forms—larger number of student population, higher interest in cross-border knowledge and experience, the need for more variety of academic programs. In response, governments in all the countries have built more higher education institutions, allowing private sector to play a bigger role, as well as granting greater autonomy to public universities. Higher education restructuring in a number of South-east Asian countries have led to establishment of autonomous and

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other forms of higher education institutions. Although different governance models exist, these institutions are generally given stronger executive body and new governing board, along with increased autonomy and responsibilities on financial, human resource, and academic management. The move towards regional integration--the ASEAN Community—in 2015 adds another important dimension to the shift in the region's higher education landscape. The need of harmonize has led many governments to change their education systems. At the regional level, although several multilateral systems exist, each has its own limitations and is not universally adopted. Regional integration requires that harmonization and creation of a regional common space in higher education be made a central policy priority of ASEAN, with a more systematic approach and concrete collective actions built around common regional goals. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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