
Redesigning Thailand's Higher Education for the Challenge of a Knowledge-Based Economy

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ABSTRACT

In light of the pivotal role which knowledge plays in driving global competitiveness, Thailand faces a critical challenge in the 21st century: how to transition from its traditional economy to a knowledge-based economy (KBE), characterized by abundant knowledge and innovation. This paper examines the redesign of higher education (HE) as a key element in this transformation. HE institutions are well-positioned to promote the KBE through activities such as knowledge creation, application, and dissemination. The author argues that HE reform is essential for Thailand's transition to a KBE. The paper discusses the reasons for HE reform being a key requirement for Thailand's movement towards the KBE. It then outlines several key characteristics of the Thai HE system which require reform to meet these challenges. The paper concludes with strategic recommendations for Thailand's HE sector and policy recommendations necessary for the transformation process.

Keywords: Knowledge-Based Economy (KBE), Higher Education (HE), Redesign