

Lifelong Learning Strategies and Policies in China

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Overview

1. The development of lifelong learning strategies: context and goals
2. The implementation of lifelong learning strategies: progress
3. Issues and challenges

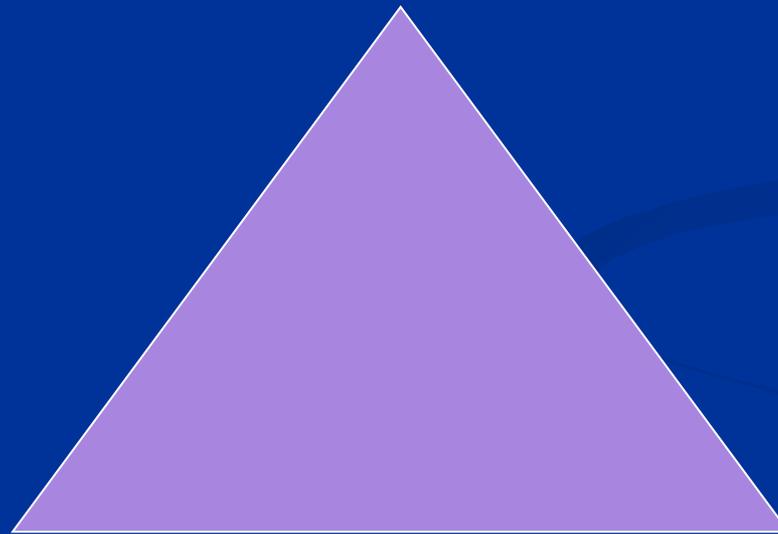
Build Well-being Society (小康社会)

-To achieve the following goals by 2020:

- Economy maintains a balanced, sustainable, and healthy development .
- Democracy continues expanding, government under the rule of law comes to shape, and human rights enjoy substantive respect and guarantee.
- The soft power of culture is significantly stressed.
- People's overall living standard goes up.
- Major progress is made on building a resources-preserving and environment-friendly society.

Three Strategic Goals for Chinese Education by 2020

- Turning China into a country rich in human resources



- Basically modernizing education

- Basically building a learning society

Five Specific Goals for Chinese Education by 2020

- 1. Reaching a higher level of education universalization.**
- 2. Achieving education equity for all.**
- 3. Providing higher quality education.**
- 4. Establishing a sophisticated lifelong education system.**
- 5. Increasing the vitality of the education system**

Achieve a Higher Level of Education Universalization

- Universalize pres-school education, continue to enhance the quality of compulsory education, and increase the gross enrollment rate to 90% for high school education and to 40% for higher education.
- Increase the average year of schooling of the workforce
 - For the new workforce: an increase from 12.4 to 13.5 years
 - For the primary age group of the workforce : an increase from 9.5 to 11.2 years
 - For the primary age group of the workforce : 20% receives higher education.

Promote Education Equity

- Create a basic public education service system, equalizes public education services, and narrow the gap between regions and between groups.

Provide Higher Quality Education

- Enhance the overall education quality.
- Significantly increase the degree of education modernization.
- Expand quality education resources.

Establish a Lifelong Learning System

- A better Integration between formal and non-formal education, general and vocational education, pre-service education and in-service training.
- Significantly increase workforce's participation in continuing education, and raise the participation rate to 50%.

Increase the Vitality of the Education administration and management System

- **Reform the education system to make it more open, vital, efficient and beneficial to the public.**

Speed Up the Development of Goals and Tasks of Continuing Education

- **Update the concept of lifelong learning, increase funding, put human resources development in the heart, significantly develop non-degree seeking continuing education, and steadily develop degree-seeking continuing education.**
- **Put stress on education for senior citizens. Advocate reading by all. Develop extensive community-based education. Accelerate the construction of learning organizations, and build a learning society characterized by education for all and lifelong learning by all.**

Improve Lifelong Learning Administration

- Establish a cross-division coordinating body for continuing education for the purpose of overall planning.
- Incorporate continuing education into the master plan in individual regions and industries.
- Speed up the pace of lifelong learning legislation.
- Strengthen the regulation over and evaluation of continuing education.
- Improve the incentives scheme for continuing education
 - Incorporating continuing education into personnel administration such as annual review, hiring, promotion, and professional certification, etc.

Expand Continuing Education Resources

- **Develop and regulate education and training services.**
- **Encourage higher education institutions, research institutes and enterprises to provide continuing education.**
- **Develop education resources in rural and urban communities.**
- **Develop and deliver distance education, and create distance education public service platforms using ICTS such as satellite, television and internet.**

Build Lifelong Learning “Overpass”

- Improve horizontal and vertical communication of education of all types and at all levels, thereby providing individuals multiple choices and meeting their various demand for personal learning and development.
- Improve the “easy entry, strict exit” system, run open universities efficiently, and reform the higher education self-study examination system.
- Establish credit accumulation and transfer system for continuing education, so as to promote mutual recognition and communication of various learning outcomes.

System and Mechanism is Key to Lifelong Education

- Continuing education systems and mechanisms include:
 - Administration, legal system, incentives, financing, development and sharing of learning resources, and other related aspects.
 - Example: Lifelong learning overpass, lifelong learning outcome accreditation, lifelong learning credit bank, etc.

Progress in Implementing Lifelong Strategies

— Selected Pilot Projects of the National Education System Reform Office

- Exploring different patterns for running open universities (National/Beijing/Shanghai/Jiangsu/Yunnan/Guangdong Open University)
- Building the learning outcomes accreditation system and the “academic credit bank” system
- Improving the system of higher education self-study examination and the system of adult higher education admissions, exploring the building of “overpasses” for talent development
- Building learning cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Jinan in Shandong Province, and Guangzhou in Guangdong Province)

Increase Public Expenditure on Education

—Policy Goals

- To increase the public funding on education into 4% of GDP by 2012.

—Policy Initiatives

- Increasing the percentage of government budget on education at both central and provincial levels.
- Expanding the channels of public funding on education through tax and fees.

Growth of National Expenditure on Education

| Year | Overall Expenditure on Education | | Public Expenditure on Education | | |
|------|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| | No.(Unit: Billion Yuan) | % of GDP | No.(Unit: Billion Yuan) | % of GDP | % of Overall Expenditure on Education |
| 2005 | 841.9 | 4.57 | 516.1 | 2.80 | 61.3 |
| 2006 | 981.5 | 4.61 | 634.8 | 2.98 | 64.7 |
| 2007 | 1214.8 | 4.57 | 828.0 | 3.12 | 68.2 |
| 2008 | 1450.1 | 4.62 | 1045.0 | 3.33 | 72.1 |
| 2009 | 1650.3 | 4.84 | 1223.1 | 3.59 | 74.1 |
| 2010 | 1956.2 | 4.88 | 1467.0 | 3.65 | 75.0 |
| 2011 | 2386.9 | 5.05 | 1858.7 | 3.93 | 77.9 |

Source: Annual reports from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, and national Statistics Bureau.

Explore the Establishment of the Academic Credit Bank System

- Shanghai worked out the implementation plan for an Academic Credit Bank.
- Shanghai Open University identified: (1) the criteria for credit recognition in six selected programs with other education institutions; (2) the criteria for credit accreditation and recognition between adult higher education courses and more than 200 vocational certificates; (3) a catalog of 420 vocational certificates and a catalog of 927 courses of cultural and recreational education.
- Launched the database for academic credits, created the digitalized service platform for the academic credit bank, accepted the residents' application for registration, and established learning portfolios for individual learners.

Advancing the Building of Learning Cities

- Selected the national exemplary learning communities: a total of 68 learning cities/districts/counties .
- Launched the study on the indicators of and pathways to learning society.
- Identified a number of big cities as the pilot learning cities. Take Shanghai as an example:
 - Pushing the launch of lifelong learning legislation at the provincial level: In February 2011, Shanghai issued the Lifelong Learning Promotion Act.
 - Establishing the cross-division leading and coordinating agency: The Shanghai Commission for Building Learning Society and Promoting Lifelong Learning.
 - Formulating the strategic plan: The Three-year Plan of Action for Building Learning Society and Promoting Lifelong Learning in Shanghai.

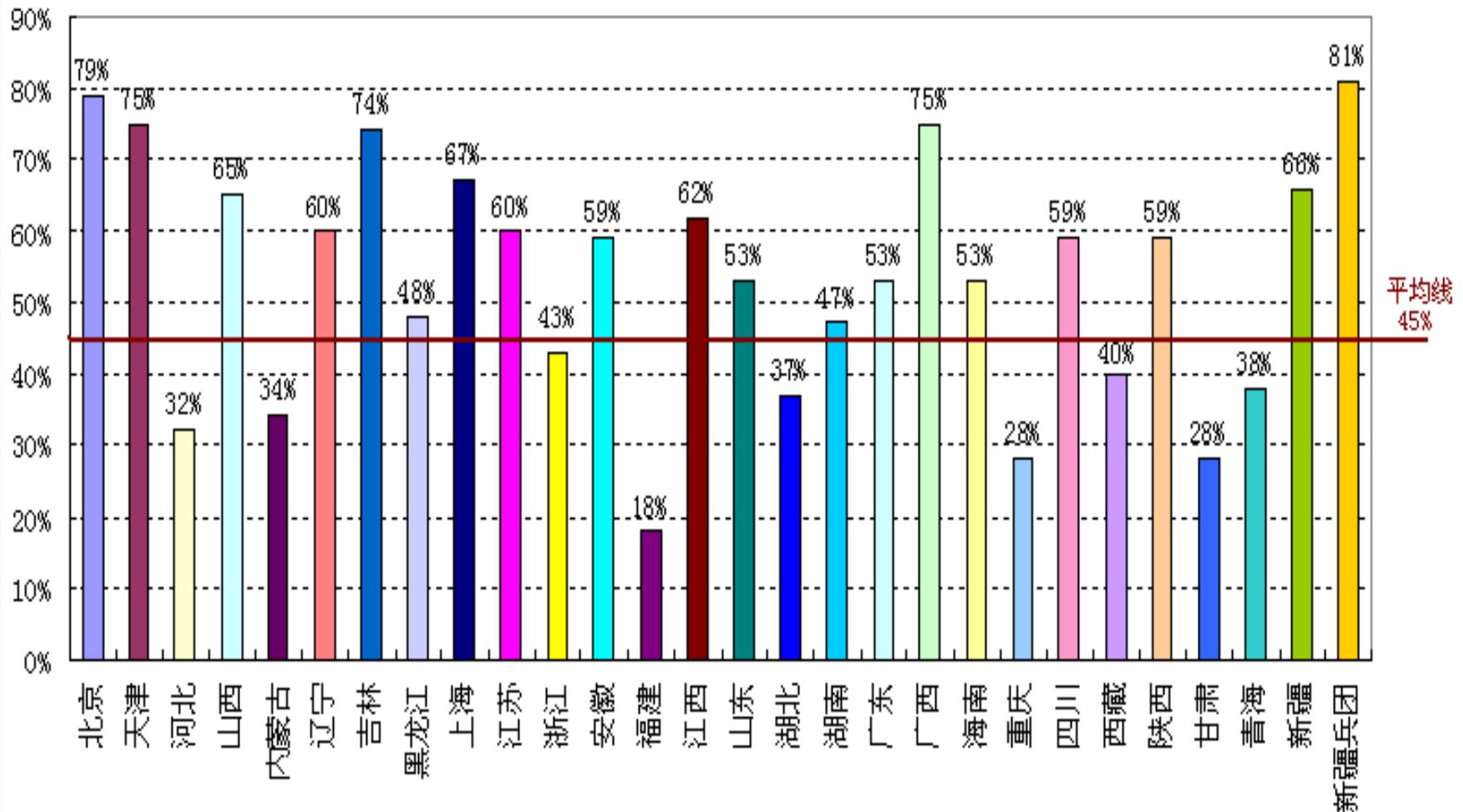
Promote Lifelong Learning Activities in Higher Education Institutions

- Explore the patterns and mechanism of continuing education in higher education institutions.
- Build lifelong learning public service platform in higher education institutions
 - Explore the pattern and mechanism of distance lifelong learning service platform, learning resources sharing, and other mechanism.
- Explore credit recognition in universities' continuing education.
- Make universities' digital learning resources available to the public
 - Over 100 higher education institutions have joined the Alliance of Open Digital Learning Resources in Continuing Education
 - Since 2011, Chinese universities have provide video-based open courses to the public for free.
 - The Ministry plans to develop 1,000 quality video-based open courses in the next five years and to share 5,000 courses.

Lifelong Learning System and Mechanism to Be Strengthened

- Wide gap between regions, between rural and urban areas, and between groups.
- A slow progress in lifelong learning legislation.
- Lack of a cross-division leading and coordinating body to coordinate lifelong learning activities among different governmental branches and between government and stakeholders.
- The current financing system cannot meet the demand of lifelong learning by all
 - government, employers, individual, and donations.
- Lack of a supporting system for professionalization in lifelong learning.
- Relevant initiatives lag behind, such as lifelong education overpass, incentives, learning outcome accreditation, and the monitoring and evaluating mechanism for the construction of learning society.

Employees' Participation Rate in Training Varies by Regions



Source: ?

Factors that Affect Participation in Learning and Training

- **Obstacles for employers**
 - Scheduling Problem (35%)
 - High cost of training (31%)
 - High turnover rate of employees (18%)
- **Obstacles for employees**
 - Time constraints: tight schedule (53.6%)
 - Financial constraints: training costs too much (38.4%)

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Thank You!