

3

Higher Education

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This chapter focuses on the structure and development of higher education in Hong Kong and Macao, paying particular attention to the nature and impact of quantitative and qualitative growth since the 1980s. The chapter begins by analysing higher education in the two territories in the context of broader literatures on comparative higher education and the economics of education. Teichler (1996) pointed out that comparison is a basic methodological approach in the social sciences, and argued that international comparison is indispensable for analysis of macro-societal phenomena in higher education. He identified four “spheres of knowledge” in higher education. This chapter focuses mainly on two of these spheres, namely aspects of organisation and governance of higher education, and quantitative-structural aspects of higher education.

Comparative analysis of the policies and development of higher education in Hong Kong and Macao exposes major issues concerning size, shape, planning, and financing. These matters can be classified under Teichler’s first sphere, namely organisation and governance. Concerns about shortfalls or surpluses of qualified applicants for higher education belong to the second sphere, namely quantitative-structural aspects. These matters are frequently discussed by policy-makers, administrators, researchers and students in both Hong Kong and Macao. Identification of patterns and trends helps to chart possible courses for future development in the two territories.

Higher Education Institutions and Enrolments

Hong Kong has 11 degree-awarding higher education institutions, eight of which are funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC). The Academy for Performing Arts is also publicly funded, but not through the UGC. The Open University of Hong Kong and Shue Yan College are self-financing (Table 3.1). Alongside these institutions are various post-secondary bodies offering diplomas and associate degrees. They include Chu Hai College, the Institute of Vocational Education which has nine campuses, and a group of community colleges. In 2002, the UGC-funded institutions provided places for about 18 per cent of the 17-20 age group, on top of which a further 24 per cent of people in the same age group had access to higher education in other forms, including sub-degree programmes and vocational training, or went to universities overseas (Hong Kong, Information Services Department 2003, p.149).

Table 3.1: Higher Education Institutions, Hong Kong

Institution	Funding Status	Year of Foundation
University of Hong Kong	Public (UGC)	1911
Hong Kong Baptist University (formerly Hong Kong Baptist College)	Public (UGC)	1956
Chinese University of Hong Kong	Public (UGC)	1963
Lingnan University (formerly Lingnan College)	Public (UGC)	1967
Shue Yan College	Self-financed	1971
Hong Kong Polytechnic University (formerly Hong Kong Polytechnic)	Public (UGC)	1972
City University of Hong Kong (formerly City Polytechnic of Hong Kong)	Public (UGC)	1984
Academy for Performing Arts	Public (non-UGC)	1984
Hong Kong University of Science & Technology	Public (UGC)	1988
Open University of Hong Kong	Self-financed	1989
Hong Kong Institute of Education (created by merging four Colleges of Education and the Institute of Language in Education)	Public (UGC)	1994

Macao has a much smaller population and thus a smaller higher education sector. However, in proportional terms the number of institutions is quite large. In 2004, Macao had 12 institutions, of which four were public and eight were private (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Higher Education Institutions, Macao

Institution	Funding Status	Year of Foundation
University of Macau (formerly University of East Asia)	Public	1981
Macau Security Force Superior School	Public	1988
Macau Polytechnic Institute	Public	1991
United Nations University, Institute for Software Technology	Private	1991
Asia International Open University	Private	1992
Institute of European Studies of Macau	Private	1995
Institute for Tourism Studies	Public	1995
Inter-University Institute of Macau	Private	1996
Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau	Private	1999
Macau Institute of Management	Private	2000
Macao University of Science & Technology	Private	2000
Macao Millennium College	Private	2002

In both names and orientations, the institutions on each side of the Pearl River Delta mirrored each other. Thus the oldest institution in Hong Kong, the University of Hong Kong, had as its counterpart the University of Macau. Hong Kong’s two Polytechnic Universities were matched by the Macau Polytechnic Institute; the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology was matched by the Macao University of Science & Technology; and the Open University of Hong Kong was matched by the Asia International Open University. In all these pairs the Hong Kong institutions were the older ones, and Hong Kong had been a significant model for Macao. However, other elements were distinctive to each territory. Hong Kong did not have a counterpart to the Institute of Software Technology of the United Nations University. Hong Kong did have