

## **Korea's Higher Education Policies and Visions for Korea-Australia Cooperation in Education**

### **□ Overview: Growing Demand for a Stronger Role of Universities**

- Development of globalization and a competition-based market economy
- Knowledge-based services and S&T emerging as new economic driving forces
  - New focus on knowledge-based industries such as finance, R&D, marketing, design and distribution
  - Birth of new technologies and growth-generating industries; fierce competition between countries and companies to establish technology standards
- National competitiveness increasingly dependant on high quality human resources development; more need to secure university competitiveness

### **□ Achievements and Issues of Korean Higher Education**

- Higher education development in Korea
    - Compulsory primary education in the 1950s
    - Secondary education expanded in the 1960s~70s
    - Focus on higher education after the 1980s
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| ※ Higher education enrolment rate  |
| - 26.9%(1970) → gradual increase till 1980 → rapid increase from the 1980s → 83.8%(2008) |
| ※ Number of higher education institutions  |
| - 131(1965) → 342(2005) (2.6-fold increase)  |
| ※ Number of students enrolled in higher education institutions                           |
| - 135,000(1965) → 2,765,000(2005) (20-fold increase)                                     |
- Two keys to effective quantitative expansion
    1. Government-led policies: provided educated workforce in time with each phase of economic development
    2. Public fervor for education: high demand of parents to educate their children

- Focusing on the quality side of universities
  - Three Korean universities within the top 200 in *The Times* university ranking survey(2009)
  - Improvement needed in terms of education/research environment and manpower mobility

## □ **New Challenges: Quality and International Competitiveness**

- Policy directions for Korean higher education
  - Qualitative improvement, building on quantitative expansion
  - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology launched: organic linkage between higher education and R&D
  - Major deregulation in university administration
  - Increased operational transparency and competition
- Key policies for university competitiveness
  - Strengthen university autonomy and accountability
  - Enhance university capability for qualified HRD
  - Nurture world-class research capacity
  - Push forth with higher education restructuring

## □ **Visions for Korea-Australia Partnership in Higher Education**

- Australia's excellent infrastructure for cooperation, such as the language, geographical advantage and internationalized universities, corresponds well to Korea's policy directions for educational cooperation.
- Future of Korea-Australia ties in education
  - Framework provided by Education Cooperation MoU signed in 2008
    - ※ Regular Joint Committee meetings, student/academic exchange, university cooperation, etc.
  - Student/research exchange, joint research programs
    - ※ e-Learning cooperation, etc.
  - Balancing student exchange
    - ※ No. of exchange students in higher education and language programs(2008):  
16,774 Korean students in Australia, 91 Australian students in Korea
    - ※ ANU, UNSW offering Korean studies programs