

INTERNATIONALIZING THE CURRICULUM: STRATEGIES AND TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM

Authors:

Mary Beth Marklein and Nguyen Lan Huong

ABSTRACT

As part of Vietnam's Strategy for Education Development 2011-2020, the Ministry of Education and Training promotes the development of curricula for advanced programs that meet world-class standards for universities. Moreover, under the Law of Higher Education (2012), universities in Vietnam are encouraged to internationalize their programs, which have led to a profusion of joint projects and partnerships with foreign institutions. This presentation aims to provide practical information for all SEAMEO countries that are interested in internationalizing their curriculum by cultivating relationships with partners in the U.S. and Europe.

First, it explores the current internationalization strategy of Vietnam, including an analysis of existing partnerships involving U.S. universities and other foreign universities and student perceptions about the value of such programs. Then, using a case study, it examines why U.S. institutions have sought to internationalize their curricula, how partnerships with universities in developing countries help them address global awareness in the curriculum, and what faculty and administrators in SEAMEO countries might realistically expect to gain from such international initiatives. Finally, the speakers seek to facilitate a discussion on how SEAMEO members can develop and strengthen internationalization curricula by working with U.S. and European partners.