

# **Prospects for Development of Chinese Tertiary Education in 2020**

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China has clarified its goal of developing an all-round well-off society in 2020. The well-off society, benefiting over billions of population, will reduce differentiations, promote equality and emphasize coordination in economic growth, social progress, cultural advancement and natural development. The requirement of establishing an innovative nation and harmonious society has also been put forward by the Chinese government. It is evident that China has accelerated the rate of urbanization growth with an annual increase of 1%.

In 2020, China's GDP will be doubled compared with that in 2000, amounting to RMB 35,000 billion, with per capita GDP reaching \$3,000, and with the expected holistic economic growth rate achieving medium income nation level. The population will reach 1.47 billion, with 86.79 million school age population receiving tertiary education. In addition, the urbanization rate will amount to 60%. Accordingly, the above mentioned will contribute to the increase in the supply and demand of tertiary education.

Therefore, my outlook for the development of tertiary education in 2020 is as follows:

**The scale of tertiary education will be further expanded.** The tertiary education population will be expanded from 230 million at present to 400 million, a changing of gross attendance rate from 22% to 40%. In that case, the average year for labor force population receiving education above age 15 will increase from 8.3 years to 11 years, basically satisfying the requirement of social and economic development.

**The quality of tertiary education will be improved based on stability.** The quality of tertiary education will be enhanced through Quality Project, 985 Project,

211 Project and development of model tertiary vocational institutions. A few universities and disciplines will be ranked as world-class.

**The tertiary education investment will be improved noticeably.** The public financial system will be strengthened, investment towards education accounting for 4% to 5% of GDP, with over 1% of GDP in tertiary education. A multi-channel funding system will be formulated.

**The tertiary education will meet the requirement of lifelong learning.** Diversified forms of post secondary education will be improved, establishing a grades conversion and accreditation system for recognition of various kinds of learning experiences, and bridging a crossover among regular higher education, vocational education and training courses.

**China will further facilitate its internationalization level in tertiary education.** Being more open and autonomous, higher education institutions will conduct more exchanges with the world community in international education and scientific research, and hence relying more on the exchanges among the world community.