

# Exploration on Development Modes of Chinese Open Universities Based on Online Resource Sharing Cooperation

Linli Chen

School of Cultural Tourism and International Exchange, Yunnan Open University, Kunming, China

cllzyq@sina.com

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**Abstract:** It is a tendency of universities to have internationalization development. Open universities of China regard it as one of the core concepts of their development. The exploration on modes of internationalization development for Chinese universities is not an easy task. As a core concept of development of Chinese open universities, internationalization plays a significant role in realizing their development goal so as to increase their international influence, competitiveness and attractiveness. Universities at all levels in China including open universities are facing the same situation of internationalization development. It is worth discussing on exploring of more suitable and better modes of internationalization development for open universities to better develop them into world first-class open universities with Chinese characteristics. In this paper, modes of internationalization development based on online resource sharing cooperation will be introduced, hoping to cast some enlightenment on further research in this field.

## 1. Introduction

“Internationalization” is one of the features and advantages of future open universities. It has already been promoted as one of the core concepts of development in open universities of China and has been regarded as an important strategy to realize the construction goal of world first-class open university with Chinese characteristics. To develop open universities and increase their international influence, competitiveness and attractiveness, it is necessary to draw lessons from international experience, actively expand international space, and carry out pertinent, multi-tiered, wide-ranging education exchanges and cooperation with relevant international organizations, universities and institutions. It is known that, to promote the internationalized development of universities, open to the outside world actively should be widely accepted by Chinese universities including open universities.

## 2. Significance of Developing Internationalization Cooperation in Education

### 2.1 Promote International Influence for Universities

Open University of China, based on distance education in Radio and TV university system for adult continuing education, integrating a wide variety of higher education resources by using modern internet information technology, is the main body of open education built in economic globalization and internationalization tide of education. The connotation of “open” hereby, has a more profound meaning. “Open” means open to the whole society at home and abroad. Multi-tiered and wide-ranging cooperation between universities and open education institutions at home and abroad is needed to improve the development level and influence of internationalization in the process of establishment and development of open universities. International cooperation is needed as well to form the absorption, reference and fusion of advanced culture worldwide, and to create a vibrant new type of open, flexible and unbounded culture on campus, promoting universities’ international influence.

### 2.2 Provide More Options for Education Development

The first task Chinese open universities facing is to reform and innovate. Actively exploring effective ways to innovate and reform management mode <sup>[1]</sup>, teaching mode, service mode, etc., offers important guarantees of sustainable development of online shared distance adult continuing education based on modern internet information technology for open universities <sup>[2]</sup>. Seeking the establishment of a system for education cooperation and online resource sharing <sup>[3]</sup> based on talents cultivation program among open universities and other advanced education institutions overseas through international cooperation, can not only absorb and draw lessons from advanced worldwide open education concept and means through “inputting”, introduce high quality education resources for more development options for Chinese universities, constantly improving cultivation quality, but also open to the international education market based on its own special programs and dominant resources, expand the development space for Chinese distance education through “outputting”.

### **3. Exploration of Internationalization Education Cooperation Development Modes**

#### **3.1 Explore Suitable International Cooperation Mode in Education**

Various modes promoting international cooperation for open universities have been formed currently, which mainly includes inputting mode, outputting mode, certification mode and resource sharing mode.

Inputting mode, a cooperation way of open universities chosen under the condition of their partly developed ability, mainly reflects in the introducing of teaching material, talent, concept and practice. Outputting mode is a cooperation mode often adopted by open universities in developed countries such as Britain, Germany. Their resources, intelligence, talent, etc. are mainly introduced to developing countries to expand their international distance education market. Certification mode is a cooperation mode for mutual recognition between open universities and ordinary universities, and various universities at home and abroad as well. It has become a development trend of education internationalization. Resource sharing mode is to achieve sharing of high quality education resources by setting up online open education resources platform for open and distance education universities in Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands, Canada and other countries.

The above modes have developed to different degrees in different countries and regions, which have positive significance to international cooperation for Chinese universities. We believe that current main task for open universities in China, based on absorbing advanced overseas concepts and experience, is constantly improving and developing, exploring international cooperation mode fits for the development of open and distance education in China, namely, continually explore import or inputting mode promoting sustainable development of open universities, fully use high quality education resources from international open universities; explore outputting mode to meet the needs for different regions by using advantages of China’s online open and distance education in some specific area such as agriculture and Chinese as a foreign language; develop cooperation mode conducive to college certification by establishing learning result certification and academic credit transfer system among countries with close relationships; and further establish resources sharing cooperation mode by developing a convenient and easy using resource sharing platform, etc.

#### **3.2 Expand Modes of International Education Cooperation Via Online Distance Education Platform**

To develop internationalization, it is necessary for China’s open universities to use modern information technology and information network platform for reference to innovate international education cooperation modes, and continually improve school-running capabilities and international influences through technical support.

##### **3.2.1 Establish Online Distance Education Platform**

Establishing online platform for overseas students to have open classes, to support offering online courses for teachers at partner schools, encourage online course selection, study and

discussion in online open classes for students at home and abroad, to achieve accepting internationalization education together for students at virtual classrooms from different countries. At the same time, to facilitate and administer online courses <sup>[4]</sup>, teaching and management cooperation, such as cooperation for online recruitment for students, online registration, online tutoring and assessment, should be available for online open classes on online platform, making full use of modern information technology, providing instant and effective distance education support service, gradually form a multilateral college cooperation mode on online teaching management and certification. The advantages of offering online open classes platform is to promote the international development of virtual open universities, which is shown in two aspects: one is to realize online overseas study without leaving their countries, which will promote internationalization of students, curriculum content and online teaching platform, and the other is, online class will help reduce the cost of education, improve the efficiency of teaching and management.

### **3.2.2 Resources Constructing and Sharing System**

Based on the development of information technology, Open Education Resources (OER) movement, which aims at resource sharing, is booming all over the world in recent years, and gradually becomes a worldwide trend. Universities and education institutions in many countries are making full use of information technology and internet to develop and construct internet online platform, integrate high quality teaching resources and online courses, continuously make new learning resources emerge on various media terminal, and provide education services for more people worldwide.

It is a tendency to participate in global online education platform construction and application of open education resources <sup>[5]</sup>, explore various cooperation forms of resources constructing and sharing system, promote exchange and cooperation between Chinese open universities and overseas universities and education institutions, so as to increase their influence in global resources construction to expand education cooperation modes.

It is worth mentioning that China's open universities have achieved remarkably in participating in the construction and application of OER, they not only introduce lots of overseas high quality education resources, but also output many Chinese-featured curriculum resources, and therein, courses construction for distance international Chinese education is of great importance. To develop and design high quality distance international Chinese education courses, can solve both the shortage problem of teachers in teaching Chinese as a foreign language and the needs of learning Chinese for learners abroad.

Take Yunnan Open University for instance. Online Chinese teaching, as one of the major programs at Yunnan Open University, has successfully started its internationalization cooperation with relevant universities in Southeast Asia and South Asia based on its resources constructing and sharing system in recent years. For further education cooperation with these cooperative universities, it is essential to establish suitable and corresponding management standard and certification standard system, innovate management and service mode to make high quality course resources on Chinese as a foreign language of China's open universities get a wider recognition and utilization overseas, and better serve economic and cultural cooperation among China, South Asia, Southeast Asian and other countries.

## **4. Conclusion**

It is necessary for open universities to pay more attention to the effectiveness of education internationalization under China's top-down historical conditions of promoting the internationalization development of universities, and actively seek individual development route of international education cooperation which fits for different situations according to their regional characteristics and location advantages. It is of great significance to give full play to the advantages of online distance education, innovate technology and modes, actively start multi-level, wide-ranging international cooperation, and let international school-running modes and characteristics with positive influences be formed on this basis.

This paper is only a preliminary research on the modes of internationalization development for open universities in China from the perspective of online resource sharing construction and cooperation. It is believed that further discussion and more explorations in this field from different perspectives are necessary and worthy.

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