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Problems and Perspectives of Continuing Education in Chinese Academic Universities

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Background

- Chinese higher education is on the process of popularization. It is estimated that the rate of enrollment will be 25% in 2010.
- With the rapid social and economic development in China , various fields require their employees to be with more professional qualities.
- The development of network makes the continuing education for the people in service possible.





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- In the past, the academic universities in China focused on the profound scientific research and academic education instead of professional education related to the social development.
- Nowadays, the universities think highly of the function of social service



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- In China, it is the developmental requirement that those who have finished formal higher education continually get education in their working careers.
- The government and the mass hope that universities take the responsibility to carry out continuing education at the post graduate level, so as to sever the society much better.





Problems

- For the academic universities, the existing problems in continuing education are mainly as the following:
 - The anxiety that continuing education will impact the academic feature of university;
 - The neglect of the social service functions causes the neglect of continuing education;
 - The shortages of trainers of continuing education;
 - The lack of teaching abilities for continuing education for the university professors;
 - Unawareness of the relationship between scientific research and the educational training.



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- **External problems:**
 - The development of network impacts the traditional forms of knowledge imparting
 - Because of the market feature, universities are short of competitiveness in competing with the social training institutions.





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- Facing such realities, most of the top-universities have the common sense that the continuing education should be professionalization, including the professionalization of the teachers and trainers.





Perspectives

- The academic universities in China have realized that the modern higher education should be inclusive of under graduate education, post graduate education and continuing education.
- In the past, Chinese universities mainly implement full time degree education for academic aims.





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- This year, the Ministry of Education in China decides to decrease the number of enrollment for academic degree education, instead, the number of enrollment for professional degree education (mainly in-service) will be greatly increased, such as Master of Education, Juris Master, MBA, etc. .
- In 2007, the Ministry of Education issued an important documentation, claiming that the academic universities carry out continuing education based on their disciplinary superiority.



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- Thus, most of the academic universities implement liberal education in the schools of humanities and science for the students before they choose different professional schools to continue their study.
- The professional schools provide the following education:
 - Academic degree education(Master and Ph.D.)
 - Professional degree education, mainly for the people in service
 - Professional continuing education for the people in service





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- At present, Chinese universities pay close attention to the professionalization for continuing education, inclusive of:
 - The professionalization for the system
 - The professionalization for the trainers
 - The professionalization of the training contents





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- The professionalization for the system
 - Setting up and improving the system of continuing education according to the professional standard:
 - Laws and regulations, responsibilities and obligations
 - University's policies, aims, institutions and



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- **The professionalization of the trainers**
 - **The trainers should be the professional people with specialized knowledge, skills.**
 - Insights of the national strategies, the trend of the economic development;
 - Abilities of obtaining and exploring the training resources;
 - Abilities of contacting with other sections in the society;
 - Abilities of planning, organizing and controlling the training activities so as to ensure the realization of training aims;





- **The professionalization of the training contents**
 - Continuing education is the extending and supplement of formal education;
 - It is the process of the updating of new knowledge, new theories, new skills and new methodologies;
 - Continuing education must take the role of promoting social development and progress directly.





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- University continuing education must provide professional training so that the semi-professional vocations develop to be higher level professions;
- University continuing education must help the professional people to be more professional, so that they are irreplaceable;
- The range of university continuing education is inclusive of such fields as administration, management, economy, finance, law, education, architecture, information, agriculture, medicine, tourism, and so on.



- The position of continuing education in Chinese universities is more and more obvious;
- The academic universities are strongly stressing the professional development of the trainers;
- Relevantly, the university continuing education itself is going to be professionalized.





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Thanks

