

Explore the Obstacles and Countermeasures of the Internationalization Development of Fujian Higher Vocational Colleges

Minmin Liang*

Graduate University of Mongolian, Mongolia

* Corresponding author: Minmin Liang

Abstract: The international development of higher vocational colleges is an important measure to promote the construction of a strong education country, serve the local economy and improve the quality of vocational education, which has important practical significance. Through the analysis of the current situation of higher vocational colleges in Zhejiang, Shandong, Jiangsu and Fujian provinces, it is found that Fujian province has deficiencies in the ability, vitality and motivation. Therefore, it is necessary to enhance the understanding of the strategy, theory and law of international development, strengthen the top-level design, establish an international policy system in line with local characteristics, and deeply explore the regional brand of "vocational education going overseas". These measures will help to break through the bottleneck of the international development of higher vocational colleges in Fujian Province.

Keywords: Higher Vocational Colleges; Vocational Education; Internationalization; Fujian Province.

1. Introduction

In response to the "Belt and Road" initiative and the requirement of economic globalization, our country issued the national vocational education reform implementation plan (2019), "about the promotion of the development of modern vocational education high quality implementation opinions" (2021) and "the implementation opinions on deepening the reform of modern vocational education system construction" (2022) and a series of policies, these policies aims to promote the comprehensive reform and development of vocational education, for the new era of internationalization of higher vocational colleges provides a solid strategic foundation. Compared with coastal provinces such as Shandong, Jiangsu and Zhejiang, Fujian province lags behind in the internationalization development of higher vocational colleges. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the international development of higher vocational colleges in Fujian Province under the background of high-quality economic development, enhance the value cognition of their international development, and promote the steady internationalization of higher vocational colleges.

2. The Era Value of the International Development of Higher Vocational Colleges

2.1. National Level: An Important Way to Promote the Construction of a Strong Educational Country

The partys 20th Congress clearly proposed to become a strong educational country by 2035. In May 2023, General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed in the study of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee that to accelerate the construction of a strong education country, we need to improve the strategy of opening to the outside world, coordinate the work of "bringing in" and "going out", make

full use of global high-quality education resources, and make China an international education center with important influence. At the same time, we should actively participate in global education governance, promote the brand building of "study abroad in China", tell Chinas story well, spread Chinas experience, and enhance the influence of Chinese education in the international community. Obviously, the education power is not only reflected in the education system and quality, but also in showing the attraction of Chinese education on the international stage. International exchange and cooperation in education is a necessary condition for strengthening education. Higher vocational colleges should pay attention to the new trends of global vocational education, coordinate and promote the key work such as Sino-foreign cooperation, study in China abroad, vocational education internationalization and foreign aid training, improve the quality of international exchanges and cooperation, participate in the formulation of global vocational education rules, enhance the international voice of vocational education, and help the construction of a strong country.

2.2. Local Level: The Inevitable Choice to Serve the High-quality Development of Regional Economy

China has become the worlds largest trader of goods, with the top international investment, goods, services, labor and capital flow on a large scale worldwide, and "Made in China" has penetrated into the global economic system. For technical and technical talents, mastering international advanced professional skills and having international vision and cross-cultural communication skills will become an important advantage in career development. The talent training of higher vocational colleges needs to accurately meet the needs of the international labor market. The "Belt and Road" initiative promotes Chinese enterprises to "go global", creating economic and employment growth points for countries along the Belt and Road, but the vocational education level of these countries often fails to support the

demand of high-quality technical and skilled personnel, which limits the overseas development of Chinese enterprises. Therefore, to promote higher vocational colleges and enterprises to jointly cultivate local high-quality technical and technical talents is a necessary choice to support the overseas layout of Chinese enterprises and promote the high-quality development of regional economy.

2.3. College Level: The Key Elements to Promote the High-quality Development of Vocational Education

China has built the worlds largest vocational education system, but the "quality crisis" still exists. In the absence of external environment pressure, it is difficult for higher vocational colleges to actively reform and improve the quality of running schools. It is an important way to promote the reform to introduce competition and keep up with the changes in the international situation. On the one hand, we can learn from the advanced experience of Germany, Singapore and other countries, optimize the talent training mode and teaching methods, and stimulate the innovation vitality; on the other hand, we should share Chinas vocational education experience with countries along the "Belt and Road", and promote the improvement of vocational education standards through cooperation. The international development of higher vocational colleges is an important measure to enhance the adaptability and attraction of vocational education.

3. The Reality of the International Development of Higher Vocational Colleges in Fujian Province

As the core area of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Fujian has carried out extensive cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road route in various fields. More than 30 higher vocational colleges have explored "vocational education to go overseas", and carried out training for international students and technical skills training, showing the potential of internationalization. However, the higher vocational colleges in Fujian province are relatively insufficient in terms of international school-running ability. By comparing Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shandong provinces, the overall level of Fujian in Sino-foreign cooperation in running schools and receiving international students still needs to be improved, which affects the pace of its international development.

3.1. Relatively Lack of International School Vitality

From 2019 to 2023, governments at all levels and education authorities in Fujian Province have actively implemented national policies and issued a series of documents, such as The Work Plan of Vocational Education Reform in Fujian Province and the Implementation Plan for Building High-level Vocational Colleges and Majors in Fujian Province, aiming to promote the international development of higher vocational colleges. However, the policy supply fails to effectively meet the actual needs of regional higher vocational colleges. First, the policy content is broad, lacks specific practicality and operability; second, the policies are mostly similar, without effective policy system, lack of mutual support logical relationship, resulting in insufficient local characteristics; finally, the policy implementation effect is not significant, and the actual effect of Sino-foreign cooperation

in running schools and studying in Fujian is limited. On the whole, the internationalization development of higher vocational colleges in Fujian Province is still in the exploratory stage. Most of the universities have backward internationalization concept, weak foundation, lack of international teachers and management talents, and lack of internal motivation.

3.2. Relatively Lack of Vitality of International School Running

During the period from 2019 to 2023, governments and education authorities at all levels in Fujian province actively implemented national policies and issued a series of documents, such as the Work Plan of Vocational Education Reform in Fujian Province and the Implementation Plan of The Construction Plan of High-level Vocational Colleges and Majors in Fujian Province, aiming to promote the international development of higher vocational colleges. However, the supply of these policies can not effectively meet the actual needs of the international development of higher vocational colleges.

Firstly, the policy content is relatively broad, lacks specific practicality and operability; secondly, the policies are basically similar, no effective policy system, the lack of mutual support logical relationship, resulting in insufficient local characteristics; finally, the policy implementation effect is not good, such as the limited effect of Sino-foreign cooperative education and overseas study programs. In general, the international development of higher vocational colleges in Fujian Province is still in the exploratory stage. Many colleges and universities lag in the internationalization concept, weak foundation, lack of international teachers and management talents, lack of internal motivation to carry out international education, and do not know "why to do" and "how to do".

3.3. Relatively Insufficient Lack of Motivation for International Education

International projects are the key carrier to promote the internationalization of higher vocational colleges. In the internationalization process of higher vocational colleges in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shandong and other provinces, the logic of "establishing the core brand by the project and driving the overall development by the brand" is reflected. Jiangsu province has deepened its brand building by setting up "studying in Jiangsu" scholarships and overseas promotion meetings, and the number of overseas students is among the top. Zhejiang province encourages diversified school-running models and cooperates with overseas universities to promote the construction of the "Silk Road College". As early as in the 1990s, Shandong province began to explore chinese-foreign cooperation in running schools and implement demonstration projects. In contrast, Fujian Province has not yet issued a special plan for the international development of higher vocational colleges, and the lack of the cultivation mechanism for international projects leads to the lack of specific promotion measures within colleges and universities, and it is difficult to form a joint force, and the scale and brand effect of international development are relatively weak.

4. Explore the Path of International Development of Higher Vocational Colleges in Fujian Province

In order to accelerate and promote the international development of higher vocational colleges in Fujian Province, we should thoroughly implement the important instructions of General Secretary Xi Jinping on opening up education to the outside world, and serve the reform and development of national vocational education, as well as the overall layout of diplomatic work. In view of the needs of high-quality economic development in Fujian Province, combined with the domestic and foreign environment and the actual situation of higher vocational colleges, the development strategy is systematically formulated to break the institutional barriers, actively participate in global governance, and ensure the progress in stability.

4.1. Strengthen the Strategic Planning and Enhance the Internationalization Capability

The key to promoting the internationalization development of higher vocational colleges lies in improving the understanding ability of internationalization. First, improve strategic awareness. Internationalization is a long-term and systematic work, which is influenced by the international situation and foreign policy. Colleges and education authorities should clarify the mission and goal of internationalization, strengthen the top-level design, and enhance their cognition of their strategic position in national diplomacy. Secondly, we should strengthen the theoretical learning. The establishment of a stable and capable international service team is the basis of promoting international development. Teams should systematically learn theories about internationalization to find models suitable for their own development and achieve sustainable development. Finally, it is necessary to deeply understand the law of international development. Higher vocational colleges need to analyze their own advantages and challenges, formulate practical action plans based on the actual situation, especially actively participate in the national "double-high plan".

4.2. We Will Improve the Policy System and Stimulate Development Vitality

Local education authorities should, according to the actual situation of Fujian Province, formulate international development policies in line with regional characteristics. Under the national policy framework, it is suggested to issue the Action Plan for Opening Up High-level Education in Fujian Province and release an annual international development report. In addition, the higher vocational education international development Forum will be held to create a good atmosphere for development and promote the overall progress. We should establish a support mechanism for key projects, and concentrate on key tasks such as Sino-foreign cooperation in running schools and overseas study programs. At the same time, it is suggested to set up "overseas study scholarship for teachers and students of Sino-foreign cooperative education program", and use overseas Chinese affairs resources to jointly promote the development of "studying in Fujian". International education quality certification can also be introduced to improve the international level of colleges and universities.

Finally, the international evaluation index and evaluation mechanism should be formulated to ensure the goal orientation and operability. Build an evaluation index system, including strategic planning, the mobility of teachers and students, curriculum internationalization, etc., and regularly release the evaluation results to promote the international development of higher vocational colleges.

During the 2024 Vocational Education Week in 2024, Fujian Provincial Department of Education announced the first batch of provincial "Sea Silk College" construction projects and provided corresponding financial support, which injected new vitality into the "vocational education" of higher vocational colleges. Higher vocational colleges in Fujian Province should deeply understand the importance of "vocational education going to sea", clarify the development direction of "Sea Road College", and actively promote the development of brand.

First of all, "vocational education going to sea" is an inevitable choice to serve the countrys overall diplomacy. With the promotion of the "Belt and Road" initiative, more and more Chinese enterprises are investing in countries along the Belt and Road, and the demand for local technical personnel is rising. "Vocational education going abroad" not only helps the development of enterprises, but also promotes local employment and improves peoples livelihood, and promotes people-to-people connectivity.

Secondly, "vocational education going overseas" is a necessary measure to improve the efficiency of Chinas international communication. For example, the "Luban Workshop" in Djibouti filled the gap in higher vocational education. Liming Vocational University cooperated with Kyrgyz National Technical University to carry out several sessions of "Chinese + vocational skills" training to meet the demand for technical talents in Central Asia. These practices will help to spread Chinese culture and deepen people-to-people exchanges.

Finally, "vocational education going to sea" will help enhance Chinas voice in the world. Wu Yan, vice minister of education, pointed out that economic development depends on hard power, while cultural development depends on soft power. The internationalization of Chinese enterprises and "vocational education going abroad" complement each other, enhancing the influence of Chinese economy and the communication power of culture.

5. Conclusion

Under the background of the current education opening to the outside world, the international development of higher vocational colleges is facing unprecedented opportunities. It is the common task of local education departments and higher vocational colleges to explore the value, practical challenges and solutions of the international development of higher vocational colleges in Fujian Province and continuously improve the level of internationalization. We must go hand in hand to achieve long-term development.

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