

Practitioner System in Vocational Education: Perspectives of Academics and Industry Practitioners

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Abstract : The practitioner system has become an important tool for universities working to shrink the gap between industry and vocational education. Beginning in 2015, Meiho University conducted a consecutive three-year program for teaching excellence, funded in part by Taiwan's Ministry of Education, with a total project funding of over \$2.5 million USD. One of the highlights of this program is the recruitment of 300 industry practitioners to participate in collaborative teaching, a dual-mentor system, and curriculum planning. More than 60% of the practitioners boast more than 10 years of practical industry experience, and 52% of them have earned master's degree or higher. Students rated their overall program satisfaction over 4.5(out of 5.0) on average. This study explores the perspectives of academics and industry practitioners using in-depth interviews and surveys, along with an examination of the challenges of the practitioner system. The paper enables the framing of practitioner system policies by vocational education institutions and industry to facilitate more effective and efficient transfer of knowledge between academics and practitioners, leading to enhanced university competitive advantage, which would ultimately benefit society.

Keywords : collaborative teaching, industry practitioners, practitioner system, vocational education

Conference Title : ICHETL 2018 : International Conference on Higher Education Teaching and Learning

Conference Location : Toronto, Canada

Conference Dates : July 19-20, 2018