Role of University Rankings in Kazakhstan

Prof. Sholpan Kalanova

BRATISLAVA 2011
Kazakhstan’s Higher Education System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>State Sector</th>
<th>Private Sector</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HEI’s</td>
<td>HEI’s</td>
<td>HEI’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>179</td>
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<td>396 807</td>
<td>371 867</td>
<td>775 762</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>174</td>
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<tr>
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<td>390 588</td>
<td>368 879</td>
<td>768 442</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>166</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>284 702</td>
<td>318 805</td>
<td>717 053</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>141</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>338 290</td>
<td>284 702</td>
<td>622 419</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>146</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>321 664</td>
<td>277 749</td>
<td>610 264</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>310 092</td>
<td>299 332</td>
<td>620 442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

2010 – Joining the Bologna Process
Kazakhstan’s Higher Education System

New Classification of HEI’s in the Updated Education Law:

- National Research Universities
- National Universities (Arts, etc.)
- Research Universities
- Universities
- Academies
- Institutes
Milestones of the Ranking History in Kazakhstan

- 2006: National Accreditation Center developed and conducted Kazakhstan’s first institutional rankings of universities
- 2008: Independent Kazakhstan Quality Assurance Agency for Education (IQAA) developed and conducted first independent institutional rankings of universities
- 2009: IREG-4 Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan
Why We Conduct Rankings

- To **improve the quality** of Kazakhstan’s Higher Education
- To help prospective students and their families to **make a right choice**
- To promote and speed up **competition** among Kazakhstan’s universities
- To provide **necessary and timely information** for employers, government, social funds and international educational organizations
IQAA Ranking Methodology

BASIS

1. Berlin Principles of Ranking Higher Education Institutions
2. Scientific Approach
3. International Experience
Three independent sources of information are used to conduct the rankings:

- **Form #1** is based on quantitative information submitted by HEI’s, additional sources of information are received from the Ministry of Education & Science and independent sources.

- **Form #2** is based on sociological research and consists of questionnaires for experts in the field of higher education.

- **Form #3** is based on sociological research and consists of questionnaires for employers.
IQAA Ranking Methodology

1. Academic Resources – 60%

- **Quantitative** (Informational-Statistical) Data Presented by HEI’s
- 6 Indicators and 39 Criteria
IQAA’s Ranking Methodology, 2011

1. Academic Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>% of the Total Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Student Body</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Student Academic Achievements and # of Educational Programs in HEI’s</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research and Innovation</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Internationalization</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Informational Support</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Expert Survey – 10%

- Consists of Questionnaires for Experts
- More than **200** experts participate nationwide.
- Experts: Rectors, Vice-Rectors, Heads of Departments, Professors and Researchers
IQAA Ranking Methodology

3. Employer Survey – 30%

- Employers assess the level of training and qualification of graduates working at the surveyed companies.
- More **1000** respondents participate nationwide.
- Surveys are conducted by mail and e-mail.
- Surveyed employers consist of ministries, regional governorships, leading national business companies, NGO’s and others.
- National Economic Chamber “Atameken” publishes the questionnaire for employers on their website during the ranking.
IQAA 2011 Ranking Results

- 62 HEI’s were ranked, while 135 had participated.

- All the results were summed up and the integral sums determined, according to which the ranking positions of universities were defined.

- If the results of ranking were within 3% range, the HEI’s were assigned the same place.
IQAA Ranking Results

- **Supervisory Council** at IQAA considers and approves ranking results. It’s members are:
  - Management of the National Economic Chamber “Atameken”
  - MP’s of the Parliament of Kazakhstan
  - Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science

- From June to September, as the ranking results are published, the number of daily visits on the IQAA website triples.
The government has outlined the target for 2 or more universities to enter the top global rankings by 2020.

Heightened Interest to Quality of Universities in Society

More Competition and Improvement among HEI’s
The Impact of Rankings on HE Sphere in Kazakhstan

- Enhancing **Internationalization** and Promoting **Academic Mobility** in HEI’s

- Websites of universities have been significantly improving and much more information is now provided.

- Ranking results are used by **Academic Councils** of universities to shape their strategy and improve their positions.
Conclusion: Rankings in Kazakhstan

- Rankings should be one of evaluation and QA tools, not the solution to all issues. However, they are still an important instrument and they add new dimensions to quality assessment.
- Rankings play an important role in information dissemination about relative positions of universities to broader public and stakeholders.
- Rankings should be careful about not being too one-dimensional and limited and strive to assess all sides of university activity.
- University rankings are popular and have positive opportunities for further development in Kazakhstan.
Thank you very much!

www.iqaa.kz