Transformations in Higher Education: Crossing Borders and Bridging Minds

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This book examines issues that have emerged as higher education systems and individual institutions across East Asia confront and adapt to the changing economic, social, and educational environments in which they now operate. The focus is on how higher education systems learn from one another and the ways that higher education institutions collaborate to address new challenges. The sub-theme that runs throughout this volume concerns the changing nature of cross-border sharing in higher education. In particular, the provision of technical assistance by more industrialized countries to lower and middle income countries has given way to collaborations that place the latter’s participating institutions on more equal footing. At the same time, the number of partnerships linking higher education systems within the larger East Asia region to one another has increased.

The central premise of this book is that national borders are not as relevant as they were in the past. Global telecommunications, the international flow of funds, and even some internet-based education programs operate largely outside the purview of national governments. While many governments may still control (or try to control) the flow of people, there is a substantial transnational flow of commerce, communications, and ideas that are supranational and operate beyond the effective reach of governments. Even as boundaries become more porous and permeable, there is growing acceptance of the view that cross-border collaboration, if done well, can offer mutually beneficial advantages on multiple levels. There is a new recognition that the intensified international sharing of ideas, strategies of learning, and students is not only extremely valuable to systems and institutions but essential to their long-term survival. To this end, the volume chapters variously examine motivations, goals, mechanisms, outcomes, and challenges associated