Leveraging the Role of Discipline Construction in Social Mission through Deep Participation in the Development of Northeast Asia

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It is commonly agreed by researchers that the mission of modern universities has undergone three stages. At the initial stage, in medieval Europe the first universities like the University of Bologna in Italy, the University of Paris in France, and the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge in England were separated from the society and organized for the sole purpose of teaching.
1. Global Changes in the Mission of Universities

In the second stage, modern universities, exemplified by Berlin University placed emphasis on both research and teaching. The University of Halle, founded in 1694 by Frederick III, Elector of Brandenburg has been described as the first modern university in Germany and Europe as its education philosophy and curriculum followed strict standards of learning and research.
1. Global Changes in the Mission of Universities

In 1810, Wilhelm von Humboldt founded the University of Berlin and introduced “academic freedom” and “the unity of research and teaching”. During this period, modern universities had established closer interaction with society through leveraging the role of scientific research.
1. Global Changes in the Mission of Universities

In the third stage, modern universities exemplified by American ones aim at educating students who will contribute to society and make a difference to the world through technology innovation. During this period, higher institutions, which are no longer confined to European model have moved beyond the “ivory tower” and become more engaged with society through innovation.
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1. Global Changes in the Mission of Universities

Throughout the history of higher institutions, although the social mission has experienced great changes, universities’ commitment to society has always been the major concern for the development of higher institutions at present.
1. Global Changes in the Mission of Universities

The University of Wisconsin-Madison in America is the birthplace of the philosophy of social mission. As stated by its former president Charles Van Hise, “never be content until the beneficent influence of the university reaches every family in the state”, which explains that universities should create new knowledge to solve the practical problems in economy, society, politics, etc.
1. Global Changes in the Mission of Universities

Similarly, Woodrow Wilson, the former president of Princeton University had emphasized that the significance of universities in a nation’s history was determined by their social mission instead of knowledge.
It is believed that both talents cultivation and scientific research, which are in the service of society, can be called social mission. With the social progress, new types of social service appear such as knowledge dissemination, professional counselling, think tanks, technology service, cultural service, people-to-people exchange, paired assistance and information sharing.
2. The Significance of Social Mission for Chinese Universities

In the *Outline of China’s National Plan for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020)*, it is highlighted that “higher educational institutions shall foster a willingness to take the initiative to serve society in all dimensions”.
2. The Significance of Social Mission for Chinese Universities

In the document *Implementation Measures to Coordinate Development of World-class Universities and First-class Disciplines Construction (Provisional)* jointly issued by Chinese Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and National Development and Reform Commission, it is stated that social mission is a basic criterion for the establishment and evaluation of Chinese world-class universities and first-class disciplines.
In the Project Management Measures of World-class Universities and First-class Disciplines Construction in Liaoning Province, it is clearly specified that “social service and cultural inheritance and innovation” is one of the five key areas in world-class universities and first-class disciplines. In addition, the document also clarifies detailed requirements to guarantee that the establishment of world-class universities and first-class disciplines will be in the service of regional and national development.
2. The Significance of Social Mission for Chinese Universities

The evaluation of disciplines in universities consists of five spheres: talents cultivation, teaching staff, scientific research, social mission and cultural inheritance and innovation as well as international exchange and cooperation. Currently, the development of disciplines becomes more increasingly oriented towards social mission.
3. Building a High-level Application-oriented Foreign Languages University in Northeast Asia

Dalian University of Foreign Languages (DUFL)

It is located on the southernmost end of Northeast China, and endowed with the location advantage in Northeast Asia. DUFL is aiming at serving national strategy as well as social and economic development at regional level, and it is striving to become a high-level application-oriented foreign languages university in Northeast Asia.
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3. Building a High-level Application-oriented Foreign Languages University in Northeast Asia

- DUFL attaches great importance to the fostering of four language disciplines related with Northeast Asian countries—Japanese, Russian, English and Korean in which students at undergraduate and postgraduate level account for one third of the total student population. Furthermore, currently the four language disciplines maintain a leading position in China.
3. Building a High-level Application-oriented Foreign Languages University in Northeast Asia

Through the Research Center for Foreign Languages in Northeast Asia set up by China’s State Language Commission and academic journal *Foreign Language Research in Northeast Asia*, DUFL has successfully built a communication and cooperation platform for experts in this field across the globe.
3. Building a High-level Application-oriented Foreign Languages University in Northeast Asia

DUFL has established the Research Center for Northeast Asia and China-Japan-ROK Joint Research Center in the School of International Studies, and also set up “The Belt and Road Initiative ” Institute for Urban and Regional Development in Business School.
DUFL has conducted exchanges of students and teachers as well as academic exchanges with 120 universities or so in Northeast Asia. Our university takes the chair in the University League of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; it has also been entrusted with the management of three Confucius Institutes in Russia, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
3. Building a High-level Application-oriented Foreign Languages University in Northeast Asia

In DUFL, talents cultivation, academic research and international exchange are all in the service of national strategy of international exchange and cooperation in Northeast Asia, and it also aims at providing intellectual and academic support for Liaoning Province’s construction of a new frontier of opening to Northeast Asia.
Thank you for listening!

Welcome to Dalian University of Foreign Languages!