The Professional Relevance on the Way towards a Highly Educated Society

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9:00 – 9:50am
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Chair: Dr Jisun Jung

Abstract:
The “employability” debate actually does not focus on employment issues (remuneration, holidays, pension, etc.), but rather on work. While emphasis have been placed on “orientation towards practice” in the past in some countries, the new debate in Europe addresses “competences” and “qualifications frameworks”. The term “employability” is most frequently employed in the UK—often in favour of more specialized knowledge and a stronger instrumentalist approach of higher education. Other terms are preferred in other countries, and other objectives play a role, e.g. in Germany the fostering of “key skills”. This seminar emphasizes that “employability” in terms of professionally relevant competences should not be confused with “employment success”. Many different learning experiences and competences actually contribute to employment success. The most salient issue for future higher education is how to contribute to competences relevant for graduates who end up—as a consequence of higher education expansion—in average jobs: How can higher education serve creative and meaningful competences and work in the “middle” of society?

About the speaker:
Ulrich Teichler was a Professor at the International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER-Kassel) and the Department of Social Science, University of Kassel (Germany) from 1978 to 2013, and former director of the Centre for 16 years. He was vice-president of the University of Kassel from 1980 to 1982. After he completed his PhD from University of Breman, he was a researcher in the Max Planck Institute for Educational Research, Berlin. He had extended research periods in Japan, the Netherlands, and the U.S.; part-time or visiting professor for some period at Northwestern University (U.S.), College of Europe (Belgium), Hiroshima University (Japan), Open University (UK), and Shanghai University (China). He also had teaching activities in Argentina, Austria, Norway and at other German universities. He had more than 1,300 publications and more than 1,000 visits to more than 80 countries for teaching, research collaboration, conferences, presentations, and consultancy. He is the Member of the International Academy of Education (IAE) and the Academia Europaea (AE), former chairman of the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers (CHER), former president and distinguished member of EAIR, vice-president and fellow of SRHE, honourable member of the Gesellschaft für Hochschulforschung (GFHf); Comenius Prize of UNESCO; Dr. h.c. of the University of Turku (Finland).

~ All are welcome ~

This talk is a keynote in the 4th Higher Education Research Association Conference. For further information about the conference, please contact Dr. Jisun Jung (jisun@hku.hk).