Striving to Build a Scientific and Holistic College Entrance Examination and Evaluation System in China

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Abstract
Since the reinstatement of its national college entrance examination (GAOKAO) at the end of “the cultural revolution” in 1977, China has been the only country of its advanced status of economic, scientific and technological developments in the world that has solely relied on a once-a-GAOKAO system to admit approximately 8 million undergraduate students exclusively based on their GAOKAO scores. Although such a pure GAOKAO score-based admission system has many great merits in China, especially fairness, equity and rigor, there have been wide outcries to improve it due to its negative impact on societal creativity, productivity and health in addition to its high stakes and pressures that occur during lengthy test preparation processes. Since early 1980s, the Chinese government has made various reform efforts, but there has been very little real consequential outcomes or implementation to this end.

The purpose of this presentation is to systematically: (1) outline the history and major GAOKAO reform efforts since 1977; (2) explicate the most recent GAOKAO reform design and pilots; and (3) suggest a scientific and feasible system/framework of holistic college admissions evaluation based on common college admissions practices of modern advanced countries and a set of sound and easy-to-apply statistical procedures. It is hoped that what will be presented can help enhance China’s current GAOKAO system without sacrificing any of its outstanding merits.

About the Speaker
Since February 2017, Dr. Xiang (Bo) Wang has been the Senior Vice President of TalkWeb Information System, Executive President of Sea Sky Land Science and Technology, and General Manager of Sea Sky Land Education Measurement and Technology. In these capacities, Dr. Wang focuses on designing and implementing more innovative and scientific educational evaluation and measurement instruments and platforms, while enhancing product and service efficacy and quality across the three entities.

Previously, Dr. Wang worked as Vice President and Special Technical Advisor to President of the College Board overseeing and conducting the developments and expansions of College Board’s relationships, services and products, especially its AP and SAT in China and Asia. Dr. Wang was also Vice President of ACT in charge of all its computer adaptive testing programs, and was the Chief Architect of Assessment Infrastructure. In addition to the above, Dr. Wang also worked in various capacities at the Chauncey Group International, Educational Testing Service, and the Law School Admissions Council.

Everyone is welcome to attend!
If interested, please confirm your attendance by sending an email to kpsantos@hku.hk.