# Higher Education in India

Recent developments

Issues of quality

**Opportunities for international collaboration** 

Lynne Heslop British Council India

June 2014 ACA Conference Bordeaux

Why India?

## India in 2020:

- The largest tertiary enrolment in the world
- India and China will produce 40% of the world's graduate talent pipeline

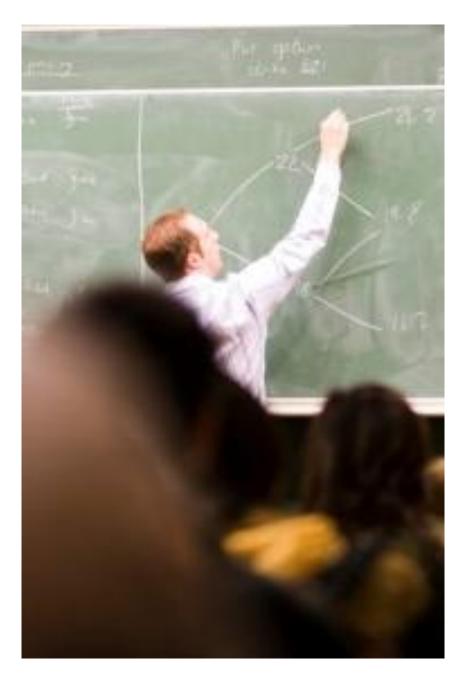
#### **By 2020: 40 Million University Places**

## Change at the scale we will see in the next ten years in education in India is unprecedented in human history.

Professor Pankaj Chandra, Director IIM Bangalore

Despite significant progress, challenges remain:

- The supply-demand gap
- The low quality of teaching and learning
- Constraints on research capacity and innovation
- **Quality** is India's core challenge



#### **Issues of Quality**

- 30-40% of faculty positions are unfilled
- Most faculty untrained
- Outdated, rigid curricula not fit for market
- Narrow pedagogies
- High student:teacher ratio
- Lack of early stage researcher training

#### **Issues of quality (continued)**

- Ineffective QA system and no accountability
- Leadership
- Limited internationalisation
- Research: impact, internationalisation, proposals, systemic barriers
- Systemic issues: affiliated college system

#### **Recent developments**

### India's 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for Higher Education: **Excellence, Expansion, Equity**

#### **RUSA:** the biggest shake-up

- Funding
- Governance and accountability
- Devolution to the states

.... the new government?

#### **Views of Indian stakeholders**

- Broad support from the sector, but impatience
- Unpredictable, "messy"
- Rise of the states and state-funded HE sector
- Legislation on international education highly contested

#### **Future International Collaboration**

- The state and private sectors: 97.5%
- Multi-dimensional support to state reforms
- Teaching and learning
- Research collaborations in STEM, but strong, unmet demand in humanities, social sciences and arts
- Early stage researchers and students
- Links with industry
- Platforms for debate, extending networking and relationship-building

#### **Emerging Priorities**

# There is strong demand from Indian institutions for international students and faculty to spend time in India



# New and Emerging Areas for International Co-operation (additional)

- **Emerging opportunities and new frontiers**
- Humanities, arts and social science research collaboration
- Multi-dimensional reform programmes at state level
- Leadership and management
- Faculty development: teaching and learning
- Skills for researchers
- Enterprise education and entrepreneurship
- Employability
- Vocational skills linked to HE
- Digital learning technologies
- Incubation, innovation, catapult centres
- Public science and outreach

**Future Engagement:** 

# Broader, more diverse relationship in higher education

## Engaging with India - in India

# Thank you

Further reading:

'Understanding India: the future of higher education and opportunities for international cooperation', British Council (2014). Download at:

http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/ihe/knowledge-centre/policythought-leadership/report-understanding-india

Other British Council higher education events and reports on South Asia and East Asia can be found at:

http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/ihe/events/global-educationdialogues