

Philip Altbach

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Philip G. Altbach is J. Donald Monan, S.J. University Professor and director of the Center for International Higher Education in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. He was the 2004–2006 Distinguished Scholar Leader for the New Century Scholars initiative of the Fulbright program. He has been a senior associate of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and served as editor of various academic journals. His most recent book is *World Class Worldwide: Transforming Research Universities in Asia and Latin America*. Dr. Altbach holds the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D degrees from the University of Chicago. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the State University of New York at Buffalo, was a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer on education at Harvard University, and a visiting professor at Stanford University. He has extensive international experience from China (Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Institute of Higher Education at Peking University), France (the Institut de Sciences Politique), India (the University of Bombay), Malaysia (Fulbright scholar) and Singapore (Fulbright scholar). He has had awards from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), has been an Onwell Fellow at the University of Hong Kong, and a senior scholar of the Taiwan government.

In your view, what is the most probable or desirable future scenario for higher education governance?

This question is too complicated to briefly answer. The likely future scenario is continuing massification in most countries and a resulting decline in standards and increased bureaucratization. The most desirable future would be adequate funding, from public and private sources, to provide decent standards for mass higher education.

In your opinion, what is or should be the most important objective for higher education in the future? Why?

Research and training for the knowledge society of the 21st century.

What do you consider to be the main future challenge(s) for higher education systems? Why?

1. adequate funding
2. governance arrangements that permit reasonable autonomy and at the same time appropriate accountability.

In your opinion, what would be the worst, but possible, way to tackle these future challenges? Why?

Rigid state control and inadequate funding. This is possible but not too likely.

What do you consider to be the best possible way to tackle the above mentioned future challenges? Why?

A public and governmental recognition of the importance of postsecondary education and a combination of public and private financial support.