

## Editorial

# Two Decades of News and Analysis

Exactly two decades ago, in the spring of 1995, the first issue of *International Higher Education* was published. As I wrote in the first issue, “*International Higher Education* is a forum for information, debate, and discussion about the central issues facing higher education.” We identified a special focus on the Third World, which we felt was left out of the international mainstream, and noted that *IHE* would be a forum for independent analysis and opinion on the central higher education issues. Having published 80 issues and more than 1,000 articles over two decades, we have fulfilled these goals. We have provided information and analysis on countries unavailable elsewhere. We have considered some of the overarching themes, facing the world of higher education—from corruption to the impact of new technologies, from aspects of internationalization, and global student flows to the complexities of for-profit universities. We have often provided perspectives unavailable in the mainstream media.

When *IHE* was started, there was no internationally focused publication providing news and analysis on higher education. Now, several such publications exist, both international and regional—testimony to the importance of higher education and to a global perspective. Unlike most other outlets for such news and analysis, however, *IHE* persists as a completely noncommercial enterprise, and we remain steadfastly devoted to a critical and analytical perspective.

An independent, penetrating, and sometimes quirky voice is needed more than ever in the increasingly complex and contentious world of higher education. More of the elements of contemporary higher education are increasingly commercialized as governments withdraw support from the academic enterprise. The role of for-profit private higher education is increasingly prominent worldwide—with significant implications for access, quality, and maintaining an academic ethos. Internationalization is increasingly profit oriented, with international students, branch campuses, and other international initiatives seen as income earning for their sponsors.

*IHE* has grown and matured in many ways. From the beginning, we published on the World Wide Web as well as in a paper edition—and we were one of the first publications in our field to use the Internet as a key tool. We are today the only higher education publication to appear in several languages—now in Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, and

Spanish as well as English. *IHE* is also published (in English) by the *Deutsche Universitätzeitung*, which is the major publication for the German academic community. These editions are all sponsored by our translation partners—to whom we are indebted.

*IHE* has always been available without cost in both paper and on-line editions. Further, we are happy to permit other publications to reprint our articles and have an ongoing reprint relationship with *University World News*. We have benefited from 15 years of support from the Ford Foundation for assistance with publications costs and now have assistance from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Basic support has also come from Boston College, through the Lynch School of Education and the Monan University Professorship.

We have published three books containing articles: originally published in *International Higher Education*; Philip G. Altbach, *International Higher Education: Reflections on Policy and Practice* (Chestnut Hill, MA: Center for International Higher Education, 2006); Philip G. Altbach and Daniel C. Levy, eds., *Private Higher Education: a Global Revolution* (Rotterdam, Netherlands: Sense Publishers, 2005); and Philip G. Altbach, *The International Imperative in Higher Education* (Rotterdam, Netherlands: Sense Publishers, 2013).

Today, our readership extends across 149 countries, on all continents, and *IHE* articles are frequently referenced in the field worldwide. As *IHE* moves into its third decade of existence, we look forward to building on this unique foundation, and continuing to provide a crucial window on the world of higher education developments and debates across the globe.

Philip G. Altbach, Editor



In addition to our Web site and Facebook page, we are now tweeting. We hope you will consider “following” us on Twitter!