



# International Education Hubs

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## 4 Key Messages

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- Education Hubs are the 3rd generation of crossborder education.
- 3 types of education hubs exist: Student, Talent and Knowledge
- Different rationales, policy sectors and outcomes characterize hubs
- Education Hubs bring new opportunities and new challenges.

# Crossborder Education

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- **1st Generation- Student Mobility**
  - full degree, semester abroad, exchange etc
- **2nd Generation-Program and Providers**
  - twinning and franchise programs, joint/double degree programs, virtual,
  - branch campus, bi-national universities
- **3rd Generation- Education Hubs**
  - students, programs, providers, research centres, knowledge industries



# Education Hubs

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- Still evolving as a concept and a reality
- Popular concept
  - Fashion, transportation, finance, communication, wine, tourism, education
- Variety of terms for education hub
  - Education cities, regional hubs, learning clusters, knowledge village, centres of excellence.....
- Self- acclaimed label



# Levels of Education Hubs

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- **Country**

- UAE, Singapore, Malaysia

- **Zone**

- Incheon, Dubai, Iskandar

- **City**

- Boston, Adelaide, Bangalore

# Education Hubs - Country level

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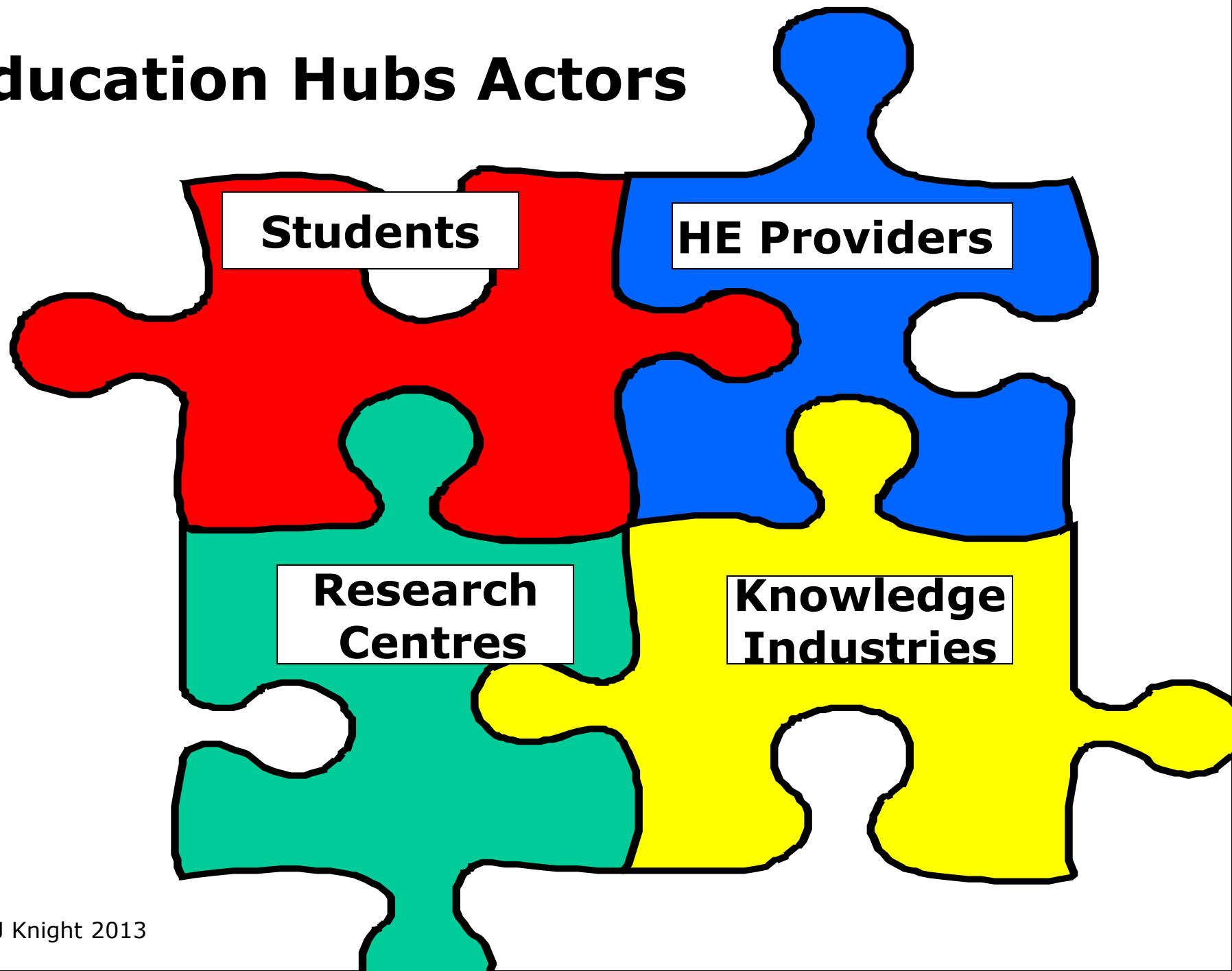
- **United Arab Emirates** **2003**
  - 37 IBCs, free trade zones, int research cities/ projects
- **Malaysia** **2007**
  - 7 IBCs, 3000+ int programs, major int student destination
- **Botswana** **2008**
  - 2 IBCs, plan to be source of HR for 5 industrial hubs
- **Qatar** **1995**
  - 10 IBCs, Sci and Tech Park, new research facilities/projects
- **Singapore** **1998**
  - 18 IBCs, 1000+int programs, major int research initiatives
- **Hong Kong** **2008**
  - 4 IBCs, 1000+ int programs, int student recruitment plan

# Working definition of Education HUB

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- A **planned effort**
  - Not ad hoc initiative, branding label only
- To develop a **critical mass** of
  - Not a single institution. IBC, or initiative
- **Local and international actors**
  - Students, edu providers, companies, research centres, knowledge industries
- **Strategically engaged and connected in**
  - Not working individually but interconnected
- **Crossborder education, training, knowledge and innovation initiatives** (Knight 2011)

# Education Hubs Actors







# What is driving the race for hubs?

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## Different Perspectives

Host country/sponsor and actors

Foreign HEIs, R&D centres, companies

Students/Employees- local and foreign

# What are host government/sponsor rationales?

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1. Internationalize and **modernize domestic HE sector**
2. Recruit, train and retain **skilled work force**
3. Generate **income** and **attract foreign investment**
4. Shift to **service** and **knowledge economy**
5. Increase **competitiveness** –economic and geo-political status (soft power) in region and beyond



# Proposed Types/Models of Education Hubs

- **Student Hub**

- **Talent Hub**

- **Knowledge/Innovation Hub**



# Differences --- 3 types of Hubs

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Strategies can be similar

BUT ..... differences in

Rationales

Policy sectors and types of regulations

Key actors

Outcomes

# Student hub

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## Focus

- Recruitment and education of students
- Attraction of foreign HE providers

## ○ Drivers/rationales

- Increased access for local and int students
- Internationalize and modernize HEIs
- Revenue generation

## ○ Key policy sectors and actors

- Education, trade, foreign affairs

# Talent Hub

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## Focus

- Recruitment and *retention* of int/local students
- Attraction of foreign HEIs and companies

## ○ Drivers/Rationales

- Need for more skilled labour
- Move to service and knowledge economy
- Economic competitiveness

## ○ Key policy sectors and actors

- Immigration, labour, industry, education

# Knowledge/Innovation Hub

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## Focus

- Production of knowledge and innovation
- Recruitment of HEIs, R&D companies

## ○ Drivers/ Rationales

- Build a knowledge-based economy
- Attract foreign direct investment
- Increase economic competitiveness
- Soft power- political influence

## ○ Key Actors and Policy Sectors

- Sc and Tech, Economic Dev ,Education,

# Financing Education Hubs

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## **Private-** local and foreign investors

- Economic free zones and incentives to encourage private investment
  - UAE (Dubai and RAK), Malaysia (Iskandar), Qatar, Korea (Incheon)

## **Public/Govt-** primarily local

- Invitation based generous funding
  - UAE (Abu Dhabi), Qatar, Singapore
- Infrastructure and facilities provided and some operating costs



# Planning and Implementation

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## Planning Approach

**Reactive** \_\_\_\_\_ **Proactive** \_\_\_\_\_ **Strategic**  
Hong Kong Botswana Malaysia UAE Qatar Singapore

## Implementation Approach

**Fragmented** \_\_\_\_\_ **Coordinated** \_\_\_\_\_ **Integrated**  
UAE Hong Kong Botswana Malaysia Singapore Qatar

# Country Status as Type of Hub

## - Proposed -

<u>Country</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Aspiration</u>
Qatar	Talent	Knowledge
UAE	Talent	Talent/Knowledge
Hong Kong	Student	Student/Talent
Malaysia	Student	Knowledge
Singapore	Knowledge	!?
Botswana	Student	Talent



# Issues and Challenges

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- Registration, licensing, QAA of providers
- Relevance of programs to local context and labour market
- Intellectual property issues re int research projects
- Competing agendas of key actors in host country
- Local and international collaboration within hub
- Link to national innovation strategy?
- Sustainability- Rhetoric and Reality
  - Are indicators feasible and desirable?



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**Thank you**  
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