NEED FOR NEW SMAC (SOCIAL-MOBILE-ANALYTIC-CLOUD) BASED CURRICULUM FOR YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN DIGITAL ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: Educators and employers in most countries are getting uneasy on many fronts because of the hurdles created by old-economy curriculum and traditional education systems which have dominated higher education for most of the last century. Even the renewed emphasis on Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM) in the last five decades has not been enough for employability in the current market place. With increased penetration of Internet, connectivity and use of portable and smart devices is forcing many countries to further supplement their higher education with specific focus on SMAC skills to remain relevant. In USA, Europe, Australia several other countries in Asia, universities are creating new programs and courses with a focus on SMAC (Social, Mobile, Analytic and Cloud). The speed of innovations with this synergistic blending Internet + SMAC is quite overwhelming. It is becoming increasing clear that this new combination is necessary for the growth of digital economy and sustainable development in Thailand. New curriculum based on a increased emphasis on SMAC will help new graduates to successfully compete in new digital economy and strategic sustainable development not only in Thailand but also in the AEC.

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Introduction: New technologies changing the old pedagogies

Higher education and its role in society is nothing new. It is often associated with the advent of modern society. Historically speaking, all of the world’s universities (Figure-1) do, after all, stem from medieval European institutions. In some countries in Asia, such as Japan, the Western model of higher education was adopted voluntarily. In many other countries, Western style institutions were imposed under colonialial era. South East Asian countries streching from India to Hong Kong were exposed to colonial system of education and commerce. For centuries, Latin was the common language of higher education. In the late 19th century, when universities entered the modern era, German was the main language of science. Now, English has become the Latin of the 21st century, and is the most widely used medium of scientific communication, medium of instruction in colleges and universtites and increasingly of intellectual discourse and means of creating new knowledge around the world. There are well over a million students studying outside their home countries- the majority of them from Asia are studying in the United States, Britain, Canada, and Australia.