Higher education, Global compatibility, and the 4th Industrial Revolution

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Introduction

• Some key words underlying the 4th Industrial Revolutions (4IR): Convergence, Uncertainty, Hyper-connectedness, etc.

• Issue: The higher education in the traditional sense seems to face a problem in dealing with this new paradigm.

• Technological revolution does not simply demand adopting technology for more effective teaching and learning, but seems to demand structural innovation in the higher education.
• Question: How can these key concepts can be embodied in the higher education for the era of technological revolution?

• Goal: To present a case, with Y’sU (pronounced “Wise U”), a new brand name of Youngsan University in Korea, where the undergraduate programs are designed to incorporate the core features of the 4th Industrial Revolution, and share the knowledge and discuss some educational issues in terms of the academic structure and contents:
A Case at Y’sU

• The outcomes that Y’sU intend to draw in its educational reformation include convergence and enhancing potentials with base technology.

• Structural change:
  Lower down the boundaries of majors:
  Required credits for a major: 36 units

• Program-restructuring
  Utilize technology for the mobility of future generations

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Academic Structure

Majors
80~100
units

Floating programs

Main programs

Major 1
Major 2
Major 3
.....
Major n

30~50 units

Prog A
Big Data
IoT

Prog B
VR
AI

Liberal Arts

80~100
units
• Y’sU
  - requires all students to learn software (16 units),
  - offers 4 technological areas as academic bases in line with the new technological revolution (i.e., virtual reality, artificial intelligence, big data, IoT).

• These four base skills
  - combine selectively with 36 academic units in human/social sciences, culture and art, hotel & tourism management, and health.
  - produce another set of converged academic units.

• The key concepts embedded in the 4th Industrial Revolution can be derived from this flexible approach.
Globalization & Global compatibility of education

• Technology-based education is likely to enhance global compatibility in higher education, reducing local peculiarity.

• The global networks will be more effectively utilized both on- and off-line education.