



**Summer Institute in Hong Kong University 2018
17-28 June, 2019, Hong Kong**

**Cambodia Higher Education:
... How the System Takes off...!**

By: Dr. NITH BUNLAY

**Deputy Director General of Higher Education
(bunlaynith@gmail.com)**

1. Who's Me?



2002: Master of Education from
Miyagi University of Education,
Sendai, Miyagi

2005: PhD in Language & Culture Education, Hiroshima University



2. Employment

- English Lecturer at RUPP (1998-2007)
 - Director of Master of Education Program, RUPP (2007-2011)
 - Visiting Scholar at GSID, Nagoya (2007)
 - Deputy Director General of Higher Education (from 2011 up to now)
- ➔ Focused Areas: **Policy Formulation, Capacity Building, Curriculum Development, IQA, International Relations**

3. Volunteers & Related Experiences



2005: ASEAN + 3 Youth Forum in China (As Youth Scholar)

2005: Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (As Youth Facilitator)







Fuji Maru

2009: Ship for
Southeast Asia Youth
Program (As National
Leader)

INDEX Youth Exchange 2009 & 2010 (...as Organizer and Keynote Speaker)



2011: Ship for World Youth Program (Discussion Facilitator & Admin Staff)



Dokoisho Dokoisho... Soran Soran



4. Historical Background

- Received Independence in 1953
- Experienced a brief period of prosperity and development (1953-late 1960s)
- Underwent chaotic period, genocide, and Civil War (late 1960s - late 1990s)
- National reconciliation in late 1980s and led to UN-supervised election in 1993
- In 1998, the civil war ended, the country regained peace and stability and became active in regional and world communities

Cambodia Higher Education at a Glance

HE in the Past :

The 1940s – First Born HEIs

The 1960s – Glory Period

The 1970s – Tragic Period due to Civil War and Killing Fields

The 1980s – Reborn Period, establishment & rehabilitation

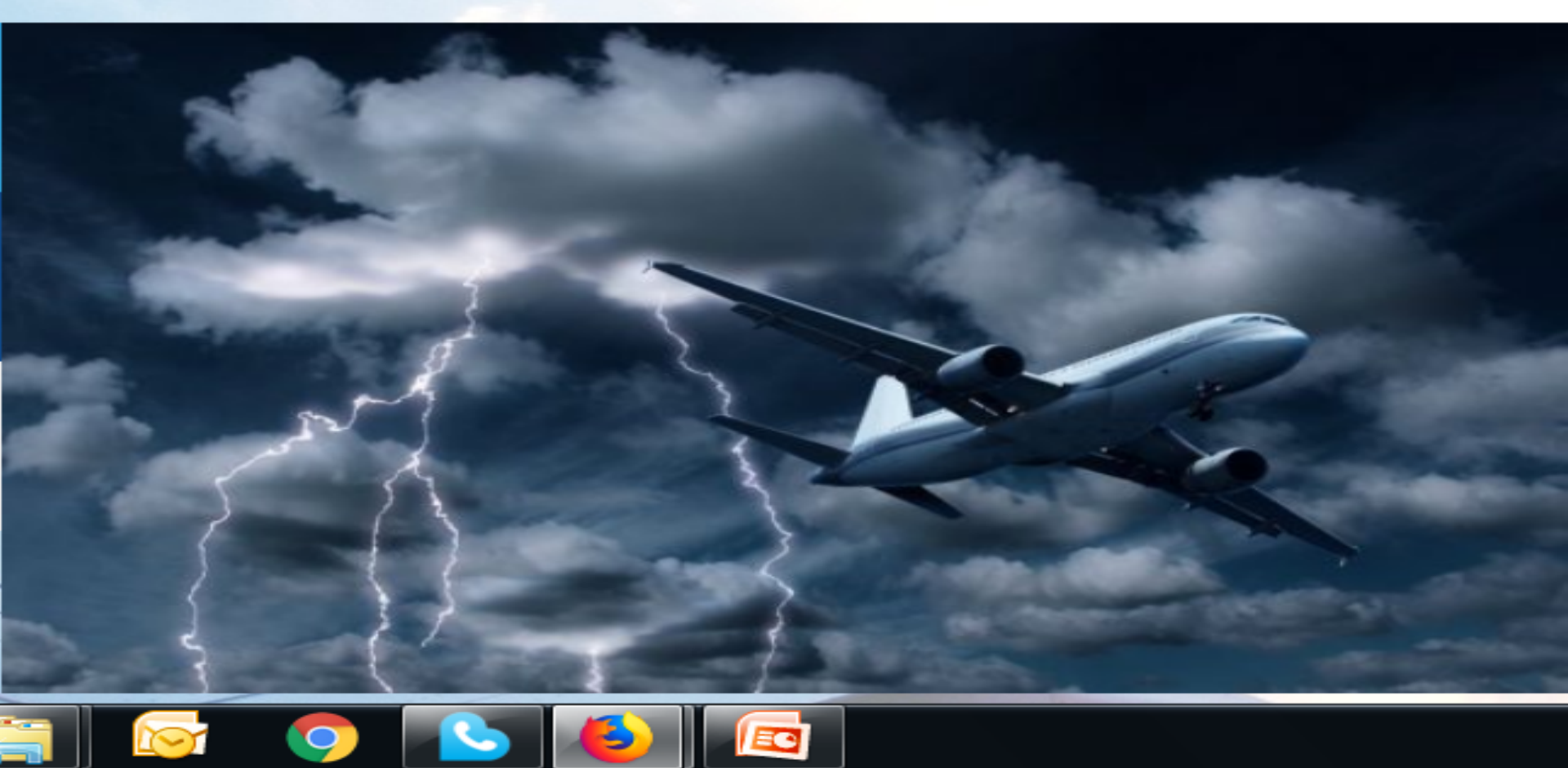
The 1990s – Reforming/Restructuring/Development;

The Early 2000s – Growth of Private HEIs

From 2010-Present: Development and Reforming

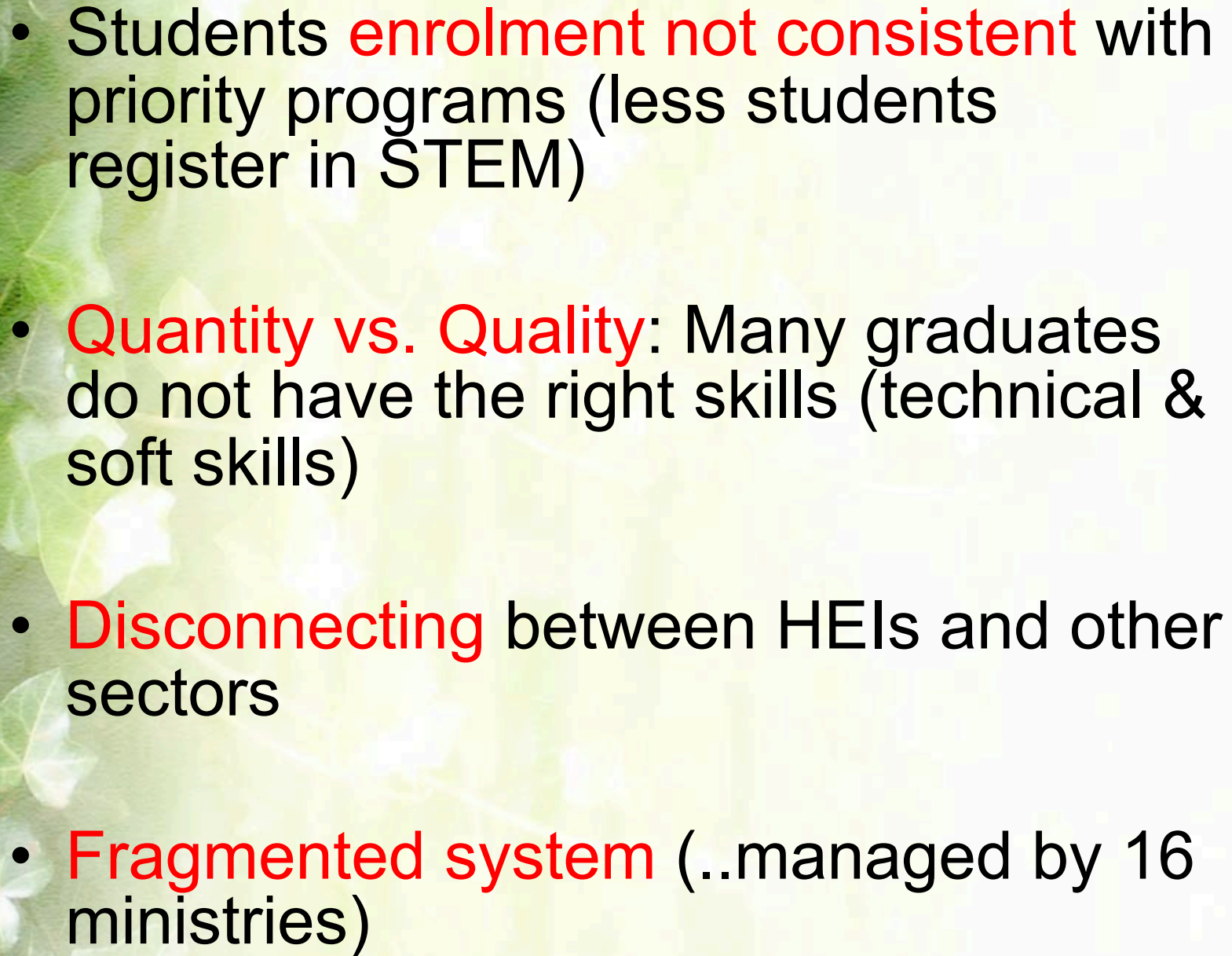
HE at Present :


- 125 HEIs (76 under MoEYS, Public: 13)
- 211,484 students in HE (2018), with Gross Enrolment Rate around 12%

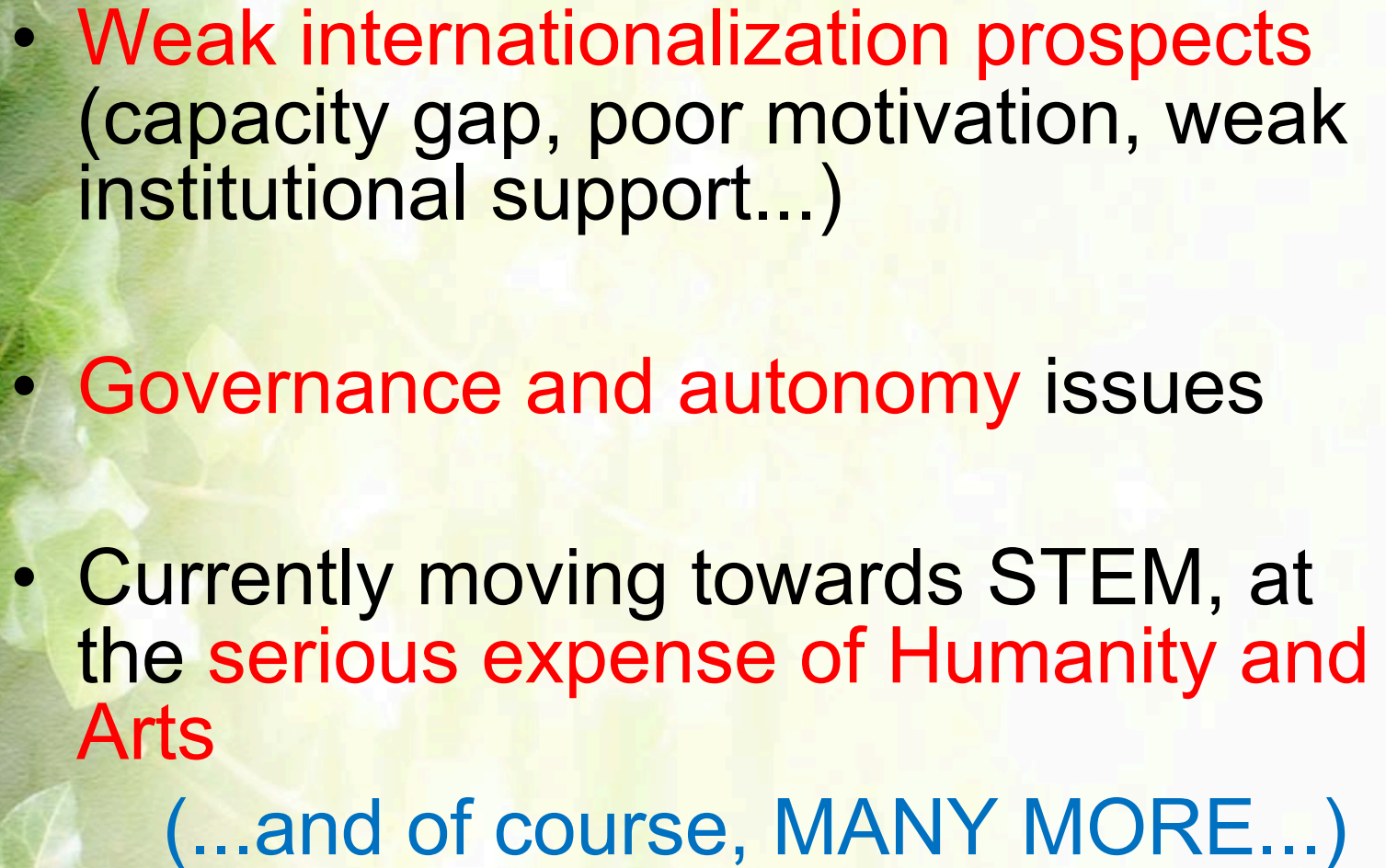


Since 1980,...Cambodian Higher Education has “re-Taken off”, but faced a lot of “**Turbulences**” along the way...most of which are “SIMILAR” to those being faced by all developing countries...!

What can be the turbulences...?

- 
- The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of green leaves, likely from a tree or shrub, with prominent veins and varying shades of green. The leaves are layered, creating a sense of depth and texture. The lighting is natural, highlighting the edges and surfaces of the foliage.
- Students **enrolment not consistent** with priority programs (less students register in STEM)
 - **Quantity vs. Quality**: Many graduates do not have the right skills (technical & soft skills)
 - **Disconnecting** between HEIs and other sectors
 - **Fragmented system** (..managed by 16 ministries)

- 
- **Lack of the right HR** for the right tasks
 - **Public budget expenditure** for HE remains the lowest in the region
 - Most Private HEIs are **“for Profit”**
 - Generally **instruction-oriented & tuition fee-focused**
 - **Research and Development is not yet a CULTURE**

- 
- **Weak internationalization prospects** (capacity gap, poor motivation, weak institutional support...)
 - **Governance and autonomy** issues
 - Currently moving towards STEM, at the **serious expense of Humanity and Arts**
(...and of course, **MANY MORE...**)

...while the seatbelt is being fastened, a lot of conducive opportunities emerged...

- Rectangular Strategy-Phase III has prioritized “Capacity Building and HR Development”
- Aspiration to become a knowledge-based society
- A need to prepare Cambodia to take advantage from ASEAN Economic Integration
- Cambodia Vision 2030
- Cambodian Higher Education Vision 2030
- Cambodia Higher Education Roadmap
- Industry Development Policy
- Political Stability & Foreign Direct Investment

HE Vision 2030 & Roadmap 2017-2030

❖ Vision, Mission & Goals



Higher Education Vision 2030

To build a quality higher education system that develops human resources with excellent knowledge, skills and moral values in order to work, [learn] and live within the era of globalization and knowledge-based society



Higher Education Mission

This roadmap aims to develop an accessible higher education system that is diverse, internationally-recognized, and conducive to teaching, learning, and research, by enabling HEIs to:

1. Generate and equip students with scientific and social concepts and principles, recognizing the importance of local and global wisdom and values; and
2. Instill in students the capability to meet society's needs and participate in the changing labor market and society.



Higher Education Goals

- (1) Quality & Relevance;
- (2) Access & Equity;
- (3) Internationalization & Regionalization;
- (4) Governance & Finance



Goal 1: Quality & Relevance

- Objective 1: To improve teaching and learning
- Objective 2: To promote research and innovation
- Objective 3: To upgrade faculty and staff

Goal 2: Access & Equity

- Objective 1: To enable more students to enter higher education (HE)
- Objective 2: To retain students in HE

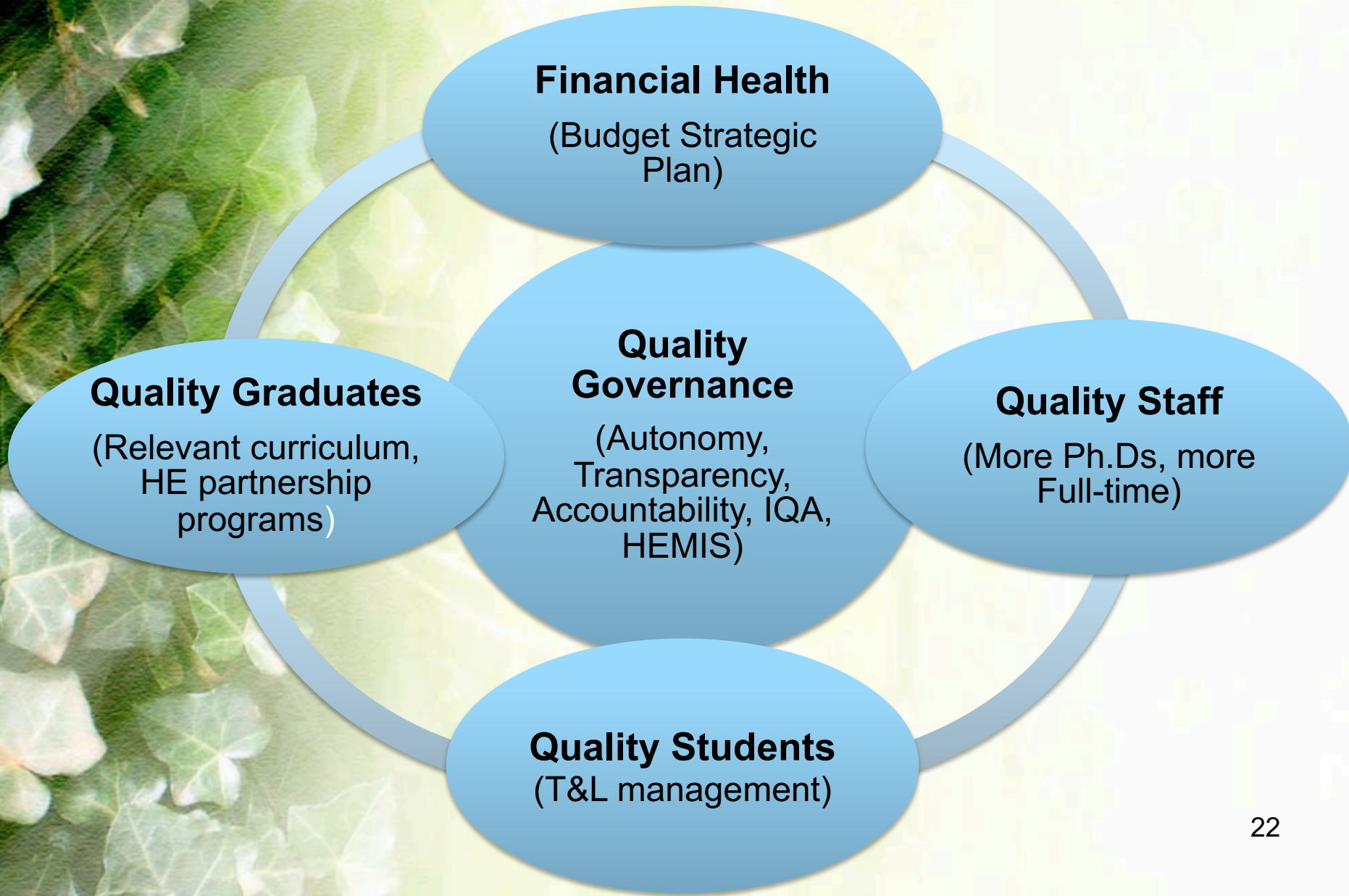
Goal 3: Internationalization & Regionalization

- Objective 1: To promote academic mobility and collaboration
- Objective 2: To promote international and regional academic programs

Goal 4: Governance & Finance

- Objective 1: To enforce and enact policies and legal frameworks
 - Objective 2: To strengthen the quality assurance system
 - Objective 3: To improve financial management and increase funding
- ➔ **Each goal has several Key Indicators divided into 3 phases of action 2017-2020, 2021-2025, and 2026-2030**

Framework for Intervention



5...Intervention Strategies...?

- . Policy Formulation
- . Institutional Reform
- . Professional Development
- . Capacity Building
- . Enhancement of Internationalization
- . Promoting Research Culture
- . Higher Education Financing
- . Governance and Autonomyetc.



**My Journey with Summer Institute in HKU.....
from a Participant, to a Facilitator, and to a life-time Promoter**

..various other international events in over 30 countries







Global Natural History Day 2016 Global Finals (Shanghai)

环自然日®—青少年自然科学知识挑战活动
2016年 全球总决赛 (上海)







Founder & Coordinator of
HE-Get-together Charity Trip²⁹

With Cambodian Scholarship students studying at EASB, Singapore



Hiroshima University Cambodia Alumni Association

**Inauguration Ceremony of
Hiroshima University Cambodia Alumni Association**

12 March 2016 | Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

