

# Higher Education for the 21st Century: Reviews and KC-STOPE Views

**Saad Haj Bakry\***

Professor  
Department of Electrical Engineering  
King Saud University

**Abdulkader Alfantookh**

Associate Professor  
Department of Computer Science

## **Abstract**

Higher education (HE) has played, and is still playing, an important role in world development and well-being. With the emergence of the 21st century and the start of the third millennium, various challenges are being, and need to be, addressed by HE, so that its important role would not only continue, but could also be promoted. This paper has two main purposes. The first is to review key current challenges and efforts associated with HE; while the second is to provide a view of HE through the eyes of the knowledge society (KS) ecosystem framework, known as the knowledge circle (KC), strategy, technology, organization, people and environment (STOPE) framework. The review involves issues considered by international organizations, governments, associations of HE institutions, individual HE institutions, in addition to HE experts. The KC-STOPE framework re-organizes the issues of HE according to a comprehensive and structured view of well defined domains. The paper advocates the use of the framework as a tool for the future planning and implementation of enhanced HE

that promote world development and lead to better life for everyone.

**Keyword:** Higher Education (HE); HE for the 21st Century; Knowledge Society (KS); KS Ecosystem; Knowledge Circle (KC); Strategy, Technology, Organization, People and Environment (STOPE) Framework; KC-STOPE KS Ecosystem Framework