



Opening on-line education: The institutional model of a "Global Degree"

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It is commonly accepted today that the education landscape is changing and there are more types of learning than ever before: conventional, part-time, full-time, distance and online.

this paper endeavors to present the formulation and development of a new educational structure and mode, the proposed: **“Global Degree”**

“Global Degree” is a concise and innovative proposal that will revolutionise international higher education and at the same time blend conventional learning with distance learning without abolishing any of the existing structures.



Its mission statement: “one world, one degree, limitless capabilities”.

This new educational norm based on the methodology of the **“International Academic Credit” (IAC)**.

It will work on a parallel route with conventional degrees offered by Universities around the globe and it should not aim to substitute the existing higher education structures.

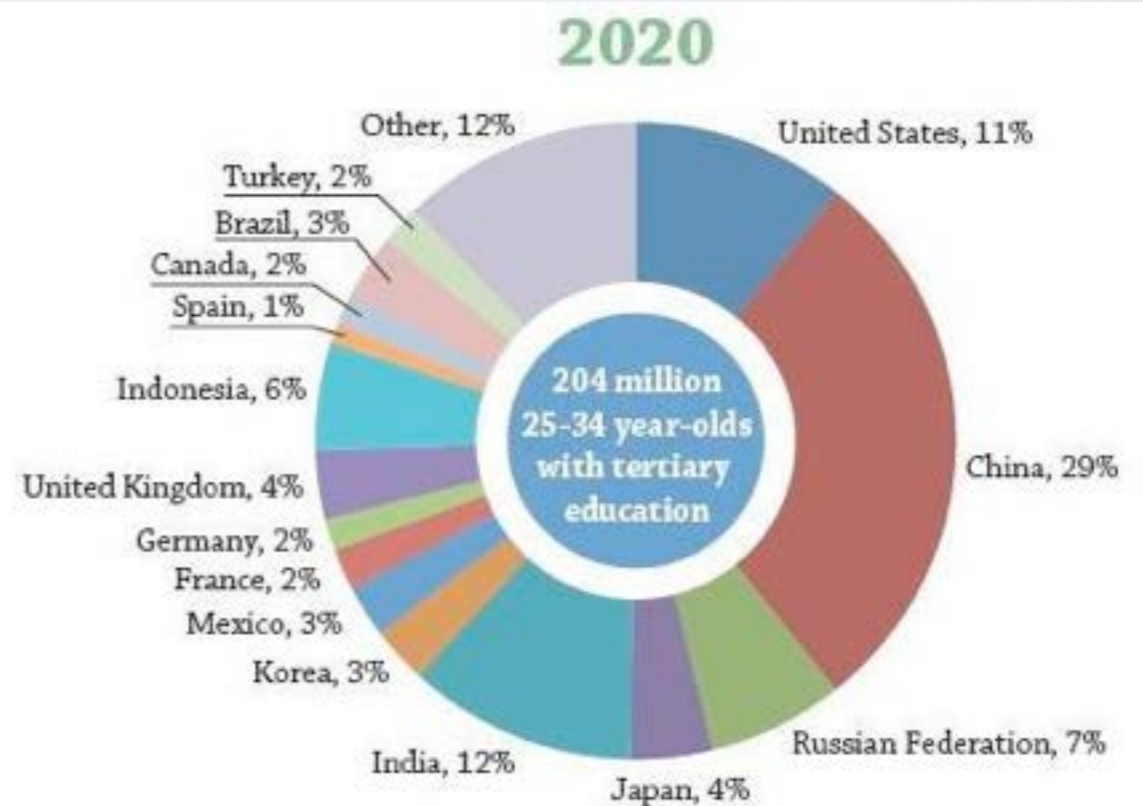
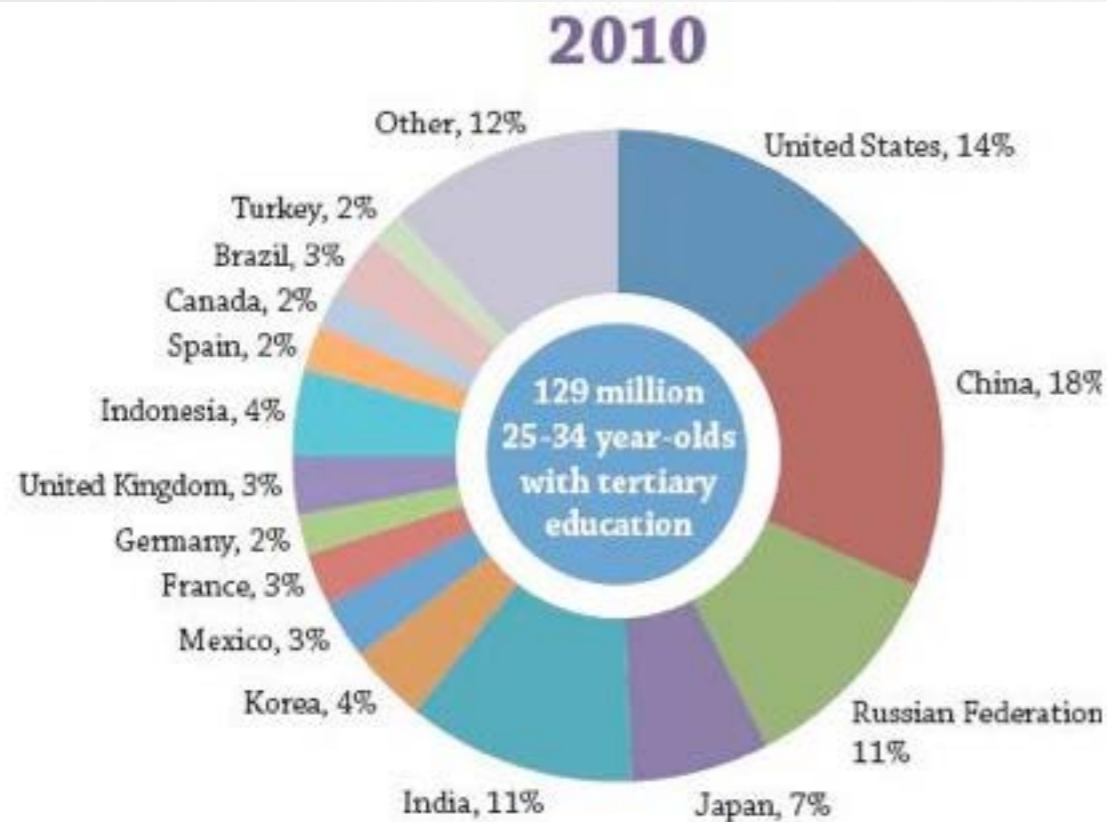
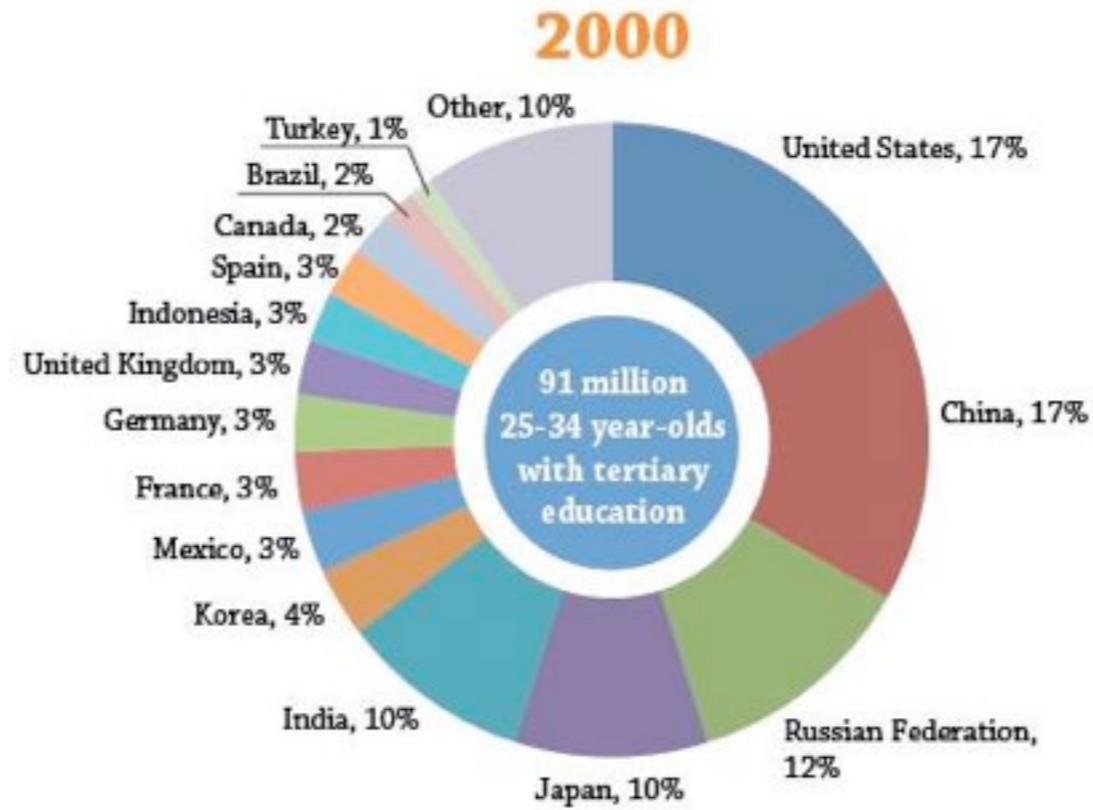
The institutions that will participate in the **“Global Degree Project”** will sign an **“International Academic Treaty”** and adopt the **“International Academic Credit” (IAC)** as a parallel system to those that they already use.



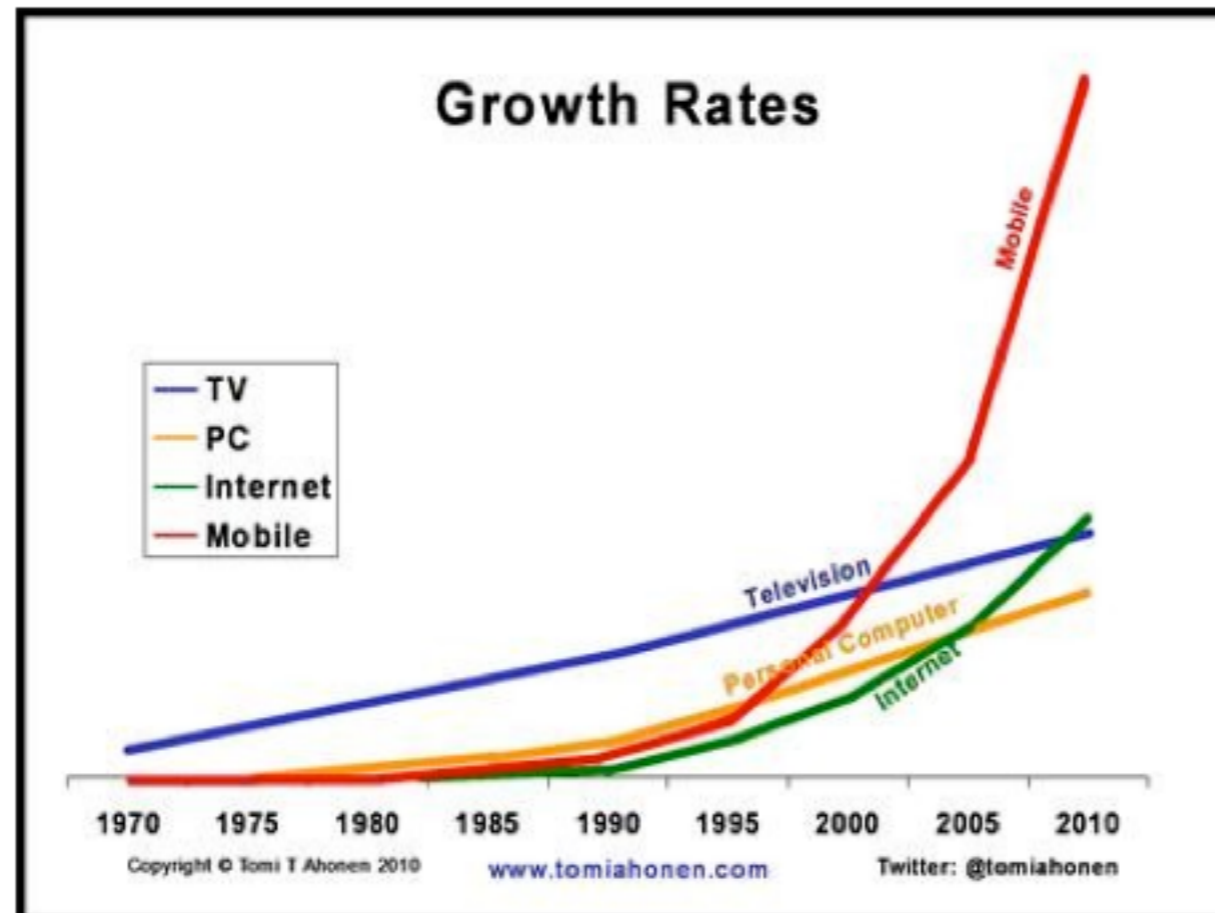
What is proposed is an “extensive hybrid” higher education methodology, where each student will **build** his/ her own Undergraduate or Postgraduate Degree regardless the mode of attendance (full time, part time, distance learning), the method of studying (conventionally, via e-learning, virtual learning, *Second Life* etc), the location of the University, or even the language of tuition.



Share of 25-34 year-olds with a tertiary degree across OECD and G20 countries (2000, 2010, 2020)



Mobile Usage Growth Rates



E-institutions Initiatives

e-institutions

A look at some of the major online education efforts

Name	Founded	Enrollees	Model	Details
Coursera	2012	1.5 million	for profit	Backed by \$22 million from VCs and colleges. Nearly 200 courses available, over a wide range of subjects.
edX	2012	155,000*	nonprofit	MIT and Harvard have each pledged \$30 million. Seven courses available. Will offer certificates to people who complete the work.
Udacity	2012	739,000	for profit	Got \$5 million in seed funding. Offers 14 courses, focused on computer science, ranging from beginner to intermediate to advanced.
Open Learning Initiative	2002	51,000	nonprofit	Carnegie Mellon project offers Web classes and researches online teaching methods. Has 15 courses, including sciences and French.
University of Phoenix	1976	346,000	for profit	Has physical campuses for undergrads and grad students but also offers individual courses online.
The Open University	1969	264,000	nonprofit	Based in the U.K. Combines Web curriculum with physical study centers. Offers hundreds of free online courses in a range of fields.

*EdX figure is for Spring 2012 class only.

METHODOLOGY

The core methodological instrument for the accreditation of the “Global Degree” is the **International Academic Credit (IAC)**, which measures and represents the academic workload, which is required for studying.

To earn **1 International Academic Credit**, a student must carry out **25 hours of activity**. These could be broken in:

- attending or viewing lectures
- individual study
- activities or practical / lab exercises

The didactic model focuses on the following learning dynamics:

- ★ use of new technologies in higher education
- ★ need for continuing education and life-long learning
- ★ active participation of students and self-learning process



SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

Universal accessibility

Global perspective

Global sharing of knowledge

Sustainability and environmental protection

Affordable tuition fees

Flexibility

Continuous and life long learning

Multicultural experience

Degree building opportunity

Weaknesses

Poor knowledge of technology

Digital literacy

Lack of faculty expertise

Gradual and slow adaptation to change

Start-up expenses

Legal and bureaucratic constraints



Opportunities

Increased student enrolment

Continuous improvement process

Space for constant development and expansion

Use of new technologies

Collaborative learning

Threats

Traditional universities' skepticism

Lack of cash flow

No marketing and management experience

Professional and regulatory issues

Administration and decision-making

Political obstacles

Online safety / awareness

IMPLEMENTATION



- Establishment of an international steering committee
- Creation of an **International Consortium** in the form of a not for profit Organization under the name of **“Global Degree”**
- Institutionalization of the **“International Academic Credit (IAC)”**
- Development of a liaison network with Universities, International Organizations and Private and Public Entities
- Signing of the relevant **“International Academic Treaty”** which will put the **“Global Degree”** into effect



"This is the information revolution. It's crazy that every other field is getting revolutionised except education".

Salman Khan