Research on Implementation Measures of Chinese University Training Projects Against Backdrop of Current China-US Trade Frictions

Wenju Zhao¹,a and Dechang Zhao²,b

¹School of Economics and Management, Weifang University, Weifang, China
²School of Economics and Management, Weifang University, Weifang, China

a zhwj226@163.com, b zhaojh0808@163.com

Keywords: university training projects; Chinese economy; China-US trade friction

Abstract. This paper is first briefed about China-US trade frictions, and then argues that Chinese economy is currently resilient and facing downward pressure in the near future amid the prolonged China-US trade war. At last, it puts forward the concerted measures that Chinese universities can take in terms of training projects. The measures can be taken as follows: arranging practicing enterprises and projects according to the real needs of China and comparative advantages of different provinces and regions; launching a training program in a consultative way and trying to reach a consensus especially in terms of the goal; making a detailed plan for the training; pushing forward the training project step by step; and mentally and materially guaranteeing training.

1. Introduction

With its rapid economic growth, China has become the world’s second largest economy, which results in the discomfort of the West, especially the United States. In order to keep its super status in the world, Washington elites try to contain China. The US tries to alter China’s development path that is pivotal to China’s rise. In American opinion, the trade war might be launched by Washington based on unfair trade and other factors, such as so-called Chinese pilfering its intellectual property, forced technology transfer, and unsuitable huge subsidy to state-run companies. The article doesn’t distinguish the right and wrong. There is a trend from trade domain expanded into science and technology fields between the two countries’ competitions. The decoupling attempts at high technology by the US force China to become more independent in key sciences and technologies, such as chips, artificial intelligence, software, aerospace and many others. Chinese government, firms and higher schools jointly make targeted efforts to resolve the difficulties and dilemma out of the possible cutting of the world industrial supply chain by the US. Universities play an important role in coping with such difficulties, especially from the long run, no matter the corresponding disciplines they teach, the research they conduct, or the training programs they cooperate with enterprises. The article mainly pays attention to cooperative training programs between universities and enterprises.

2. Basics of Chinese Economy amid Sino-US Trade Spats

2.1 Strong Resilience of Current Economy

Overall, Chinese current economy shows steady and well. First, the total of economic output has been becoming larger and larger and the economic structure more and more optimal. 2018 witnessed the GDP hit more than 90 trillion yuan (13.6 trillion U.S. dollars), up 6.6 per cent from the previous year, targeting the expected goal of 6.5 percent or so. China’s economy has been keeping growth rates between 6.4 percent to 7.0 percent for 4 years in a row. The value added of agriculture, manufacturing and service accounted for the portion of GDP 7.2 percent, 40.7 percent, 52.2 percent respectively in 2018. The value added of information telecommunications, software and information services increases by 30.7 percent vis-a-vis the previous year, leasing and commercial
servicing 8.9 percent, and transporting, warehousing and posting 8.1 percent. These sectors had been growing faster than many others according to the National Bureau of Statistics in Jan., 2019. Then, the new momentum continued to increase. Medium-and high-end manufacturing grew in an ideal way. The investment in high-tech and equipment manufacturing increased by 16.1 percent and 11.6 percent respectively in light of the accumulation of the former eleven months. New kinds of products grew faster than the previous recent years. For example, new-energy automobile increased by 54.4 percent than the previous year and smart TV 19.6 percent in terms of the accumulation of the former ten months in 2018. New business form, especially e-commerce, remained rapid growth. The total of retail sales nationwide was more than 8 trillion yuan, up 24.1 percent over the same period of last year, and online retailing accounted for close to 6.3 trillion yuan, up 25.4 percent vis-a-vis the previous year. High-end services grew fast, too. New strategic service, technology service and high-tech service increased by 15.3 percent, 15.3 percent, and 13.8 percent on year on year respectively. The economic structure gained further optimization. The value added of tertiary industry accounted for more portion in GDP, hitting 53.1 percent and pushing forward a 4.0-percent increase of GDP and the interrelated industrial structure had been continuing to be optimized. It showed that high-end manufacturing increased rapidly while traditional textile industry and some heavy chemical industry slowed down their growth rate. Consumption became the number one driver for economic growth, contributing to 78 percent, 14 percent higher than in 2017[1].

Surely, there are some challenges. The growth rate of domestic consumption, investment, and import does slow down. Many walks of life have been accustomed to slower and more high-quality development in economy. The Central Government rejects releasing a huge amount of money to spur the economic growth in a rough way. As for exports, China has held 12 rounds of meetings to solve trade disputes with the U.S., and the 13th will soon be held in Oct., 2019. America tries to hold back China’s development in science and technology because of its fear of China’s rise. Huawei Technology Ltd., which has been being Suppressed by the U.S. is a typical case. Stephen Perry, Chairman of the 48th Group Club of the United Kingdom said that the USA was in fear of change and trying to hold back history as it tried in 1953[2]. Sure, it may not be too much serious. “China was a peer, not a rogue,” quoted as saying the famous private consultancy RAND[3]. Basically, there are different voices in the US on how to get along with China. Though Washington elites tend to be hawkish toward China, viewing China as a strategic rival, others may be doves to China’s rise. More than 100 scholars, experts and professionals once sent letter to the White House objecting to decoupling from Chinese economy.

2.2 Challenges of economic slowdown in years to come

During the upcoming years, some experts speculate that China’s economy will slow down its growth, and that the economic slowdown will come from three aspects: trade friction with the U.S., adjustment of real estate, and the short-term turn-down trend of economic cycle. The trade friction with the United States has caused manpower cut of some related export-oriented factories and services, and thereby will lead to the tension of employment including the college students’ employment after graduation. The job market will become fiercer with these newly released manpower from these factories. It is very correct that the Central Government of China put stabilization of the employment the first among other 5 kinds of stabilization. The trade friction also causes re-allocation and shift of international industry and service. It is predictable that labor-intensive work possibly shifts to low-wage countries like Vietnam. Of course, the slowdown is limited to a certain extent. After all, China has a goal of becoming moderately prosperous as of the end of 2020, so the economy will maintain a suitable growth rate between 6 to 6.5 percent. Real estate is no more the powerful engine for economic growth. The hype of real estate has many driving factors, but the high lever of finance is a key element among many others. So, decisions from the Central Government have been tightening finance and monetary policies in real estate, even linking the ups and downs of the housing with local government’s political performance. The continuously escalating of real estate is out of the question for long time. China need find new
engines for economic growth. Of course, using new method and new material to build houses is possible. It is said that 3-D printed houses can significantly reduce the cost of building and the authority encourages adopting such innovative and highly technological methods. Occurrence of economic downward pressure will be certain. It is not sure that the period is long or short. China’s economic upward trend started from the mid-2016s, till the fourth quarterly of 2017 or the first quarterly of 2018 to the pinnacle. And since then, economic turning point began. It is predicted that the downward trend will last till at least 2019, even mid-2020, according to some experts.

3. Implementation Measures of Chinese University Training Projects

3.1 Arrange practicing enterprises and projects according to the real needs of our country and regional characteristics

The specialties that different universities open are closely associated with the national and social needs. So, when a university assigns its teachers to go practicing, it should first take account into the country’s needs. At present, the US and some of its allies and some western countries block crucial technology to China and its high-tech firms, even its educational institutions. For example, chips and software development are China’s weakness opposed to western developed countries. When higher schools cooperate with firms, they should first consider cooperation in these areas. Of course, every university has its own features, so it is necessary to choose training programs based on the school’s features and advantages and the cooperative enterprise’s needs. Generally, the university always is influenced by the economic, social, cultural and political characteristics of the location it lies in. In some may, the foundation of the university reflects the overarching layout of the country and the needs of locals. In other words, the university always bears some local features, with some top-level universities being possible exceptions. Combination of the country’s need, the university’s advantage and some local characteristics, needs and elements may be the best solution to choosing a suitable training program.

For example, the local undergraduate schools in south China’s Guangdong province should think about Guangdong’s advantageous industries and its future development planning when designing training program. It is wise for some Guangdong universities to select training programs combing corresponding majors with industrial robots, smart TV, new-energy automobiles, reinforced carbon fiber, servers and others, because many of these areas are just the needy of China and the advantageous of the region. Take another example. If the university locates at east China’s Zhejiang province, the suitable teachers who intend to go practicing, may go to the reinforced carbon fiber compound, optic fiber, solar energy battery, urban railway vehicle, smart phone and many other industries, because the above industries are just the needs for China and the advantages of Zhejiang over many other provinces or regions. The last case is an illustration from central China’s Henan province. Universities and teachers in Henan can select training programs concerning lithium, bio-based chemical fiber, service robot, etc.

3.2 Launch a training program in a consultative way and try to reach a consensus especially in terms of the goal

Nobody or no organization likes cool orders. Holding meetings between or among them to consult with each other is an effective way. It is best that all these parties can reach a consensus to follow. They can work together to generate a formal document endorsed by every participant. Generally, the document should include the goal of the practicing, individual rights and duties, practicing content, venues and times, funding and fine, rewards and punishes, the data sharing and prevention, the terms of suspension, and so on. Every participant should understand the significance of the goal. The goal is the beacon that directs the teachers to understand why and how they go practicing in enterprises. The goal serves as momentum as well as some constraints to teachers from the school’s and the teacher’s perspective. The goal can make the enterprise turn into a more
socially responsible one, a more prestigious one, and a more sustainable and profitable one with the government’s and the school’s support and help. The goal makes the government serve better higher schools and enterprises within its jurisdiction and can make the local or regional economy more prosperous and government image higher in the vast masses. It really does for the people, and by the people.

3.3 Make a detailed plan for the training

The school administration, the enterprise and the teachers taking part in the practice project work out a plan or an agreement together. Generally speaking, the plan includes the purpose, the main participants, the key training items. For example, from a teacher’s point of view, he or she maybe wants to learn about the enterprise’s production models, development trend, responsibilities of relevant positions, culture and operational philosophy. The teacher may be keen to understand the enterprise’s really operational conditions and the standards of recruitment about ordinary employees and special graduates, high-end talents, and its urgent need for specialties. When it comes to a specific major discipline, such as an agriculture teacher, he or she maybe need learn about the key technology concerning refining corns and storing grains, modern machines. During the practicing process, he or she maybe constantly looks back at the existing teaching program, censoring the possible out-of-date information in it, then re-constructs the original program, creates brand new or innovates the possibly obsolete teaching methods, and complements the new knowledge about the major. It is said that the textbook teachers are using always lags behind the production and marketing realities, among many others. The teacher timely supplements the textbooks in use. During the practicing, the teacher can wholeheartedly focuses on new knowledge, new techniques, new processes, new technology, new ideas and concepts, and how to operate a new piece of instrument. The skilled teacher through the enterprise training then can integrate well practice and theory into the original curricula to achieve the goal of transformation of the working school. This is just a minimal part of an entire plan and other parts can follow the just now mentioned to be rolled out.

3.4 Push forward the training project step by step

Arranging teachers to practice in enterprises expands step by step. In other words, try first in limited higher schools, enterprises and major disciplines, and if succeeded, then push it forward in intensive and extensive ways. This tactic may cause teachers to well adapt themselves to new conditions of training in enterprises and overcome possible inconveniences, difficulties and even hardships. This tactic can effectively avoid rebellious mentality and actions possibly from teachers and enterprises. The schools can timely sum up experiences and lessons, and then consolidate and push forward good things and try to abandon or avoid bad things. The enterprises can adjust themselves to the teachers’ participation, rightly dealing with the new relations with the schools, the teachers, and the government, and leave enough time to re-allocate the internal jobs concerning the training project, including assigning special persons to take part in or trace the training project. For the government, it can monitor the periodical outcome of a training program, and accumulate experience in coordinating future similar projects or expand this kind of events to more schools and enterprises.

3.5 Mentally and materially guarantee training

In China, the Party is always at the core of key areas, including higher school work. So, grass-root Party organizations should first conduct political work that tries to improve the teachers’ morality and devotion spirit. The grass-root party can conduct traditional classic education, such as learning some mottoes of Confucius, Mencius and others, meanwhile perform modern education, including watching the most updated educational videos and learning relevant policies. Huang Danian is a glaring example for teachers to learn. Teachers can learn his loyalty, diligence, devotion
and commitment to work. The study of the modernization of China’s education 2035 also benefits teachers to set higher goals for educational cause and to work hard to master specialties to teach well in the future. And the administrative organizations provide guarantee work, and what’s more, they should form a system that funds the training project in order to let the teachers happily and willingly practice in the enterprise. The teacher should be rewarded if he or she does well in training, including the future promotion of administrative management or upgradation of one’s professional title. The teacher who doesn’t really take part in the training project, because of one’s laziness or private business, should be punished[4]. The compensation for the project should be canceled, and the evaluation of the professional title should not be considered preferentially. The government implements tax cut and monetary support within the scope the laws permit, for the enterprise offering practice chances at present or in the near future. For the successful training, the government should think highly of the enterprise, the promising assistance should indeed go to the enterprise. Meanwhile, the school provides some convenience and help for the enterprise’s possible graduate recruitment and other resources. For the enterprise that is inactive in training, the government should cancel the promised benefits and even rule it out from the training enterprise list. In all, there is a mechanism mentally and materially guaranteeing the participants getting what they should deserve.

4. Summary
Against the backdrop of China-US trade frictions, the higher schools should prioritize the training programs needed by the society, taking account into the concrete economic situation locally, regionally, nationally, and even globally. This article tries to match the universities’ training projects with the reality, mainly from the perspective of current and prospective economy, and against the backdrop of China-US trade frictions. The data adopted tries to be representative and comprehensive. However, the rapid changing world always makes samples and arguments possibly lag behind. Meanwhile, the authors deeply recognize their limit knowledge and lacking the ample front-line experiences, and thereby the article may just be a reference to relevant entities.

Acknowledgement
This research work was supported by [2017]13: the project of the higher education division, Chinese Ministry of Education. Project No. 201701078001.

References
[1] Xin Wen. The 2018 China’s Economic Performance Analyzed by Ning Jizhe, Head of the National Bureau of Statistics, China Net. China Development Portal Net on http://cn.chinagate.cn/webcast/2019-02/21/content_74489191.htm
[2] Stephen Perry. Carry forward the cause of “Icebreakers” from generation to generation on http://english.peopledaily.com.cn
[3] James Dobbins, Howard J. Shatz, and Ali Wyne. Russia Is a Rogue, Not a Peer; China Is a Peer, Not a Rogue (Different Challenges, Different Responses) on https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE310.html
[4] Wu Fuping. Exploring the path to open education teacher team. Fujian Broadcast Television University Academic Journal 2016(2) 18-19.