## Higher Education in Iran: Capabilities and International Activities of Damghan University

## September 23, 2013 – 1630hrs.

This study aims at investigating the capabilities and international activities of higher education in Iran. Education, in general, is highly centralized and is divided into K-12 education (The school system) and higher education. The school system is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education. Higher education is under supervision of Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (for non-medical universities) and Ministry of Health and Medical Education (for medical schools).

Through a description of the structure of the Iranian higher education system, this study firstly describes the major responsibilities of the ministry. Secondly, it focuses on various types of higher education and provides extensive amount of information about the Iranian universities and colleges, and various fields of study at universities. Then, some data in the form of tables and graphs will be provided which demonstrate the number of students (male and female) currently studying at various higher education institutions as well as the introduction of the grading system. Furthermore, higher education strategies and policies are presented. Finally, in order to establish new scientific cooperation internationally, especially with the Islamic countries, educational, research, cultural and political capabilities of higher education, in particular, capabilities of Damghan University are discussed. In this regard, we study the social pyramid and demand for higher education in the last years to provide the necessary backgrounds for young generations and seekers of knowledge to attend the universities. Because of the reduction of demand for higher education in recent years, vacant seats of many universities especially Damphan University can be allocated to foreign students. Iran's astonishing growth in the scientific output and its 15<sup>th</sup>place in the world indicate that the Islamic Republic of Iran higher education is one of the leading science production countries in the world.

**Keywords:** higher education, capabilities, state-run, private and distance-learning universities, Iran

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