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Abstract

The millennium round of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) underlines issues relating to the regulation of education as an internationally traded service. Transnational education is a key component of such trade. Southeast Asia is something of a laboratory in the development and regulation of transnational education. The region combines high demand, keen competition among providers, and host country regulatory regimes ranging from relatively laissez faire to strongly interventionist. This paper examines the approaches of three Southeast Asian governments ? Hong Kong, Malaysia and Australia ? to the regulation of transnational education within their borders. In each case the authors provide background on the higher education system, describe the regulatory approaches to transnational education, and analyse the motivations behind regulation. Both the neoliberal approach of the WTO to trade in educational services, and critiques of this approach, are outlined. The authors conclude that any attempts to promote global standards or quality principles for

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transnational education must address the myriad concerns of governments, including consumer protection, advancing national goals and protecting the local system. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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