Perspectives from Asia on the aims of education

National University of Singapore president Tan Chorh Chuan cautions Asia’s course towards a massive rise in the numbers of tertiary-educated people, world-class universities and liberal arts education in this excerpt from his speech at Georgetown University in the United States last week.

Society, myarg, my friend! I visited Angkasapuri in Jakarta, to get there, we walked on a village of educated people and beautiful ladies, ladies who were once nurses. We reviewed the school and the things that has happened in “Reading the wave”.

Like the business of Karunia, we are an educational entity to be seen by the world on the future and the current, global issues of higher education and the values of education in our country and beyond. The new values of education are now a reality, the role of education is now to empower students to be entrepreneurs, critical thinkers and leaders of the future. Education has to be redefined, reimagined and re-sided to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Now, let me focus on the role of the university and its responsibilities: As an educational institution, the university is responsible for providing a holistic education that goes beyond academic excellence. It is important to note that universities are not just places of learning, but also places of research, innovation, and community engagement. The university should be a hub of knowledge, a place where ideas are generated and shared, and a platform for addressing societal issues.

We need to focus on the following areas:

1. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**: The university should encourage students to think creatively and to develop their entrepreneurial skills. This can be achieved through the implementation of programs that focus on innovation and entrepreneurship, such as incubators, accelerators, and business competitions.

2. **Interdisciplinary Education**: The university should foster interdisciplinary education, which allows students to develop a broad and deep understanding of various fields. This can be achieved through the implementation of multidisciplinary courses and programs.

3. **Community Engagement**: The university should engage with the local community and beyond to solve real-world problems. This can be achieved through the implementation of service-learning programs and partnerships with local organizations.

4. **Global Perspective**: The university should promote a global perspective, which includes understanding and respecting cultural diversity. This can be achieved through the implementation of international exchange programs and partnerships with universities around the world.

The university’s role in preparing students for the future is crucial. The world is changing rapidly, and students need to be equipped with the skills and knowledge to navigate this change. The university’s role is to ensure that students are prepared to be leaders in their respective fields and to make a positive impact on society.

Within Asia, we, in the field of liberal arts education, is defined and conceived of, as the interest of many countries in the earlier stages of industrialisation. We are on the rise of liberal arts education, focusing on the core values and skills that are essential for our students to succeed in the future.

Preparing for the future: The university needs to be flexible and responsive to the changing needs of students and society. This means being open to new ideas, being willing to experiment, and being willing to fail. The university should also be a place where students can express themselves and be heard.

In conclusion, the university’s role in preparing students for the future is crucial. The university should be a place of learning, a place of innovation, and a place of engagement. The university should be a place where students can develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the future.