

Higher education leaders and the challenges of a changing world



Helen Griffiths, Global Education Dialogue, Ho Chi Minh City,
16/6/2016

Challenges of a changing world



Addressing global challenges through people, research and innovation – the Newton ethos

- ▶ people: improving science and innovation expertise (known as ‘capacity building’), student and researcher fellowships, mobility schemes and joint centres
- ▶ research: research collaborations on development topics
- ▶ translation: innovation partnerships and challenge funds to develop innovative solutions on development topics



Tackling global challenges - the role of education

- ▶ Health
- ▶ Resources, environmental
- ▶ Social



- ▶ **Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**
- ▶ Widen participation in education to develop local talent globally

University for opportunity



Creating self-confident, global citizens able to shape the businesses and communities of tomorrow, and to support exceptional graduate employability

56%

of undergraduate applicants from lower participation backgrounds

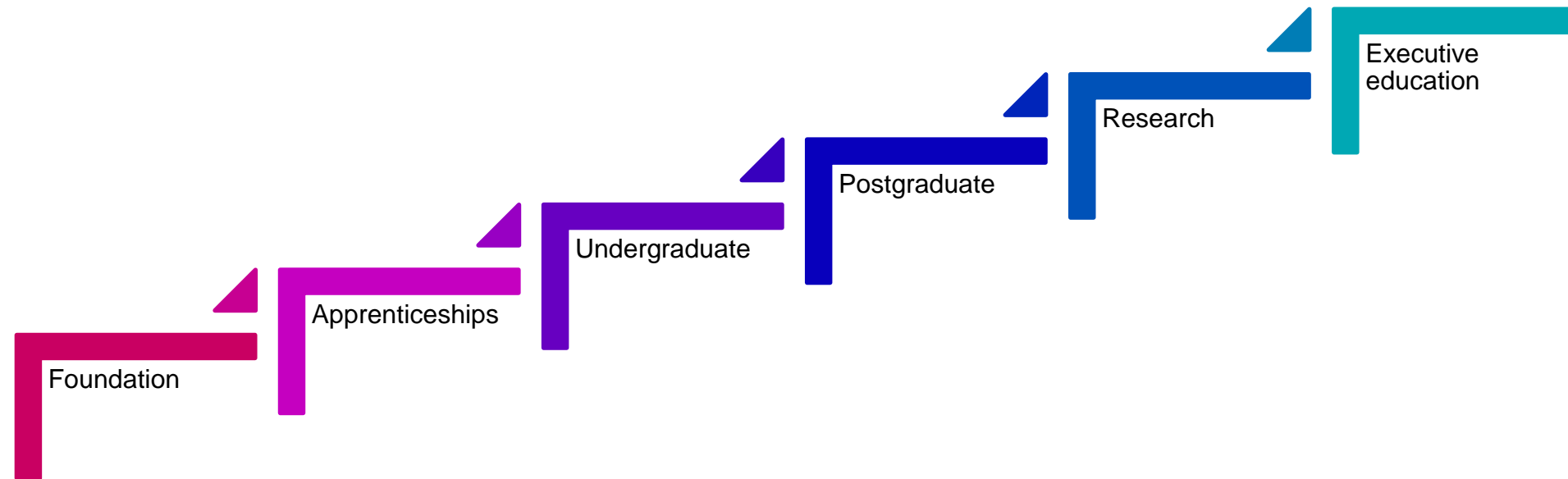
+60%

from minority ethnic groups

92%

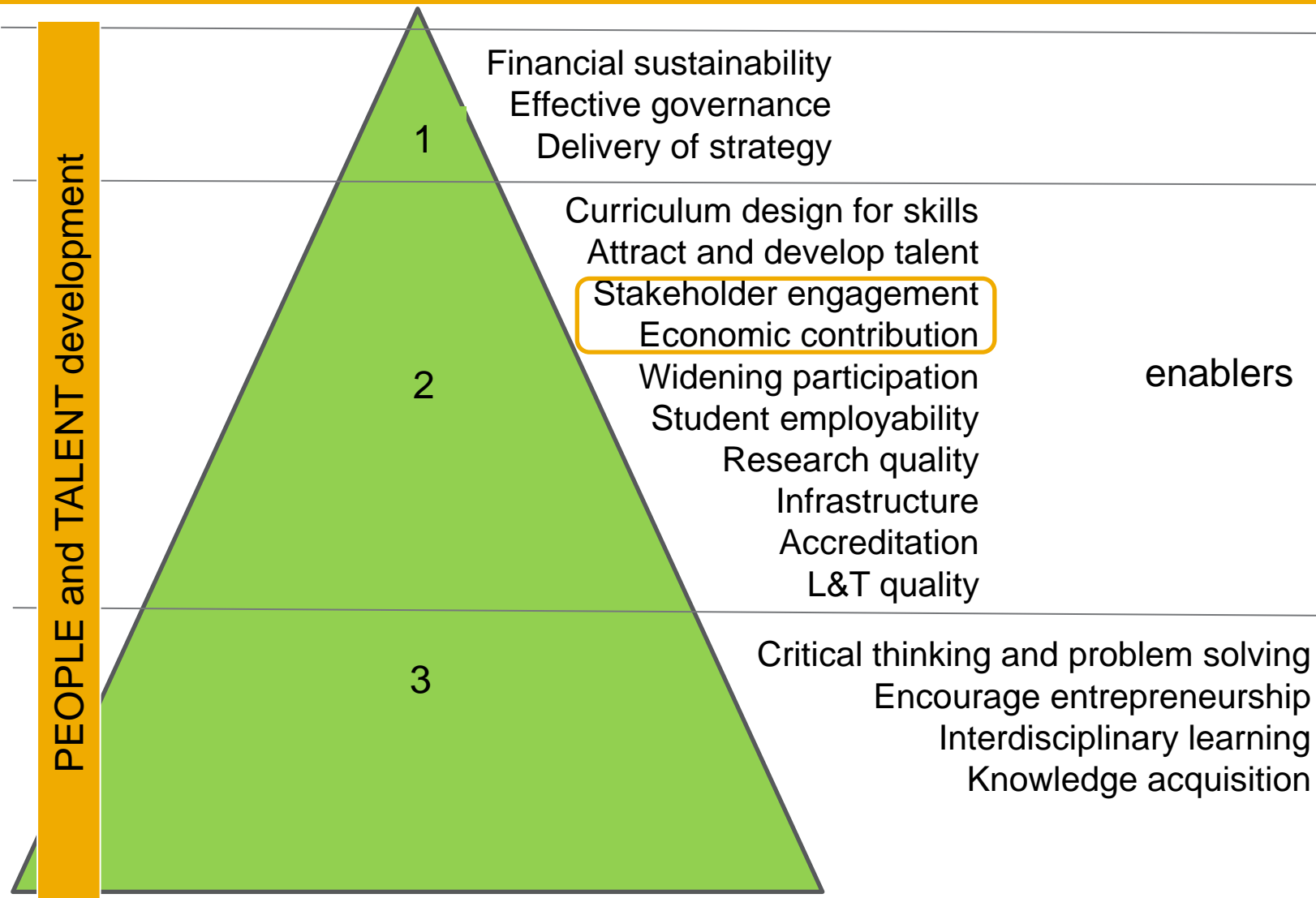
attended a state school

Widen participation - multiple (re-)entry points into higher education



- ▶ In line with institutional strategy and direction

Higher Education challenges – valuing people, research and innovation



After
Sarkar et
al 2009

Aston: a University for Enterprise

- Enterprise activities support Aston's vision in many ways

Enhancing students' and graduates' business skills and employability

Creating and sustaining links with the business community, and having an impact on the economic development of the region

Delivering research impact and a source of research data and case studies

Positioning Aston as a key institution in the knowledge economy of the Midlands

Identifying IP, developing IP to a stage it can be licenced or spun out into new ventures

Providing professional development and consultancy opportunities for academics

Providing opportunities for alumni to engage and contribute

Applying research and finding new revenue streams

Support for entrepreneurs in the UK

- Expert delivery with a practical focus
- Peer learning environment, networks of alumni businesses
- Wider university opportunities – access to graduates, research, Knowledge Transfer Projects
- External connections

Innovate UK



UK Trade
& Investment



London
Stock Exchange

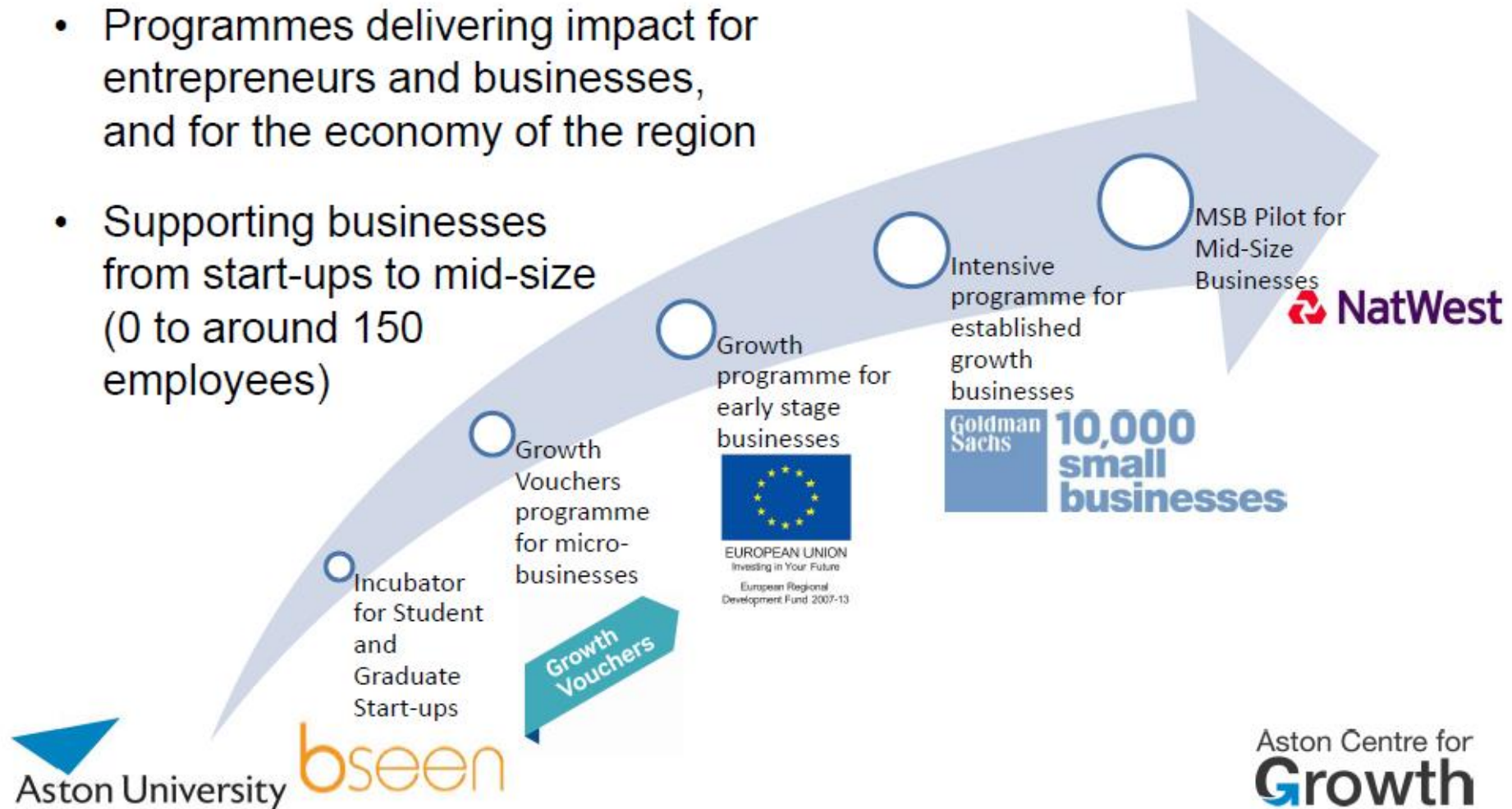


VNUK – support for entrepreneurs in Vietnam



Aston Centre for Growth

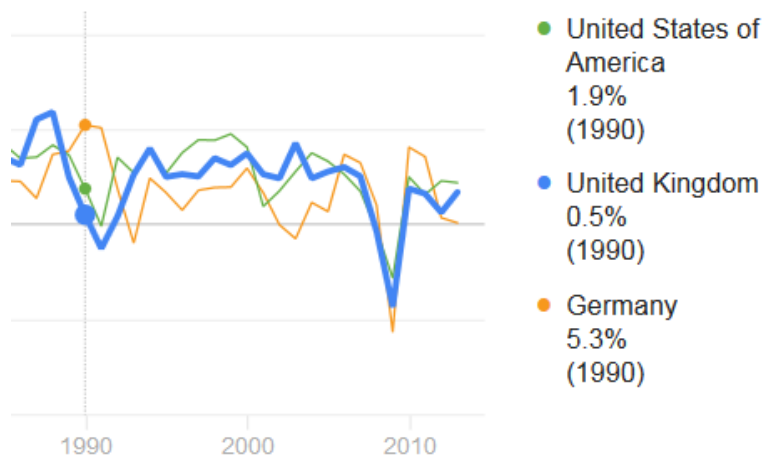
- Programmes delivering impact for entrepreneurs and businesses, and for the economy of the region
- Supporting businesses from start-ups to mid-size (0 to around 150 employees)



Linking innovation to economic growth

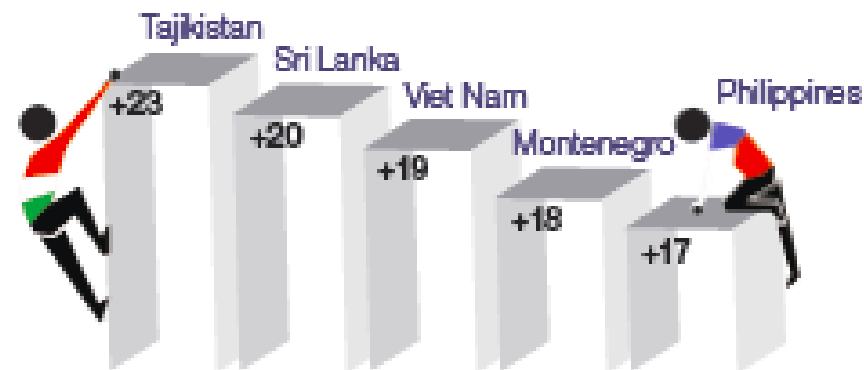
United Kingdom / GDP growth rate

1.7% annual change (2013)



INNOVATION INDEX CLIMBERS

Countries that improved their innovation performance ranking compared to last year.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN VIET NAM



Average GDP growth
> 7%

1990 - 2007

Average GDP growth
Around 5%

2007 - Present

WHY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION?

Fostering **science, technology and innovation (STI)**

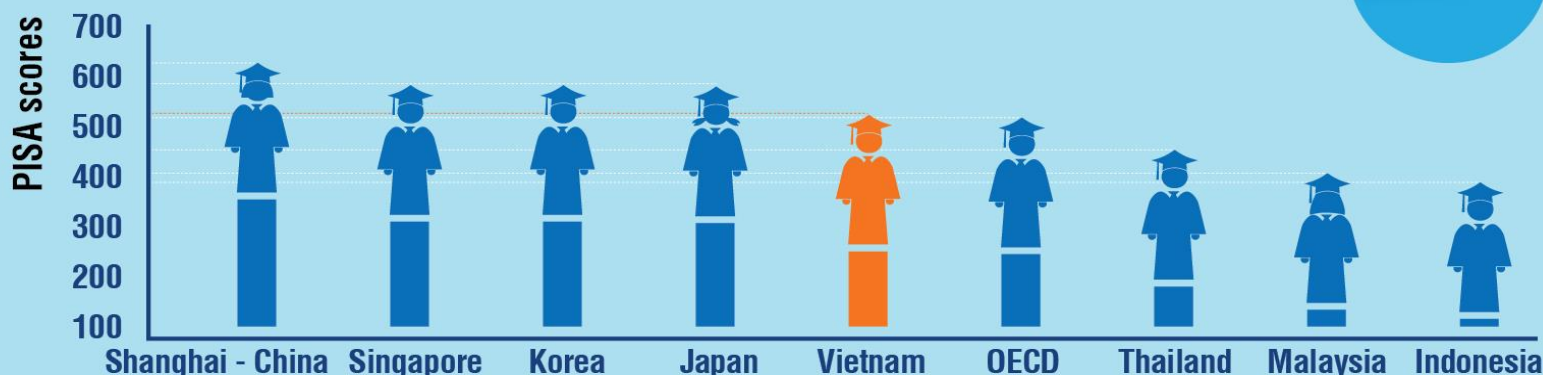
- Increasing productivity
- New driver for sustained growth

SWOT analysis of Vietnam's innovation system

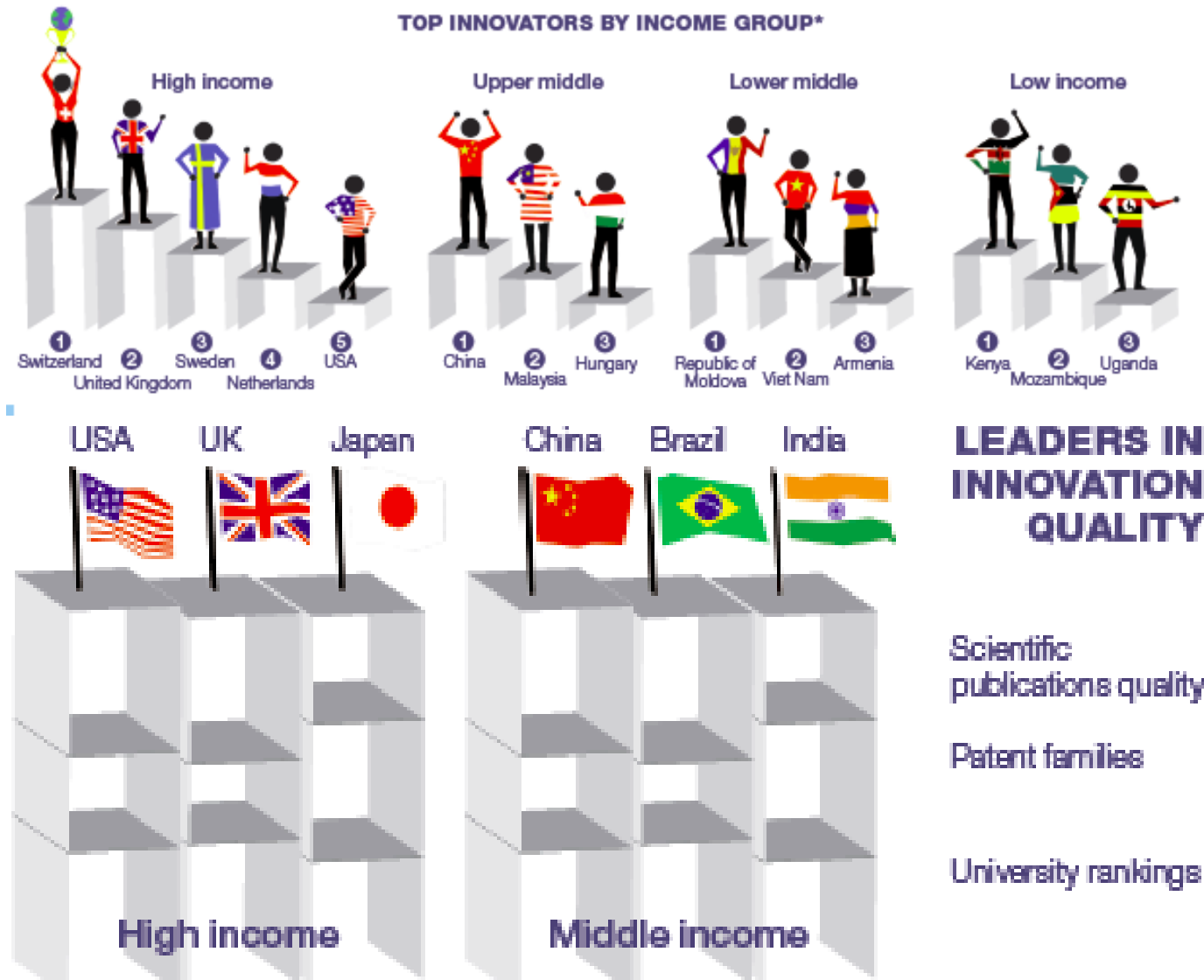


Good basic education performance

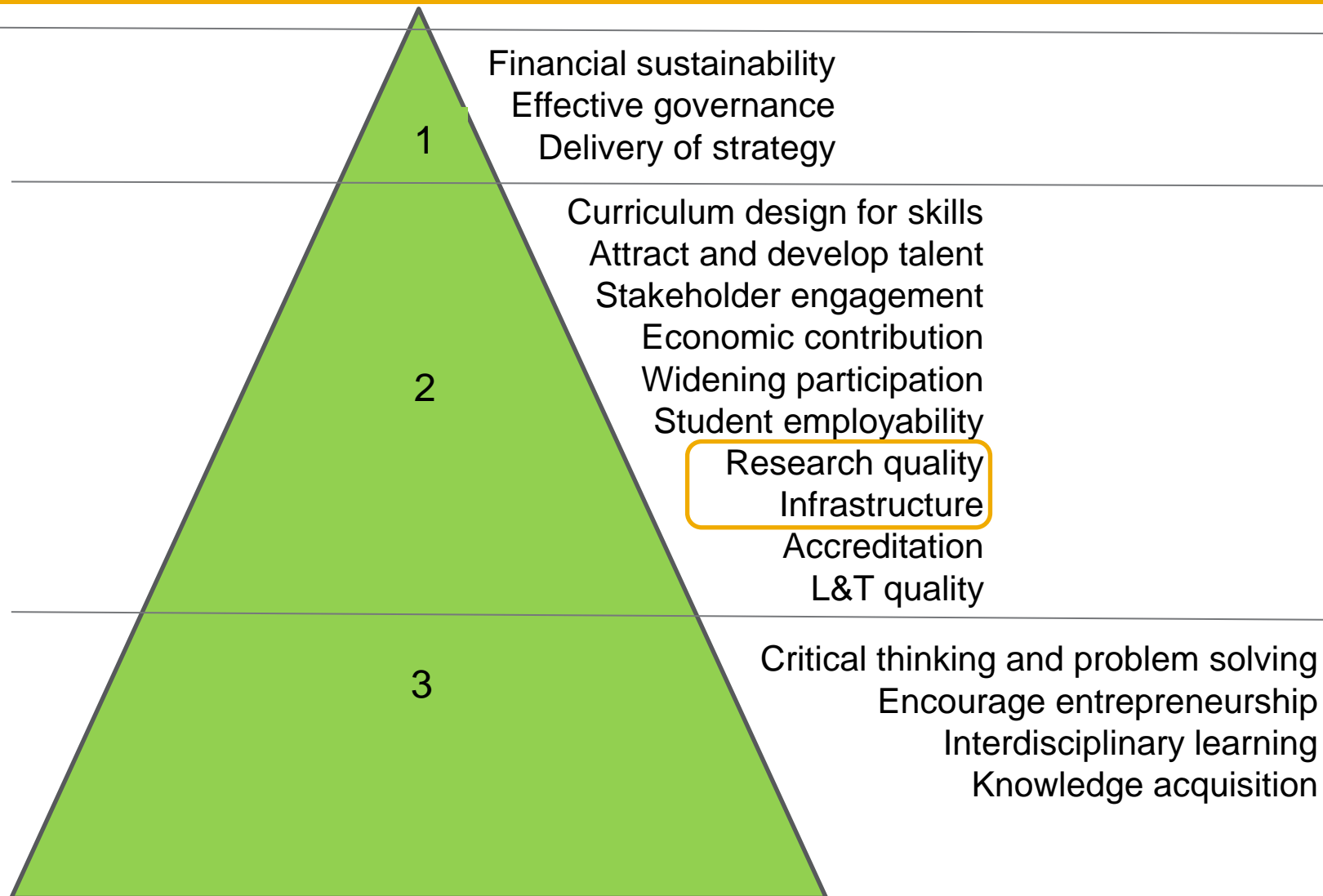
STRENGTHS



Research quality drives the quality of innovation

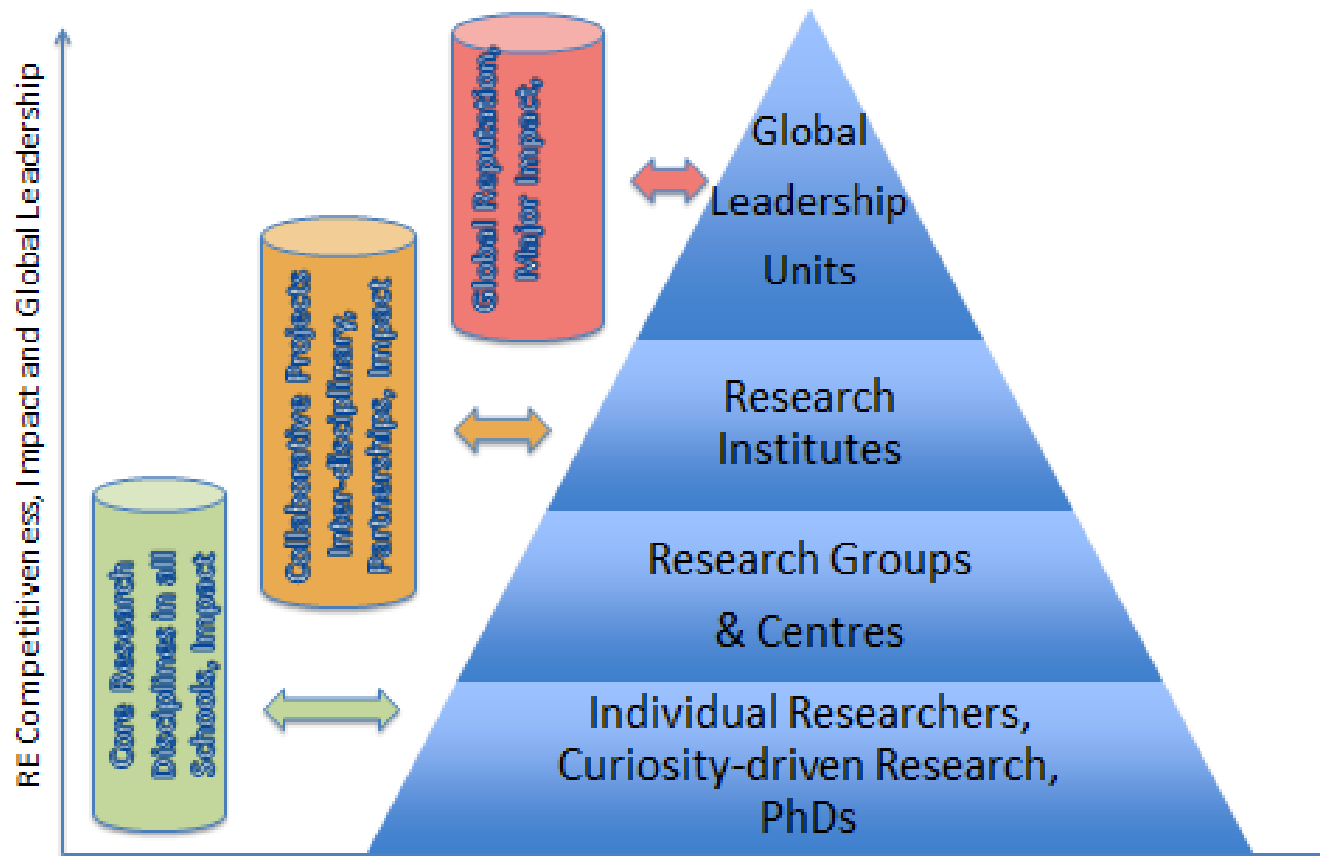


Higher Education challenges



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Identifying and developing research capability

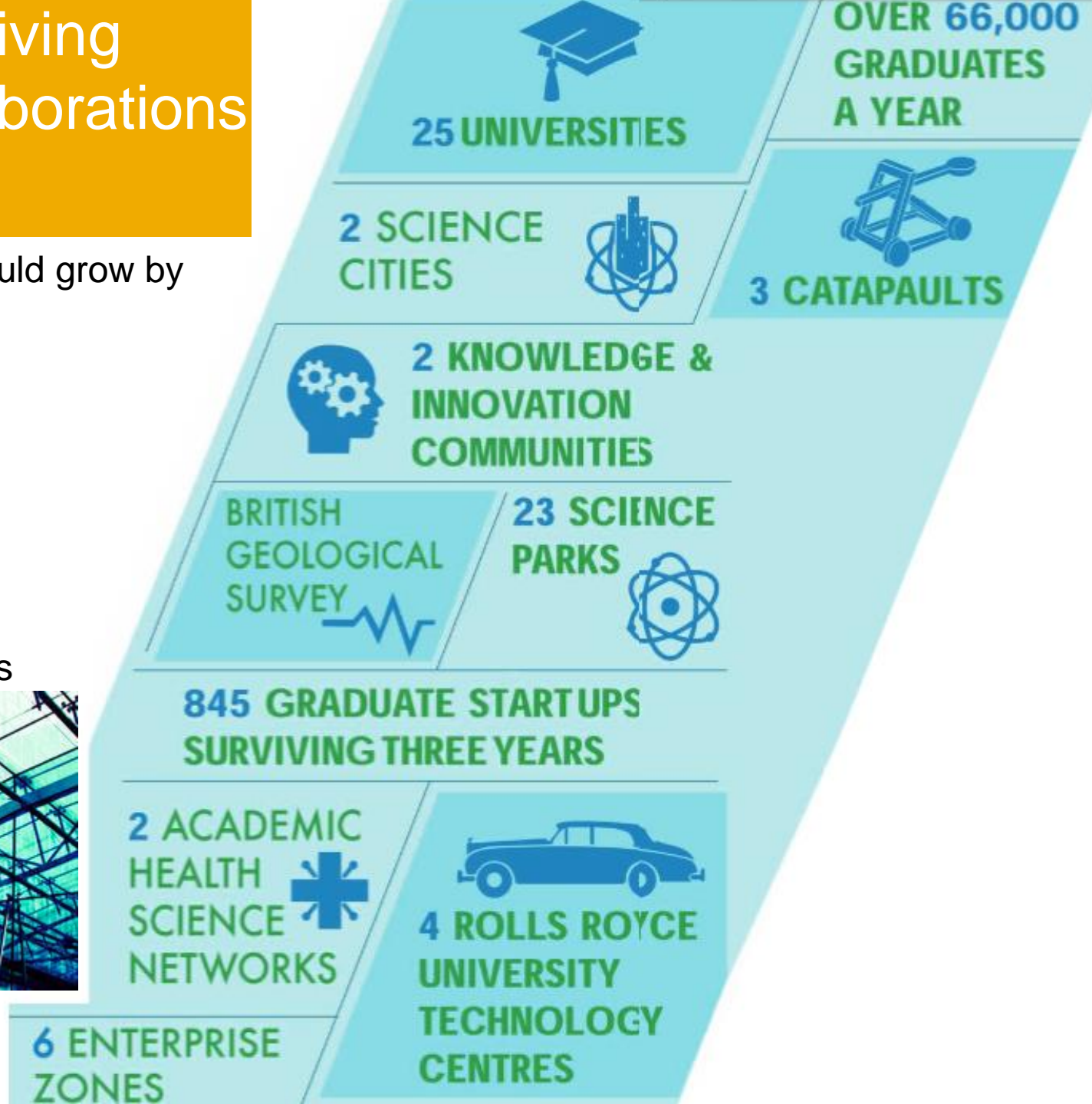


HE leaders driving strategic collaborations

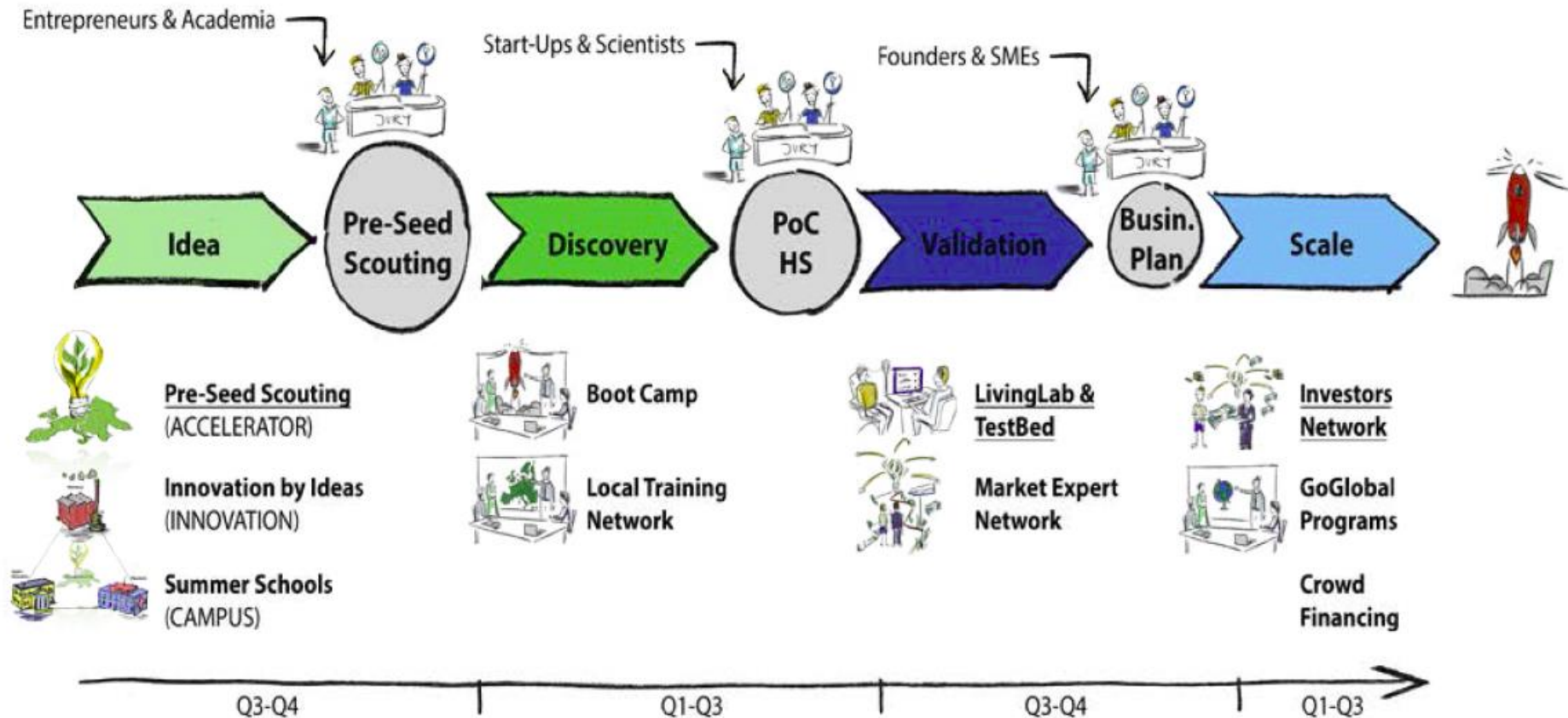
Midlands economy could grow by £34 billion by 2030.

Based on 5 themes

- skills
- innovation
- transport
- promoting the plan
- finance for business



European collaboration to address ageing



Collaborative engagement in global research challenges

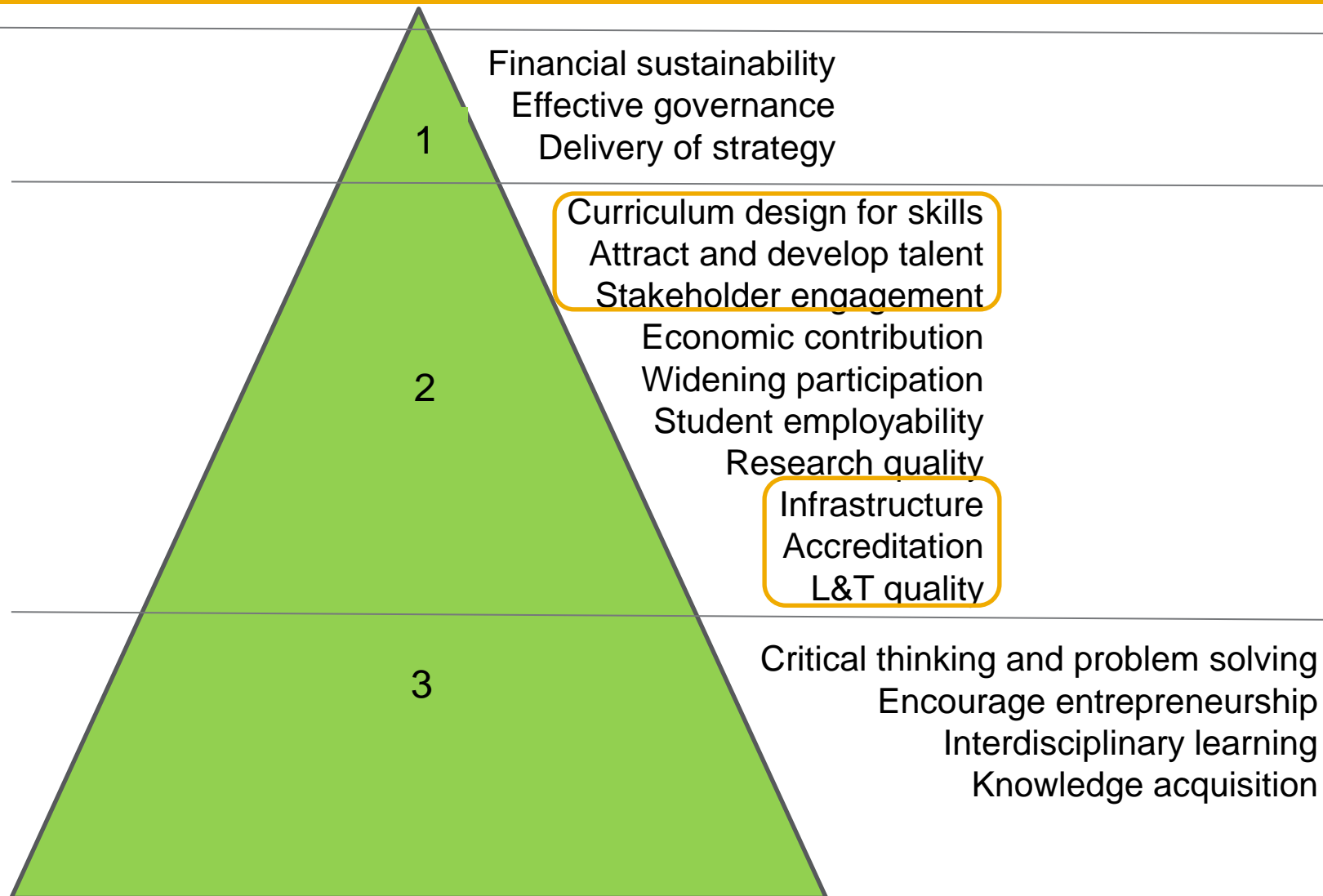
UK Research Council priorities

- ▶ Address complex societal challenges through supporting frontier interdisciplinary research and innovation;
- ▶ Build additional capability in research that can help address global challenges;
- ▶ Address the problems faced by developing countries whilst further improving our ability to deliver cutting-edge research; and
- ▶ Provide agile responses to sudden emergencies or new opportunities requiring interdisciplinary solutions

Priorities for Vietnam

- ▶ Health and life sciences.
- ▶ Environmental resilience and energy security.
- ▶ Future cities.
- ▶ Agriculture.
- ▶ Digital innovation and creativity

Higher Education challenges



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Higher education leader development

Develop the emerging talent

- ▶ Leadership foundation
- ▶ Executive education
- ▶ Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) Malaysia
- ▶ British Council – Higher education leaders forum

People
Aston values
High performance
Innovation
Trust
Empowerment
Development
Learning & scholarship
Engagement
Culture
HR strategy



**Aston
People
2020**



**Human Resources
Strategy**

Higher education leader development

5 day workshop in Vietnam

Exemplar workshop content

- ▶ Introduction to Motivation in the Workplace
 - ▶ Models of Leadership
 - ▶ Cross-Cultural Dimensions
 - ▶ Transformational Leadership and Leader-Member Exchange
 - ▶ Relationship-based approaches
 - ▶ 1 week UK shadowing - strategy
- Coaching and mentoring



Workshops on developing the curriculum - Danang, Aston and VNUK

- ▶ Conference on Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education - Experiences and Perspectives in Vietnam and UK
- ▶ *The UK academic quality context: Balancing assurance and enhancement*
- ▶ *A UK perspective on degree programme design*
- ▶ *Enabling academic staff development and student engagement within recognised quality frameworks: a UK perspective*



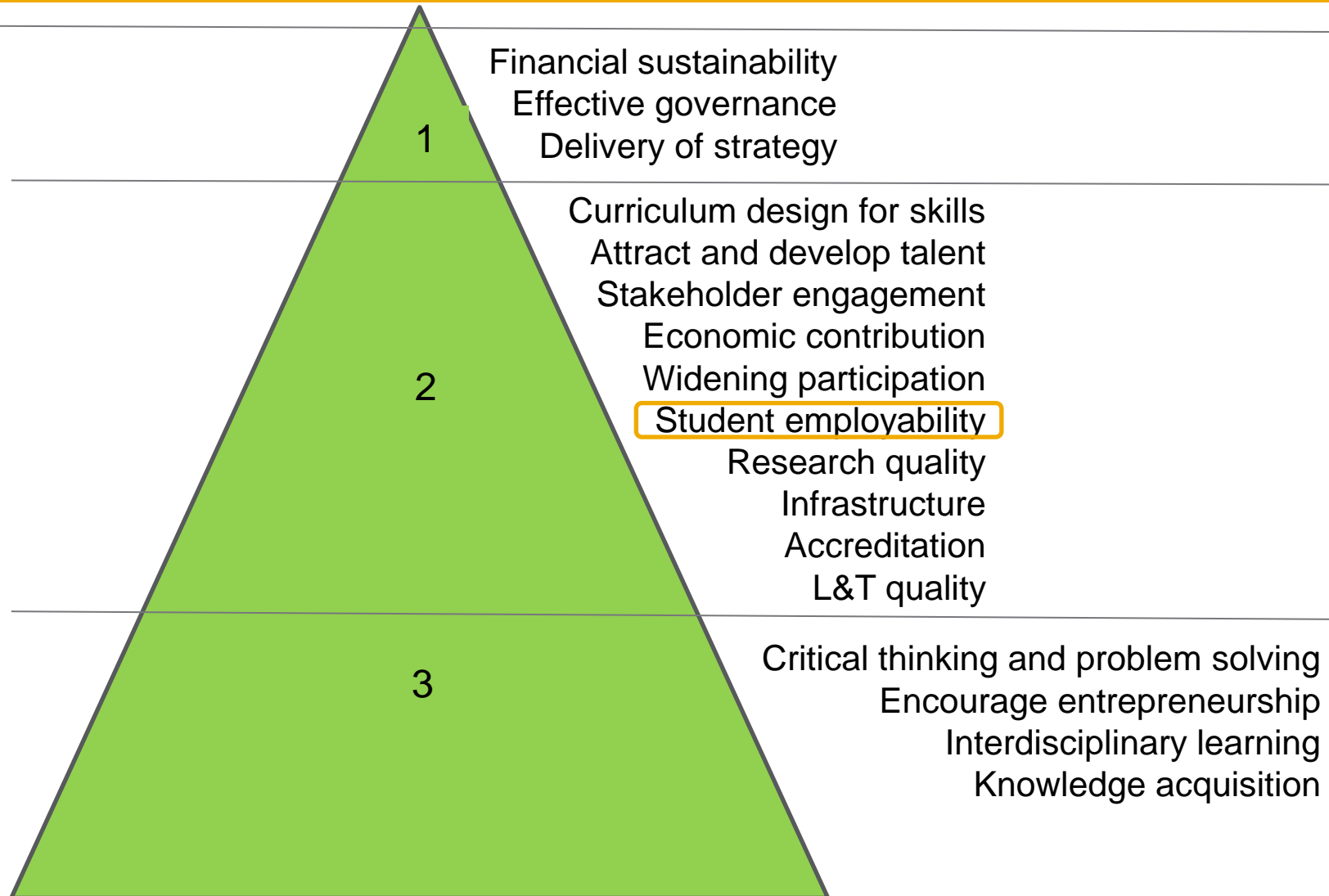
Innovation in the classroom and developing the curriculum

CDIO, Aston



Education debate, VNUK

Higher Education challenges



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Non-credit bearing modules

**HE
AR** | Higher
Education
Achievement
Report



YEAR 2 STUDENT?



**IMPROVE YOUR
EMPLOYABILITY** → **IN A LOW-CARBON WORLD**

2-6 NOVEMBER 2015

Developing talent - responsibility for stakeholder engagement

- ▶ Stakeholder engagement
- ▶ Social enterprise

> Business news > Previous news stories > 2013 > October

Student-run social enterprise wins National Award for Student Educator

The chairman of Aston Entrepreneurs Society, Sep Eslahi, has won the National Enterprise Educator 'Student Educator' award for The Apprentice Challenge. The award was presented at a gala dinner in Sheffield's Cutlers' Hall as part of the International Entrepreneurship Educators Conference (IEEC).



From left to right: Keith Burnley, acting CEO of NCEE, Simona Popa, Sep Eslahi and Professor Elena Rodriguez-Falcon, Director of EEUK.

Following the award, Sep Eslahi and Simona Popa have now set up The Apprentice Challenge as a social enterprise with support from BSEEN (Birmingham Skills For Enterprise and Employability Network) and are based in Innovation Birmingham Campus, Birmingham Science Park Aston.



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Developing global citizens - mobility

► Business and Engineering Schools from Aston University and the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi are overseeing the construction of a combined heat and power plant (CHP) in a remote village in northern India.



Developing skills in the learners - entrepreneurship

- ▶ A creative and co-operative space for startup people, secondary and high school pupils, college students, faculties as well as designers, artists, entrepreneurs, and other professionals
- ▶ Co-development of entrepreneurship curriculum for all undergraduate students studying at VNUK = employability



HE leading at the forefront of science, technology and innovation

- ▶ Developing and nurturing talent
- ▶ New knowledge and discovery
- ▶ Engaging in a dynamic innovation sector
- ▶ Increasing the impact of research and education



Final thoughts

- ▶ Education has a vital role to play in improving the prospects of a better future for all – widening participation for greater benefit
- ▶ Mobility, engagement and shared innovations will be effective throughout organisations when led from the top and embedded in the strategy



A personal perspective on HE leadership and the challenges of a changing world

HE Leaders will be

- ▶ strategic – deliver a clear direction and ensuring that all opportunities that are seized remain relevant to the overall goal.
- ▶ flexible and creative – adaptive and innovative
- ▶ a communicator and change-maker, through engaging people throughout the organisation
- ▶ aware of changing environment and playing a role in shaping the sector(s) where possible
- ▶ balancing competing interests – not OR but AND
- ▶ responsible investment in people and infrastructure – people are key to organisational success

Innovation conference, Vientiane, Laos



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1st ASEAN Innovation Conference

UK-ASEAN INNOVATION CONFERENCE (UAIC)

DISCUSSION, INSIGHT AND THE
LATEST THINKING IN INNOVATION
RESEARCH

25 - 26 OCTOBER 2016

25-26 October 2016, Vientiane, Laos

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