



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



3RD SOUTHEAST ASIA - CHINA EDUCATION RESEARCH NETWORK (SEA-CERN) MEETING

5-6 September 2016 | Amari Watergate Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand



Policies, Practices and
Challenges of
**Universiti Brunei
Darussalam
(UBD)**





Brunei Darussalam

Area:

5,765 sq km
(75% rainforest)

Population:

411,000
(2014 estimate, JPKE)

Income per capita:

US\$42,211 (2012)
No income tax

Oil & Gas Sector:

BND 10, 434 million
51.76% (JPKE & CEIC Data Co Ltd)

One of the highest literacy rate (95%)











Brunei Vision 2035

By 2035, Brunei Darussalam will be recognised worldwide for:

1. High quality of life
2. Its well-educated and highly skilled people
3. The dynamic and sustainable economy



Introduction

- Brief history of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and the journey of its transformation
- Innovative curriculum (GenNEXT) and Discovery Year
- Challenges and issues faced by UBD and in overcoming it



History of UBD

- Established in 1985
- Major-centric curriculum
- Limited outbound mobility to the best students in the department
- Average of 1-2% outbound students

Tan, A., & Shahrill, M. (2015). Discovery year options and students' experiences. *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology*, September, 2015 Special Issue for INTE 2015, 169-173. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.1.4677.4487>



Transformation

- Major transformation in 2009
- Liberal-arts style broad based curriculum – GenNEXT
- Discovery Year
- Increase international student population
- Finding more strategic collaborative partners

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GenNEXT

- Cross- and trans- disciplinary (50-55% major)
- The emphasis in improving the students' soft skills and in building global citizen
- 100% of 3rd year students leaves the university
- Students' mobility are compulsory

Source: Tan, A., & Shahrill, M. (2015). Discovery year management: The four years experience. *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology*, July Special Issue 2 for INTE 2015, 165-169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.1.2580.2965>



Discovery Year

- Study abroad
- Internship
- Incubation
- Community Outreach Programme

Source: Tan, A., & Shahrill, M. (2015). Discovery year management: The four years experience. *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology*, July Special Issue 2 for INTE 2015, 165-169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.1.2580.2965>



Discovery Year

- It increases self confidence and thus, improving students' employability
- It forces students to be independent
- Appreciation of other cultures and religions
- Picking up a new language

Source: Tan, A., & Shahrill, M. (2015). Discovery year management: The four years experience. *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology*, July Special Issue 2 for INTE 2015, 165-169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.1.2580.2965>



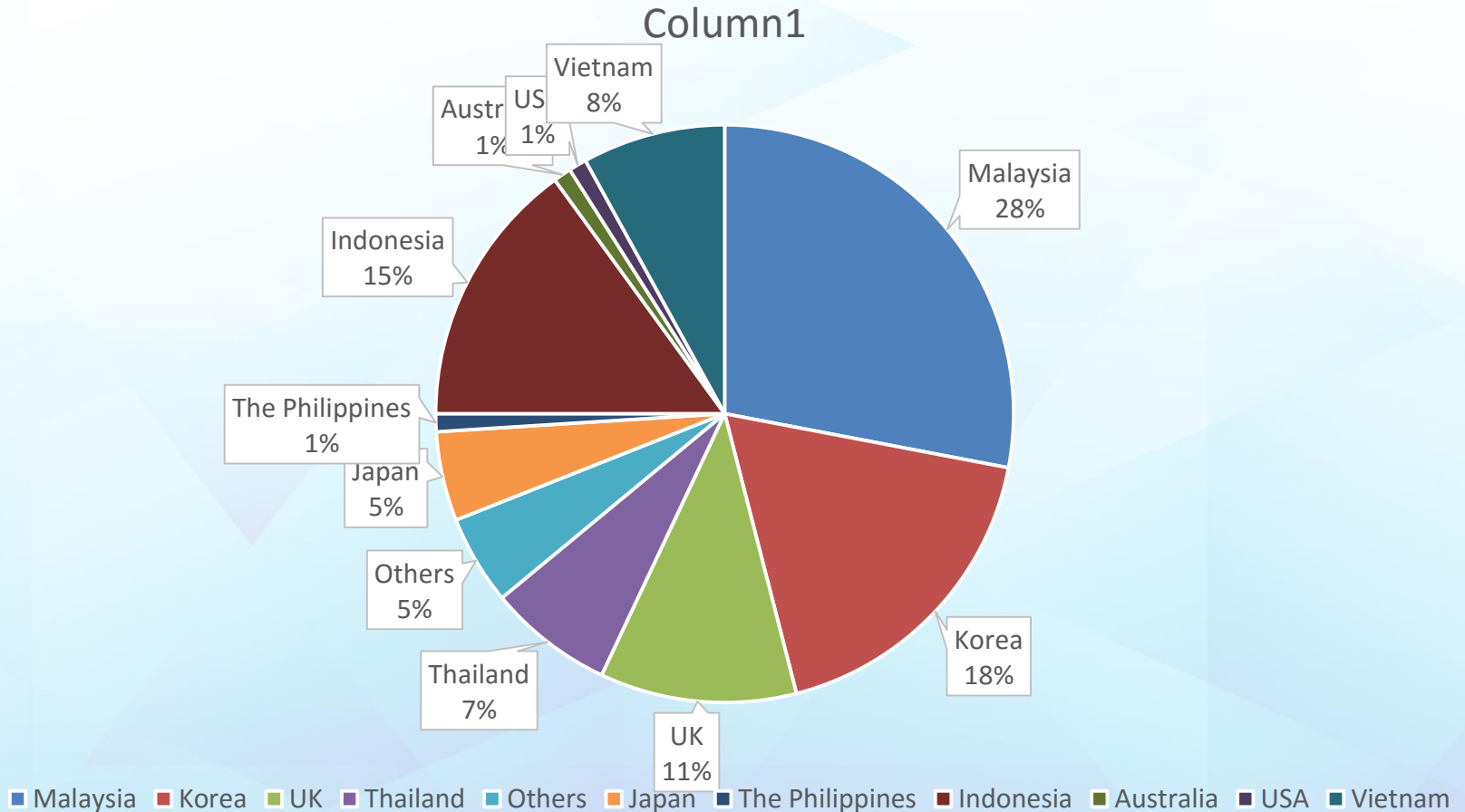
Support and Services for Outbound Mobility

- Faculty level (Discovery Year Coordinator)
 - Course mapping
 - Modular credits and contact hours
- University level (Global Relations)
 - Focal contact point with partner universities
 - Student exchange agreements
- Administrative level (Discovery Year Unit)
 - Official documentation such as funding letters, visa support letters, etc.
 - Liaising with embassies/ foreign missions

Source: Tan, A., & Shahrill, M. (2015). Discovery year management: The four years experience. Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology, July Special Issue 2 for INTE 2015, 165-169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.1.2580.2965>



Discovery Year Statistics (last 4 years)



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“ Our internships at Karolinska Institute were amazing. The internship for us was an opportunity to see the theory that we have learnt everyday came to life”

“The journey going to and being in Galapagos was one chapter of our life that will never escape our memory... it has opened my eyes and will help me in my future career where I could apply my knowledge on marine life in Brunei”.

Source: Tan, A., & Shahrill, M. (2015). Discovery year management: The four years experience. *Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology*, July Special Issue 2 for INTE 2015, 165-169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.1.2580.2965>



Challenges Faced

- Transfer of credits for outbound students
 - ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS)
 - European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- Incompatible course mapping
- High cost of living
- Attracting International Students

Sources:

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Tan, A., Shahrill, M., & Naing, L. (2016). Enhancing international students' experience. *Advanced Science Letters*, 22(5/6), 1205-1208. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1166/asl.2016.6663>



Conclusions

- Importance of student mobility
- Further in-depth studies will need to be conducted on our outbound students
- Summer undergraduate research programme to cultivate research interests amongst international undergraduates

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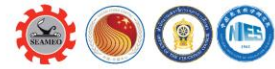


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The End.

Thank you for listening!