

RESEARCH MOBILITY AND COLLABORATION IN ASIA

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Role of Universities

- **Universities contribute to society by improving the level of human capital and overall human development**
- **More so in developing Asia**

Changing Context

- **The context within which universities play this important role has changed significantly in the last decade**
- **In Asia, contributing factors varied greatly**

Globalisation and Competition

- **Competition for a greater share of the global economy has led governments to think much more strategically about the economic significance of academic knowledge production/creation and dissemination**
- **(this has implication for mobility)**

Status or Capacity Building?

- **Status and prestige of individual higher education institutions is determined by the quality and quantity of their research and other output**
- **Thus the need for vertical rather than horizontal collaboration**
- **Research mobility towards prestigious institutions**

- **Entry into developing Asia should be guided by capacity and not status building objectives**
- **However, the pressure from universities in developing Asia for status building initiatives are on the increase**
- **Influence of global ranking etc.**

Possibilities of Collaboration

- **Need for tripartite collaboration:**
 - **Developed Europe**
 - **More developed Asia**
 - **Developing Asia**

- **Developed Europe: to show what has been achieved; funding; capacity**
- **More developed Asia: mentor (what can be achieved in the context of Asia)**
- **Developing Asia: beneficiaries**

Responses to Challenges

- **Universities are reorganising themselves to meet these new challenges.**
 - collaboration with other institutions at both the global and national levels
 - international higher education and increasing student mobility, together with the emerging education market in important regions of the world, are generally regarded by many countries as something to capitalise upon
 - mobility and collaboration among emerging HE systems (more effort in this area)

Expectations

- **Internationalisation and expansion of the higher education market in Asia presents countries in this region with numerous opportunities for collaborative research that in the medium to longer term will result in a win-win situation for all involved**

- **A dense network of collaboration and co-operation in research activities, with substantial mobility of researchers and research students, which will contribute to the development of a simultaneously competitive and/or synergistic national, regional and global system of innovation for participating countries**

- **Research and innovation should, however, be appropriately sustainable, contextualised and linked with the ways of being and ways of knowing and learning in universities and communities in Asia**

Cases from Malaysia

- **Research collaboration in all universities in Malaysia, particularly research universities, takes many forms, including research links, networks and partnerships.**

- **The majority of research collaborations involve smart partnership between researchers in planning, conducting, managing and facilitating research activities that enable the production or the application of scientific knowledge.**

- **Research collaborations are expected to contribute to the research and innovation processes in terms of academic mobility, joint postgraduate supervision, co-authorship of publications, joint product development in relation to commercialisation of research products, and technology transfer.**

Modes of collaboration

- **exchange of staff and students in teaching and research programs, exchange of scientific materials, publications and information, joint curriculum development, and research collaboration**

Forms of Collaboration

- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)—the general format is based on an intention to create a relationship with no specific obligations from parties involved, thus is not legally binding.**

- **A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)—this entails a detailed format of cooperation with specific obligations by the parties involved, thus is considered legally binding.**

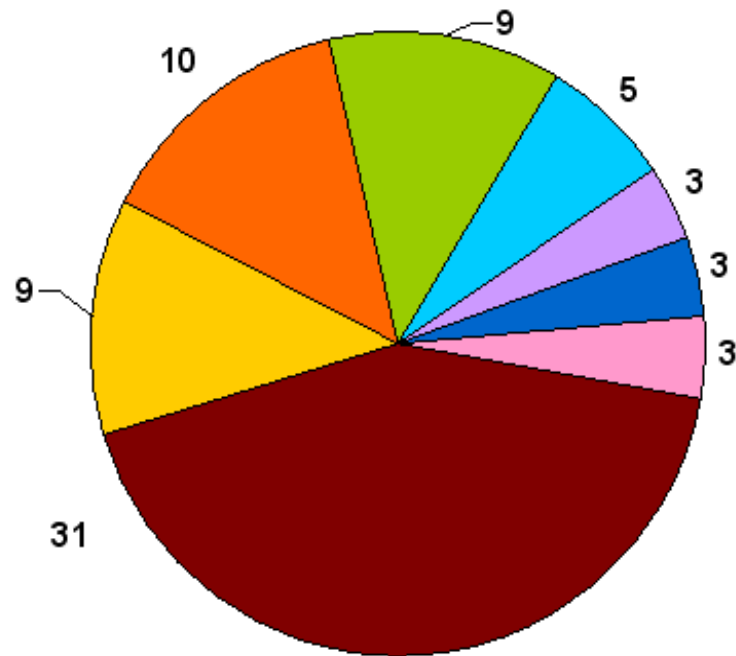
Academic staff mobility programs

- **Sabbatical leave.**
- **Post-doctorate training.**
- **Fellowships.**
- **Research attachment.**
- **Foreign lectureships.**
- **Foreign consultation.**

Table 1: Universiti Malaya - Summary List of International MoUs in Asia

Country	Collaboration
Australia	8
Brunei	1
China	5
Hong Kong	1
Indonesia	14
Japan	18
Korea	14
Philippines	1
Singapore	2
Thailand	5
Vietnam	2

Total = 73



■ Student exchange

■ Research Collaboration

■ Editorial Partnership for Publications

■ Training

■ Exchange/Visit of Faculty member

■ International Conference

■ Awards/Scholarships/Grant

■ Split PhD Program

Figure 1: UM: Number of International MoUs with Activities

Table 2: USM - Collaborators by Country in Asia (active from 2000 onwards)

Country	Number of Collaborators
Australia	9
China	9
Indonesia	9
Iran	3
Japan	15
Korea	3
Pakistan	1
Singapore	2
Sri Lanka	1
Thailand	1
The Philippines	2
Vietnam	1

Table 3: UKM - Number of MoUs and Research Collaboration

Region	Number of MoUs and Research Collaborations
East Asia	31
South East Asia	27
Australia & New Zealand	17
Americas	18

Malaysia-CLMV Projects

- **Dialogues with CLMV as a group and with individual countries (very focused)**
- **Workshops on Higher Education and Developing Human Capital: Towards Strategic Partnerships and Alliances**

Point to Consider

- **Underpinning collaborative research and mobility**
 - a complex negotiation of the plural cultures, languages and knowledge of Asia for the sciences and the arts and social sciences is imperative, if the local in the global is to be sustained.

Thank You