

Revisiting IPPTN's Roles and Functions

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Earlier in the year the National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) organized a workshop to determine its vision for the next five years, i.e., 2006 until 2010.

Held at the City Bayview Hotel in Langkawi from 20 to 22 January 2006, the workshop aimed to revisit IPPTN's roles and functions in higher education, in line with the Ministry of Higher Education's (KPT) wish to make IPPTN an authoritative research institute at national and international levels.

The workshop was chaired by the director of IPPTN, Professor Morshidi Sirat, and attended by the Director General of the Department of Higher Education

Management (JP IPT), Y. Bhg. Dato' Professor Dr. Hassan Said, Head Assistant Director of JP IPT, Rosli Harun and IPPTN's associate research fellows.

Y. Bhg. Dato' Hassan delivered his speech entitled "The Development and Changes in the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and its Implications on IPPTN" in which he discussed IPPTN's roles and strategies.

The roles which are expected to be carried out by the institute include to implement projects identified by JP IPT (top down) as well as to conduct contractual research and to act as a think tank (bottom up). Y. Bhg. Dato' Hassan also stressed that it is important for IPPTN to

look at issues at the global level, to help increase Malaysian Higher Education's competitiveness, develop its niche, and to contribute toward the maintainance of excellence with regard to human capital development in Malaysia's higher education institutions.

In order to achieve these roles, IPPTN must strategize effectively involving various aspects, including capability building and research clustering.

The three day workshop concluded with a proposal outlining IPPTN's vision, mission, objectives and action plan, which was then presented at the National Council for Higher Education (MPTN).

The Corporatization of PIHL: A Proposal Preparation

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The National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) has been given the mandate to prepare a proposal for the implementation of the corporatization of public institutions of higher learning (PIHL). The proposal will become the basis to reconsider the steps that can be taken by the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) to implement the corporatization of IPTA. A workshop on the proposal preparation for the corporatization of IPTA was held at the Equatorial Hotel, Penang, on 13 and 14 February 2006.

The workshop was led by Professor Haji Ibrahim Haji Che Omar, an

Associate Research Fellow of IPPTN, and was attended by 15 PIHL officers. Dr. Ismail Jamaludin, the Governance Director of the Department of Higher Education Management, KPT, was also present to oversee and provide relevant information on the management of the ministry and the central government pertaining to the issue of the corporatization of the PIHL.

Workshop participants were divided into two groups with specific tasks to explore regarding the relevant aspects of the proposal. The first group discussed the legal aspect of the ministry, the power

of the University Board of Directors, the management of PIHL, personnel management, the development of human capital, and service and retirement schemes. The second group focused on the aspect of power and financial management, the generating of financial resources, research, development and student affairs.

Also discussed in the workshop was the corporatization model that could be used by PIHL for short, medium and long terms. The proposal was presented to the Department of Higher Education Management, KPT, two weeks after the workshop.