

# International Higher Education Policy Research and Management Forum 2006

8 - 11 November 2006, Universiti Sains Malaysia



*Participants of International Higher Education Policy Research and Management Forum 2006 in a group photograph. The forum attracted a diverse pool of international academics in discussing regional higher education issues.*

## Reported by: Ng Eng Kiat

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The “International Higher Education Policy Research and Management Forum 2006” was successfully organised by the National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), with the cooperation of the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS), University of Wollongong, Australia.

The forum, also known as “The USM Penang HE Forum”, was held on 8th – 11th November 2006 at Lecture Halls A, B, and C in Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang.

The forum provided an opportunity for higher education policy researchers and administrators to discuss issues pertaining to higher education in the Asia Pacific region. There were a total of 54 academic papers presented in three days. The forum attracted

120 participants from 13 countries. IPPTN was gratified with such a response and is extremely pleased that the forum was highly rated by participants in terms of organization, academic substance and contents.

The International Higher Education Policy and Research Management Forum in Penang was a follow-up to the successful two-day Malaysia-Australia higher education forum held one year ago at the University of Wollongong, Australia. The higher education researchers and experts from the Asia Pacific region who gathered deliberated on higher education issues, and networked towards establishing collaborative research between the various countries in this region.

The forum was divided into ten sessions covering themes such as “Governance and Leadership in Higher Education”, “Gender and Inclusion in Higher Education Research in the Asia Pacific”, “Interconnections and Global Diversity: Intercultural Implications Emerging from Internationalisation for

Teaching/Research”, “Interconnected Knowledge and Research: Research Policy and Directions and the dilemmas for Australia, Malaysia, and other Partners in the Asia Pacific”, “Maintaining the Standards of Higher Education in the Asia Pacific: Quality Assurance of Transnational Education”, etc.

The forum had three esteemed keynote speakers. Professor William G. Tierney from the Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis in the University of Southern California (CHEPA), USA, spoke on “Academic Freedom and the Changing Nature of Faculty Work in an Age of Globalization”. The second keynote was delivered by Professor Futao Huang of the Research Institute of Higher Education (RIHE),

Hiroshima University. He spoke on “New Challenges for Undergraduate Curriculum Development in a New Era”. The third keynote address, on “Internationalization, National Development and Markets: Key Dilemmas in Leadership in Higher Education”, was delivered by Associate Professor Peter Kell of University of Wollongong, Australia.

On a lighter note, the forum ended with the participants taken on a tour of Georgetown. The capital city of Penang is renowned for its pre-war and colonial heritage. Penang island was the Pearl of the Orient in the former British Empire.



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*The forum also provided a platform for discussion, debate, and exchange of ideas on Higher Education issues in the region.*