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USM CONTINUES DEVELOPING MOOCs USING OPEN LEARNING PLATFORM



PENANG, 5 May 2017 – Online Learning Courses, also known as 'Massive Open Online Learning Courses' (MOOCs), is nothing new to Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) as it has embarked on developing it since 2015, and until now the university has successfully developed six MOOCs within the last two years.

In enhancing the courses offered, USM has signed a licensing agreement with OpenLearning Global (M) Sdn. Bhd. which would allow USM to utilise their OpenLearning Platform (OLP), being the top MOOCs platform in the world and used by many top universities.

"This agreement allows both parties to share the income generated from the monetization process of the USM MOOCs via credentialing or certification," said the USM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr. Asma Ismail during the signing ceremony held earlier today.

“The offering of MOOCs by USM is aligned with the emphasis given by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia Blueprint, Shift 9 - Globalised Online Learning, which is intended to bring Malaysian higher education institutions into the global arena.”

“Furthermore, Malaysia is the only nation which allows credit transfer from the learning through MOOCs,” she added.

“In my opinion, to be more relevant, USM has to offer and create a niche area which is in-line with the Blue Ocean Strategy courses, for example, the findings on archaeology researches and other courses in Bahasa Malaysia, which is an uncommon language in MOOCs.

This year, USM through the Centre for Development of Academic Excellence (CDAE) will plan and develop 12 more MOOCs and at the moment, the development process is at various stages.

According to the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of OpenLearning Global (M) Sdn. Bhd., Adam Brimo, he chose Malaysia as the country is a hub of higher education learning besides Germany, and the number of international students in Malaysia is increasing.

“Through MOOCs, we can design courses more freely and in an open-handed manner as we want to bring and share ideas and knowledge around the world,” said Adam.

Adam is one of the CEO Faculty members appointed by the Minister of Higher Education Malaysia and he is based in Sydney, while also having a Southeast Asia Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur manned by 30 staff.

Also present were the USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Industry and Community Network) Professor Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed; Director of CDAE, Professor Dr. Abd. Karim Alias and CDAE Fellow, Professor Dr. Hanafi Atan as well as lecturers and researchers from CDAE.

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