

# Seminar on the Establishment of Malaysian Branch Campuses Overseas: Sharing Ideas and Experiences

*Reported by Noorazmahani Md. Kasim*

The seminar organised by National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) was held at Grand BlueWave Hotel, Shah Alam on 19 July 2010. The seminar is part of a study process formulated to assist the Malaysian government's aspiration to export Malaysian Higher Education abroad. The seminar started with a welcoming address by the Seminar Organising Chairman, Professor Badaruddin Mohamed followed by the opening remarks by the Deputy Director-General (Private Sector), Department of Higher Education, Y.Bhg. Datin Professor Ir. Dr. Siti Hamisah Tapsir.

Drawing on a similar Japanese concept, the seminar, despite being intentionally small and intimate with 60 participants including the secretariat, was effective and fruitful as emphasis was placed significantly on the discussions arising from the Q&A sessions and on the presentations by international and local speakers who were selected based on their expertise and field experience. There were six invited speakers, the first speaker was Professor Dr. Rohana Yusof from the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) followed by Associate Professor Frank Sheehy from Australia, Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Mohamed Salleh Mohamed Yasin from Council of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency, Professor Robin Pollard from Monash University, Sunway Campus, Mr. Gurpardeep Singh from Asia Pacific University College of Technology and Innovation (UCTI) and Professor Ian Pashby from The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. One international student from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Ms. Gelareh Aboali, was invited to present her perspective to pursue higher education at the branch campus.

The presentations covered most of the aspects on the establishment of Malaysian branch campuses abroad such as the issues and challenges encountered in the process of establishing branch campuses, the framework of quality assurance in higher education, a review of practical models, the potential and feasibility as well as impacts and regulatory issues in the host and home country.



The purpose of this seminar is to provide a platform to share opinions and ideas. This process study will lead to policy statements and guidelines that the Ministry of Higher Education could use when formulating strategies for setting up overseas branch campuses.

The seminar became a good discussion and idea sharing session. It was also very useful and informative for the research team which would add towards making the ongoing research a success.



Research members and seminar participants.

# Charting New Directions for Muslim Universities Muslim Universities Vice-Chancellors'/Presidents' Forum

Reported by Noraini Mohamad Yusof & Ooi Poh Ling

In conjunction with the Fifth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (5th ICMHESR), Universiti Sains Malaysia in collaboration with Higher Education Department, Ministry of Higher Education took the initiative to organise the Muslim Universities Vice-Chancellor's/Presidents' Forum (MUVCF). The National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) was the secretariat.

The MUVCF was able to bring together vice-chancellors and presidents from selected universities who are committed to discussing the future of ummah based on Islamic thoughts and understanding and at the same time refrained from following blindly the model and thinking of the West.

The theme of MUVCF was "Charting New Directions for Muslim Universities: Must We Subscribe to Western Ideological and Philosophical Constructs?". The main objectives of the forum were to gather Islamic academics and experts who are committed to chart the future of ummah with new approaches and idea, free from the influence and domination of the West; to build a strong cooperation among universities that agree there is a need for ummah to chart the development path for higher education which is different from the conventional Western ideology; and to come up with short-, medium- and long-term strategies and actions in shifting thinking, focus and approach of ummah development in 1441H. These objectives encourage new ideas and approaches with the stress on 'collectiveness' and 'alliance'.

MUVCF was attended by 45 vice-chancellors/presidents and management representatives from local and international universities. Participating international universities included the National University of Singapore, University of Karachi, Shariff University of Technology, University of Southern Mindanao, University Islam Sultan Shariff Ali, Prince of Songkla University, Mindanao State University and Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Local university participants included both public universities and private universities. The public universities are Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan

Idris, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Universiti Sains Malaysia. The private universities included Asia Pacific University College of Innovation and Technology, International Islamic University College Selangor, Al-Madinah International University, Universiti Tenaga Nasional and Taylor's University.

The invited guest speaker was Dr. Savas Alpay, Head of Directors, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Turkey. He presented a research report entitled "Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Islamic World".

Participants were divided into two groups to further discuss the importance of Islamic higher education model. It is hoped that disadvantages of the current system could be addressed. Both groups presented their discussion taking into account all aspects of higher education. The two-day deliberation had resulted in thirteen resolutions for MUVCF which were presented to the Deputy Minister II of Higher Education. These resolutions included all features of higher education such as assessment in higher education from an Islamic approach and the need to respond to problems associated with intellect and structure and dominance of the Western higher education approach.

In conjunction with the forum, a dinner was held on 19 October in the hotel to welcome forum participants. The dinner was hosted by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. This event provided further opportunities for the participants to establish collaborations between the universities.

MUVCF was officially closed by Y.B. Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, the Deputy Minister II of Higher Education on 20 October 2010. He stated that Islamic model of higher education will not only unify higher education institutions in the Islamic countries but also prepare future generations for future challenges. He believed that it would not be impossible to achieve an Islamic higher education model that can correspond with current affairs and global development.

Overall, MUVCF achieved its objectives with the conclusion that it will continue its effort in constructing models that will inspire universal and Islamic values.

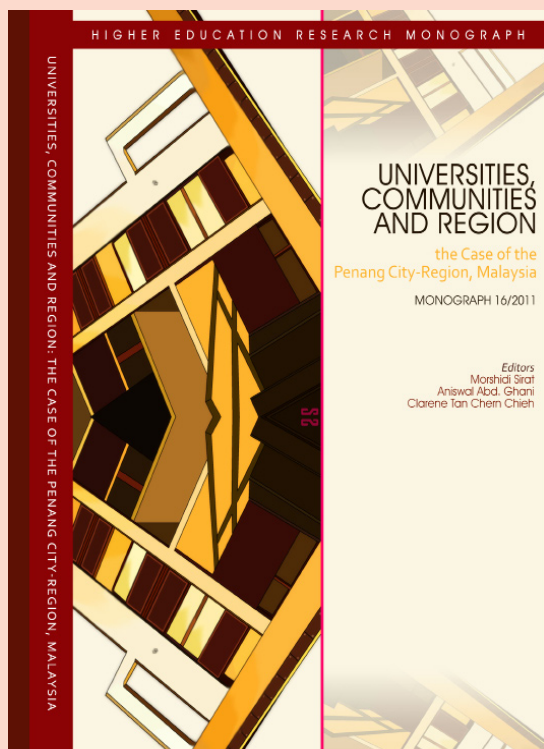


The forum participants.



## Universities, communities and region: the case of the Penang city-region, Malaysia

In July 2007, George Town, Penang was listed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site. Even before such an honour was bestowed, the Penang city-region was already well



known globally for its semiconductor industry. Hence, provision of education, particularly, higher education in such a region is essential for continual growth in order to maintain such prestige. This monograph provides a comprehensive overview of the Penang city-region, detailing the development of its socio-economic and cultural organisation. The authors present in-depth analyses on the way higher education institutions in this city-region, particularly Universiti Sains Malaysia, contribute to changes in the social, cultural and economic aspects of the region. The chapters cover a wide range of topics on the state of Penang, from a thorough introduction to the region and characteristics of its higher education system to an extensive review of its research and teaching-learning contribution to industry and local community development. Readers will also come to know and appreciate the efforts of higher education institutions in the area of capacity building in community engagement. Through the examination of past trends, chapter contributors also highlight future prospects of the Penang region as an established based for higher education. Many areas discussed are linked with factors beyond the region itself for besides Kuala Lumpur, Penang is one of the most accomplished states in Malaysia. Thus, this meticulously written analysis is not merely catered for those whose interest lie in the said city-region but also for those who are concerned with the future welfare of Malaysian higher education as a whole.

### Editors

Morshidi Sirat, Asniwal Abd. Ghani and Clarene Tan Chern Chieh

# Calling for Articles and News Briefs

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1. Manuscripts should be written in English, typed using Times New Roman 12 point font, and double spaced on only one side of A4 size paper with ample left and right margins on Microsoft Word.
2. The length of the manuscripts should not exceed 1,500 words. An abstract of about 150 words should be included.
3. Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to use any published material. The publisher shall not be held responsible for the use of such material.
4. Citations in the text should include the author's last name and date of publication, e.g. (Ashton, 2001). If quotations are used, page numbers should be indicated, eg. (Ashton, 2001: 30).
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### Examples:

Altbach, P. G. (2004). *The costs and benefits of world-class universities*. Retrieved 23 October 2005 from <http://www.aaup.org/publications/Academe/2004/04jf/04jfalbtb.htm>

Mahadhir, M., Ting, S. H. and Carol, D. (2006). *Learning materials and human factors: Looking at the chemistry in the genre-based approach classroom*. Proceedings of 2<sup>nd</sup> Science and Art of Language in Teaching International Conference, 'Change: Bridging Theory and Practice', 20 - 22 November, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Pulau Pinang.

Watkins, D. (1998). A cross-cultural look at perceptions of good teaching: Asia and the West. In J. J. F. Forest (Ed.), *University teaching: International perspectives*. New York: Garland.

Wolfe, R. N. and Johnson, S. D. (1995). Personality as a predictor of college performance. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, Vol. 2, 177-185.

Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

8. All submissions should include a cover page containing the title, name of author(s), designation, affiliation, mailing/ e-mail address and telephone/fax number. A brief biographical note of the author(s) should also be included.
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12. Manuscripts may be sent via e-mail attachment ([ipptn@usm.my](mailto:ipptn@usm.my) or [munir@usm.my](mailto:munir@usm.my)) or via post together with the compact disk.

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