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**PUSAT
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PUTRA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE (i-PUTRA)
قوسنت انتارابغسا قوترا

i-PUTRA NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO MALAYSIA 2-9 SEPTEMBER 2022

The first series of Australian Higher Education Institution Familiarisation Visits to Malaysia in 2022 was initiated by the Malaysian Public Universities International Directors' Committee (JKPA) and hosted by Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), Education Malaysia Australia (EMA), and six public universities. This initiative is in line with the Malaysian government's goal to establish the country as an international higher education hub with 250,000 international students by the year 2025, as outlined in the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015–2025 (Higher Education).

This familiarisation visit to Malaysia is part of the mobility initiative of the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia in 2022 to increase the number of inbound students from Australia to Malaysia.



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Six Malaysian public universities which are hosts to this programme are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

The first group of Australian higher education institution delegations from various backgrounds for the first series of familiarisation visits to Malaysia are from the University of Western Australia, Winburne University of Technology, Macquarie University, Curtin University, Western Sydney University, Griffith University, University of Wollongong, Times Higher Education, the Australian High Commission to Malaysia and the Malaysian Student Council in Australia.

Universiti Putra Malaysia has been appointed as the host for the official ceremony. The programme begins with opening remarks by YBhg. Prof. Dr. Yong Zulina Zubairi, Associate Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement), Universiti Malaya cum Chairman of Malaysian Public Universities International Directors' Committee (JKPA), exchange remarks by Dr. Fahmi bin Rahim, Director of Education Malaysia Australia (EMA), welcoming speech by YH Prof. Dato' Dr Mohd Roslan Sulaiman, Vice Chancellor of UPM, and presentation of Putra experience: a doorway to experiential learning by Prof. Dr. Ismi Arif bin Ismail, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic & International) UPM.



The second half of the programme, after the networking session with the deans, was a campus tour in which they visited two out of the twelve tourist attractions on campus under the Edupark@UPM edu tourism modules. They visited the Integrated Farm @ Ladang 10 and the Human Anatomy Museum.

UPM hopes that the delegations are interested to send students to UPM after being informed of the programmes UPM has to offer; to learn and experience the PUTRA EXPERIENCE holistically.

WEBINAR ON INTERNATIONALISATION EFFORTS: THE STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES IN BECOMING A WORLD LEADING UNIVERSITY



On 30th September 2022, Putra International Centre organised a 2 hour webinar to discuss on internationalisation efforts insights with Turkiye, Thailand and Malaysian universities. The webinar was held online via ZOOM with 90 participants attending the session.

The panelists were Prof. Dr. Bulent Cavusoglu from Attarturk University, Turkiye, Dr. Ram Piyakett from Chulalongkorn University Thailand, Assoc. Prof. Dr Mohd Ismid Md Said from Universiti Technology Malaysia and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Latiff Ahmad from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. While the moderator for the webinar was Prof Ir Dr Hasfalina Che Man and emceed by Ras Afirina Radzi.

In this webinar, the speakers from Malaysia, Thailand and Turkiye shared their experience and knowledge on how universities develop their strategies to become one of the world leading universities.

They also shared the strategies of three different countries on ways that they how they overcome the Covid -19 pandemic, the future direction for the universities and the success stories of each university. The ways of how three different countries overcame the pandemic of Covid-19 are unique and how they managed to gain students from all over the world to pursue their studies is also remarkable.

Despite of the high turbulence of the global health crisis and many challenges due to Covid, we could see that internationalisation efforts emerging around the globe in different strategies and initiatives. The importance of networking and collaboration between the universities in Turkiye, Thailand and Malaysia should be continued for a better future.

We are blessed and thankful that our panelists were able to share their strategies, insights, and challenges to overcome the crisis. We hope we will be able to have another successful webinar with different countries to compare and learn about their internationalisation of higher education.

BUILDING A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF OULU FINLAND AND UPM

On 7th September 2022, i-PUTRA received a courtesy visit from University of Oulu (OU) Finland. The objective of the visit is to benchmark on UPM's international office facilities and to discuss on potential student mobility programme. Representing OU were Dr. Kari Kumpulainen, accompanied by Dr. Raimo Salo Dato' Dr. Mehander Singh. Receiving our distinguished guests were Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman, Madam Noraihan Noordin, Mrs Ida Suhaila Mat Tahir and Ms Nadia Zawani Hussin from i-PUTRA.

“Visits from other universities to Universiti Putra Malaysia will enhance cooperation and mutual benefit between universities. We also hope that other universities will be interested to work with us in terms of the student mobility programmes, staff attachment, research attachment, dual-degree programmes etc. Our competitive advantage as a university is our strategic location, our transportation such as the availability of MRT, KTM and RapidKL busses, affordability and most importantly our ranking. In fact, in Malaysia, we are third among ASEAN countries in terms of Master and PhD enrollment”, added Madam Ida Suhaila from Global Engagement

The objective of the visit was to know more about Putra International Center services such as visas and passes, handling student exchange, and our admin and management team. We would like to thank the visitors from the University of Oulu, Finland for visiting i-Putra. We look forward to having more visitors soon.



DRAWING KUWAIT INTEREST TO UPM



11th August 2022, i-PUTRA was delighted to receive officers from Ehsan Charity Society, Kuwait to our green campus. The Ehsan Charity Society is an NGO based in Kuwait that focuses on human development through education. During the visit Mr Muhammad Naji Hammam, Mr. Abdul Rahman Saed Warsamah (Scholarship Executive Officer) and Mr Muhammad Ilmi Abduh (Administration Officer) were in search of finding the best university in Malaysia to send their brilliant citizens under the NGO scholarships. The project supports students who cannot complete their studies because of poverty. The project also works to secure their scientific future and supports them with courses that qualify them to engage in the field of work and help them face the high cost of living.

The extensive meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman and attended by Prof. Dr. Hjh Firdaus Mukhtar from the School of Graduate Studies, Mr. Firdaus Zakaria The Section Head of Academic Promotion together with Madam Noraihan Noordin, the Head of i-PUTRA, Mdm. Ida Suhaila, the Head of Global Engagement and Miss Nadia Zawani Hussin.

Madam Ida Suhaila from Global Engagement added, 'It is a great opportunity for us to connect and meet with Ehsan Charity Society. The discussion truly expands our network as a whole. We are more than happy to receive more students from them in the future and In Sha Allah, UPM will have more partners'.

We hope through this meeting we will receive brilliant students under the Ehsan Charity Society to study at our university.

COURTESY VISIT FROM JEONBUK NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, KOREA



On 13 July 2022, Putra International Centre (i-PUTRA) welcomed the delegates from Jeonbuk National University, Korea (JBNU).

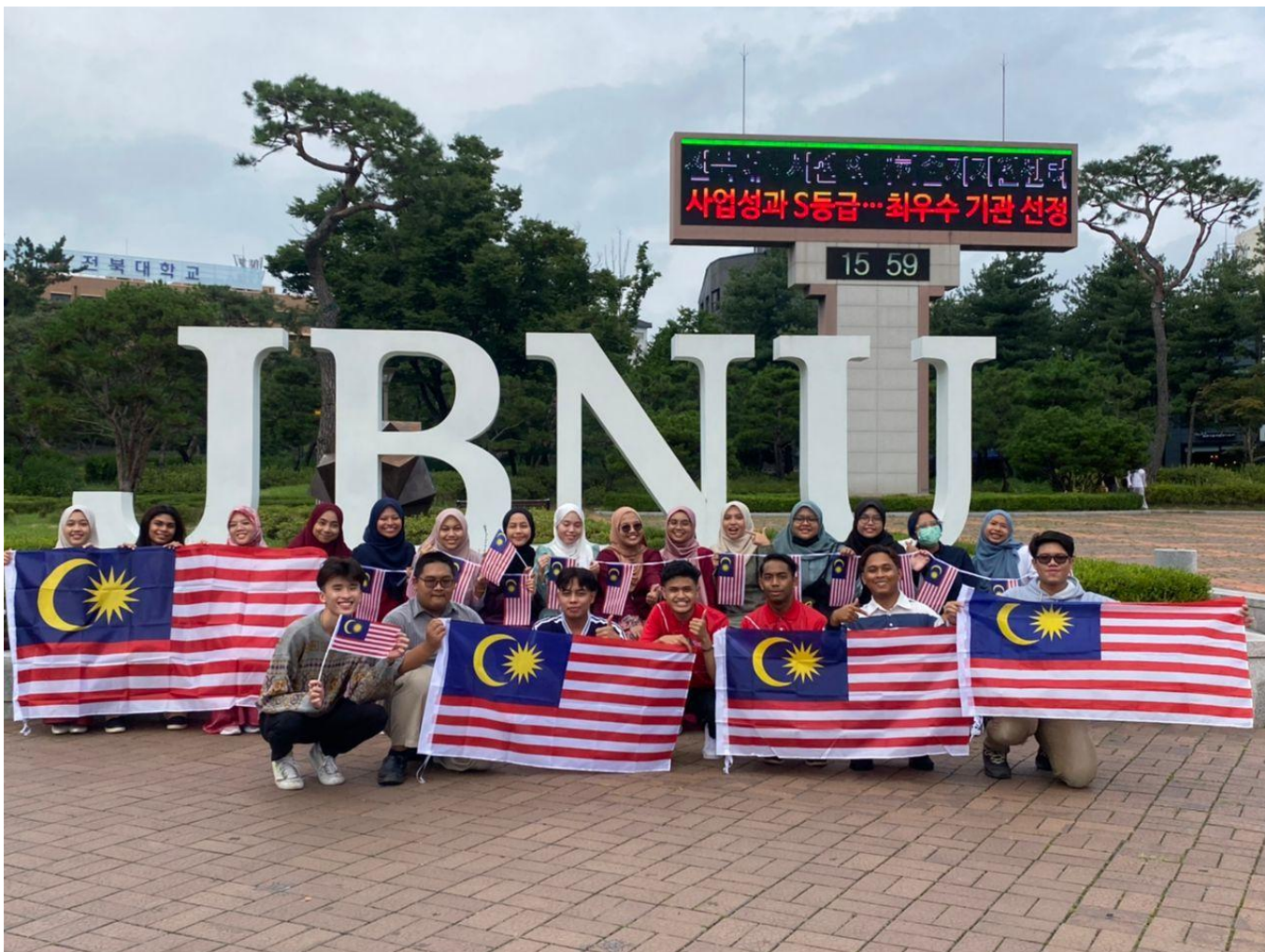
UPM signed an MOU with JBNU for five years since 2019 and UPM is not foreign to JBNU as this is their 4th visit since 2019 to our green campus. The envoys consist of JBNU's top management Kim Dong-Won (JBNU President), Lee Jaebaek (Executive VP for Academic), Cho Gihwan (Executive VP for Research), Choi Baek Ryul (Executive VP for International) alongside JBNU's vice president, Deans of College, Directors, and officers. Welcoming the visit is our Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan bin Sulaiman alongside Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman the Director of i-PUTRA. The rest of the delegates from JBNU comprises the deans of every faculty and attendees from UPM comprise the deans and representatives from every faculty.

The purpose of the visit is to discuss about students from both universities who participate in the mobility programme and their activities. They also took the opportunity to meet and greet UPM faculty deans and JBNU students who are currently participating in the mobility programme at UPM for a semester exchange. The working visit not only entails discussion and meeting but also a luncheon, campus tour, and a curatorial walkthrough at our Malay Heritage Museum. The short yet comprehensive session covers true Malaysian hospitality.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION FROM THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY

Upon resuming the collaboration between Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Jeonbuk National University (JBNU), 19 UPM students from various faculties were selected for the semester exchange programme at Jeonbuk National University. Two out of the 19 students were awarded the Global Korea Scholarship under the National Institute for International Education (NIIED), Republic of South Korea. The students departed for Korea in August just in time for the celebration of the 65th Malaysian Independence Day.

On the 31st of August 2022, 22 Malaysian semester exchange students from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia gathered to celebrate the momentous occasion. The students gathered in front of the JBNU landmark, waving Malaysian flags as a symbol of their love for their country despite being miles away from home.



GREETINGS FROM THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

“Everything happens for the best reason.

*Focus and continue, the universe
will make it come true.”*

-Sam Zhuo Ling (2022)-

Faculty of Modern Language & Communication

Kokugakuin Short-term Program Candidate

Fall 2022 and March 2023 Intake

The introduction of the vaccine has undoubtedly assured some countries to relax their border control due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan was one of the countries in which strict border control was kept in place throughout. After nearly 2½ years of strict COVID-19 restrictions, in June, a major policy shift regarding border control due to COVID-19 was introduced. Four (4) UPM students who were due for their outbound semester exchange in Japan under the Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Program and Kokugakuin Short Term Exchange Programme (K-STEP) benefitted from the policy shift introduced.

The first batch of UPM students leaving for Japan consisted of two (2) AIMS students, who departed on the 17th of September 2022, followed by one K-STEP student who departed on the 20th with the final student under the K-STEP Program left for Japan on the 30th of September. Despite the strong tropical storm caused by the Nanmadol Typhoon, the first two batches of students managed to arrive safely at their respective host universities, Tokyo University of Agricultural Science and Technology (TUAT) and Kokugakuin University and have slowly settled in their new home for the upcoming year.





Figure showing K-STEP students from UPM, Shahira Ariffah (Black Hijab) and Sam Zhuo Ling (Red Shirt) together with other K-STEP candidates from Spain, Italy, Canada, the UK, Vietnam

Since the outbound mobility programme was initiated at UPM, Japan has consistently been one of the chosen destinations for UPM students to travel abroad. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused the closure of many international borders worldwide, the physical mobility efforts to Japan had to be temporarily halted. While the pandemic might have hindered the physical mobility efforts between Malaysia and Japan, the mobility activities between Universiti Putra Malaysia and the universities in Japan managed to be maintained through virtual semester exchanges and virtual mobility programmes. Hopefully, through the relaxation of the Japanese border restriction, we hope it will allow physical mobility efforts in Japan to resume as per usual.

MALAY FOLKLORE: SI LUNCAI WITH HIS PUMPKINS



Si Luncai was sentenced by the king to be thrown into the middle of the sea. Si Luncai was punished for his crime of playing tricks on the king and his officials. He accepted the punishment calmly.

The king's messenger was ready to take Si Luncai into the boat to be taken to the middle of the sea. Si Luncai will be thrown into the sea later. Si Luncai was put in a sack and carried to the base.

When everything was ready, the boat was rowed to the middle of the sea. From inside the sack Si Luncai could see some water gourd seeds in the boat.

After they had been paddling for a long time, Si Luncai said: "It's a pity to see you all paddling so hard. Would you all like it if I teach you a song to relieve your tiredness?"

"Shut up, you'll actually be thrown into the sea," said one of those rowing.

Listening to those words, Si Luncai also sang.

"Si Luncai jumped with his pumpkins. Let it! Leave it!"

Hearing Si Luncai singing that, the king's messenger became interested. Then some people started singing: "Si Luncai jumped with his pumpkins!"

So some other people also answered: Leave it! Leave it!"

Finally they became two groups singing the song.

"Si Luncai dives with his pumpkins!"

"Leave it! Leave it!"

Thus the song was sung over and over until they were all tired.

Seeing things as they were, Si Luncai came out of the sack. He filled some pumpkin seeds into the sack. Then he took two other pumpkin seeds and jumped from the boat. Si Luncai swam to the side using the two gourd floats.

When he reached the middle of the sea, the king's messenger threw the sack into the sea. For them, Si Luncai had died. Then, they went back and told the king about it. No one knew that Si Luncai actually swam to the beach.

Source: Himpunan Buku 366 Cerita Rakyat Malaysia by Othman Putih (2008)

MALAYSIA TRADITIONAL WEAR



Malay Traditional Wear

Men (Baju Melayu): Songkok- head, Baju melayu (long sleeve shirt and long trousers, Sampin (Skirt type adornment)

Women (Baju Kurung): loose fitting full length dress consisting a blouse and skirt

Chinese Traditional Wear

Men (Tang Suit): a type of jacket with a collar and a knot at the belly.

Women (Cheongsam): one piece with a collar with small clips



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Indian Traditional Wear

Men (Kurta): knee length collarless shirt

Women (Sari): Unstitched stretch of woven fabric **draped** over the body as a robe with one end tied to the waist while the other end rests over one shoulder as a shawl.

INFO & REMINDER: VISA AND PASS

NEW BEGINNING

As we know, starting 1st of April 2022, Malaysia have transitioned from the pandemic to the endemic phase of Covid-19. Many of the bans imposed had been uplifted, including the quarantine and also border closure. Many international flights had been resumed, and thus, making travelling to Malaysia to increase significantly for business, leisure or study purposes.

After 2 whole years of not studying in physical classes, most of the institutions, be it government or private had informed their students to travel back to Malaysia in order to resume their studies.

These are the guidelines for travelling to Malaysia for study purposes.

NEW STUDENT

The students need to get the Single-Entry Visa (SEV) or apply eVISA in order to travel to Malaysia after the eVAL is approved by the Immigration Department.

The student needs to abide to the rules and guidelines given by the Ministry of Health for international travelers. Please refer here;

https://educationmalaysia.gov.my/news_update/statement-from-the-ministry-of-health-malaysia-regarding-the-latest-standard-operating-procedure-sop-for-travellers-entering-malaysia/

After the students have entered Malaysia, they are required to submit the passport and documents for new students and VAL's checklist in order to get their student pass. For the checklist, please refer here;

[https://intl.upm.edu.my/upload/dokumen/2022092612381509092022_CHECKLIST_FOR_NEW_STUDENT_PASS_\(COME_WITH_VAL\)_APPLICATION.pdf](https://intl.upm.edu.my/upload/dokumen/2022092612381509092022_CHECKLIST_FOR_NEW_STUDENT_PASS_(COME_WITH_VAL)_APPLICATION.pdf)


Please ensure that the passport's validity is within/more the eVAL duration to avoid any inconveniences.

RETURNING STUDENT

The students who are not in Malaysia need to get the Single-Entry Visa (SEV) or apply eVISA in order to travel back to Malaysia. For those who are in Malaysia, they can skip this part.

The students need to abide to the rules and guidelines given by the Ministry of Health for international travelers. Please refer here;

https://educationmalaysia.gov.my/news_update/statement-from-the-ministry-of-health-malaysia-regarding-the-latest-standard-operating-procedure-sop-for-travellers-entering-malaysia/



After the students have entered Malaysia, they are required to submit the documents and passport for renewal of student pass. For the checklist, please refer here;

https://intl.upm.edu.my/upload/dokumen/2022092612511209092022_CHECKLIST_FOR_STUDENT_PASS_RENEWAL_APPLICATION.pdf

Please ensure that the passport's validity is within/more the expired/previous student pass in order to avoid any inconveniences.

