

INTERNATIONALIZING
HIGHER EDUCATION
IN MALAYSIA

Reproduced from *Internationalizing Higher Education in Malaysia: Understanding, Practices and Challenges* edited by Tham Siew Yean (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2013). This version was obtained electronically direct from the publisher on condition that copyright is not infringed. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.
Individual articles are available at < <http://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg> >

The **Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)** was established as an autonomous organization in 1968. It is a regional centre dedicated to the study of socio-political, security and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment. The Institute's research programmes are the Regional Economic Studies (RES, including ASEAN and APEC), Regional Strategic and Political Studies (RSPS), and Regional Social and Cultural Studies (RSCS).

ISEAS Publishing, an established academic press, has issued more than 2,000 books and journals. It is the largest scholarly publisher of research about Southeast Asia from within the region. ISEAS Publishing works with many other academic and trade publishers and distributors to disseminate important research and analyses from and about Southeast Asia to the rest of the world.

INTERNATIONALIZING HIGHER EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA

Understanding, Practices and Challenges

EDITED BY
THAM SIEW YEAN



INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
Singapore

First published in Singapore in 2013 by
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Pasir Panjang
Singapore 119614

E-mail: publish@iseas.edu.sg

Website: <http://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg>

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

© 2013 Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

The responsibility for facts and opinions in this publication rests exclusively with the authors and their interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the policy of the publishers or their supporters.

ISEAS Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Internationalizing higher education in Malaysia : understanding practices and challenges / edited by Tham, Siew Yean.

1. Education, Higher—Malaysia.
2. Education and globalization—Malaysia.

I. Tham, Siew Yean.

LA1238 I58

2013

ISBN 978-981-4380-96-6 (soft cover)

ISBN 978-981-4380-97-3 (e-book, PDF)

Typeset by Superskill Graphics Pte Ltd

Printed in Singapore by Mainland Press Pte Ltd

CONTENTS

<i>List of Tables</i>	vii
<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	xi
<i>Contributors</i>	xiii
1. From the Movement of Itinerant Scholars to a Strategic Process <i>Tham Siew Yean</i>	1
2. Towards Understanding the Internationalization of Higher Education and its Challenges <i>Faridah Karim and Nooreiny Maarof</i>	18
3. Public Universities: Development and Internationalization <i>Azizah Kassim</i>	41
4. Private Higher Education Institutions: Development and Internationalization <i>Tham Siew Yean</i>	66
5. Macro Perspectives: Ideas, Practices and Challenges <i>Ragayah H. Mat Zin and Liew Chei Siang</i>	87
6. Micro Perspectives: Ideas, Practices and Challenges <i>Abdul Rahman Embong</i>	113
7. Concluding Remarks <i>Tham Siew Yean</i>	132
<i>Index</i>	139

LIST OF TABLES

2.1	Evolution of International Education Terminology	22
3.1	Public Universities in Malaysia, 2009	44
3.2	UM's Global Partners, June 2009	50
3.3	UKM's Global Partners (1992–2009)	54
3.4	Enrolment of International Students in Public Universities 2002–10	59
3.5	International Students Enrolment by Source Countries (2002 & 2010)	60
3.6	International Academic Staff in Public Universities by Types of Appointments, 2010	63
4.1	Number of Private University/Colleges as at 2011	67
4.2	Applicants and University Intake, 1970–86	69
4.3	Student Enrolment in Tertiary Education, 1985–2010	70
4.4	Types of Transnational Programmes Conducted by PrHEIs	77
4.5	Student Enrolment for a Bachelor Degree in PrHEIs according to Field of Studies, 2001–10	79
4.6	Enrolment of International Students in Public and Private HEIs, 2002–10	80
4.7	Academic Staff in PrHEIs, according to their Qualifications, 2001–10	82
5.1	Profile of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)	90
5.2	Respondents' Understanding of Internationalization by Type of Establishment	92
5.3	Importance of Internationalization by Type of Establishment	93
5.4	Understanding and Importance of Internationalization by Age of Establishment	94
5.5	Relevant Features of Internationalization	95
5.6	Relevant Features of Internationalization by Age of Establishment	96
5.7	Importance of Reasons for Internationalization by Type of Establishment	97

5.8	Importance of Reasons for Internationalization by Age of Establishment	98
5.9	Benefits of Internationalization	99
5.10	Benefits of Internationalization by Year of Establishment	99
5.11	Negative Aspects of Internationalization by Type of Establishment	100
5.12	Negative Aspects of Internationalization by Age of Establishment	101
5.13	Action Plans, Policies & Strategies for Internationalization by Type of Establishment	102
5.14	Action Plans, Policies & Strategies for Internationalization by Age of Establishment	104
5.15	Top Three Target Markets for Recruiting Students and Faculty Members	105
5.16	Programmes Offered to International Students	105
5.17	Dimensions of Internationalization that are Expanding Rapidly by Type of Establishment	106
5.18	Dimensions of Internationalization that are Expanding Rapidly by Age of Establishment	107
5.19	Key Drivers of Internationalization by Type of Establishment	108
5.20	Key Drivers of internationalization by Age of Establishment	108
5.21	Challenges Faced in Internationalization by Type of Establishment	109
5.22	Challenges Faced in Internationalization by Age of Establishment	110
5.23	Familiarity with Trade Agreement in Services	111
5.24	Impact of Trade Agreements on Internationalization of Education Services	111

LIST OF FIGURES

2.1	Conceptual Framework of Knight and van der Wende (in de Wit, 2002)	25
2.2	Conceptual Framework for Higher Education Institutions (adapted from Knight and van der Wende in de Wit, 2002)	26
3.1	Enrolment of Foreign Students by Type of Degree, 2010 (N=24,214)	61
3.2	Enrolment of Foreign Students by Discipline, 2010 (N=24,214)	62

PREFACE

The Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) focuses on multidisciplinary social science research that is related to the theme of globalization and social transformation. Since its establishment in 1995, the institute has undertaken several collegial book research projects that have been published. These include *Capturing Globalization*, edited by J.H. Mittleman and Norani Othman (London: Routledge, 2001); *Malaysia Menangani Globalisasi: Peserta atau Mangsa?* edited by Norani Othman and Sumit Mandal (Bangi: Penerbit UKM, 2000); *Globalization, Culture and Inequalities: In Honour of the Late Ishak Shari*, edited by Abdul Rahman Embong (Bangi: Penerbit UKM, 2004); *The Emerging East Asian Community: Security and Economic Issues*, edited by Lee Poh Ping, Tham Siew Yean and George T. Yu (Bangi: Penerbit UKM, 2006). The latest in the series of IKMAS books are *Globalization and National Autonomy: The Experience of Malaysia*, edited by Joan M. Nelson, Jacob Meerman and Abdul Rahman Embong (IKMAS and ISEAS: Singapore, 2008); *Community in ASEAN: Ideas and Practices*, edited by Lee Poh Ping, Tham Siew Yean and Norani Othman (Bangi: Penerbit UKM, 2008); and *Malaysia at a Crossroads: Can We Make the Transition?* edited by Abdul Rahman Embong and Tham Siew Yean (Bangi: Penerbit UKM, 2011).

This book is also based on a collegial research project that examined challenges faced by the internationalization of higher education in Malaysia. As in all collegial projects, it is multidisciplinary in its composition. The research team consisted of research fellows from IKMAS as well as faculty members from the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Economics and Business, UKM. The project was undertaken to complement an earlier project on higher education, namely the impact of cross-border higher education in Malaysia. IKMAS obtained a Research University Grant in 2008 to follow up on the earlier study by examining the challenges faced by the different stakeholders who are engaged in the internationalization process. It is also a follow-up study of an earlier study conducted by two IKMAS fellows (Tham Siew Yean and Andrew Kam Jia Yi) that examined similar issues using a case study approach. That study was later published in the *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*, vol. 28, no. 4 (2008).

The above research took a year to complete, and draft chapters of this book were presented and discussed in a series of workshops organized by IKMAS from 2008 to 2010. A dissemination workshop was held at the Boulevard Hotel, Mid Valley, Kuala Lumpur on 30 November 2009 to share the findings of the project with the respondents of the survey as well as the Ministry of Higher Education. Their response was used to revise the draft chapters that were presented there. The revised draft chapters were also presented at the Seventh International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC7) in Penang on March 2010 in order to share the findings and to solicit constructive suggestions for further improvement. Given that the book manuscript was completed before the subsequent launch of the Internationalization Policy 2011 by the Ministry of Higher Education, the concluding chapter highlights some of the more recent developments after summarizing the key findings of this book.

It would not have been possible to write this book without the support and co-operation of different individuals and institutions. We would like to use this opportunity to express our thanks to those who have assisted us along the way. First of all, we would like to thank Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia for funding the research that is used to provide the empirical data for writing this book. We would especially like to express our gratitude to the Ministry of Higher Education for their support and for all the respondents who have taken time to participate in our survey. We would also like to thank Dr Sharifah Zarina Syed Zakaria for her contributions to the survey. Unfortunately she was unable to contribute towards the writing of this book due to time constraints. Ms Ling Kor Shin provided invaluable research assistance. The project would not have progressed as smoothly as it did without her commitment and dedication to the project. For helpful comments, we would like to thank the three anonymous referees. However, all remaining errors remain our sole responsibility.

We hope the findings in this book will serve to contribute towards enhancing the understanding, practice and challenges encountered by the internationalization process. It is also our hope that it will excite further research interest in an extremely vibrant sector of the country, namely the higher education sector.

Tham Siew Yean
Principal Research Fellow and Head of Project
IKMAS, UKM
18 October 2011

CONTRIBUTORS

Abdul Rahman Embong, Ph.D. (Malaya), is Principal Fellow and Emeritus Professor in Sociology of Development, at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Azizah Kassim, Ph.D. (London), is Principal Fellow and Professor in Social Anthropology, at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Faridah Karim, Ph.D. (Aberdeen), is Professor of Social and Economic Education, and Director of the Centre for Medical Sciences Education at Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences.

Liew Chei Siang, M.Applied Statistics (Malaya), is lecturer at the School of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Management, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Nooreiny Maarof, Ph.D. (Florida State), is Associate Professor and Coordinator of TESL Programme at the Faculty of Education, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Ragayah Haji Mat Zin, Ph.D. (Vanderbilt), is Principal Fellow and Professor in Development Economics, at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Tham Siew Yean, Ph.D. (Rochester) is Principal Fellow and Professor in International Trade, at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.