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IN MALAYSIA
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INTERNATIONALIZING HIGHER EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA
Understanding, Practices and Challenges

EDITED BY
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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.

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