

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT IN PROMOTING LIFELONG LEARNING: Issues, Challenges & The Way Forward



Professor Emeritus Anuwar Ali
President/Vice-Chancellor
Open University Malaysia

THE GROWING FOCUS ON LIFELONG LEARNING (LLL):

A global phenomenon

Promoting a culture of continuous learning

Working adults seeking new learning opportunities to
boost careers & for self-improvement

BLUEPRINT ON ENCULTURATION OF LLL FOR MALAYSIA (2011-2020):

Launched by the Ministry of
Higher Education in
November 2011

LLL as the 3rd pillar in human
capital development

Increasing role of ODL
institutions for working
adults



CREATING AWARENESS & SUSTAINING INTEREST IN LLL

- Inculcating LLL as part of the mission & vision of designated universities
- Instilling institution-wide understanding & commitment towards LLL
- Ensuring proper use & allocation of resources
- Leveraging on economies of scale & ICT

COST-BENEFIT CONSIDERATIONS

- What are the benefits for universities?
- What are the opportunity costs?
- Important to consider impact on universities' core businesses due to diversion of resources

Leveraging on ICT to complement LLL agenda & objectives

Taking cues from global trends & best practices

**Strengthening the nexus between the university & the
workplace**

**Encouraging collaboration between institutions to boost
LLL programmes**

AN EXAMPLE IN COLLABORATION: INTERNATIONALISATION AT OUM

**A MEANS FOR FURTHER
GROWTH & EXPANSION**

**12 PARTNERING
INSTITUTIONS IN 10
COUNTRIES**

UNIQUE COLLABORATION

MUTUAL BENEFITS

**OUM designs programmes &
curricula, provides materials,
technology support & monitors
quality**

Sharing of ICT facilities

Joint curriculum development

**Training & exchange of
academic staff**

**Partners operate as overseas
learning centres, free to enrol
learners & run programmes**

**Sharing of learning materials &
support services**

AN EXAMPLE IN COLLABORATION: OUM IPD-SoLL

INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Professional & management development programmes, including non-formal courses

Collaboration with industry players to develop content of programmes

Diverse network of local & international experts

Collaboration with public universities, research institutions & others to provide trainers & experts

Smart partnerships for HCD with key industries in Malaysia



e.g. Nestlé, Aeon, NIOSH, AMAssurance, Toyota Boshoku, Samsung, Dumex & Royal Malaysian Armed Forces

Institutions must focus on respective niche areas:

e.g. research universities, mass education, technical & vocational studies

Focus on increasing individual strengths & capacities

Increase collaborative research & studies on LLL to encourage inter-institutional working relationships

Collaboration between institutions with different strengths can avoid overlapping initiatives

Institutions that want to partake in LLL must be mindful in terms of costs, benefits & resource allocation

LLL can benefit from multidisciplinary approach to provide holistic educational opportunities

Collaborative culture in promoting LLL can help to achieve national targets & agenda



THANK YOU