



ASEM INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON LIFELONG LEARNING

25-26 AUGUST 2014

PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE, KUALA LUMPUR

The ASEM International Seminar on Lifelong Learning was hosted by the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) in collaboration with ASEM Education Secretariat at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur from 25th until 26th August 2014. The seminar was attended by 143 participants from 16 ASEM member countries as well as two international organizations comprises of academic representatives and experts in the field of higher education and industrial relations.

The seminar consisted of a forum followed by four plenary sessions with specific themes:

- 1) Forum: Collaborative Effort In Promoting Lifelong Learning: Issues, Challenges and The Way Forward
- 2) Plenary Session 1: National Strategies For Lifelong Learning
- 3) Plenary Session 2: Intensification of Online Learning: Formulating Effective Strategies and Policies: Issues and Challenges
- 4) Plenary Session 3: Developing Workplace Learning: Workplace as Learning Spaces; and
- 5) Plenary Session 4: Industry and Community Participation in Lifelong Learning and Collaboration with Service Providers

The seminar came out with several conclusions. Keynote Address highlights

that Lifelong Learning (LLL) has become a platform for the development of professional manpower along the mainstream of the development of human capital. During the forum on 'Collaborative Effort in Promoting Lifelong Learning', it has been proposed by the members of the forum that LLL to be made as an agenda of sustainable development in national policies with an emphasis on UNESCO Guidelines on Recognition, Validation and Accreditation (RVA).

The Seminar's Plenary Session 2, presented by Prof. Dr. Mohamd Amin Embi from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), deliberates on the intensification of LLL and learns about how the big league universities are doing on Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) as well as developing workplace learning. It was agreed that by optimizing the use of ICT, the agenda of developing workplace learning can generate a long-term productivity effect as well as increased skills and knowledge of workers. This will also broaden the coverage of LLL and incorporate best practices through knowledge-sharing between ASEM member countries. National Open Education Resource Bank-OER is one of the proposed initiatives in order to achieve the agenda.

In Plenary Session 3, Dr. Helen Bound as the presenter also share several best practices that can be adopted to promote learning in the workplace such as pedagogy, cultural organizations and individual readiness based on studies that have been carried out in Singapore. The Fourth Plenary Session, touched on the topic of participation of industry and community in LLL was presented by Dato' Amir Md Noor, the Director General of Department of Community College Education, Malaysia. Members of the session agreed that collaboration, cooperation and joint venture are one of the ways in order to promote as well as making the implementation of LLL possible. Increasing collaborations between universities, industries and society through smart sharing are expected to empower strength and avoid redundancy. In addition, these collaborations will also create niche and specialization for each

university. With more international networking through curriculum development will lead to sharing of expertise and resources that will include renowned institutions within the aspects of research.

Through the seminar Malaysia shared the latest developments and methods that are effective in building strategies and collaboration with experts in the field of LLL. At the end of this two-day event, many topics has been touched and peeled such as challenges faced and proposals proposed by various speakers that helps the ASEM member countries to implement the LLL better.