The Strength and Challenges for Promoting Mobility via a Close-Network

Joint Workshop for Global Engineers in Asia

Chew Tin Lee
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)  Malaysia

Shizuyo Asai, College of Science and Engineering
Ritsumeikan University (RU)  Japan
sasai@fc.ritsumei.ac.jp

Maria Anityasari
Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS)  Indonesia
What is JWGEA?

• JWGEA, Joint Workshop for Global Engineers, is a workshop-style educational and research collaborative event for STEM graduate students and researchers via close network. It is held once a year hosted by a member university in a rotated manner.
JWGE includes

• Keynote lectures by host university
• Research presentations
• Cultural visits
• Industry visits
• Lab visits
• Presentation competition

www.apaie2018.org
Past JWGEA venues

2014  UTM  Malaysia
2015  RU   Japan
2016  KMUTT Thailand
2017  ITS  Indonesia
2018  RU   Japan
This Session Focuses on ...

1. Expectation of each university to join Joint Workshop for Global Engineers (JWGEA)
2. Positive outcomes
3. Challenges for sustainability
4. Feedback from participants
RU in brief

The Ritsumeikan Trust
Ritsumeikan University

Suzaku Campus
Kinugasa Campus
Biwako-Kusatsu Campus
Osaka Ibaraki Campus

APU
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Affiliate Schools
Ritsumeikan Junior and Senior High School
Ritsumeikan Uji Junior and Senior High School
Ritsumeikan Keisho Junior and Senior High School
Ritsumeikan Moriyama Junior and Senior High School
Ritsumeikan Primary School

Founded 1900 (117 years)
15 Undergraduate colleges
22 graduate schools
36,048 students with 1890 international students as of 2017
442 international partner institutions
From 62 countries and regions

www.apaie2018.org
Why create a new collaboration?

Internationalization≠ increasing the number of agreement

Our goal is not increasing the number of bilateral MOUs but increasing positive opportunities for sustainable and reciprocal cross-disciplinary partnerships in a multi-lateral framework through trust-building steps.
History

2013  Framework established among 3 universities including RU, KMUTT, and UTM
2014.2  1st JWGE in KMUTT was cancelled by RU
2014.7  1st JWGE in UTM and ITS joined
2015.7  2nd JWGE in RU held
2016.7  3rd JWGE in KMUTT held
2017.7  4th JWGE in ITS held
2018.7  5th JWGE in RU to be held
## RU participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Academics/Staffs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>UTM</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>RU</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>KMUTT</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>ITS</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1) Expectation of RU

• Educational networking
  - to raise awareness of the students to look outside Japan and experience different cultures and values

• Research networking
  - to seek opportunities for a new research collaboration
2) Positive Outcomes

• Students
  • Mobility
  • Cross-cultural understanding
  • New network
    • ELF awareness: from English learners to English users (ELF: English as a Lingua Franca)

• Faculty
  • Find opportunities for their students to meet different people
  • Find opportunities for themselves to start new joint researches

www.apaie2018.org
3) Challenges for sustainability

• Mobility enhancement
  • Budget constraint
  • Academic calendar

• Organization and management
  • Diverse disciplines
  • Budget constraint
  • Diverse expectations
4) Excerpts from interview results (RU)

• I gained confidence to communicate using my poor English…. (Elf awareness)

• I made a lot of friends from ASEAN countries so that I can travel alone … (lead to his stay at UTM later)

• … I regret I should have explained the reason why I thought that way. I learned **words were important** when I try to make myself understood perfectly. (mindset changed)

• I thought people were kind there and their smiles were attractive, because people in the urban area here do not smile much and look very stressed lacking latitude.
Excerpts from interview results (KMUTT)

• I got experience from the presentation and I (got) knowledge (about) work in my field.

• There are many positive outcomes from this workshop such as friendship with the people from other country, Getting more experiences about the new culture and so on.

• I want to find new experience for inter-presentation and this trip was my first international trip. The most outcome for me is confidence to use English for communication and presentation.
Excerpts from interview results (KMUTT)

• my major expectation was to present my work and make people understand my work. I also had expectations from this workshop such as building network with other students and professors to establish future collaboration and gaining new inspiration for further research work. Moreover, motivations to join this workshop were to improve English language ability and making new friend from many countries.
Conclusion

• Despite we have several challenges ahead, RU sees a lot of positive outcomes through JWGEA.

• No matter how different expectations and challenges among member universities may be, key to build and maintain a close network is the same trust-building manner that is practiced among individual persons.
Conclusion

• In order to overcome challenges that come from different expectations, different institutional strategies, and different languages and cultures, we always talk, explain, listen to each other, respect, wait some time, and move forward step by step.
Thank you very much.