

Exchange of Lectures with Oversea Universities – *Teaching Trips Abroad Grant*

ACTIVITY REPORT

<i>Name of the Faculty Member</i>	Mayumi Terano
<i>Status</i>	Assistant Professor
<i>Dept. Affiliation</i>	Global Studies Program
<i>Trip Duration</i>	From: January 16, 2016 To: January 30, 2016
<i>Institutions visited / Country</i>	Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Brunei

Activity Summary:

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), established in 1985, is one of the fastest growing universities in South-East Asia with a strong academic rigour, education exchange and internationalization. In 2014, UBD is ranked in QS University Ranking within

- the top 10 in 2 criteria (outbound student exchange and international faculty)
- the top 50 in 5 criteria (outbound student exchange, international faculty, inbound student exchange, faculty student ratio, and international students)

It holds a student body (undergraduate and graduate) of about 3,000, of which about 600 are international.

It has full-time faculty of about 480 and its half is international. It has 7 academic faculties and 9 specialized research institutes, which covers social sciences, business, natural science, technology, and medicine. It emphasizes transdisciplinary and individualized approach to education and research and, at the same time, encourages life-long learning through Continuing Education Centre (CEC). AIU has been in partnership with UBD since 2013 and they have been exchanging students every year, and currently there are 2 AIU students studying at UBD and several UBD students studying at AIU.



Class observation

The purposes of this trip were:

1. Fostering faculty collaboration of teaching enhancement between AIU and UBD
2. Strengthening the student exchange activities through: 1) learning about UBD's undergraduate education programs and 2) raising awareness about AIU's undergraduate programs
3. Collect information about UBD's post-graduate programs as a potential destination for the AIU students
4. Explore other avenues for further collaborations and exchanges between the two institutions

The activities included in this trip were:

- Explore the educational environment, approaches and contents of social science programs through discussions with faculty members, class observation, and discussions with students
- Collecting information of some postgraduate programs for AIU students
- Explore the university's internationalization process
- Understand current situation of higher education and relevant policy issues in Brunei for the benefit of future interaction between the AIU and UBD, and Japan and Brunei at large.



Colleagues at the UBD Institute of Education

The daily activities were as below:

17 th Jan, Sun	Arrival Meeting Dr Sabrina Daud, the Deputy Director of Global Relations , Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor [Global Affairs] Planning meeting with Dr Jainatul Halida binti Jaidin, the Dean , and Dr Sallimah M. Salleh, the Deputy Dean (Research) of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE)
18 th , Mon	Discussion on the UBD education with Prof Takeyuki Ueyama, SHBIE, on the Educational Leadership Program.
19 th , Tue	<u>Class observation</u> of 'Teacher as Researchers' at Master of Teaching Program (focus on qualitative research by Dr Jainatul Halida binti Jaidin (Module Leader, Dean), and the discussion of pedagogic approach
20 th , Wed	<u>Planning meeting</u> with Dr. Dato Paduka Hj. Mohd. Adnan bin Buntar (the Former Ambassador of Brunei to Japan) <u>SHBIE program orientation</u> (Dean) and a presentation of the Overseas Education Exchange <u>Discussion of the SHBIE program</u> with Dr Rosmawijah Jawawi (the Deputy Dean (Academic))
21 st , Thu	<u>Observation and discussion</u> with Dr Suwarni Hj. Mohd Diah at the Pap Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Sciences (IHSUBD) <u>Class observation</u> of 'Teacher as Researchers' at Master of Teaching Program. Focus on quantitative Research, Lead by Dr Sallimah M. Salleh.
23 rd , Sat	<u>Discussion of the social science education curriculum</u> with Dr Yabit Alas, the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. <u>Discussion of current higher education exchange</u> . Meeting with Mr. Pehin Dato Suyoi Haji Osman (the Minister of Education)
25 th , Mon	<u>Discussion on UBD education program</u> with Prof. Ueyama, SHBIE <u>Courtesy Call to the Embassy of Japan</u> , <u>Discussion on Brunei-Japan educational exchange</u> (Her Excellency Noriko Iki, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei ; Dr. Toshio Kaneko, Deputy Head of Mission / Counsellor)
26 th , Tue	<u>Discussion on UBD international initiatives</u> with Dr. Anita B Z Abdul Aziz (Deputy Permanent Secretary of Higher Education, Ministry of Education; Vice Chancellor of UBD); Dr Zohrah Sulaiman (Vice Chancellor of Brunei Institute of Technology); Dr Jainatul Halida binti Jaidin (Dean of SHBIE, UBD)
27 th , Wed	<u>Discussion of UBD education environment and pedagogy</u> with faculty members: Mr. Pg Mohammed Rahiman (Faculty of Arts and Social Science), Dr. Nor' Arifahwati Hj Abbas (SHBIE), Dr. Nor; Azmah Yunus (SHBIE), Ms. Marlizayati binti Johari (Lecturer, Physics Education, SHBIE). <u>Discussion of Brunei youth exchange and education</u> with Mr. Pehin Dato Hazair bin Haji Abdullah (Brunei Representative of Human Rights Commission to ASEAN, Former Minister of Youth, Culture, and Sports) and Dr. Dato Paduka Hj. Mohd. Adnan bin Buntar (the Former Ambassador of Brunei to Japan)
28 th , Thu	<u>Discussion of current youth education and Japan-Brunei youth and culture exchange</u> with Mr. Maj Gen (R) Pehin Dato Halbi Yussof (Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports) and Ms. Datin Paduka Dr Norlila Abdul Jalil (Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports). Discussion of UBD students and pedagogy, with Prof. Hiroaki Hayakawa, School of Business and Economics. Review meeting with the Deputy Director of Global Relations , Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor [Global Affairs] Review meeting with the Dean of SHBIE.
29 th , Fri	Departure from UBD



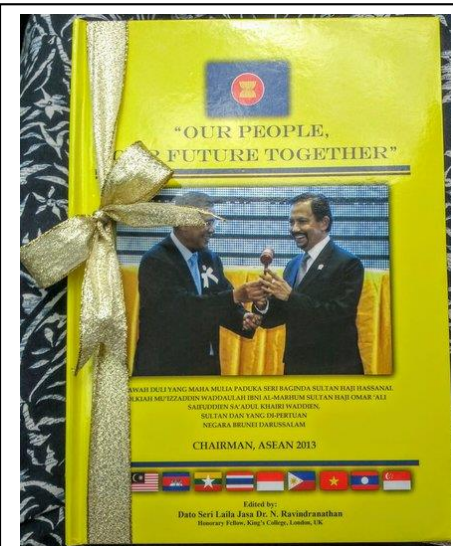
What I have learned and how I want to use the knowledge / skills in my future teaching at AIU:

Overview: Brunei is a small country and there is not much awareness about its uniqueness and the strength. It has a long history of interaction with Japan and people in general have favourable views toward Japanese people and culture, therefore the interests to learn about Japanese culture and language. Although some economic downturn in Brunei is seen due to the plummeting oil price, the country is protected by its natural resource and good public investment by the government. There is a keen interest at the policy level to strengthen its economy through human resources, to open up its society towards international influence and modernization while maintaining the Islamic and traditional values, and to be more active players in ASEAN and beyond in economy, politics, education and cultural exchange. The government is recognizing the benefit of education and youth exchange with Japan, as it has the resource of unique ideas and skills. As Brunei is currently moving toward strengthening



Visiting the Bruneian Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports

Mutual Benefit from Educational Exchange with UBD/Brunei: I tried to recognize the areas of strengths that each country could benefit from each other. The professionals at the Institute of Health Sciences found that, through the students exchange with Japanese universities, Japanese students tend to have high level of technical skills. They observed however that Bruneian students are better at discussion and exchanging ideas. My expectation was that, as a society with strong traditional education and Islamic values, students in Brunei would struggle with the progressive mode of education. From my observation of classes and discussion with faculty members, however, the Bruneian students are adjusting with this transition smoothly. How this may be related to their traditional mode of education and culture requires more research to clarify, but seemingly successful transition is something that our educational exchange could benefit from. In this sense, Brunei may be an interesting model, as it shares the Asian culture with Japan, there is an alternative process of educational transition. In general, there are favourable attitude toward Japanese culture and people in Brunei so further exchange with UBD at different levels can be fostered, for both students and faculty. UBD seems to represent an interesting combination of globalism, multiculturalism and tradition, and they are keen to strengthen their international faculty and student exchange with Japan, and there are much to be explored to strengthen the benefit from each other.



A gift from the Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports – the words of the Sultan

Learning on the Exchange with UBD:

Student exchange – UBD provides a culturally diverse and academically rich environment. I had a strong impression that they value Islamic culture and increasingly they are fostering the value at the government and institutional levels. AIU can foster exchange students with such a society by making



Visiting the Minister of Education and the former Bruneian Ambassador to Japan



the AIU environment more culturally accommodating, such as by setting up a (multi-religious) prayer room, more gender-considerate facilities, etc. In teaching, more exploration of unique cultural and academic backgrounds, though teaching methods and contents, could strengthen internationalized learning environment at AIU.

Faculty exchange – Faculty at AIU could benefit from the partnership more by exchanging teaching and research activities. There was an interest from the UBD faculty to visit AIU to conduct an intensive course or research, for example. We could also explore the avenue for further sharing of academic resources. Keeping the communication with the Bruneian Ministries as well as the Japanese embassy would help identify areas of interests for mutual exchange.



A prayer room at UBD