



ISC News

International Student Center | University of Malaya

Director's Note

The dawn of the new beginning in the start of the new year brings along new aspirations, motivation and determination for the staff of the International Student Centre as well as the university as a whole. This year marks a meaningful and extraordinary year for the whole of the campus community the university alumni as well where the university will be celebrating its 111th anniversary since its inception in 1905. It signals a new dawn of the path towards greater achievements in the future, looking back at the amazing and groundbreaking accomplishments and achievements throughout the century in the contribution towards nation-building and the global society as a whole.

We are thoroughly excited and looking forward to a myriad of programs and activities in commemoration of this important milestone in further highlighting and projecting the best of what the university can offer to the development of the nation and the global development in a bigger picture. The International Student Centre is keen to do its part in helping to realise the visions and mission spelled out for this aim.

We are galvanising all efforts to further strengthen and enhance the mobility program and partnerships with our valuable partners as well as break new grounds in further developing the mobility exchanges. The target is in bringing in more student exchanges to the university and in providing the best possible services to the students in order to further enrich their experience here in the university and the country as a whole.

The journey ahead is still long and winding and we are more than excited to continue to carry forward the momentum of the past few years in charting the path ahead and looking forward to great things to come.





Orientation for Sem. II, 2015/2016

The beginning of the orientation for both Semester II for the group of students, weeks in advance with meticulous and proper planning and with the orientation for the new students for both undergraduate full time and exchange students. The team of ISC is at the full front in preparing and planning for

registered for the new semester while 46 fulltime undergraduate students registered with different faculties.

Airport pick-up service is being given for the students over a period of two days during the weekend where assistance is given to fetch the students from the airport to the dormitories on campus. Dormitory staff remain on standby to accommodate the students for the check in process. It is a collective effort and cooperation among the dormitories as well as ISC and the appointed student



helpers in formulating the right arrangement not only for the initial period of the orientation but throughout the entire program where various other programs suited for the new students to help them settle down are being carried out. The dormitories play a meaningful and important role in providing the right living situation and service for the international students during their stay here. Students are also being given campus tour to familiarize themselves with the campus surroundings and important landmarks and places for the beginning of their new chapter in University of Malaya. Registration process and briefing are done afterwards where other related matters such as visa, insurance, rules and

regulations of the university as well as courses and academic matters are being related to the students for their understanding and clarity.

Matric cards and welcoming kits consisting of souvenir backpacks and umbrellas are distributed to the new students. The orientation program in its entirety has been a successful one where the new students are being given the right support, direction and advice during their initial adjustment period with the unwavering help, support, dedication and teamwork shown by all parties in ISC, student helpers, the dormitories as well other university departments and faculties in ensuring the program runs smoothly and in achieving its intended objectives.





Field Trips





Homestay Program









Proud Host to Foreign Delegations

The first quarter of the year has seen a surge in the number of visits and meetings by various institutions coming over for discussions, dialogues and collaboration in many areas of interests especially in the field of mobility exchange for the students. The ISC has also received numerous visits by high schools and middle level education institutions who are very much interested in exposing their students to the global outreach and experience which will enhance the students' outlook and knowledge. Goodwill tours from partner universities are continuously being given the proper service and treatment in which it is our constant desire and wish that the existing ties be given continuous enhancement and uplifting to further spur the goal of achieving mutual benefits and the development of both all parties.





Mobility Roadshow

The mobility roadshow initiative is initiated with the aim of encouraging more students to participate in the outbound program. Talks and briefings are held from faculty to faculty in giving light to the procedures and also the benefits and importance of experiencing study life abroad either for the short or long term exchange programs. Response from the students has been encouraging and the key target is met after they have expressed their

desire to expand their horizon and broaden and internationalise their global outlook and perspective which will further enhance their credentials in the future. With the over-arching aspiration of pushing further in achieving the internationalisation agenda, this effort will go a long way in building the necessary bridge and understanding for the students to see the right path ahead.



Sudanese Independence Day Celebration

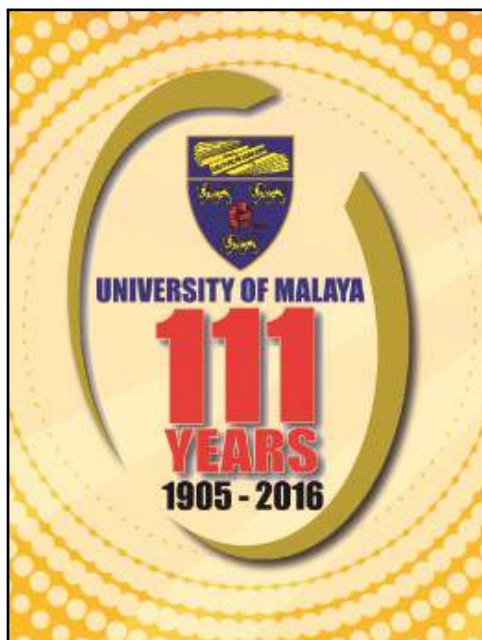
The Sudanese students in University of Malaya in collaboration with the Sudanese Embassy organised the 60th Sudanese Independence Day celebration on campus with a variety of events and programs lined up in conjunction with the celebration. The opening ceremony was held at Dewan Tunku Canselor with the Sudanese Ambassador being the guest of honour together with representatives of the embassy as well as Sudanese Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and being welcomed by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Dato' Mohd Amin Jalaludin and a host of university staff and students. The two-day event saw a large turnout of students and staff alike with various cultural performances Sudanese traditional food and culture on display.



UM 111th Anniversary Celebration

A vital and historic milestone for the university. That describes the celebration of the 111th anniversary of the inception of the university dating back since 1905. It is indeed a watershed moment for the entire members and alumni of the university as we share the amazing accomplishments and achievements that the university has successfully gone through throughout more than a century with significant contributions to the development of not only the country but the global society as a whole. Being the oldest public university in the country and having complemented the efforts of nation-building even before the country achieved its impendence, the university has been at the forefront in churning out exemplary and towering leaders in their own fields in various sectors who in turn guided and moulded the nation to where it is today. A large portion of prominent government leaders, ministers, policymakers, parliament members, politicians, business leaders, civil society leaders and many other prominent individuals have graduated from the prestigious university over the past

decades who have formed the backbone of the development of the country throughout the different phases of development since gaining independence in 1957.



The ideas, knowledge, input, know-how, leadership experience and the expertise that these prominent figures put in in steering the country forward helped make it to where the country stands today. The impact and contributions of the university are not only being confined within producing exemplary figures and within the boundary of the country per se but also in areas of groundbreaking research, new inventions,

pursuit of innovation and creativity as well as forming the culture of knowledge-based system in helping to form solutions to the various issues and conundrums that the global society is facing in the scientific and non-scientific spheres. Various breakthroughs and achievements have been successfully accomplished with the perseverance and dedication of its academic staff throughout the decades in spreading and sharing ideas and knowledge and in con-



-tinuously striving for the pursuit of new breakthroughs that can uplift the lives of the many not only in the country but in the global arena in broader terms. In view of the significant milestone in achieving 111 years of excellence, the university is embarking on a journey of strength and togetherness in laying out the path and foundation for the next decade and century to come with solid and forward-looking aspirations and plans that will continue to build upon the historic path that has been created so far and will hopefully be further solidified and oiled in the next phase of a new journey towards achieving the target of being one of the best universities in the world with an equal emphasis on continuously contributing to the development of the well-being of the people and the global society as a higher education entity. The time is now for the whole of the campus community in coming together to appreciate the milestone of 111 years of excellent pursuit of greatness and this is also the year for us all to start to embark on a new dawn in the journey of bringing the university to the next decade and century while ensuring the university's core values and inner strength and uniqueness to remain intact. The visions and missions of the university and the founding values will remain the crucial backbone and inspiration for all of us to continue the journey and uphold the spirit of coming together and achieving greatness.

National Higher Education Blueprint

The Malaysian higher education system has grown from strength to strength over the past few decades. Over the last ten years alone, the system has made significant gains in student enrolment, risen in global recognition on key dimensions such as research publications, patents, and institutional quality, as well as become a top destination for international students. These achievements are a testament to the drive and innovation of the Malaysian academic community, the support of the private sector, as well as the deep investment the Government has made. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) recognises that the system will need to keep evolving to stay abreast with, if not ahead of, global trends. In 2013, the Ministry thus began developing the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015–2025 (Higher Education) or the MEB (HE). Over the course of two years, the Ministry drew on multiple sources of input, from Malaysian and international education experts, to leaders of Malaysian HIs and members of the public. The end product is a blueprint that was developed by Malaysians, for Malaysians, and that will equip Malaysia for the final leg of its journey towards becoming a high income nation.



Accordingly, the Ministry's overriding aspiration is to create a higher education system that ranks among the world's leading education systems and that enables Malaysia to compete in the global economy. The MEB (HE) builds on the system's achievements to date and proposes major changes in the way the Ministry and system will operate in order to realise this goal. Specifically, the Ministry aspires to:

Instill an entrepreneurial mindset throughout Malaysia's higher education system and create a system that produces graduates with a drive to create jobs, rather than to only seek jobs; Construct a system that is less focused on traditional, academic pathways and that places an equal value on much-needed technical and vocational training; Focus on outcomes over inputs and to actively pursue technologies and

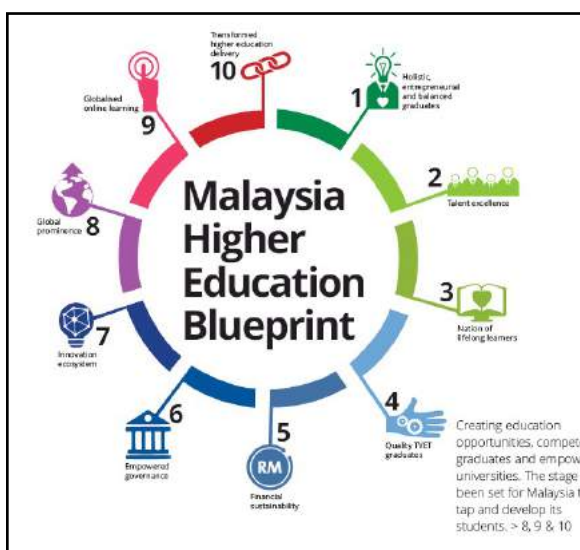
innovations that address students' needs and enable greater personalisation of the learning experience; Harmonise how private and public institutions are regulated, and to transition from the current, highly-centralised governance system for HLIs to a model based on earned autonomy within the regulatory framework; and Ensure the financial sustainability of the higher education system by reducing HLIs reliance on government resources and asking all stakeholders that directly benefit from it to contribute as well.

To achieve these system and student aspirations, the MEB (HE) outlines 10 Shifts that will spur continued excellence in the higher education system. All 10 Shifts address key performance issues in the system, particularly with regard to quality and efficiency, as well as global trends that are disrupting the higher education landscape. The first four Shifts focus on outcomes for key stakeholders in

the higher education system, including students in academic and TVET pathways, the academic community, as well as all Malaysians participating in lifelong learning. The other six Shifts focus on enablers for the higher education ecosystem, covering critical components such as funding, governance, innovation, internationalisation, online learning, and delivery.

The MEB (HE) proposes major reforms to Malaysia's higher education system in order to accelerate the positive upward trajectory of the system. It places the needs and interests of learners at the heart of the system, and reiterates the Government's longstanding commitment to providing equitable access to high-quality education of international standards. It calls for more intensive and frequent industry and community engagement, collaboration, and partnerships. The MEB (HE) also aims to unleash and empower both private and public HLIs to push the boundaries of innovation and strive for institutional excellence in all its forms. Above all, it will only be through the collective efforts of all stakeholders that the higher education system can be transformed to prepare Malaysians for the challenges and opportunities of an ever-changing world. The future of Malaysian youth and the nation demands nothing less.

In line with the initiatives and objectives set forth by the ministry, the University of Malaya has been earmarked as the leading





institution which will be at the forefront in pushing forward and achieving the various initiatives and agendas that have been set in place. The reputation, achievements and future objectives of the university have been the platform in which it has been given the target and priority to be the exemplary institution which will help to make the intended aspirations of the blueprint to be met in its duration. The university is well aware of the stakes and high hopes that have been put in place and the heavy responsibilities that it has to shoulder to continue to lead the path forward in meeting the outlined visions. With its own strategic planning initiatives as well as clear missions and strategies in place with effective direction and exemplary leadership and management, the path has been set for greater things to come with greater momentum built to carry the university forward in its next phase with the help of unwavering support and commitment of its students and staff as well as the support of the government in catapulting University of Malaya to the pinnacle of world of higher education.

QS World University Ranking by Subject

University of Malaya is the best performing Malaysian institution in the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject.

We are ranked 30th and 37th in the Development Studies and Electrical and Electronic Engineering categories respectively.

QS Intelligence Unit head Ben Sowter said UM was the most-featured of 11 Malaysian universities ranked in this year's rankings where the university is featured in 26 subject categories.

The annual QS World University Rankings by Subject provides an insight into global university performance at the subject level. QS also produces the annual world university rankings.

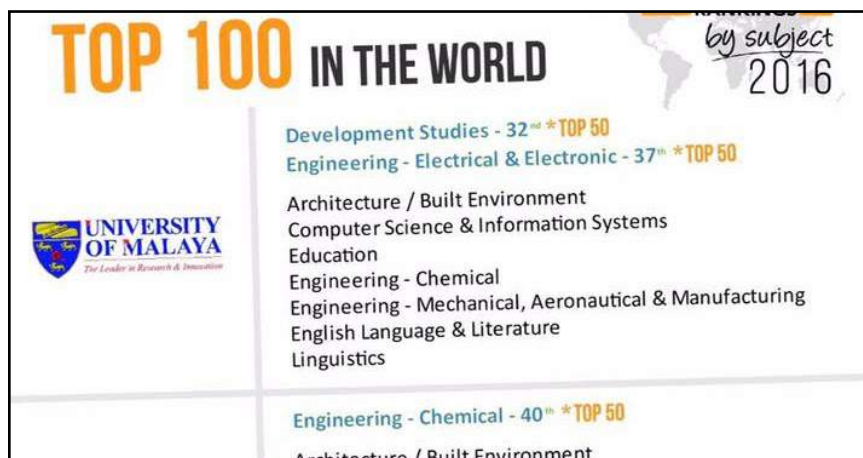
UM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Amin Jalaludin said the rise in



rankings was due to the unwavering teamwork and dedication shown at all levels at the university.

While the university was committed to improving its ranking, that was not its sole priority where the long-term goal is to strengthen the fundamentals of the university and that rankings are used as an input to facilitate this process which Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Amin has always emphasised upon.

This is yet another feather in the cap for all of the university's staff and students at all levels in which can be hopefully built upon as the perfect foundation and platform in further gaining the right momentum, strive, zeal and dedication in further doing the best possible to strengthen the university's fundamentals, core values and the intended visions and missions.



Student's Experience I



The Wonderful Experiences in Malaysia

Life was like a box of chocolates; you never know what you are going to get. For me, I can't imagine what my life will be like in Malaysia until I arrived here. It is a wonderful, memorable and exciting experience to me. My heart is filled with great passion just like the heat of the sun in Malaysia.

As a food lover, I would like to talk about the tasty food first. Malaysia is very famous as a food paradise. Chicken rice is almost everywhere. You can find it in the restaurant of Mid Valley Megamall, one of the most popular shopping malls in Malaysia. You can also find it in the campus, the cafeteria near the main library, the canteen near ISC etc. What's more,

drinks here are so fresh that make me really addicted. Mango juice and coconut shake are my favorite. I often go to the night market with my friends, because there are plenty of fruits and delicious food.

Malaysia is also well-known because of the amazing scenery. It is a dream place for the world as the ultimate tourist attraction. For instance, Penang, Sabah and Langkawi are the ideal places you can't miss. I have to say that ISC of UM is pretty cool. ISC often organizes activities for us exchange students, such as one-day trip and homestay, offering bus, bread and spring water for free. We went to museum and Port Dickson last time and took many photos there.

Last but not least, Malaysians are very nice and friendly. They are warm-hearted to show you the way to your destination. I love to make friends with local people, not only because they are easy to get along with but because I can learn Malay from them.

Life is also like a journey, and the trip to Malaysia is memorable. I will always remember my life here.

By:

Gao Xiaoxiang

Anhui University of Finance and Economics,
China

Student's Experience II



Selamat berkenalan (Nice to meet you)! My name is Pyo Gayeon from Sejong University of Korea. My exchange studying experience in University of Malaya can be explained by one word, "Diversity". There are many exchange students from other countries. So, I could meet many friends from diverse cultures and share variety of opinions during the lectures.

I'm studying in Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, English Department. When I have difficulty of communication during the class, my course mates and lecturers always help me and have patience for me. My favorite lecture of this semester is "Performance strategies in Western Theatre". I never had a chance

to be an actress and do a play in English on a stage, so it is really meaningful experience to me.

I enjoyed the homestay program in Melaka hosted by ISC. They offered us transportations, every meals, drinking water, and accommodation. I liked traditional Malaysian foods there, and enjoyed night river cruises. If I have free weekends I will join one day trip hosted by ISC. Kuala Lumpur is very easy to go travel anywhere. So, I travelled many places and cities on the weekends with friends. Also, I should say that KL got all my attention with its tall Twin towers and amazing night scenes.

I'm having amazing days in Malaysia, So, I decided to extend my exchange studies to next semester. Terima kasih (Thank you)!

By:

Pyo Gayeon

Sejong University, Korea

Student's Experience III



Hi, I'm Napat Mingpijarn from Thailand. This is my first time that I study abroad and as an exchange student in University of Malaya in Malaysia. UM is quite huge for me (after I surveyed by walking around the university and it needed one hour) and I fell in love this university since the day I arrived.

I'm here for studying about Linguistics and Business for two semesters. First semester, I studied in Linguistics and Languages Faculty and I can say that there are all excellent professors and local friends are also nice to me. Second semester, I studied in Business and Accountancy Faculty. All exchange students stay at 10th college and there are not only students but there

are monkeys with us too! Of course I love this dormitory because this place is the beginning of my UM life.

My exchange study life will not be special if I do not have foreigner friends, I always thank all of them that fulfill my life here, seem like it's not important and that the thinking of just your own friends are enough but whenever you study abroad friendship is really necessary. It's a good chance to learn other cultures and languages. They can be a good day when you feel bored and of cause you will never get it in your home university. Don't you think it's very amazing when they plan to surprise your birthday? So for me friendship is the best thing that I got.

Study abroad is not difficult as you think, first you may feel worried about culture shock and you may be homesick but this is a good way to become more mature. You will enjoy with it when you open your mind, open your eyes, keep all experiences that no one can give to you. I'm sure that I will never forget this chance because for every joy that passes, something beautiful remains.

By:

Napat Mingpijarn

Prince of Songkla University, Thailand

Student's Experience IV



My New Colombo Plan Experience Studying at University of Malaya

In 2015, as a recipient of the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan scholarship, I was fortunate enough to spend one semester studying in Kuala Lumpur, at Universiti Malaya (UM), Malaysia's premier public university. From the moment I arrived at the exchange orientation to the moment I placed down my pen in my final examination, my six months at UM was a truly eye opening experience that gave me a breadth of insights into Malaysia's diverse cultures and vibrant history.

My time at UM was as much about

embracing Malaysian culture as it was about furthering my educational development. From homestays in regional Malaysia to the International Student gala at the end of the semester, exchange at UM provided ample opportunity to really get into the thick of it with formalized cultural activities. Some of my favourite memories, however, came from informal experiences, such as when classmates and I would Jalan-jalan cari makan after our morning classes, or even being blessed to have been one of the few students invited into the home of UM's International Student Officer for their Hari Raya Aidiladha feast.

From the many people that I met, to things that I got to try for the first time, my experience at UM was a time that I will never forget.

By:

Jotham Young

University of New South Wales, Australia



International Student Centre 2016