

Mobility for students: A key to greater competitiveness and to enhancing quality of higher education (Lessons from Erasmus Mundus)

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Student mobility

- The internationalization of higher education is an answer to the challenges posed by globalization.
- International student mobility is changing the global higher education landscape, with an increasing number of students going abroad for further studies every year.

- Over the past three decades, the number of students enrolled outside their country of citizenship has risen dramatically, from **0.8 million** worldwide in **1975** to **4.5 million** in **2012** – a more than fivefold increase.

Case in Point: Erasmus Mundus

- The EU's Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus+ programmes contributed decisively to the Europeanization of higher education.
- The EU's system is a very good reference with which ASEAN can learn from.

Emerging Trend: Regional Mobility

- The importance of regional over global student mobility is growing, according to the OECD's *Education at a Glance 2014*.
- The trend is reflected in the increasing internationalisation of tertiary enrolment in OECD countries as well as high intra-regional student mobility.
- Patterns of student mobility are shifting, with new destinations emerging.

- *“Student flows in European countries and in Eastern Asia and Oceania tend to reflect the evolution of geopolitical areas, such as closer ties between Asia-Pacific countries and further cooperation among European countries beyond the European Union,” says the report .*

Why mobility?

- Strengthened personal development
- Increased academic opportunities
- Enhanced career prospects
- Improved confidence, maturity, linguistic competence and academic ability
- Enhanced cross-cultural /inter-cultural competence



- **What are the benefits of a harmonized Higher Education landscape in ASEAN?**
- For students:
- Ease of credit transfer
- Recognition of degrees and academic qualifications

- **For Higher Education Institutions:**
- The learning environment for all students is often greatly enhanced, as returning students and incoming exchange students bring an added dimension to the classroom.

What are the benefits of inner ASEAN mobility?

- Fosters excellence, quality, innovation and internationalisation
- Increases attractiveness of ASEAN Higher Education
- Supports ASEAN's action in higher education
- Improves level of students' competencies and relevance of courses to the labour market



- **How do we make inner ASEAN mobility more attractive to students?**
- Set up a scholarship program which puts emphasis on **Quality** of education, experiences and applicants ; **Opportunity** for scholarships, educational and cultural experience; **Mobility** with more ASEAN universities involved.

- **What needs to be done in the ASEAN Higher Education landscape?**
- Allow the diversity of national systems and universities while improving transparency between higher education systems, as well as implements tools to facilitate recognition of degrees and academic qualifications, mobility, and exchanges between institutions. (Bologna Accord, 1999)

- **How prepared are students in facing ASEAN mobility and internationalization?**
- Most ASEAN students are prepared, especially those who have the experience; however, there is still a need to educate more ASEAN students on the implications and significance of this new phase in higher education.

- **How do student organizations across countries in ASEAN reach out and are known by their students in their respective countries?**
- EMA keeps track of its members and has established 12 chapters; it is accessible **online** (it has very strong social media presence) and **offline** (it organizes events for members to get together) .
- We coordinate closely with the **EU Delegation Offices** across the region for events like pre-departure orientation, EHEF, EU day, etc.

- **How big is the challenge that they face?**
- It is a huge challenge, knowing that we have diverse educational systems across the region.
- **What is the main obstacle?**
- The degree and level of preparedness of students and higher education institutions in the region.

In sum...

- **Value and relevance**
- **Time**
- **Bologna Accord**

Thank you very much!
Maraming Salamat!
Terima Kasih!

