

THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW INSTITUTIONALLY FOR THE DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAM BETWEEN INDONESIA AND CAMBODIA

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Abstract

An increasing number of universities worldwide see the advantages of Double Degree programs and are working to develop more international agreements of this type.

Double degree programs, where participants spend time in two institutions in different countries and are awarded degrees from both institutions, are a very efficient way of gaining international exposure, and gain the desired broad exposure in order to better qualify for the job market.

Obtained at both universities within the program will be mutually acknowledged, resulting in a shortening of the required study time compared to acquiring both degrees separately.

In today's international labor market, the international exposure will be highly valued and graduates with degrees obtained in two different countries will be one step ahead of the competition. Besides the life skills, the advantages of a double degree Student should be able to include:

- Improve of their capacity building
- Exchange experience of both families
- Transfer the high education training
- Strengthen relationship between Cambodia and Indonesia
- Experience the best of both each university adds its specialty to the program and thus complements the partner university
- Experience a different culture, business environment and learning approach
- Gain greater perspective in addressing international issues
- Undergo a diverse learning experience through a more international classroom
- To see different working environments and get more experienced

- May be hard to adapt and may bring you hard times but this will help you to learn how to deal with difficulties and become accustomed to an entirely new environment.
- Learn the local customs and be a member of that community by joining the traditional activities.

Brief History: 2010

A group of delegation membered in Indonesian Consortium came to NPIC to sign MoU to host the Double Degree between Faculty of Computer Science (NPIC) and Indonesian Consortium.

The MoU was agreed:

1. 3+1. That is, students study 3 years in their home country and study 1 year in the host country.
2. Air ticket and passport are responsible by student's self.
3. Housing is responsible by the host.
4. Pocket allowance was not mentioned. However, the pocket allowance was sponsored by SEAMOLEC.

August 2011

Lecturers from the faculty of Computer Science, NPIC, and Politeknik Negeri Jakarta (PNJ) created a merge curriculum and merge course outline, signed both NPIC and PNJ.

2012

A group of delegation from NPIC went to Bandung, Indonesia, to signed MoU with other polytechnics.

Exchange Program 2011-2012 (1 Semester)

- 4 NPIC students went to Indonesia to study culture and language in PNJ.
- 6 Indonesian students from different polytechnics also came to NPIC to study skills.

Double Degree Batch 1 (2012-2013):

- 12 NPIC students went to Indonesia to study the 4th year in different polytechnics.

- 8 Indonesian students from different polytechnics came to NPIC to study the 4th year.

Batch 2 (2013-2014):

- 5 NPIC students went to Indonesia to study the 4th year in different polytechnics.
- 11 Indonesian students from different polytechnics are currently studying the 4th year.

Main Benefit and Opportunities onwards:

An increasing number of universities worldwide see the advantages of Double Degree programs and are working to develop more international agreements of this type. Recently the renowned American magazine Newsweek published an article confirming the growing importance of double degree programs, where students, professors and recruiters share the opinion that double degree programs will benefit students in providing a broad education, increasing skills and career opportunities.

Double degree programs, where participants spend time in two institutions in different countries and are awarded degrees from both institutions, are a very efficient way of gaining international exposure, and gain the desired broad exposure in order to better qualify for the job market. Due to different national restrictions and differences between universities each double degree program looks different, but usually involves an equal amount of study -time at each university. Credits obtained at both universities within the program will be mutually acknowledged, resulting in a shortening of the required study time compared to acquiring both degrees separately.

In today's international labor market, the international exposure will be highly valued and graduates with degrees obtained in two different countries will be one step ahead of the competition.

The double degree is usually the key for the students to learn one thing in the double recognized system that it can be in two universities or even in two countries. As the regional trend move in the ASEAN countries, this seems facilitated the way of the educational institution to move on into the shared recognized systems. The emerging of the double degree agreement between NPIC and

Indonesian Polytechnic Institutes was finalized and implemented for the mutual interests.

The advantages and the disadvantages are reviewed and considered. However, few advantages might be several curriculum modifications and costs for school to run the agreed franca-lingo courses, the advantages are outweighed such as upgrading the quality systems of degrees, strong collaboration and inter-institute knowledge flows such as joint academic skills.

The appropriate qualification and the readiness for the faculty member is considered to fit the international course structures due to the qualification needs. Most faculty members are regularly upgraded in term of technical skills and teaching methodology due to the demand for appropriate courses. The shortages of the quality staff to fit in the system is realized then teaching assessment was made in order to find out the quality structure of faculty members. Therefore, the proactive preparation is already in place in order to implement programs with partner institutions.

System or degree recognitions are realized and maintained to accommodate the criteria of the courses and curriculum demands. Both institutes in

the memorandum of agreement for the double degree systems understand challenges to maintain their educational quality, these actually play active roles as the momentum for the agreed institutes to push their own systems in mutual interests for students and institutions.

The double degrees, exchange programs, are significantly implemented and this is the gateway to give more opportunities for future academic exchanges in terms of teaching members and flexible study mode to be in the programs. For example, some teaching staff exchange among the program will be possibly implemented.

Beyond the steps, double-degree pursuing students culturally and academically learn and find out the socialization of the both countries, more than the readiness for both countries to be in the ASEAN Economic Integration, so the implementation of the mutual degree considerably results in misunderstanding gaps among the students and students later on spirits will be enriched among the intellectuals.

Knowledge transfer is geographically undergone because the system of both countries are being implemented in order to train the students where

the students will gain knowledge from the regional integrations within the double degree agreement.

To conclude, the mutual double degree abundantly promotes significant benefits and opportunities such strengthening, quality knowledge transfer, the quality of the institutes and self-readiness for the schools to upgrade the quality personnel to bring in the mutual program and the better understandings for the students.