



Asia-Pacific University-Community Engagement Network

Moving Forward through University-Community Engagement

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NOTE:

If you have any information, activities and good practices in Community Engagement that you would like to share with APUCEN members, please send to apucen@usm.my

4th Regional Council Meeting



The 4th Regional APUCEN Council Meeting was held on 13th November 2013 in Grand Inna Muara Hotel, Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by a total of 23 members comprising of 8 council members from seven institutions. The attendees included 11 APUCEN members as observers and 4 prospective members. The meeting was chaired by the president of APUCEN, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman.

The Regional Council Meeting provided an ideal platform for members in the Asia Pacific Region to share and exchange knowledge on community engagement projects. The Council also acknowledged that volunteerism and community service are the building blocks for developing a broader strategy for university-community engagement. These two elements should drive the implementation of community engagement project in the region.

With the foundation in place, the Council envisaged that at least one flagship project will take off in the coming year. In light of the positive development, the Council also felt that with the increasing number and the commitment of its members, APUCEN is ready to make its presence felt in the Asia-Pacific region. A number of publicity initiatives will also be carried out to increase the membership and visibility of APUCEN. This meeting also endorsed three key documents: membership exemption criteria, trust fund working paper, and guidelines for flagship project.

Community Engagement Workshop 2013

A workshop entitled "Constructing the Leadership Canvas in Community Engagement" was carried out in Padang, Indonesia by APUCEN from a grant from Higher Education Leadership (AKEPT), Ministry of Education, Malaysia. The participants were mainly APUCEN members and community engagement experts from seven countries namely Thailand, Germany, UK, Australia, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Engage stakeholders from higher education institutions in the Asia Pacific Region to conceptualize university-community engagement (UCE).
- Develop an UCE Framework which encompasses (1) Key process in UCE, (2) Stakeholders and partnership, (3) Good practices, (4) Leadership and capacity building, and (5) Impact Assessment.

Participants actively participated in the workshop and shared their experience and knowledge during the group discussions.

Based on the participants' input, the workshop was a great success. In fact it was a significant milestone in community engagement capacity building at the regional level.



Fiona O' Sullivan
Australian College of Applied Psychology, Australia



Prof. Micheal Cuthill
University of Southern Queensland, Australia



APUCEN Tea Gathering

A chill out with high tea was organised specially to provide an opportunity for APUCEN members to mingle and establish friendship for a sustainable relationship.

Many light discussions took place with laughter and sharing of video clips. The international delegates left with fond memories of what can and will be in our future endeavor.

A Japanese delegate said that this gathering is meaningful to him because he had the opportunity to talk to everyone at a personal level.

On the other hand, an Australian delegate said this fellowship has given him a lot of ideas and opportunities which will help him to plan his professional direction for the next three years.

The gathering was based on the concept of "bersantai" (informal gathering for in Malay Language). Such approach has been used and advocated by the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman, which proved again to be an effective strategy in bringing people together.

The international delegates left with fond memories of what can and will be in our future endeavour.



2nd APUCEN @ Malaysia



The 2nd APUCEN @ Malaysia Meeting was held on 21st October 2013 at University Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), Melaka, Malaysia. Twenty-six delegates from 17 Malaysian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and organization attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dato' Dr. See Ching May, the Chairman of APUCEN @ Malaysia and also the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Division of Industry and Community Network, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

The meeting engaged members in Malaysia to share their community engagement activities and projects. The niche area and key strength of each member institution was identified and potential partnerships were initiated. The potential area of collaboration can be divided into five major themes:

(i) Environment

- Water Challenge
- Biodiesel Projects

(ii) Education

- UPSI School in Cambodia
- Education for Rural Area Students
- Technology & Livelihood Training for Persons with Disability

(iii) Economic

- Women Entrepreneurship
- Livelihood Enhancement

(iv) Health

- Health Service

(v) Multi-Focus Areas

- Sustainable Living of Fisherman
- Halal Food Certification
- Tobacco Free Project

In addition, various measures were discussed and resolutions were made to increase APUCEN membership, visibility and publicity at the national and regional levels.

APUCEN @ Malaysia Publicity Meeting

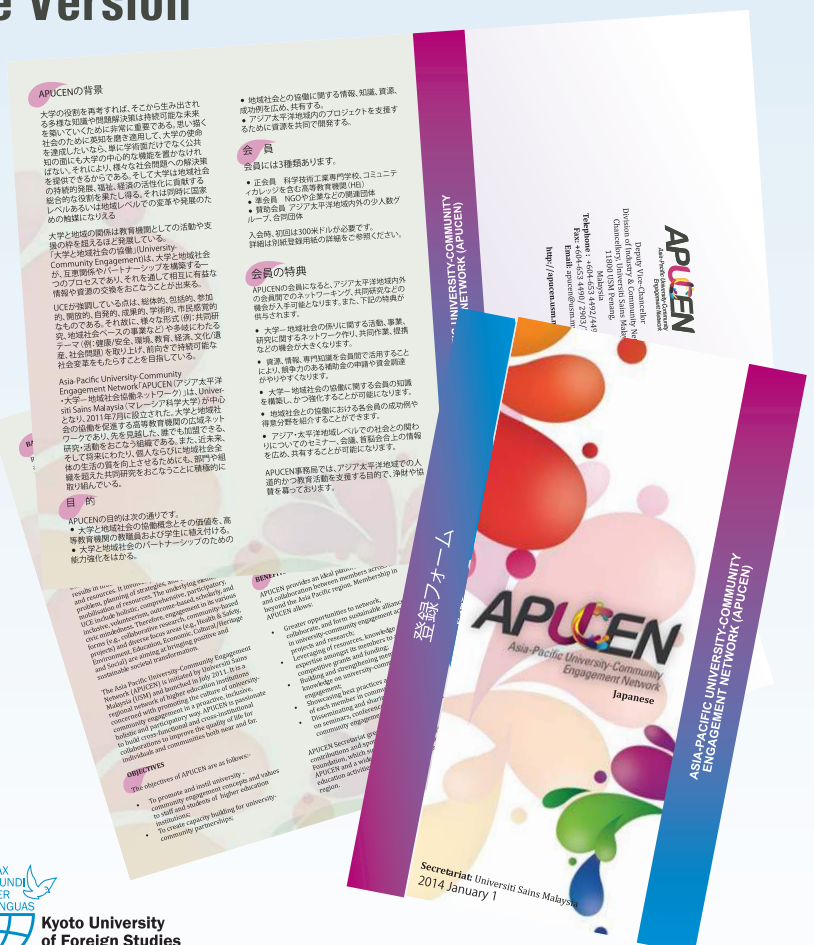
The 1st APUCEN Publicity Meeting was held on 20 October 2013 at Hotel Seri Malaysia, Melaka. Four APUCEN member institutions from Malaysia namely, University Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) have volunteered to drive APUCEN's publicity and marketing initiatives. Commitments from the members will surely bring APUCEN to the next level and drive community engagement at the Asia Pacific region.



APUCEN Brochure-Japanese Version

APUCEN brochure is now available in Japanese Language! It is an initiative to increase APUCEN visibility in the Asia Pacific Region and to reach out to prospective members in Japan. The brochure in English was translated into Japanese Language by the Kyoto University of Foreign Studies (KUFS), a member of APUCEN from the Land of the Rising Sun. Thanks to the initiative of KUFS, the information about APUCEN can now be disseminated to our Japanese counterparts.

The brochure contains information about the background and objectives of APUCEN as well as benefits of its membership. APUCEN Secretariat welcomes the contribution of its member to translate the brochure into your respective native language (e.g., Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian) so that information about the network can reach out to community in the Asia-Pacific Region without any language barrier.



Moving Forward in Community Engagement Quotemarks

“We have been a member of APUCEN since 2011. APUCEN has been very valuable platform to widen our perspective in CE. It has been a part of ACAP’s DNA in the application of learning to the community. The programs are community service programs in psychology & counselling, social science, case management etc..”



Andrew Little
Australian College of Applied Psychology, Australia



“I was amazed to see what is happening all over the world. A lot of activity about CE internationally. It is very important to co-operate and to see what is happening all around the world, to learn from each other, to move forward and find common identity and sense about CE...”



I hope we will move forward as global players, as a global community, with the same intention on strengthening communities and universities in their education of students as young community based researchers and cooperating with their communities...”

Norbert Steinhaus
Bonn Science Shop, German



“The first point is to be good at listening and to learn from the community, then to satisfy their needs...”

The other thing that I have learnt is the great spirit of charity, among the people who is involved in community engagement...

I am deeply impressed with the enthusiasm and the spirit of the people in sincerely trying to help others..

For me, it has been a source of inspiration and I am really excited about the future and looking forward in learning more and being a part of this network...”



Prof. Peter Mitchell
University of Nottingham
Malaysian Campus, Malaysia



“UTM has been privileged in becoming one of the founding members of APUCEN, and of course, under the anchor leadership of USM. We have observed that APUCEN has grown for the last 2 years through leaps and bounds. We started with a handful of people and we suddenly become more and merrier...”

I wish through this partnership we can actively strategize the USR-CSR partnerships...

I see great potential of APUCEN to drive us towards that direction.”

Prof. Dr. Azlan Abdul Rahman
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia



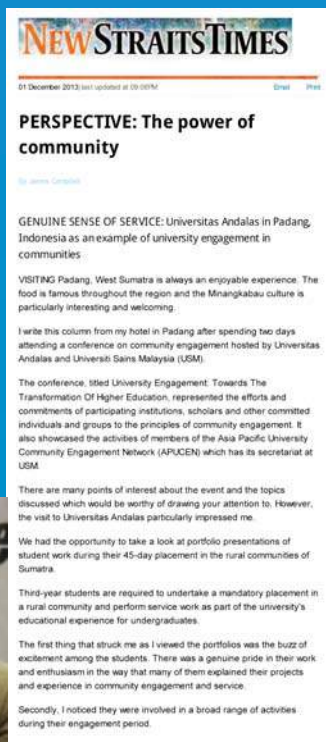
APUCEN Member's Visit to Universitas Andalas, Padang, Indonesia

A Reflection...

“Community engagement is an important work for a higher education institution and the efforts and leadership role of USM in establishing APUCEN is worth applauding...”

“The visit to Universitas Andalas particularly impressed me...The first thing that struck me as I viewed the portfolios was the buzz of excitement among the students. There was a genuine pride in their work and enthusiasm in the way that many of them explained their projects and experience in community engagement and service. Secondly, I noticed they were involved in a broad range of activities during their engagement period. The diversity and range of activities were amazing. They included planting trees, developing vegetable plots, helping train people in using organic pesticides, teaching children in schools and helping to organise festivals and social events...”

Dr. James Campbell
Deakin University, Australia



Read more at New Straits Times: PERSPECTIVE: The power of community - Learning Curve

<http://www.nst.com.my/channels/learning-curve/perspective-the-power-of-community-1.417289#ixzz2nJW4h0R8>

APUCEN as Co-Organizer of International Event

In the spirit of learning partnerships, the European Union Centre at RMIT, in partnership with the APUCEN, has organised the 'Cities Learning Together' Conference in conjunction with PASCAL. APUCEN is honored to be one of the co-organizers for the conference.

This conference explored a number of themes arising from learning cities of five continents.



The President of APUCEN, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman (USM Vice-Chancellor), believes that

“sustainability plays a pivotal role in creating the long-term success of learning cities. Development must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. APUCEN hopes that this conference will create a dynamic process in bringing together all stakeholders to think of how development can be achieved to satisfactorily increase quality of lives without violating the long term capacity of available natural resources.”



In addition, Prof. Dato' Dr. See Ching Mey (Susie), (USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor) believes in the



“‘spirit of community engagement’ and works hard to make a difference in the community. The Cities Learning Together concept & strategies can help achieve a stronger commitment to ensure the welfare and positive transformation of the society. Universities have a role to play through collaborative, sustainable ecosystems, and APUCEN being a ‘tangible outcome’.”



About APUCEN

The Asia Pacific University-Community Engagement Network (APUCEN) was initiated by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and launched in July 2011. It is a regional network of higher education institutions concerned with promoting the culture of university-community engagement in a proactive, inclusive, holistic and participatory way. APUCEN is passionate to build cross-functional and cross-institutional collaborations to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities both near and far.

Objectives of APUCEN

The objectives of APUCEN are as follows :-

- To promote and instil university-community engagement concepts and values to staff and students of higher education institutions;
- To create capacity building for university-community partnerships;
- To disseminate and share information, knowledge, resources and good practices in community engagement;
- To collaboratively develop resources to support regional university-community engagement projects.

Benefits of Membership

APUCEN provides an ideal platform for networking and collaboration between members across and beyond the Asia Pacific Region. Membership in APUCEN allows:

- Greater opportunities to network, collaborate, and form sustainable alliances in university-community engagement activities, projects and research;
- Leveraging of resources, knowledge and expertise amongst its member to apply for competitive grants and funding;
- Building and strengthening members' knowledge on university-community engagement;
- Showcasing best practices and niche areas of each member in community engagement;
- Disseminating and sharing of information on seminars, conferences and summit on community engagement at the regional level.

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