

Evolution of Tertiary Education in Malaysia

Tat-Chee Wan (tcwan@usm.my)

School of Computer Sciences

Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Penang, Malaysia

School System and Compulsory Education

Compulsory Education

Primary (6 years)
Lower Secondary (3 years)

Upper Secondary
(2 years)

Vocational
& Technical

Matriculation
(1 year)

Pre-University
(2 years)

Polytechnic

History of Tertiary Education in Malaysia (1)

- ▶ Malaysian universities are relatively young by global standards
- ▶ Oldest Public Universities
 - ▶ Universiti Malaya (1949/1962)
 - ▶ Universiti Sains Malaysia (1969)
 - ▶ Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (1970)
 - ▶ Universiti Putra Malaysia (1971) [formerly Universiti Pertanian Malaysia]
 - ▶ Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (1975)
- ▶ Places in public universities were limited cf. population of school leaving students
 - ▶ Rapid economic growth during 1970's – 1990's
- ▶ Tertiary Education as gateway to social advancement
- ▶ Emphasis on Professional Qualifications
 - ▶ E.g., Medicine, Law, Finance/Accounting, Engineering

History of Tertiary Education in Malaysia (2)

- Before 1980's, private tertiary education has to be pursued overseas
 - Popular destinations are English speaking developed countries
 - British Commonwealth, USA
- Financial burden due to global economic conditions in late 1980's and 1990's
 - Significant foreign exchange outflow
 - Private Tertiary Education liberalization
 - 1996 Private Higher Educational Institutions Act
- Regional Tertiary Education Hub as growth industry

Collaboration with Foreign Universities (1)

Government Funded Universities

- Bilateral G2G Agreements
 - Established based on govt. to govt. agreements
 - Local (public/ govt. funded) university involvement
 - Focus on technical/engineering programs
 - Granted right to confer degrees
 - Examples:
 - Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (Universiti Technology Malaysia)
 - Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL): Malaysian France/ Malaysian Spanish/ British Malaysia Institute

Collaboration with Foreign Universities (2)

Private Colleges & Universities

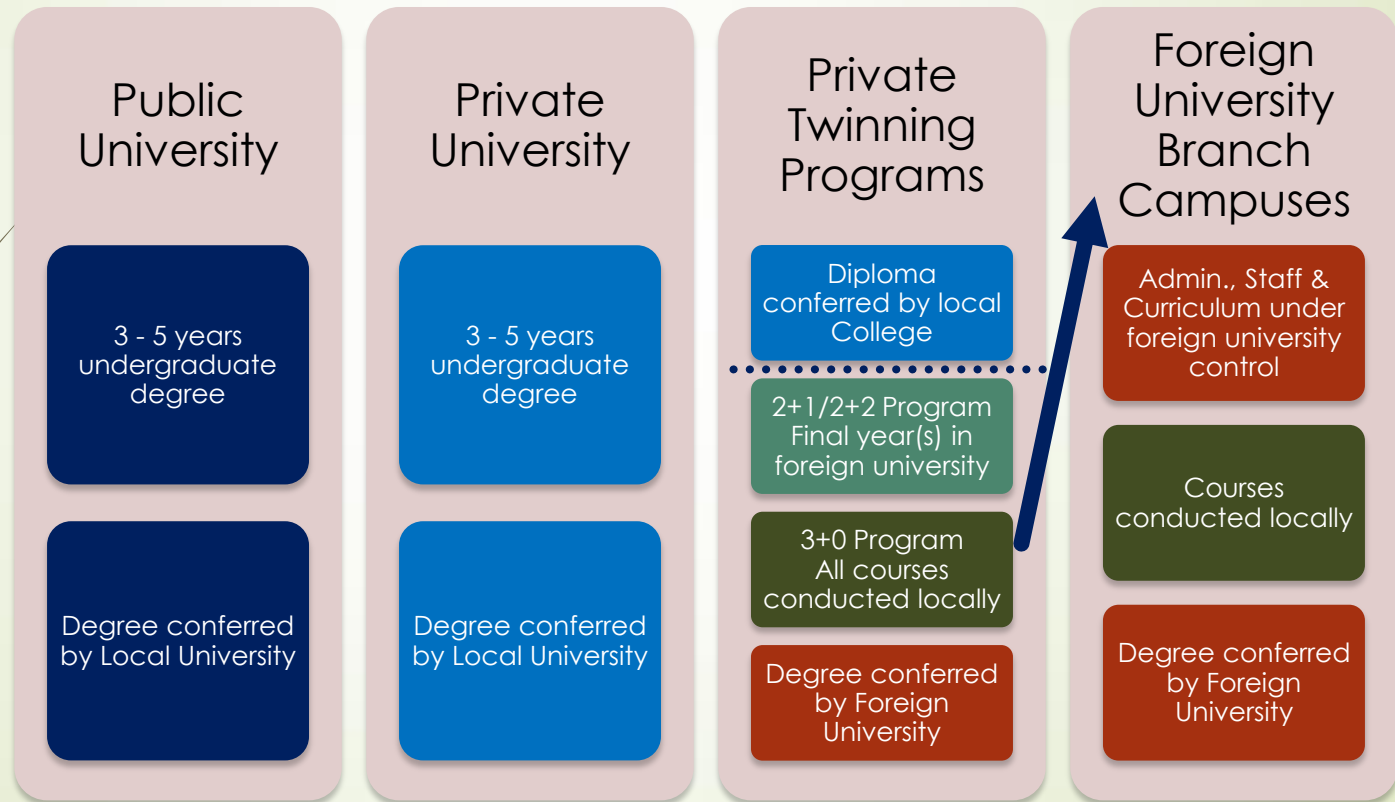
- ▶ Twinning Programs (e. g., 2+1/2+2 Programs)
 - ▶ Diploma + Degree combination
 - ▶ Diploma conferred by local institution
 - ▶ Credit transfer for degree courses
 - ▶ Mostly from private tertiary education providers
- ▶ Franchise Programs (e.g., 3+0/4+0 Programs)
 - ▶ Courses conducted full by local institution
 - ▶ Degree conferred by foreign university
- ▶ Foreign University Branch Campuses
 - ▶ Joint Venture with local entity
 - ▶ Evolved from Franchise Program approach
 - ▶ Degree conferred by foreign university

Collaboration with Foreign Universities (3)

Transnational Private Universities

- Established as a new private university between local and foreign university
 - E.g., International University of Malaya-Wales
 - University of Malaya
 - University of Wales
 - Recognized both in Malaysia and in UK
- Degrees conferred by new entity
 - Easier to implement Double Degree programs

Tertiary Education Pathways



Public Higher Education Institutions Statistics (2015)

- 20 Public Universities
 - 5 Research Universities
 - research / postgraduate emphasis
 - 4 Comprehensive Universities
 - undergraduate teaching emphasis
 - 11 Focused Universities
 - field specific teaching & research emphasis
 - <http://www.mohe.gov.my/portal/en/institusi/ipta.html>

Private Higher Education Institutions Statistics (2015)

- Approx 500 private higher education institutions
 - 37 Private Universities
 - Degree and Postgraduate
 - 29 College Universities
 - Degree
 - 7 Foreign University Branch Campuses
 - Degree and Postgraduate
 - 419 Colleges
 - Diploma, Certificates, etc.
 - Twinning programs with foreign universities
 - <http://jpt.mohe.gov.my/menudirektori.php>

Postgraduate Education Scenario

- Transformation towards Knowledge Economy in the 2000's
- Masters and PhDs are offered by Public and Private Universities
 - Coursework Mode Masters (Coursework + Project)
 - Mixed Mode Masters (Coursework + Small Thesis)
 - Research Mode Masters (Thesis & Viva)
 - Coursework Mode Doctorate (e.g. EDD)
 - Research Mode PhD (Dissertation & Viva)

Examples of Double Degree @ Undergraduate Level

- ▶ Bachelors in Engineering at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
 - ▶ Double Degree with Universität Duisburg-Essen Faculty of Engineering
 - ▶ UDE Mercator Office in UKM
 - ▶ <http://ti.uni-due.de/dd/index.php>
 - ▶ Final year of degree is at partner university
- ▶ Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)
 - ▶ Double Degree in Mechatronics with HS Karlsruhe
 - ▶ <http://gacc.ump.edu.my/Programmes.html>
- ▶ However, sustaining enrollment is difficult due to additional expenses

Examples of Double Degree @ Postgraduate Level

- ▶ PhD by Research
 - ▶ Bilateral agreement (MoA) between universities
 - ▶ No need for university senate approval
 - ▶ Joint supervision
 - ▶ Residency requirements at respective universities
 - ▶ Degrees conferred by both universities
 - ▶ E.g. Cotutelle Program with French partner universities
- ▶ Masters by Coursework Programs
 - ▶ Need university senate approval
 - ▶ Duration of program?
 - ▶ Most Masters by Coursework programs are 1.5 – 2 years
 - ▶ Revenue sharing model & cost issue to student
 - ▶ Exchange rate for Malaysian Ringgit not conducive

Opportunities for Double Degree Programs in Malaysia (1)

Postgraduate Programs

- Research Mode
 - Easiest to implement
 - Various established Double degree PhD programs
- Coursework / Mixed-mode
 - Cross-disciplinary programs may be suitable
 - Need detailed preparatory work and lengthy approval process

Opportunities for Double Degree Programs in Malaysia (2)

Undergraduate Programs

- ▶ Public Universities have various constraints
 - ▶ Policy dictated by government
- ▶ Transnational Private Universities
 - ▶ Require extensive planning, approval and accreditation process
- ▶ Private Colleges / Universities may be more open to the idea
 - ▶ Twinning programs and Foreign University Branches are popular
 - ▶ Prestige associated with foreign degrees
 - ▶ Revenue model is major impediment
 - ▶ Need to show cost advantage compared with studying at foreign university branch campus, and/or studying abroad

References

- ▶ Lee, M. N. N., "Restructuring Higher Education in Malaysia," アジアの高等教育改革の戦略と展望, Nagoya, 2002. <http://www.cshe.nagoya-u.ac.jp/seminar/kokusai/>
- ▶ Loo, S. P., "Schooling in Malaysia," Going to School in East Asia, Eds. Postiglione, G., Tan, J. Greenwood Press, 2007.
- ▶ Lee, M. N. N., "Toward Equality, Accessibility and Quality," Asian Universities: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Challenges, Eds. Altbach, P., Umakoshi, T., JHU Press, 2004.
- ▶ Tan, Y. S., Raman, S. R., The Transformation From Elitist to Mass Higher Education in Malaysia, Problems and Challenges," CENPRIS Working Paper WP 101/09, USM 2009. <http://www.usm.my/cenpris/>
- ▶ Yonezawa, A. "Strategies for the emerging global higher education market in East Asia: a comparative study of Singapore, Malaysia and Japan," Globalisation, Societies and Education, 5:1, 125-136, 2007. DOI: 10.1080/14767720601133561
- ▶ Mok, K. H. & Yu, K. M. "The quest for regional education hub status and transnational higher education: challenges for managing human capital in Asia," Asia Pacific Journal of Education, 31:3, pp. 229-248, 2011. DOI: 10.1080/02188791.2011.594241
- ▶ Lane, J. E., "Importing Private Higher Education: International Branch Campuses," Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice, 13:4,367-381, 2011. DOI: 10.1080/13876988.2011.583106
- ▶ http://www.iie.org/~media/Files/Corporate/G8/G8%20National%20Priorities_Malaysia.ashx?la=en
- ▶ Malaysian Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education), <http://lib.usim.edu.my/e-resources/malaysia-education-blueprint-2015-2025-higher-education>