Greetings! In this issue of Research Insight, a special focus will be given to 'Academic Integrity.' In the wake of a plagiarism case at a public university recently, the Centre for Research and Development would like to further stress the importance of ethics in publications.

According to Higher Education Ministry Director-General Prof. Dato Dr. Radin Umar Radin Sohadi, "We certainly cannot accept plagiarism, especially in the higher education environment," he said, adding that punitive action would be taken under the Universities and University Colleges Act and Statutory Bodies (Discipline and Surcharge) Act (Act 605).

I was surprised to learn that the word 'plagiarism' has its origins in a Latin word for kidnapping? If kidnapping is considered wrong in the eyes of the law, then 'kidnapping' or stealing a person's ideas or writing is certainly unethical and wrong in the world of academia. In the current globalised era, information is in abundance and the culture of 'cut-and-paste' among the students, and alarmingly among the academic staff, is really widespread. Nonetheless, with the availability of web-driven applications, like Turnitin and BlackBoard's SafeAssign, checking the authenticity of any publication lifted directly from web resources is now possible. These applications will not be used solely to 'police' the authenticity of a publication but more on a developmental approach.

Mastering the conventions of documentation (i.e. citing, referencing, paraphrasing, etc.) will enable you to write more confidently. There is certainly no shame in acknowledging the work of others. In fact, the shame lies in not acknowledging the work of others.

Beginning from this issue, we are initiating a column providing guidelines and tips on preparing the different components of an article, starting with the abstract.

As per our core value, "...acting with integrity," it is the responsibility of all staff to constantly uphold the highest professional standards and ethics.

Cheers,
Vic Nair

ASEAN Tourism Development Corridor Workshop

Taylor's School of Hospitality & Tourism in collaboration with Tourism Educators Association of Malaysia and the Ministry of Tourism Malaysia has been commissioned to carry out a study on developing a Tourism Development Corridor for ASEAN. Carried out over a 3-month period, the study culminated in the compilation of an initial report based on a model that presented five

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