Taylor’s Wins Bid for MOHE’s Long-term Research Grant of RM 9 Million
NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In the editorial of Issue 1 of INSIGHT, I briefly highlighted the direction Malaysia is taking to move the research agenda towards commercialisation, innovation and outcome. Carrying out ‘translational research’ or research that has direct benefit to the society, industry, government or any stakeholders is the way forward. That is indeed the core function of a university.

Nonetheless, in today’s rat race driven world, we see this objective being increasingly blurred with more emphasis being given to the key performance indicators or KPIs in the form of high impact publications (ISI and SCOPUS), cumulative citations, h-index, and several other approaches that are being used to quantify the output of an academic. Key intangible performance (KIP) is quite often forgotten. The current view is that balancing the KPI and the KIP is the best way to mould a ‘complete’ academic.

In Issue 2 of INSIGHT, I would like to share the historic achievement of Taylor’s University in successfully winning the bid for a nationwide project amounting to RM9 million for the next five years. Indeed, we have made all eyes turn when the Minister of Higher Education (MOHE) awarded the cheque to Taylor’s University in an auspicious ceremony in Putrajaya recently. So, what is the KPI and KIP target for a project of this magnitude?

The obvious KPI set by MOHE include producing more than 80 high impact indexed publications, graduation of 15 PhDs from the project and generating 6 intellectual properties (IP) in the form of patents, copyrights, books, etc. As far as KIP is concerned, the project will transform the monitoring and management of all rural tourism destinations in Malaysia towards sustainability. So, there you go. That is the balance of KPI and KIP that I mean.

Hence, I urge all researchers to think about the outcome of any research that you are doing or planning to carry out. Let us play our productive and important role as an academic for the betterment of society and generations to come. Do not merely do research for the sake of doing research or to fulfill the minimum target for your appraisal. As an academic, carrying out research must come from within you. You must have the passion and drive to have a ‘discovery’ attitude and should feel excited whenever you see your work benefiting someone or even see your work published and read by the general public. Only then, will you truly enjoy teaching, researching and being a complete academic. Finding the time to carry out research, even when you are bogged down with a heavy teaching load and other commitments in the University or with your family duties, will not be an issue if you truly enjoy the experience that you gain while doing your research.

So, have fun and enjoy you research experience. Cheers.

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