



*Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation*

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## **Project Proposal on “FEALAC University Discovery Year (FUDY)”**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The geographical distance and historical differences between East Asia and Latin America continues to be an obstacle for countries in the two regions, especially in the attempts to explore the wide range of possibilities for comparative studies and academic exchanges.

However, since the inception of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), the expansion of new members and developments of new projects, programmes and actions have assisted in promoting collaborative research and exchanges in many fields of expertise.

In turn, this has also resulted in a more diversified body of research from broader perspectives that have helped in fostering a mutual understanding from both regions.

As presented in a Concept Paper during the Working Group on Science and Technology, Innovation and Education during the 15<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Bangkok, Thailand, several initiatives have been identified that can be pursued in the future, including cooperative projects and activities; exchange of visiting researchers/ academics; joint research projects or academic events co-hosted by Latin American Studies Centers and East Asian Studies Centers from both regions.

Following the successful implementation of such initiatives, several notable accomplishments include an increased awareness among students and academics about differences and similarities between East Asia and Latin America; an increase in research on issues concerning both regions; and the establishment of Latin American Studies Programmes in Asia and East Asian Studies Programmes in Latin America.

In light of the above, Brunei Darussalam is pleased to propose the establishment of a mobility consortium known as the **FEALAC University Discovery Year (FUDY)**.

## II. BACKGROUND

*Universiti Brunei Darussalam* (UBD) is the premier university in Brunei Darussalam that was established in 1985.

In 2009, UBD revamped its curriculum and implemented its new broad-based and trans-disciplinary degree program also known as GenNEXT. Embedded in the 4 years of GenNEXT is the Discovery Year during which 100% of its student are encouraged to pursue one or two of the following activities:

- i. Study Abroad;
- ii. Internship;
- iii. Incubation; *or*
- iv. Community Outreach Programme.

Given that around 70-80% of UBD students leave the country to pursue Discovery Year annually, UBD would like to therefore extend its Discovery Year destination to Latin American countries and concurrently welcome students from Latin America nations to study in Asia, including at UBD.

## III. OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of FUDY is to increase student mobility amongst FEALAC member countries. FUDY will operate on a reciprocal basis, where qualified students from UBD and interested universities in East Asia and Latin America will be exchanged with reciprocal tuition fee waiver. The duration of the Project can be one semester (14 weeks).

In the future, the scope of FUDY activities should be expanded to include academic mobility; joint/ dual/ double degree; joint supervision of Masters and PhD programmes as well as joint collaborative research.

Brunei Darussalam is optimistic that FUDY will contribute to strengthening existing relations between East Asia and Latin America; increase people-to-people contact between the two regions; and allow students to experience the diverse culture and unique way of life through this education exchange.

In addition, Brunei Darussalam is also hopeful that through FUDY, this will encourage FEALAC member countries to consolidate their own study abroad programmes and to expand their own network of partners with countries in East Asia and Latin America.

#### **IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

FUDY welcomes interested participants from FEALAC member countries, especially universities from the Latin America region to participate in the Project. The following requirements must be met:

- i. For undergraduate programmes, participants must not be over 40 years old;
- ii. For postgraduate programmes, participants over 40 years old are welcome;
- iii. For undergraduate programmes, a good performance of results is required;
- iv. All participants must possess the necessary English proficiency as stated in the student exchange fact sheet; *and*
- v. All participants must possess a valid passport.

Students of FUDY will enrol in regular courses and permitted to take part in International Summer Campus programme administered by other Host universities. This is to encourage the active exchange of students and balance mobility.

The application for FUDY for Fall Semester 2016 will open on **15 September 2015** and the closing date will be on **15 November 2015**. The successful candidates will be notified through their respective International Relations Office (or its equivalent).

Interested participants should submit the following documents for their applications:

- i. Letter of recommendation and academic transcript from the participants' university;
- ii. Proof of English Language Proficiency;
- iii. Valid Health Certificate, with specifications of physical and mental state;
- iv. Copy of a valid passport and of valid visas at the time of the date of travel; and
- v. Completed non-graduating student exchange application form; and
- vi. Security clearance letter.

All documents should be sent to International Relations Office (or its equivalence) in their home institutions, such as the office of international relations. The international office will subsequently communicate directly with UBD's Global Affairs Office to facilitate the exchanges.

## V. OUTCOMES

Through FUDY, participants from both regions are expected to undergo regular classes at Host universities. In addition, the Host university is encouraged to arrange cultural activities, field trips etc. to ensure exchange participants have a better immersive experience

For participants of FUDY in UBD, the programme will be as follows:

- i. Attend regular classes/ lectures;
- ii. Complete all required assessments;
- iii. Undergo study trips relevant to their studies;
- iv. Experience cultural activities;
- v. Visits to places of interests in Brunei Darussalam; *and*
- vi. Possible brief internship stints.

## VI. REPORTING LINE

The activities of FUDY will be reported to the Joint Co-ordinator of Working Group on Science and Technology, Innovation and Education Meeting.

## VII. CONTACT POINTS

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