

TOOLKIT project Myanmar

Collaboration between Myanmar Universities
Yangon, 11th January 2020

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Aims of the Workshop



1. To consider how the ICOs/IROs of universities in Yangon can collaborate to develop international partnerships and projects with the aims of:
 - sharing resources,
 - increasing impact and
 - reducing costs.
2. To develop a cooperation network among the ICO/IRO staff in different universities.
3. To plan further training and meetings.





Myanmar HEIs: Challenges and Needs

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Myanmar HEIs: Challenges and Needs



1. Excessive bureaucratization
 - Need to address formal request for every issue of academic life (participation in joint research, in mobility programs, signing MOUs)
 - Need to act promptly in response to international proposals
 - Time spent by administrative and academic staff in reporting activities
2. Precariousness of International Relations Offices
 - Lack of dedicated staff with specific competences
 - Management roles performed by academic staff on top of their teaching and research duties
3. Insufficient budget and financial allocation
 - No financial autonomy
 - Difficulties in access and management of external funds
 - No full time appointments for key management roles



Common constraints

- Lack of university autonomy
- Lack of ICT infrastructures
- Weak data management with limited file-sharing and websites
- Low level of competences in English as a foreign language and in ICT skills for teaching, research and administration
- Low levels of staffing in IROs

Myanmar HEIs: results of training in Vilnius



1. SWOT analysis

- Confirms many of the findings in the Toolkit WP1 report.
- Opportunities include more collaboration between universities in Myanmar
- Weaknesses include poor ICT facilities, lack of capacity (staff time) and lack of funds.

2. Action plans include:

- Developing international strategy
- Training for ICO/IRO staff
- Upgrading ICT facilities
- Improving websites and printed publicity materials
- Increasing student mobility
- Full-time staff for ICO/IRO



Six possible areas of collaboration



1. Sharing international strategies and agreeing common approaches to explaining the system of higher education in Myanmar.
2. Sharing best practice in developing websites, prospectuses and other documents used to promote our universities internationally.
3. Joint approaches to welcoming and supporting incoming international exchange students: preparing a shared “Study in Myanmar” guide.
4. Sharing the experience of international visits: this might include consideration of a joint delegation to international events and conferences.
5. Joint training activities on all aspects of international cooperation.
6. Setting up a professional group of international cooperation officers.



Task



1. In your groups, look at the six areas of collaboration, and consider for each one:
 - a. The advantages and benefits of collaborating in this way.
 - b. The disadvantages, costs and challenges.

2. Rank the six areas in order of importance and feasibility. Where would you like to start?



Next steps



1. Sharing a contact list
2. Another meeting?
3. Training activities?



Thank you for your attention!

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