“An Eye-Opening Experience” – Ambassador of the Maldives and Students from the Maldives National University Visit Taylor’s University

The Ambassador of the Maldives, several Taylor’s alumni and a group of hospitality and tourism students from the Maldives National University came to visit the Lakeside campus.

The Maldives National University (MNU) was only established in 2011, and so prior to that time most of the students from The Maldives had to head overseas for their education. As a result, there are strong links between The Maldives and Malaysia, with many hundreds of Maldivian students having come to study at Taylor’s University. Given the importance of tourism to the economy of The Maldives, many of these students have specifically come to study hospitality and tourism. The relationship is so well established that there are now five Taylor’s Alumni who are academics teaching in the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism at MNU. Four of these Taylor’s Alumni recently organised a study tour for a group of 30+ of their students to Malaysia and Singapore, and we were very pleased to welcome this group to the Lakeside campus. As a sign of the strength and importance of the relationship, the Ambassador of the Maldives, H.E. Mohamed Fahmy Hassan, also took time out from his busy schedule to join the MNU staff and students for this visit. The MNU students were hosted by the...
PATAns student group, and given a presentation on “Innovation in Hospitality and Tourism” by Prof. Perry Hobson, the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement. The MNU students then shared some of the challenges that The Maldives faces in terms of further developing its tourism industry. There was then a cultural exchange performance with students from MNU performing a number of traditional dances for the TU students and staff. One of the students said “This is my first ever trip overseas, and so coming to Malaysia and visiting Taylor’s University has been an eye-opening experience for me”. Professor Perry Hobson said that, “clearly our alumni are making a big impact on the future development of hospitality and tourism education in the Maldives and we look forward to working with MNU staff and students in the future”. Dr. Neethia Ari Ragavan, the Dean of HCTA, added that, “it was wonderful to re-connect with our alumni, and to see that they are not only doing so well in their careers but to also see that they are so passionate about education”. To find out more about the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts click here. – Global Matters

“Fast, Unpredictable Change Is An Absolute Certainty” Says Taylor’s Tourism Professor During Keynote Address in The Philippines

If “change is the only constant” then we not only need to get used to the idea of constant change, but we also need to find ways to stay one step ahead of it argued Professor Vik Nair 16th Annual National Tourism Educators’ Convention in Boracay.

“The world is evolving - fast. Big will not beat small anymore. It will be the fast, beating the slow. Fast, unpredictable change is an absolute certainty” was the opening message given by Professor Vikneswaran Nair at the 16th Annual National Tourism Educators’ Convention 2016 in Boracay (The Philippines). Prof Vik Nair from the School of Hospitality Tourism and Culinary Arts (TCHA) at Taylor’s University was invited to give the opening Keynote plenary address entitled “Innovation and Best Practices in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry: The Way Forward”. During this address he focused on how the world is changing, how technology is changing, and that we have to accept that tourist behaviours and patterns are also changing. As he said, “To grow, a business must now anticipate and exceed the pace of change”. He went on to highlight some of the ideas that have changed the ways in which we can manage the tourism industry, and he elaborated on how a Malaysian national funded project that he has been leading has been able to measure the health of non-urban tourism destinations. To find out more about the School of Hospitality Tourism and Culinary Arts click here. – Global Matters
The Taylor's Education Group is a diversified education organisation that includes schools, a college and two universities, and during a recent study tour to Hanoi a group of students from Taylor’s University met up with their counterparts from British University of Vietnam (BuV).

It was during a recent study tour to Hanoi that students from Taylor’s University in Kuala Lumpur met up with their counterpart students at the British University of Vietnam (BuV). The Taylor’s Education Group (TEG) is a diversified international education organisation that includes schools (such as the Garden International School in KL, Nexus in Putrajaya and Singapore, the Australian Int’l School Malaysia, etc.) as well as Taylor’s College and the British University of Vietnam. Students from the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts at Taylor’s University recently organised a tour to the northern parts of Vietnam. Taylor’s Lecturer Lee Wei Mei said the tour was one of their main assignments, as the “students had to propose and select a destination, plan the tour duration and departure date” adding that, “they also had to plan the itinerary, contact suppliers for quotations, followed by selecting the right tour operator, working within the given budget of RM1,400 per person and finally booking and making a contract with the supplier”. During the tour the students also spent a day at the British University of Vietnam (BuV) where they were welcomed by the Dean of BuV, Mr. Christopher Jeffery, and their Student Experience Manager, Ms. Ta Ha Lan. Students from both universities presented aspects of their own culture including traditional costumes, cuisines, language, lifestyle and the tourist attractions of each country. Lee Mei Mei added, “All of our students wore different traditional costumes from Malaysia, and then our two Maldivian
students were also wore their own Maldivian costumes”. As part of the tour, the students also have to be tour guides, and then have to also interview other tourists about their experiences in Vietnam. Students Justine Ngu Wee Chee and Chai Yun Jiet took on the role of tour guides for one part of the trip. Although it was Ngu’s first time travelling abroad, he said that “This was an eye-opening experience for me. I am an introvert by nature, but I have learnt to speak up more in the course of my study” adding that, “In tourism, it is a requirement to communicate and build relationships and this experience has trained me to talk and overcome my shyness,” Ngu said. This tour was highlighted in a Star newspaper article entitled a ‘Study Tour to Remember’. To find out more about the Taylor’s School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts click here. – Global Matters

“Recruiting International Students with Integrity” Taylor’s Professor Highlights Issues at the QS-APPLE Conference

Given that there are over 4 million studying overseas, the issues of the ethical recruitment of international students was one of the sessions that formed part of the 12th QS Asia-Pacific conference.

There are over 4 million students studying internationally, and at Taylor’s University there are some 2,000 students (which is over 20% of the student body) who come from over 80 countries. In a number of countries, such as at the UK and Australia, certain universities are highly dependent on international student enrollments. As Guy Perring from i-graduate has pointed out, “The pressures within institutions to ensure they are meeting their recruitment targets of international students can be significant. In an increasingly competitive world with varied choices in terms of destination and institution, it is incumbent on universities to have an ethical dimension to their recruitment and ensure students are being given the tools to make the right decision for themselves and their future lives”. QS is a globally recognised organisation that is well-known for its QS World University Rankings and also its QS Stars University Ratings, Its 12th QS-APPLE
Asia Conference was recently held at Putrajaya International Convention Centre in Malaysia, and this time the theme of the annual conference focused on “New Directions in Asia-Pacific Higher Education”. There are an increasing number of challenges facing higher education in this Asia-Pacific region, particularly as recruitment becomes more competitive. As part of the conference, a session focusing on “Recruiting International Students with Integrity” was organised. Professor Perry Hobson, the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement at Taylor’s University, kicked off the session by giving an overview of the international recruitment market – he initially looked at the various global trends, future projections on student mobility and highlighting existing student views of their decision making process. He also highlighted the increasing ethical issues facing education. He noted that, “given the growing problems several countries signed up to the London Statement in 2012. But clearly this has not solved the problem, with the Australian Government recently announcing a new ‘Code of Ethics for Education Agents’. Meanwhile, the US-government even went as far as creating a fake university, called the University of Northern New Jersey, and ran it for 3-years to entrap recruitment agents, students and employers illegally hiring students. Clearly there are still significant problems”. The session then presented two case studies of how issues relating to recruiting with integrity can be addressed – led by Gavin Hopper from ICEF, and Alex Green from Grok. They discussed various quality practices to ensure that institutions can be more confident that they are properly represented in their chosen markets in a professional and ethical manner. ICEF trains education agents and then helps to connect quality agents to universities, while Grok works with universities to provide dedicated representatives in key overseas markets. The issues addressed by the panel not only related to direct recruitment of students by agents, but also related to working with other international partner institutions. – Global Matters

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