

Project Theme:

The World Café Discussion for Environment: Another New Dimension of Global Environmental Education

Project Objective:

Building mutual understanding and strengthening the environmental education and awareness by conducting appropriate mentoring and teaching methods of US educational insights in the local communities (Malaysia)

Project Goal:

To organize regional and local workshops (conference) of US Alumni scholars in Malaysia for the purpose of exchanging environmental educational practices and implementation of appropriate environmental courses at our local institutions

Background:

Most of our US exchange scholars (including of myself) often came up with innovative and enrich ideas of implementing US educational contents in our local education classes. The change in designing as well as re-organize our local teaching syllabi by using state-of-the-art US approach of teaching styles and materials will essentially set-up a new learning environment for the pupils at school

Targeted Groups:

- 1) Nursery, kindergarten, primary, secondary and university/college teachers as well as young educators;
- 2) Any enthusiastic academician, parents, home tutors as well as students (public) of all ages;
- 3) Passionate and dedicated Malaysian-US exchange scholars which has just came back from United States also together with mutual collaboration of Malaysian-American Alumni Partnership (MAAP)

Significance of the Project:

It is not easy for local teachers to adapt into a new concept of educational teaching. Indeed, it is also tedious but achievable to be the 'promoting agent' which work to explain the ideas and methods to our colleagues and students who have been accustomed to the traditional learning styles. In order to ensure the progress of our project, many prominent Malaysian-US exchange scholars are invited together to share their thoughts, ideas and teaching materials (syllabi and resources specifically on environmental education) and other relevant methodologies in the classroom. Besides that, the project will also act to provide much-needed opportunities for networking among members of teachers and young educators with similar interests as well as for support of our efforts to make significant changes in the way of learning and teaching in the local institution.

Scope:

Besides adapting to the change of new teaching styles, introduction of American studies would be the next issues. American studies are inter-disciplinary fields which cover the comprehensive study of the regions, diversity, history and culture of the US. Hence, it would be a great opportunity for the Malaysian-US exchange scholars to explain further as well as sharing their own experience on relevant field of interests to the member of audiences.

Format of Workshop (Conference):

The one-day conference will be proposed to take place at University of Malaya (UM), Kuala Lumpur. Given that UM offers ample space, computer (facilities, personnel, ease of access, etc.) that make it ideally suited for hosting this event. The workshop will be organized in roundtable discussions. Preferably, two keynote addressing will be delivered by distinguished Guests-of-Honours. (Presuming the US Ambassador of Malaysia and a notable lecturer from University of Malaya)

In advance of the workshop, all participants will be initially asked to determine the theme areas of which they are interested with before groups are divided for thorough brainstorming and discussion sessions. All the discussion and idea sharing of course syllabi, subject contents and teaching methodologies will be recorded in papers and a short presentation will be held in the end of each group discussions. Subsequently, a representative from each group will then put all their findings based on their discussions in a five-minute short presentation session to all of the members of the workshop.

Besides that, participants will also be instructed to organize similar workshops and carried out the proposed ideas based on their group discussions in their schools/university in order to disseminate all essential information about the workshop outcomes to a greater crowd. All members of participant are required to commit by informing and reporting their development in carried out their proposed projects back at their school/university (materials developed, outcomes and challenges). A review workshop will also be held six-month later to get updates from the all participants of the workshop.

Expected Outcomes:

- 1) New attempt of learning contents and methods to be use in classes;
- 2) Introducing new teaching methodologies such as mental mapping, interactive multimedia and etc.;
- 3) Creating a networking platform as well as providing the opportunity for educators with common desire of interests to improve their teaching and learning experience at their home institution;
- 4) Establishing supportive contacts of networking among the Malaysian-US exchange scholars with the local members of educational institutions