



INU Staff Shadowing Program Report 2014

Home University: Hiroshima University

Host University: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Time Period: 2014.2.2.-2014.2.10.

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Purpose and Expectation

The purpose of my study trip was to get first-hand experience about the present state of education at African Universities. I firmly believe that the countries making considerable progress in the field of economy are also growing in education. NMMU, a new member of INU, has been successful in INTERNATIONALISATION, and received the first award for good practice in Comprehensive Internationalisation in 2010. I also wanted to find out the reason why NMMU had attracted a large number of students from all over the world, and the way how it handled and managed its system, especially in a multi-cultural situation. I expect that my visit could be the first step to build links between Hiroshima University and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and promote both universities' development for the future.

Programme and Performances

Feb.3:

- Attended Orientation, Registration, Opening Ceremony, and "Study Abroad Welcoming Function"
- Had a Meeting with the Senior Director of OIE, the Senior Manager of Academic Administration, and the Coordinator of PR & Event

Feb.4:

- Participated in Beach Clean-up Operation
- Had a Meeting with the Manager of Research & Internationalisation at Home, and the Manager of International Partnerships

Feb.5:

- Had a Meeting with the Coordinator of Digital Media Marketing, the Coordinator of International Marketing, the Short Program Organizer, and the Outgoing Student Coordinator
- Visited Pre-registration with the International Office Administrators
- Attended seminar sessions "Danger of a Single Story", "Safety & Security", and "Drumming Session"

Feb.6:

- Attended seminar session "Get to Know Me"
- Had a Meeting with the English Language Programme Coordinator and the Co-Facilitator of the English Language Programme
- Visited the Community Projects that the International Office involves in

Feb.7

- City Tour
- Brief Introduction of Hiroshima University
- Had an Exit Meeting with the Senior Director of OIE



Summary

In order to become a comprehensively INTERNATIONALISATION university, NMMU has continuously been making efforts by creating good leadership, designing elaborate programmes, practicing effective curriculums, maintaining partnerships and a wide network, managing financial administration and supporting students in various ways. The Senior Director and staff of the Office for International Education (OIE) play an important role, and operate most of the tasks. Through my observation of their initiatives concerning INTERNATIONALISATION, I would like to focus on several strategies unique to NMMU, as follows;

Key Strategies of INTERNATIONALISATION

1) Strategic Vision:

NMMU is working for internationalisation with a visionary leadership at all levels of the university, and administers leadership arrangement to the institution, senior line, students, and the broader community.

OIE also has a strong policy according to which international students are expected to a) get involved in internationalisation activities by interacting with multi-cultural students, b) constantly remember why they are there, c) find out what they can do for future internationalisation during their stay, and d) contribute to activities related to internationalisation after they go back to their home countries.

2) Partnerships and Network:

NMMU has a strong network of recruiting students and its approach is manifold. First, they use ICEF (International Conference on Economics and Finance), which is one of the biggest accreditation bodies in the world as recruitment agents. NMMU attends fairs held by ICEF in order to meet a potential agent and to recruit students.

Second, OIE itself produces and spreads information effectively, in the form of brochures renewed every 6 months (9 different kinds), a timely updated website, and finally, advertisements in newspapers, radio, TV commercials and conferences.

Refer to URL: <http://international.nmmu.ac.za/>

3) Systematically designed Programme:

NMMU provides international students with many opportunities to promote positive relationship and enhances the understanding of internationalisation through the compulsory curriculum and programme. NMMU, specially, places a great importance on orientation, where international students interact with students from other countries including local students in this Orientation Week. For example, Opening Ceremony with students from the same country, Welcoming Function and other sessions with students from different countries, and Beach Clean-up Operation and sports events with local students.



Other Keys of INTERNATIONALISATION

-Strict Financial Management:

Except for a small fund from the government, NMMU is financially self-reliant, it manages its administration independently. NMMU does not permit students to register without having paid their tuition fees. At the same time, NMMU refunds the tuition fees and library clearance of specified students under certain conditions.

-Volunteer Activities:

One of the international students' responsibilities is to give back to the community. The OIE creates a platform from which international students can do this. There, International students help learners to do homework, such as Masifunde-Homework Club, and Home for abandoned babies. NMMU helps students to build and keep relationship with not only students but also local people and boarder communities through volunteer activities.





Conclusion

Economic progress has not reached all the Republic of South Africa. A large majority of people in Port Elizabeth are still poor and lack even the most basic necessities and skills. They are fighting poverty, famine, discrimination, and bad educational environment. INTERNATIONALISATION is not only a purpose, a goal or value but also a means to solve these issues. NMMU's visions of internationalisation, leadership spirit and volunteer activities do not work separately, but do in hand in hand creating a synergistic effect. In fact, the OIE staff are devoting to enhancing the internationalisation of NMMU students, with a firm belief and spirits, and the citizens are enthusiastically striving to improve the conditions of the local community through creating educational projects. I believe that their vision and practice of internationalisation will successfully promote South African people and lives.

Opinion

It seems that internationalisation in NMMU gets as much attention as Peace Education at H.U. I believe that there is always a reason why certain things are focused on at certain places. At H.U., there are historical reasons for the importance of peace education. Considering NMMU's background, internationalisation seems just as inevitable. Although H.U. should keep the pursuit of peace as its first priority, we can follow the good practices of NMMU's initiatives for internationalisation.

Through a full of fascinating experiences, I also felt the strong need to tell more about H.U. because I believe that NMMU could also benefit from learning about our well-balanced comprehensive university, which I am very proud of. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to do it this. Therefore, I would like to recommend that other staff members should also visit NMMU, especially colleagues working in Student Affairs, Public Affairs, and International Exchange Affairs.

Finally, I would like to thank people below for their help, kindness, and hospitality.

Dr. Nico Jooste, Senior Director, the Office for International Education(OIE)
Tohiera Moodien, Senior Manager, International Student Administration, OIE
Kate du Toit, Manager International Partnerships, OIE
Janine Wagenaar, International PR and Events Coordinator, OIE
Anine Swanepoel, Marketing & External Communications Coordinator, OIE
Christopher Allen, Digital Marketing Coordinator, OIE
Nuala Jansen, Short Programme Coordinator, OIE
Kathryn Bell, English Language programme Coordinator, OIE
Linda Rossouw, Co-Facilitator English Language Programme, OIE
Bev Sanderson, Manager, Student Accounts, OIE
Lee Ann Morrison, PR Assistant, OIE
Jean-Pierre Stoffberg, PR Assistant, OIE
Megan Connelly, International Student Administrator, OIE
Johan van Rensburg, Assistant Short-stay Programmes & Outgoing Study Abroad Coordinator, OIE
Savo Heleta, Manager, Internationalisation at Home and Research, OIE
Monalisa Ndwayana, Study Abroad Coordinator, OIE

February 20, 2014