

Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on Development Project of the Institute of Technology in Bandung (II)

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Effectiveness

The ex-post evaluation report shows the project to be highly effective, as all three objective targets have been surpassed. This success cannot be separated from the fact that ITB as an institution and a community has diligently maintained relationships with its graduates. As an example, during the financial crisis (1997-2000) most poor students were saved from dropping out through mass mobilization for direct support from alumnae by student organizations as well as by their faculties' managements.

The high motivation for post graduate studies in ITB, as well as the high return of post graduate students after studying abroad, are mainly caused by the "high net worth" of ITB graduates in government, private sector, civil society and multi/bi-lateral organizations. The high reputations of ITB graduates cause them to be easily absorbed in all those agencies; many even successfully climbing to their highest rank of leaderships.

Those working in ITB as lecturers or researchers are staying because – despite the relatively lower salaries compared to working in private sector - it is not difficult to solicit extra income from the numerous opportunities to write, speak at seminars/trainings/etc, or join government / industry / donor funded projects. This is allowable as long as they don't neglect their main job.

There were also ample opportunities to set up or join universities or technology institutes in all regions of Indonesia, which boomed during the 1985-1995 period. ITI (Institut Teknologi Indonesia) in Serpong, West Java for instance, was founded and until now dominantly managed and lectured by ITB graduates. In many engineering/technology departments of universities all over Indonesia the absorption of ITB graduates is high.

All these in return continuously motivate ITB leadership to maintain and increase its quality in both teaching and research. It is profoundly realized that there is a lot of stake in maintaining the Institute's reputation.

Impacts

Obviously there are improved qualities and quantities of engineers/scientists produced by ITB because of this project. This has given positive impacts to the country's development policies through improved applied research & policy studies, and to the industrial development through their improved industrial designs. These impacts are direct and indirectly facilitated by ITB graduates occupying high-level positions in government agencies, engineering companies, state owned enterprises, etc. Many of them had been giving ample attention to increase their alma mater's contribution to the country's development, among others by assigning relevant policy studies or research orders, which in turn also motivates ITB to improve its research capacity.

The addition of a Science, Technology and Art Center is causing the engineering education in ITB even more superior to other technology faculties in most universities. Combining technology with art, culture and religion has been a tradition in ITB to give a broader outlook to the students. These also enabled them to develop a more holistic approach, consequently enhancing their leadership. This more balanced education system has also allowed many of the more general non-engineering professions like journalists, politicians, bankers, mayors, governors, etc. to become easier for ITB graduates to get.

Strong logic and decision-making capacities are characteristics of most ITB alumnae, with some having stronger leadership than others. This is proven in the continuous existence of ITB graduates in all cabinets. It can be said that in all cabinets of the six Indonesian presidents there are consistently 4 to 8 alumnus (highest during Habibie time 1998-1999) who became ministers. This has been a source of pride and jealousy at the same time. Again, this gives ITB the constant challenge to maintain its high reputation and continue to live up to the nation's expectation.