



Malaysia

13 Higher Education Loan Fund Project (HELP)

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This project's objective was to help increase number of qualified engineers by providing scholarships for the study of science and engineering in Japanese universities to Malaysians who wish to study overseas, and thereby contribute to the economic development of Malaysia through promoting science and technology, together with enhancing the implementation of the Look East Policy.

Loan Amount/Disbursed Amount: 5,493 million yen/5,317 million yen

Loan Agreement: May 1992

Terms and Conditions: Interest rate 3.0%; Repayment period 25 years (grace period 7 years); General unsecured

Final Disbursement Date: September 2002

Executing Agency: Yayasan Pelajaran MARA (YPM)



External Evaluator: Takako Haraguchi (Global Link Management, Inc.)

Field Survey: October 2004

Evaluation Result

In this project, a pre-departure program prior to study in Japan and an overseas study program at science and technology departments of Japanese universities were implemented almost as planned. The project period was almost as planned, and the project cost was lower than planned.

Of the 310 students who studied in Japan, 279 students received degrees in such as electricity, electrical engineering, and mechanical engineering. Of the 243 project graduates whose careers were identified, 201 were employed in the private sector, primarily in the manufacturing and telecommunications industries. (of these, 162 were employed at Japanese-affiliated companies). Besides these, 3 became instructors and 37 continued their studies as graduate students. Of the 125 graduates whose job types were identified, 94 of them, or 75%, are employed in engineering positions.

The number of Malaysian students studying in Japan was in a downtrend in the latter half of the 1990s, but this project offered the opportunity to study in Japan with public scholarships from 1995 to 1999. The results of the beneficiary survey shows that the graduates are playing a significant role in promoting science and technology in Malaysia and in the introduction of new technology

from Japanese companies to Malaysia.

There are no problems in the technical capacity, operation and maintenance system, or financial status of YPM.

As a lesson learned from this project, overseas study programs are more effective when the structure of the cooperation and coordination system between the executing agency and the universities that receive students is established, and consulting service with detailed responses that enables the said system is incorporated in the program. It is hoped to expand follow-up studies and to expand the pre-departure program facilities to meet the needs of subsequent projects.

Third-Party Evaluator's Opinion

Through this project, the students learned and exemplified Japanese corporate ethics and ideology by working at universities and companies, including Japanese-affiliated companies, and they contribute to economic development.

Third-Party Evaluator: Ms. Zubeidah Rawther (government-related company)

Obtained a bachelor's degree in economic analysis from the National University of Malaysia. Currently is senior manager of the marketing section of the UDA Holdings Berhad. Specializes in risk management, etc.

Recommendation of JBIC study: introduce distance learning

In the JBIC study conducted during the project's implementation, a recommendation was made to introduce distance learning from Japan using a television conference system, and this was actualized. Distance learning has the benefits of raising the level of education in Malaysia to the same level as in Japan because students can take the same classes in Malaysia, while simultaneously leading to cost-savings in the overseas study program.



Demonstration of distance learning

Factors in the Smooth Attainment of Degrees by Students

Of the 279 students who received degrees, all of them received their degrees from science and technology departments. Of these, 246 graduated in the standard 4 years, and nearly all of them acquired more than the required number of credits. One of the factors in the smooth attainment of degrees by students was the fact that detailed support of the students was provided appropriately by the project consultant and the universities where students enrolled. In the beneficiary survey, there were respondents who said that they resolved academic issues by consulting with their university lectures and daily life issues by consulting with the consultant.



A graduate (left) of this project who is employed as an instructor in Malaysia in subsequent project (laboratory of YPM College)



A graduate of this project who works at a computer system development company