Korean Studies in Malaysia: Development, Challenges and Future at University of Malaya

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Korean Studies in Malaysia is part of the Malaysian government’s Look East Policy which has placed Korea as one of focal countries. In Malaysia, Korean Studies has been primarily developed with a strong focus on Korean language as evidenced by the Korean language programs being offered in several universities. However, the Korean Studies program offered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Malay is a unique program taking a multidisciplinary approach where students are exposed to a variety of social sciences and humanities-specific topics relating to Korea. The process of teaching and learning for the students in the program is deemed lifelong, as knowledge gained can be utilized in both profession formation and personality development. The popularity of Korean Studies program within the University of Malaya and the response from the students have been very encouraging with 40% of students enrolled in East Asian Studies are specializing in Korean Studies. However, the Korean Studies program faces several challenges in terms of survival or sustainability.

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