

Good news: Book accepted

3 messages

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Cc: Nagappan Rengasamy <dr.naga0908@gmail.com>

14 December 2014 at 13:48

Dear Dr. Adelina:

Routledge has agreed to move ahead with our book "A nation in the making: Policy discourses in Malaysian education.

Below please find the feedback given on your chapter (**attached**) and kindly do the necessary changes to the manuscript using "**track changes**" and revert to me by 31st December 2014.

Suggestions for changes from the review committee:

Chapter 4 (Asmawi and Jaladin): Editing required, eg p. 105: "K-society" needs to be defined (presumably "knowledge society") p. 106: "k-based economy", p. 108: "McDonaldisation" should be "McDonaldisation" and requires reference to Ritzer (1993). Are the 11 shifts sequential or simultaneous or...? These are described in detail from p. 112 onwards but needs further elaboration on how these transformative shifts are meant to come about to achieve educational quality (sequence, simultaneous, etc as they are ordered numerically). Critically, there is little discussion of the increased presence of foreign/private universities/branches/HE programmes or the internationalisation of higher education (see Tham, 2012, 2013). What about initiatives on higher education teacher improvement (Deni, Zainal & Malakolunthu, 2014)?

Handwritten: Fida to locate the initiatives at least 3.

Deni, A.R.M., Zainal, Z.I. & Malakolunthu, S. (2014). Improving teaching in higher education in Malaysia: Issues and challenges. *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 38(5), 656-673.

Ritzer, G. (1993). *The McDonaldisation of society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Tham, S.Y. (2012). *Internationalizing higher education in Malaysia: Understanding, practise and challenges*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Tham, S.Y. (2013). *Internationalizing higher education in Malaysia: Government policies and university's response*. *Journal of Studies in International Education*, 17(5), 648-662.

Note: Please attach biodata (about 150 words) of authors.

Regards,
Suseela

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Chapter Four

Higher Education in Malaysia: Latest Trends of the 21st Century

Adelina Asmawi & Rafidah Aga Mohd Jaladin

New trends have emerged in higher education in Malaysia and these trends go parallel with the changes in the Malaysian education system in an attempt to upgrade its quality and sustainability and to keep abreast with the current waves of globalisation, internationalisation and societal change. These trends are part of processes adopted by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education to ensure that the country is not left behind in providing quality education for the nation. Selected trends that have emerged for the development of higher education in Malaysia are discussed in this chapter. The changes that are taking place in Malaysian higher education institutions must be looked upon as processes that need to happen for the country's education system to be at par with that of developed nations.

Education is a major contributor to the development of our social and economic capital. It inspires creativity and fosters innovation; provides our youth with the necessary skills to be able to compete in the modern labour market; and is a key driver of growth in the economy. And as this Government puts in place measures under the New Economic Model, Economic Transformation Plan and Government Transformation Plan to place Malaysia firmly on the path to development, we must ensure that our education system continues to progress in tandem. By doing so, our country will continue to keep pace in an increasingly competitive global economy.

-Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak (Ministry of Education, 2012, p. 1)

This quotation highlights a comprehensive plan for a sustainable transformation of the Malaysian education system for 12 years to come: The Malaysian Education Blueprint, 2013-2025. The plan sets out fundamental changes that are required from the highest level of education authorities' practices right down to the operational levels at schools.

As Malaysia is a multicultural-developing country in the South-East of Asia, it continuously strives to ensure that all national policies pertaining to upgrading the Malaysian education system are effective and functional. As such, several education policies have been proposed and launched since the 1950s, the latest being the Malaysian Education Blueprint for 2013 - 2025.