

Dr. Rupert Beinhauer & Dr. Thilagavathi Shanmuganathan  
(Editors)



# Internationalisation of Higher Education in Southeast Asia: A Perspective from the Marco Polo Project

Dr. Rafaela Caballero Andaluz  
(Project coordinator)



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DR. RUPERT BEINHAUER  
&  
DR. THILAGAVATHI SHANMUGANATHAN  
(EDITORS)

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DR. RAFAELA CABALLERO ANDALUZ  
(PROJECT COORDINATOR)



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Web: <<https://www.editorial.us.es>>

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## Foreword

As the leading partner in the EU-funded Marco Polo Project, the University of Seville is proud to publish this work, *Internationalisation of Higher Education in Southeast Asia: A Perspective from the Marco Polo Project*. The publication contains essential contributions to the ongoing Higher Education internationalisation debate, but from a new and challenging perspective – that of Southeast Asia.

In this collection, ten articles examine the history, the present-day reality and the beckoning future of internationalisation, seeking to make it and our understanding of the challenges and opportunities that internationalisation in Higher Education entails the rule and not the exception.

Before proceeding any further, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors – indeed all collaborators named, and anonymous –, who have contributed to this publication and the project as a whole.

Internationalisation benefits everyone. Internationalisation facilitates the transfer of knowledge through student and staff mobility. Internationalisation promotes understanding of *the other* at an interpersonal level, as well as at an inter-institutional one. Internationalisation is the optimisation of HE resources on a global scale.

Yet internationalisation is not merely a trendy buzzword. Universities have to prepare themselves both culturally and administratively for it. As internationalisation gathers momentum, we must optimise our actions and our processes in order to maximise the results.

Both regionally and intercontinentally, university internationalisation enriches us intellectually, personally and, at a societal level, economically. As the Marco Polo Project draws to an end, the whole Consortium can look back proudly at its achievements. These achievements are reflected here in these stimulating, thought-provoking, papers that we are sure will bear witness to the intense internationalising effort that all Consortium members have made.



These ten collected works reflect the Universities of Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia's vision of the Internationalisation of Higher Education.

Born of the experiences of both teachers and researchers who have taken part in Erasmus+ Programme and Marco Polo Project, the authors present the different initiatives that have been undertaken in their Institutions in order to improve the process of internationalisation. All of this takes place in a global context conditioned by the important role that internationalisation must play in universities' strategic plans as their response to the challenge of globalisation – a challenge common to all of them.

The Marco Polo Project, co-financed by the European Erasmus+ Programme and led by the University of Seville, embraces European, Malaysian, Thai and Vietnamese universities. High on the list of the Project's principal aims are the modernisation of International Offices, the promotion of international inter-university cooperation networks and the transfer of knowledge between the institutions that form the project's consortium.

