

Editorial

The May/June 2020 issue of JIRSEA has two main features whereby the first feature showcases a “Special Invite Paper” that is co-edited by Prof. Sophia Shi-Huei Ho of the University of Taipei, Taiwan. Three “Special Invite Paper” are invited and published in this May/June issue, whereby they cover key academic areas of governance spanning diversity, work environment, academia-industry mobility, and internationalization strategies.

The second feature is the newly instituted “preliminary review” process to “screen out” papers before the formal double-blind review process resulted in 60% of papers being declined due to relevance to JIRSEA focus of Higher Education issues or Institutional Research and those that do not meet the “sound scientifically grounded” research requirements of JIRSEA. Three papers are accepted after the rigorous and stringent vetting process. These four papers cover key academic enhance areas of the needs assessment for the improvement of English teacher education programs, developing a model for teaching beliefs and practices, and study habits leading to academic programs improvements.

The key synopsis of these six papers are as follows:

- **The first “Special Invite Paper” is contributed by Douglas R. Gress and JungCheol Shin** both of *Seoul National University*, entitled “Diversity, Work environment, and Governance participation: A study of Expatriate faculty perceptions at a Korean University”. This research indicates that hiring documentation and processes need work, but that non-ethnically Korean expatriate faculty perceive more problems with promotion processes, trust at the university scale, and integration, especially in terms of communication and governance participation at the college scale. Perceptions related to personal satisfaction, professional satisfaction, isolation, and leaving the university are also explored. Results indicate an inverse relationship between thoughts of leaving and professional/personal satisfaction and department cordiality and a positive correlation between thoughts of leaving and feelings of isolation. Based on the analyses, several recommendations are forwarded.

- **The second “Special Invite Paper”** is contributed by **Vincent Pang, Yew Meng Lai, Wardatul Akmam Din, and Anantha Raman Govindasamy** of *Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia* and **Norzaini Azman** of *Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia*. Their paper entitled “Academia-Industry mobility in Malaysia: Realities and Implications for Leadership Development Programs” presents the current academia-industry mobility (AIM) situation in Malaysia with emphasis on the progress in the AIM agenda, factors affecting AIM, drivers of AIM, and barriers and constraints faced by AIM in the country. Key findings indicated that perceived unclear policy, slowness in responding to the needs of industry players, and guidelines related to AIM have further exacerbated what is already an unfavorable relationship between Malaysian public universities and industry with the latter remained skeptical regarding the capabilities of the former.
- **The third “Special Invite Paper”** is contributed by **Qian Huang and Jisun Jung** both of whom are from *The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*. Their paper on “Development of strategies for internationalizing Chinese Higher Vocational Education” examines the historical evolution of internationalization in Chinese HVE, analyses the current internationalization strategies deployed by HVE institutes in China, and compares these strategies with those implemented by Chinese research universities. The results show that the internationalization of Chinese HVE is based on strong government-driven policies and is originally based on a combination of Western models and the demands of local industry. In the process of internationalization, Chinese HVE institutes have since implemented various additional initiatives, such as using English as the medium of instruction, recruiting international students, organizing exchange programs with overseas institutes and student internships in multinational companies, establishing branch campuses, and developing curriculums to meet the requirements of international qualification frameworks. These strategies differ from those implemented by research universities in terms of their emphasis on industry collaboration, regional economic development, and local labor market demands.
- **Thi Kim Anh Vo** of *University of Foreign Languages, The University of Danang*, **Vincent Pang** of *Universiti Malaysia Sabah*, and **Lee Kean Wah** from the *University of Nottingham Malaysia* researched into a paper entitled “A needs assessment for the improvement of English teacher education programs in Vietnam”. Findings reveal that generally the English Teacher Education Program (ETEP) satisfies students’ needs at the medium level though some aspects of the

ETEP such as soft skill development and the process of learning how to teach need improving. They recommend that the link between practice and theory should be strengthened for a higher quality ETEP through technology integration, teaching practicum improvement, and soft skill integration.

- **Samah Ali Mohsen Mofreh** of *Universiti Sains Malaysia*, **M. Najib Ghafar** of *Universiti Teknologi Malaysia*, **Dayang Hjh Tiawa Awg Hj Hamid** of *Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University* and **Yasmin Othman Mydin** of *Universiti Sains Malaysia* researched into the “Assessing model of teaching beliefs and practices: Using structural equation modeling”. Key findings arrived at a recommended model for Lecturers’ Beliefs on Teaching Functions and Lecturers’ Teaching Practices among community colleges’ lecturers.
- **Royce A. Salva** of *De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Philippines* researched into a paper entitled “Study habits of Pre-service Teachers: Basis for development of Academic Enhancement Program”. This study quantifies the five domains of study habits of pre-service teachers and their perceptions on the necessity of a possible remedial program, which is alternatively named as Academic Enhancement Program (AEP). The results revealed that university students in the same year level are more likely to have a similar degree of study habits than when compared to their areas of specialization.
- **Tao-Ming Cheng, Dinesh Chandra Agrawal, Long-Sheng Chen and Ching-Jung Chi** of *Chaoyang University of Technology, Taiwan* and **Hsing-Yu Hou** of *National Taichung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan* researched into a paper entitled “Factors affecting starting wages of Master’s degree-graduates in Taiwan”. The results demonstrate that the academic system significantly influenced the wages, and the level of stable wages showed a positive relationship with job satisfaction and learning-job-congruence. Personal social networking was a significant predictor of the stable wage level. Besides, students with science, engineering, and technology background, and those working in the public sector earned higher wages than others.

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