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ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME, KEY ACTION 2
CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Furthering International Relations Capacities and Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Campus Diversity and to Support Internationalisation at Home (FRIENDS)

12th WEBINAR
11th March 2021

MINUTES

Venue: online session via Zoom

Attendees: Representatives of FRIENDS project partners

1. The meeting began by partners' updates on the current Covid-19 restrictions. Dr. Raymond Zepp from Dewey International University and William Shields provided the current picture of the situation in Cambodia. William Shileds from Svay Rieng University spoke of the Intercultural Passport exploration at the institution and confirmed that it has been incorporated in the curriculum with 15% of the grading received from the submission of a digital story and 20% received after completing the IACD MOOC. The Intercultural Festival at the Svay Rieng University is still waiting for approval by the governing body as SRU is a public university and all activities need prior approval.

2. Prof. Dr. Andrew Seddon of Asia Pacific University of Technology & innovation (APU) also spoke about the Covid-19 cases and restrictions in Malaysia. Currently, at the Asia Pacific University of Technology & innovation the students are still in a hybrid mode of study with expecting to go back to the campus soon. As to the incorporating of the IACD MOOC into the curriculum, Prof. Dr. Seddon mentioned that the course has been offered to all IT modules in APU. A small class test is being conducted at the end of classes to verify students' readiness. 200 students have been the first to start with the module and a 1000 word reflective story is expected to be written by each student upon completion.

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The Intercultural Festival is already on the calendar with the student council expected to help. The Career Fair is also in the works with plans to involve local employers. APU and BUC have been also discussing the organization of the FRIENDS Caravans.

3. Ronald Binati from Berjaya University College shared that the IACD MOOC has been presented to the new students intake. BUC was looking into incorporating the course and offer it as microcredentials, but since it has to be free, and microcredentials at BUC are paid, this option will most probably be dropped. Nevertheless, BUC is working towards the IACD MOOC to officially appear on the student transcript.

Ronald mentioned that new digital storytelling contest will be held for the Bootcamp 2022, but the institution is working on the issue of the number of students not completing the MOOC at 100%. BUC is currently actively involved in promoting the course. As to the Intercultural Festivals, BUC aims at scheduling it for the end of March 2021.

4. Richel Lamadrid from Saint Louis University shared the exciting news that the university is expecting close to 4400 students to complete the IACD MOOC by the end of May. SLU' Teahouse was launched on 24 November 2020 and is fully operational. In regards to the Bootcamp - nominees are awaiting visit to Bulgaria.

5. Edilyn Lopez, FRIENDS team member at the University of Cebu shared a presentation on the state of FRIENDS project at UC as of March 10th 2021. 3 batches of IACD MOOC completed, with Teahouse in operation and digital stories being submitted by students. The intercultural festival is planned for 18-19 of March 2021 with volunteers headed by the prospective bootcampers and mobility students. A few of the challenges at UC, and in Philippines in general, are the lack or unstable internet connection and many students don't have computers or phones.

6. Ronald Galindo from Cebu Technological University also shared an update on the Covid-19 related restrictions and confirmed that the Philippines have issues with power supply, especially during typhoon season, internet connections and lack of gadgets. CTU plans to implement a bike that will have solar power and connectivity kits for students. Another updated from CTU is that the Teahouse is not currently functioning because students are learning from home

7. In Thailand, Jeeranan Nillawong from Prince of Songkla University shared with the partners that the Intercultural Festival is being held today, at the day of the meeting. The IACD MOOC has been embedded at the Intercultural Awareness and Cultural Diversity course at PSU with official approval still pending. The Teahouse opening ceremony took place on 27 October 2020 and the HAFH programme was published as well as the Code of Conduct and Teahouse Calendar for 2021. To promote the IACD MOOC, e-Orientation has been organized.

8. Mike Meallem from Payap University also shared an update about the Covid-19 restrictions in Thailand. PYU had its Teahouse opening in November 2020 with students currently on a summer break. Semester and new intake will start in June, but will most probably be online.

9. At the end of the meeting, Christina Armutlieva gave an update on the project activities and shared a presentation in this regards. VUM is still awaiting for approval from the EACEA on the request to extend the project due to Covid-19 delays.

10. The session closed with a QandA session.