



## Round Table Discussion of ERASMUS Project

**Date: October 21st**

**Venue: APU, Block B, Level 4 Room 1**

**Time: 3.00pm**

**Chair: Prof Dr Andy Seddon**

### Attendance:

In attendance: 30 (see the attached attendance list).

### Summary:

A meeting was conducted on October 21<sup>st</sup> for staff, students and selected recruitment agents of APU. The purpose of the meeting was to provide background to the ERASMUS+ initiative and the background to the FRIENDS project.

Details of the European and Asian partners were presented to indicate the full extent of the participation of the project and the three key elements that would affect current and future students of APU:

1. FRIENDS SWAG competition
2. International module
3. International Journey video diary competition
4. International bootcamp
5. Teahouse

The participants were provided with details of the SWAG competition that had run in August and the process of dissemination to students. The winning SWAG and MASCOT designs were presented to the audience. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the result the student from APU who had won the MASCOT design competition was unable attend to be awarded with their certificate as it was their mid year break. It was agreed that once they return for their next study period that we would set up a photo shoot to publicise their achievement.

As the Malaysian lead on the production of the SWAG items it was agreed that a joint meeting should be arranged at a convenient time with the Berjaya University College team to identify the types of SWAG items that were to be produced and to agree on the implementation of the winning SWAG design.

Details of the activities conducted during the Cambodia consortium meeting were discussed with reference being made to the fictitious Malaysian student who was the inspiration for the storyboard presented to the other partners. This set the scene for the need to have an international module and the teahouse.

APU's vision of a teahouse and health/wellness space was presented to combine the elements of the teahouse for international students with a wider opportunity for students to have a 'safe' space where they would be able to congregate and discuss issues relating to their studies or personal life/fears.



As APU runs a lot of multi-cultural activities throughout the year the space was seen as a feature that would further promote the harmony and togetherness of the multi-national student body which reflect approximately 55% of the total student population and which is made up of students from approximately 130 nationalities. The Teahouse will be a focal point for such activities rather than the use of classrooms and smaller discussion rooms which are currently used.

APU's commitment to the support of students and in line with the FRIENDS project set up the 'Mental Health Campaign: Tea & Talk' on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, with a session conducted by Pn Anita Abu Bakar from Mental Illness Awareness & Support Association (MIASA) in Malaysia. The talk covered issues including depression, anxiety and how to provide students with activities to handle these issues.

The participants were invited to the inaugural Mental Health Awareness Forum organized by the Student Development & Support Team, Student Affairs to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2019. The forum will be part of the mental health awareness campaign themed '#FREE MIND 2019' and will focus on the importance of mental health awareness, factors affecting the well-being of the students and ways to address these issues.

The Ambassador of The Gambia, Her Excellency Madame Ramzia Diab Ghanim will be our Guest Speaker. The session will help students work towards better mental health and overall student well-being at APU.

The discussion moved on to the intercultural passport module which is to be developed and rolled out at the start of 2020 with information provided on the participation expected for the initial delivery and the story board competition launch. With new student intakes commencing in November the students will have a special session added to their induction to promote the module and the opportunity to represent APU and the international bootcamp in Varna, Bulgaria. A promotional video for Varna was shown to the participants, many of whom then wished they could enroll as students in order to be in with a chance to win the competition!

Additionally, the APU Partnership Event from November 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> was also discussed stating that the details would also be provided to recruitment partners so that this information could be disseminated across the global network of APU agents.

It was decided to identify the benefits of the passport module and teahouse so that publicity material could be designed and published prior to registration on the module and for the launch of the teahouse.

Discussion of the teahouse and its location was also considered with an indication that this would need to be discussed at the senior management level to identify a visible location for the space to be housed in order to be fully visible to students and visitors.

The agreed equipment list for the Teahouse and to facilitate students in their endeavours to record and edit their international story books was also discussed which also links to the size of the space required to locate the Teahouse.

The Teahouse concept was discussed, including layout suggestions and types of furniture suggested. The lack of tea/coffee was also highlighted and it was agreed that APU would try to identify a company who may sponsor tea/coffee, but if this was not possible then APU would fund tea/coffee



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



making facilities for the students in order for them to be able to relax when planning multi-cultural activities or when they need a quiet space to unwind and 'de-stress'.

The meeting concluded after 2 hours with the attached action plan agreed.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



## ERASMUS+ FRIENDS Project (ERAS-10a-2019)

**Date:** 21 October 2019

**Start Time:** 3.00

**Venue:** APU – Block B L4-1

|                       |   |                                      |                                       |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chairperson           | : | Prof Dr Andy Seddon (AS)             |                                       |
| Attendance            | : |                                      | See separate attendance list          |
| Absent with Apologies | : |                                      |                                       |
| By invitation         | : | Senior Leadership<br>Heads of School | Marketing Team<br>Student Ambassadors |

| MINUTES OF MEETING |   |                                 |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| No                 | Item of discussion:   | Person Responsible              | Action  | By When   |
| 1.                 | Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None received</li> </ul>   | Secretariat, AS                 | -   | -   |
| 3.                 | ERASMUS+ FRIENDS Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Overview of the project, feedback from consortium meetings and update on the work packages</li> <li>b) The concept of Internationalisation at Home and the International Passport module to be developed.</li> <li>c) FRIENDS SWAG competition update and announcement of the APU winner of the mascot competition.</li> <li>d) Details of the Digital Story competition and the international boot camp.</li> <li>e) Development of the FRIENDS Teahouse and link to other APU activities for student welfare.</li> </ul> | AS<br>JT<br>WBS<br>AS, JT<br>AS | See attached discussion paper.<br>MOOC being developed by European Partners. See attached discussion paper.<br>Marketing team to work with suppliers to produce SWAG once items and designs confirmed.<br>Promotional materials to be developed for media screens and social media platforms.<br>See attached discussion paper. | Completed<br>Completed<br>January 2020<br>January 2020<br>Ongoing |
| 4.                 | Question and Answer Session   | AS, JT, WBS                     | -   | -   |
| 5.                 | Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No items raised</li> </ul>  | -                               | -   | -   |