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## New horizons for Malaysia's landscape education: Gate project across cultures and continents

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### Abstract

GATE is an Erasmus Mundus mobility project funded by the European Commission (2012-2016). This programme has opened up an opportunity to the Asian university students/staff to further study in European countries and to enhanced university partnerships. GATE is quite new, thus landscape students/staff need to grasp this opportunity for their better future prospect. This paper highlights the GATE project possibility in enriching the environment for landscape study and contributing to the academic excellence of Malaysia's landscape education. GATE project acts as a new horizon in landscape education, enhances the skills, qualifications and benefits linguistically and culturally the respective universities.

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### 1. Introduction

Landscape education has being taught for long years in western countries such as United States of America (US) and European Countries (EU). Landscape education in Asia including Malaysia could be considered as a new field. Today, landscape architecture profession is growing in the Asian region. It also undergoes a radical transformation regarding its order of size and

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other particularities (Bartfai 2013). An intense pressure of competition coming from other disciplines has urged landscape architecture students, especially from Malaysia, to get ready for new challenges in their international skills, experiences and knowledge. This is very important in order to enable them to get recognized and employed in any parts of the world.

The European Commission has initiated a new strategy called “European higher education in the world” (Bartfai 2013). This initiative aims to offer university students (especially from Asian region) international experiences, enhanced skills, and broaden their mind. GATE (knowledGe mAnagement Technology transfer and Education programme) is one of the projects under this programme that focus to students at all levels from Asian countries including Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia and China. Indirectly, GATE has opened a new landscape education access to the Asian countries that helps in increasing learning and teaching quality (Thomas, Chang & Abt 2007). Landscape architecture students/staff from Malaysia need to grab this opportunity for their better future. They should recognize that in order to become a good landscape architect and to produce good landscape designs, they need to get experiences abroad for gaining knowledge and skills learned from other professionals.

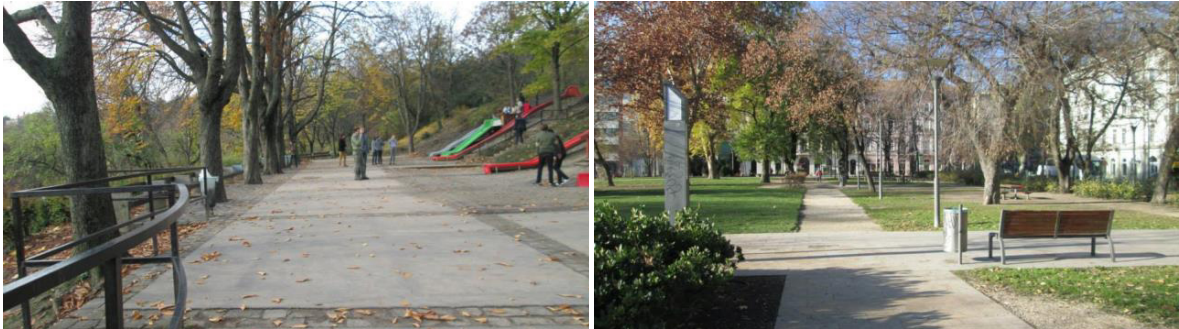


Photo 1: In order to become a good landscape architect and to produce good landscape designs, it is necessary for students to get experiences abroad for gaining knowledge, skills learned from other professionals.

Previously, Malaysia’s university students/staff further their study overseas on landscape fields via governmental scholarships, private and/or family budget. Today, GATE project supports them in finding scholarship and solving their financial problems. However, they need to compete with other university students, but at least the project has broadened their chances or choices of scholarships.

## 2. Objective of the Paper

This paper was written from the view of the authors based on their involvement in the project. The aim of this paper is to share and highlight the GATE project as a new horizon in landscape architecture education for Malaysia. Specific objective is to explain and encourage landscape architecture students/staff to take the opportunity of the GATE project and to enhance their benefits towards increasing skills and qualifications of landscape education.

## 3. Gate Project

GATE is one of the projects under Erasmus Mundus programme, and being prepared by a consortium of leading European universities together with the partner universities in Asia. Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria (JKU) is coordinator for the project. The GATE project is open to students at all levels; Bachelor, Master, PhD, Post-doc researchers and staff with scholarship.

The designed project's idea was to improve higher education cooperation and develop teaching and learning to benefit social development. It was believed that interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary orientated development could give quality to the education and serve society and higher education level. GATE programme delivers significant help to landscape architecture students and academic staff in landscape field by offering a new window to the world. The programme enables them to set up learning and working relationship with international academic faculties concerned, and acquire experience and knowledge in the field according to their needs. According to JKU/Gate (2013), objectives of the projects are as follows:

- i. to supports institutions' international co-operation advancement via Erasmus exchange principles (such as the Learning Agreement) to the mobility activities between the partner institutions.

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