

## UK-Malaysia University Consortium

Partnerships in Research & Mobility, Opportunities & Challenges in International Higher Education

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022, 9:30 – 16:30, The Science Gallery, Great Maze Pond, London, SE1 9GU



On Thursday 22 September the UK-Malaysia University Consortium held their first face to face event at the Science Gallery, hosted by King's College London. This networking and networking event was part of a weeklong programme organised by Education Malaysia London, the **'Malaysia-United Kingdom Higher Education Collaboration Enrichment Programme (MY-UK HECEP) 2022'**. In total 49 delegates attended from 10 Malaysian Universities and 11 UK Universities, along with representatives

from Education Malaysia London and the Department for International Trade, UK

The theme of the roundtable event was **'opportunities and challenges in international higher education'** with particular focus on partnerships in research collaboration and international mobility for staff and students. Dr Suzanna Tomassi, a Higher Education specialist from the **DECS Directorate at the Department for International Trade**, gave an insightful presentation on **'the benefits of Transnational Education and International Partnerships'**. Guro Buchanan from **Liverpool John Moores University** followed, presenting on the



areas of mobility prioritisation for UK and Malaysian Universities, providing a summary of feedback following a virtual workshop on International Mobility held by the Consortium in May 2022. In addition, the proposed Student Conference initiative was introduced, this initiative is provisionally scheduled to be held in Malaysia in June 2023.

During the session on research collaboration, presentations were provided by Prof. Richard Trembath, Senior Vice President (Health & Life Sciences) and Executive Director of **King's Health Partners, Kings College London**, focusing on 'Research Collaboration through King's Health Partners: A perspective from King's College London' and Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri bin Ibrahim, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International), **Universiti Malaysia Terengganu**, who presented on 'Marine renewable energy in Southeast Asia: the potential, Government Policies and Challenges'.



Prof. Jin Wang from **Liverpool John Moores University**, outlined the prioritised areas of collaborative research for UK and Malaysia Universities, providing details of the feedback received from the Consortium after the Research Collaboration Workshop held in June 2022.



Lively discussions on the topics of research and mobility followed the presentations, with breakout sessions summarised by session facilitators. During the session on the Student Conference Initiative the selection criteria was discussed along with the conference format, with several delegates from both Malaysian and UK institutions expressing an interest in joining a working group to take the initiative forward, an update on the working group will be communicated shortly. The research collaboration session focused on generating sustainable research funding and the possibility of developing consortium supported joint PhD programmes.

A drinks reception rounded off the event, providing a fantastic informal networking opportunity for existing connections to be renewed and new relationships established.