

Working Paper: Proposal for KAED Students' Revolving Fund

PROPOSAL FOR KAED'S STUDENTS' REVOLVING FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TRIP - Specific for Architecture Programme AAR 3301 Heritage Studies course.

Introduction

KAED profess to be the leading international centre for the Islamic architecture and its heritage as well as to be ready for the challenges towards globalisation in the millennium. Being recently established and rapidly making the impression KAED needs to have vast ready-made and new or hands-on information on matters pertaining to the Islamic built environment that consists of physical data for its architecture, the city fabric for the urban planning and urban design, the exemplary landscapes; the international know-how of the procurement procedure and practices in the globalisation world as well as actual experience by the staff and students in the international boundary-less arena.

To meet the above objective KAED has made it a point being in the Islamic International University of Malaysia to provide avenues for students to have part of their experiences abroad and more so in another Muslim country. This is to provide them and all round real experience of not only the physical built environment that succumbs to natural climatic phenomena but also the culture of the Muslim people that accounts for the variation in the Mazhabs which in turn influences their planning and design of the building. The exposure will also allow them to be more receptive, mature in their analysis of the situation and prepare them to provide their services in the international market as the graduate.

KAED's Curriculum Structure & Content

Curriculum in IIUM, and more so newly established KAED has always been scrutinised and commented for improvement by the respective discipline or programme Board of Studies appointed by the IIUM Senate. The Board of Studies is made up of independent experts in their own field and personnel in the authorities and professional bodies. The Board's terms of reference includes preparation towards the accreditation of the programme as well as meeting the vision mission of the university.

KAED and the programmes offered are not new to Malaysian or the international market. The members of the Board of Studies has made it their effort to find the niche market for IIUM graduates base on its international status and the Islamic mission and vision of its approach. Their findings and recommendations among others are to establish linkages with universities and practices in not only within Malaysia but also in other Muslim World.

AAR 3301 Heritage Studies

The core course of AAR 3301 Heritage Studies for level 3 (3rd Year) of the 5 levels for the Architecture Programme had been proposed by the Board of Studies in their October 1999 Evaluation visit to be carried out in other Muslim countries. This is to avoid duplication of the course carried out by other local and already established architecture school in the country such as University Technology Malaysia (UTM), University Technology MARA (UiTM), University Science Malaysia (USM) and University Malaya (UM) and provide variation to its approach i.e. to not just carried out the measured drawing per se of a well-known historical building but it must be of Islamic merit with long history of its establishment. The students are to learn and document the culture of the people the structure had evolve from and how one would conserved or reconstructed it if the need arise. The detail course outline for AAR 3301 Heritage Studies is as per *Appendix A*.

The studies undertake in the Muslim country differ from ones own will itself bring observance, physical and emotional experience to ones being and eventually able to relate the exuberance and humble feelings of Muslim people long ago of Tauhid and oneness of God expresses in their building, their architecture which term them as Muslim, Traditional and some time 'Islamic' Architecture.

Findings and documentations from these excursions will be archived in the Kulliyah's Resource Centre for further research and reference to current courses and future courses, under and post -graduate level, towards defining the Islamic built environment. The course is one of the graduation requirements for Bachelor of Architecture and the Bachelor of Science (Architectural Studies) programme of IIUM and the accreditation requirements by the Board of Architects Malaysia for the LAM-PAM Part I & Part II.

The Architecture Students' population, Modus Operandi and Budget Expenditure

Students' population per intake will stabilised by 5 to 10 years of the programmes existence and the production of its graduates by 4-5 cohorts. Average of 40 – 60 students will be in their 3rd year each year for which the course of Heritage Studies will be conducted prior to their graduation for Bachelor of Science (Architectural Studies) degree equivalent to subscribe PART I - LAM-PAM.

To conduct the course abroad, the department is planning on the following Modus Operandi:

1. General

For both long and the short term the university is dutiful bound to meet the local equivalent needs of the students in terms of travel and lodging for the duration of the course outside the university. Additional fund such as this revolving fund proposal should be made available and continually budgeted as a support to this continuous endeavour.

2. Short and Immediate Term:

2.1 As part of its inaugural venture, the first batch of students (15 of them) in their 3rd year had planned to carry out the studies in Cairo, Egypt. The choice of destination is per stated in the working paper attached in *Appendix B*. Steps taken to pursue that objectives includes working on sponsorship via the university to make up the difference in the budget required for the excursion; writing to the students' organisation for cheap or free lodging while on the 2 weeks stay. The support fund described in (1) would therefore be appropriate should there be deficit or displacement of the budget.

2.2 The second batch of 54 students will be divided into smaller manageable groups for the separate destination of the Muslim world. Steps taken by this group include early savings by individuals, saving through students' architecture club/group as well as by the university's deduction of their scholarship into a special Trust fund for students' international travel. The department will solicit destinations with the assistance of the international link with the architecture school of that chosen destination. A bank of alternative destinations based on the availability of buildings of high Islamic content in the architecture and fabric of the city. The revolving fund will help to advance the fund for booking purposes and later being recoup from sponsorship and or scholarship

3. Long term:

3.1 A proposal to all the sponsors and scholarship authorities (PTPTN, JPA, TNB or PETRONAS) on the nature and funds required by the students of Architecture that varies from year to year depending on their course requirements. The department will provide a working paper to present the matter for the Sponsors consideration and blanket approval. Architecture Programme is an expensive programme as it pays for the graduate to simulate experiences prior to their flooding the market with professional services. Thus this opportunity where students pay back what they had borrowed, is of utmost importance especially if the government is encouraging the poor and not so well to do to take Architecture as their future profession and improve the condition of the

immediate family the students came from as well as the society they will later serve.

3.2 Another long term proposal is to inform the would be students of Architecture from whence they enter the Matriculation Programme in AED that they are suppose to keep a saving for the international travel programmed in the 3rd and 4th year of the studentship in Architecture. The amount may be deducted from the scholarship or loan the students have been receiving beginning of each session. Non-utilise balance will be return as the students graduate or as the student leaves the university.

3.3 The department will also planned for exchange programmes and credit transfers between universities of the Muslim World and other countries on a win-win basis. This will not only saves the hassle of arranging the programme in the foreign land but also provide the students the best exposure to the course undertake with international academic staff at hand, living in student environment abroad and perhaps at longer period required of the stated course.

Other Architecture Core Courses for International Exposure – AAR 4270 Practical Training

In line with the Malaysian Education Policy towards achieving world class and producing graduates from international nationale and of international nature that will meet the needs of local and world market towards globalisation policy and IIUM's mission for integrating Islamic Worldview to the human sciences, the Architecture Programme is allowing the students of 4th year level to carry out their practical training, i.e. their professional training as trainee in Architecture Firm or Firms that employ Architects trainee, to do within and outside Malaysia.

Summary

It is only natural being in the international university that profess international outlook and worldview in Islamic perspective, that students of this special university be given opportunity in their student life as correctly portrayed in the core curriculum of the programme, Architecture, to university's expenditure that substantiate a support for the cause and perpetuate to new height of open education of the future. *Appendix C* – a working paper presented to the Kulliyah's Management Committee in 1999 provides an overview of the international education exposure required by students of Architecture in IIUM

In view of the above, the department would like to make a proposal and a strong recommendation that a special fund be allocated each year to the Kulliyah as trust and revolving fund for the specific function of the core curriculum of KAED's courses that would benefit the students and staff as well as the Kulliyah in up

keeping their quality, stature in the ever challenging local and international arena as well as the IIUMs mission on Internationalisation, Islamization and Integration towards Comprehensive Excellence, InsyaAllah.

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