

Academia-industry mobility in Malaysia: Realities and implications for leadership development programs

ABSTRACT

This article presents the current academia-industry mobility (AIM) situation in Malaysia with emphasis on the progress in the AIM agenda, factors affecting AIM, drivers of AIM, and barriers and constraints faced by AIM in the country. Using qualitative methods, 29 research participants consisting of university top management members, leaders of university-industry relations office, key industry players and lectures took part in the qualitative study. Main findings indicated that perceived unclear policy and guidelines related to AIM have further exacerbated what is already an unfavourable relationship between Malaysian public universities and industry players. Malaysian public universities were found to be slow in responding to the needs of industry players, whilst at the same time, the latter remained skeptical regarding the capabilities of the former. This article concludes by proposing a leadership development program framework that addresses AIM issues.

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