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BHUTAN DIARY 3

- In the Land of the Thunder Dragon

The Second Face-to-Face Meeting

By: Associate Professor Dr. Margaret Chan Kit Yok

On 26 January 2018, Associate Professor Dr. Margaret Chan, the National Coordinator for Malaysia and Associate Professor Dr. Ling Siew Eng left Dhaka, Bangladesh for Paro, Bhutan to attend the second Blended Learning for Teacher Educators in Asia and Europe (BLTeae) project meeting. The following two days before the actual meeting gave the duo time to visit friends met during the earlier two trips to Bhutan.



Associate Professor Dr. Margaret meeting up with an adopted aunty in Thimphu

From 29 to 30 January 2018, the meeting in Paro, Bhutan hosted by Paro College of Education was for leaders of partner institutions to meet and evaluate the mid-term progress of the project. This three-year ERAMUS+ project under KA2 programme – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (No: 574130-EPP-1-2016-1-FR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP) is supported by EACEA-Erasmus+ project under building in the field of higher education category. This transnational cooperation sets the goal to address the challenges facing institutions and higher education systems. The School of Education, Aix-Marseille University in France established the consortium involving four institutions in Europe namely Aix-Marseille University in France, Aalborg University (AAU) in Denmark, Tallinn University (TLU) in Estonia and Audiovisual Technologies, Informatics and Telecommunications (ATiT) in Belgium together with seven institutions in Asia namely Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) in Bhutan, *Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)* and *Institut Pendidikan Guru, Kampus Batu Lintang (IPGKBL)* in Malaysia, University of Dhaka (DU) and Bangladesh Open University (BOU) in Bangladesh, National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and International Islamic University (IIU) in Pakistan. During the meeting, all partners shared their experiences as well as their ideas and strategies to achieve the goals of the project. The warm hospitality of Paro College of Education and Samtse College of education teams, both



Associate Professor Dr. Margaret, Associate Professor Dr. Ling and Mr. Lai (*Institut Pendidikan Guru, Kampus Batu Lintang*) on the way to Thimphu from Paro trying to keep warm from a pot of boiling water

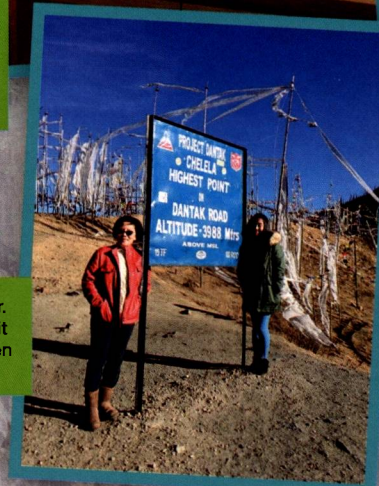


Group photo of the consortium for BLTeae project involving four institutions in Europe and seven institutions in Asia

On 31 January 2018, a day trip was made to Chelala Pass which is the highest point of Dantak Road at an altitude of 3988 meter above sea level located between Haa and Paro Valley. A perfect white Himalayan Mountain view with rows of colourful prayer flags fluttering in the wind could be seen at the summit. We boarded Druk Air, the Bhutan national airlines for our journey back home to Malaysia on 1 February 2018 wondering when the next time would be for us to set foot on Bhutan again.



Associate Professor Dr. Margaret during the meeting at Paro College of Education



Associate Professor Dr. Margaret at the Summit of Chelala Pass between Haa and Paro Valley



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