

# The Experiences and Challenges of Developing International Dual Degree programs

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### Modes of International Collaboration

- Study abroad
- Student exchange
- Off-campus program
- Distance education
- Dual degrees
- Joint degrees

### **Dual Degree Programs**

After completing all requirements for both programs (usually in four to five years) the student is awarded two degrees in one of the following combinations:

(1) Associate's and Bachelor's programs
(2) Dual Bachelor's Degree programs
(3) Dual Bachelor's Master's Degree programs
(4) Dual Graduate Degree programs

# **Our Experiences at NTNU**

- NTNU MU Dual master's degree programs
- NTNU MU Dual bachelor's master's degree programs
- NTNU NEC Associate's and bachelor's degree programs

MU=University of Missouri, USA NEC=New Era College, Malaysia

## **Our Experiences at NTNU**

The dual degree program agreement may be signed between two universities, two colleges, or two department s

We signed the agreements with the Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology, University of Missouri; and with the Department of Guidance & Counseling Psychology, New Era College

#### Dual Master's Degree Program (1+1)

- At least One-year at each institution
- Non-resident tuition waivered
- Academic advisor assigned to each student
- Credits transferred mutually based on the regulations on both sides
- Academic and cultural orientations
- Opportunities for cultural experiences
- Result: 13 NTNU master students have completed or are working on their dual degree at MU in the past 6 years

### Bachelor's-Master's Degree Program (3+2)

- Students recommended by NTNU
- 3 undergraduate years at NTNU + 2 graduate years at MU
- non-resident fee waivered up to 10 students each semester
- Academic advisor assigned to each student
  Opportunities for cultural experiences
  Result: 3 students currently participate in this
  - program, no one completes the program yet

Associate's and Bachelor's Degree Program with NEC, Malaysia (2+2)

- To educate more Chinese Malaysian to become counseling professionals
- Up to 6 undergraduates from NEC per year could get selected and admitted to NTNU
- Two years at NEC + two years at NTNU
- Result : 7 have completed the program in the past 5 years and 1 is still studying at NTNU

#### Feedback from dual degree students

- Improve language skills, multi-cultural experiences, and professional training
- Expand world view, life perspectives, and way of learning
- Reflect on one's own culture
- More practicum and internship experiences are suggested
  - More program promotions and orientations are suggested

# The challenges we are facing

- One way student exchange, from Malaysia to Taiwan, or from Taiwan to USA
- Most of our students get scholarship or financial supports from the government
- Key faculty members from each institution are critical to the program establishment

### Suggestions to the joint degree program

- We support the international collaborative degree program proposed by the Tohoku University
- A joint master's degree program would be more difficult to establish due to administrative procedure and not enough time for students to master two languages
  Based on our experience, a 3 + 2 dual degree program seems more feasible

# Conclusions

- Globalization in higher education is the trend
- International collaboration through faculty exchange, student exchange, and research is now a common practice
- Developing international dual/joint degree programs to meet the needs for international human resources is in the right time
- We believe that the conference will facilitate the process of establishing dual/joint degree programs in Eastern Asia region