

Internship beyond borders

Back for its second year, the MY ASEAN Internship programme ups the ante for high-quality internship programmes via placements in other countries



MITI Minister YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed accompanied by TalentCorp CEO Johan Mahmood Merican, Deputy MITI Minister YB Datuk Ahmad Maslan and MITI Secretary General Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Sta Maria with the 2015 MY ASEAN Interns

The right talent pool is an essential component in engineering a country's economic transformation. This rings especially true for Malaysia, which is aiming to become a high-income nation by 2020. In line with this, Talent Corporation Malaysia (TalentCorp) and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) joined forces to launch the 2016 intake for the MY ASEAN Internship programme earlier this month.

The event, dubbed MY ASEAN Internship: Beyond 2015, also marked the successful completion of the 2015 intake, which saw the participation of 40 students from Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Myanmar and participating employers with footprints in Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam,



Nora Abd Manaf, Group Chief Human Capital Officer of Maybank

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the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

First initiated in 2015, the programme's main objective is to increase awareness of ASEAN countries among Malaysian youths by offering them internship opportunities in the ASEAN offices of Malaysian companies. Vice versa, youths from ASEAN countries apart from Malaysia will also get to intern here.

In his keynote address to launch the 2016 intake, MITI Minister YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed extolled the benefits

of the programme, “Dovetailing the strong business sense behind MY ASEAN Internship is the potential for cultural exposure and exchange for both the Malaysian and ASEAN interns. The programme allows the interns to develop a clear understanding of ASEAN and the opportunities and benefits that come from regional economic integration, as well as to bridge possible stereotypes and misconceptions that may come from low interaction among the various ASEAN communities.”

2015 MY ASEAN Internship participants

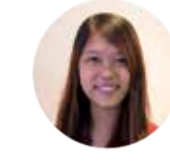
“I was telling my friends about my internship experience and it made me realise that I have gained so much exposure to the working world even when I've just started for a couple of days,”

— Van from Vietnam, currently studying at Nottingham University Malaysia, interned at Securities Commission Malaysia



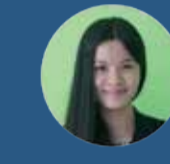
“My internship provided me with a very steep learning curve, teaching me valuable lessons on the importance of communication. I realised I am responsible for the way I learn and now appreciate the value of listening.”

— Li Shan from Malaysia, currently studying at Universiti Putra Malaysia, interned at AirAsia Philippines



“It was the privilege of experiencing something different that allowed me to embrace an international mindset. One thing that stays with me is a message that I received from my director: It's our pleasure having you here. You have made us, and Malaysia, proud.”

— Amy from Malaysia, currently studying at Nottingham University Malaysia, interned at Nestlé Thailand



“MY ASEAN Internship is about gaining a different experience in a different country with different cultures of corporate environment. This is what makes the experience priceless,”

— Rajiv from Indonesia, currently studying at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, interned at Axiata Group in Malaysia



“I had the opportunity to experience working in Indonesia. There was so much to see and 'feel' every day. I can safely say I have now been to Jakarta, experienced a life-changing moment and returned to Malaysia as a whole new me,”

— Chong Ping from Malaysia, currently studying at Universiti Malaya, interned at Roosdiono & Partners (a member of ZICOlaw) in Indonesia



“You can never truly understand a country unless you experience the culture itself. The best way to do this is to cultivate a bond with its people. My colleagues in Indonesia are the nicest and friendliest people I've ever met. They made me feel at home even when I was many miles away from home,”

— Aisyah from Malaysia, currently studying at Universiti Teknologi MARA, interned at Maybank Indonesia



“Malaysia increasingly needs talent with a regional, if not global, mind set to support the internationalisation of Malaysian companies”

— Nora Abd Manaf



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— Datin Sri Badrunnisa Mohd Yasin Khan



Axiata's Group Chief Talent Officer Datin Sri Badrunnisa Mohd Yasin Khan

The MY ASEAN Internship programme is a great avenue to identify and nurture today's talent into the regional business leaders of tomorrow,” explains Nora Abd Manaf, Group Chief Human Capital Officer of Maybank.

The programme also acts as a direct gateway to participating employers to tap the potential of highly driven ASEAN students and raises the bar for great-quality internships. More importantly, it is also an opportunity for them to position themselves as coveted and progressive employers.

Axiata's Group Chief Talent Officer Datin Sri Badrunnisa Mohd Yasin Khan agrees, saying that it has helped in branding Axiata as a potential employer and created a talent pool among the young people in the ASEAN countries it operates in. “We hire in these countries as well for our local operations. For example, we have an intern who has been offered a job at our operations in Cambodia. So we're basically building the talent pipeline earlier and equipping them with a better base to start off their career”.

employers. Foremost among this is the creation of a pipeline of young talent with regional experience and the chance to build makers and game-changers, thereby contributing to the overall development of the ASEAN community.

“Malaysia increasingly needs talent with a regional, if not global, mind set to support the internationalisation of Malaysian companies like Maybank.



MY ASEAN Internship 2016

More than 100 opportunities for Malaysian students to intern abroad in ASEAN and ASEAN students to work here in Malaysia.

Applications are open from 20 November 2015. To apply, visit www.talentcorp.com.my/myaseaninternship

Participating employers in 2016



EMPLOYERS INTERESTED TO JOIN THE PROGRAMME IN 2016, PLEASE CONTACT myaseaninternship@talentcorp.com.my

Did you know you can now hire international students as interns with ease? Reach out to MYXpats Help Desk to find out more about the Social Visit Pass at MYXpats@talentcorp.com.my

He also revealed the introduction of a Social Visit Pass effective 9 November 2015 by the Ministry of Home Affairs to further enhance Malaysia's attractiveness to foreign interns. The pass caters mainly for short-term International Mobility Programmes for students and allows international students to engage in internships, student exchanges and industrial training in Malaysia for up to three months.

Companies participating in the 2016 programme comprise of market leaders in their respective fields with operations in multiple ASEAN countries. These include budget airline AirAsia Bhd, conglomerate Sime Darby Bhd and statutory body Securities Commission Malaysia.

Commenting on the pool of participating employers, TalentCorp CEO Johan Mahmood Merican says, “The MY ASEAN Internship programme serves to showcase the exciting career opportunities available, particularly with Malaysian companies having regional presence and multinationals with regional headquarters in Malaysia. We look forward to more leading employers participating next year”.

Benefits to employers

Despite having the main objective of providing cultural exposure and experience to ASEAN youths, the MY ASEAN Internship programme also offers a host of benefits to participating