ALIEN Active Learning In Engineering Education

CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT 586297/2017

2nd consortium meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 9-11 January 2019

The second consortium meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 9-11 January and was organized by the University of Malaysia, with the participation of all partner universities from Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, Portugal, Bulgaria, Estonia, UK and Greece.

The work of the meeting was opened by the Vice Rector of the University of Malaya Prof. Dr. Kamila Ghazali and the Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science of the University of Malaya, Prof. Dr. Abrizah Abdullah. Invited speaker Prof. Dr. Aishah Abu Bakar analyzed the benefits of active learning in engineering education.

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Prof. Kamila highlighted the position of UM being at the forefront in supporting active learning through enhanced infrastructure known as the 'CUBE' in UM. UM, although known for being the leading university in research, puts equal emphasis on high quality teaching and learning activities.

This is in line with the Malaysian government's aspiration for continually improving the quality of its higher education system where active learning is highly emphasised for student's holistic development. Accommodating the transformation brought by the fourth Industrial Revolution, the practice of active learning in UM has been highly supported by appropriate learning spaces. The learning spaces project in UM had started with the experimental Collaborative Interactive Learning Room in 2008. The UM's Learning Space Policy in 2012 reinforced all renovation of a classroom into 'The CUBE' project in several faculties. Since then, UM has upgraded more than 35 existing spaces into CUBE throughout the campus.

Prof Kamila added, the CUBE offers conducive, fun and technology assisted learning environment, which is timely for millennials who are currently studying at our university. The time for traditional classroom setting has passed and it is time to move forward in preparing our students for an exciting career ahead of them. According to Prof Carlos Vaz de Carvalho of Porto Polytechnic, Portugal, the scientific coordinator ALIEN, and Dr Hariklia Tsalapatas of the University of Thessaly, Greece, the project manager, the PBL which is one of the highest form of active learning approach will be supported through fully developed and operational labs that will be installed at partner sites. This PBL methodology will also be supported by a virtual learning environment that will allow a multinational community of researchers, lecturers and practitioners to discuss and share best practices in active learning. Eventually, this project will produce an ALIEN online collaborative platform consisting of PBL games and scenarios in a common storage to be shared and used by others.

Scientific publications

Designing spaces for active learning in teaching software engineering courses, Raja Ramilah Raja Yusof, Aishah Binti Abu Bakar, Siti Salwah Salim, University of Malaya, International Conference on Sciences, Technology, and Social Sciences 2018 (ICSTSS2018)

Active Problem-Based Learning for Engineering Higher Education, Hariklia Tsalapatas, Carlos Vaz de Carvalho, Olivier Heidmann, Elias Houstis CSEDU 2019 Conference, Heraklion, Crete, Greece, May 2-5, 2019

For more information, please visit the ALIEN website at http://projectalien.eu/

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