

The day before I leave is 8 March - International Women's Day. A socialist holiday, first celebrated in America, and then adopted by the Soviet Union and other countries. Capitalism loves this national holiday for other reasons. In Russia some flower shops are open 24 hours. I think there is an argument for saying that every day should be women's day.

There are several railway stations in Saint Petersburg, among them the Finland Station; the Baltic Station; the Moscow Station, and Vitebsky Vokzal, the Vitebsk Station. I understand the importance of the first three but not the fourth. It had never dawned on me that this town, in what is now Belarus, was of such significance. I take a stroll down to Vitebsky Vokzal. It was the first one to be built in the city. It was also the first to be built in the whole of the Russian Empire. Marc Chagall was from Vitebsk. So was my grandfather. They were about the same age. In my imagination they went to the same school and sat next to each other.



R. Shindler

Vitebsky Vokzal - the Vitebsk Station

On my return to Kraków I get a message from Natalia, one of the teachers in the English Department, saying how much the students and teachers enjoyed the classes, and that they hope to see me in St. Petersburg again. I make a mental note to return.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC



Adriana Holub-Palonka

International Relations Office

The Asia-Pacific Association for International Education – APAIE annual conference focuses on current international education practices and trends of the Asia-Pacific region. This year the APAIE's programme of workshops and parallel sessions were held on 25-29 March and dedicated to the theme of *Diversity and Inclusivity of Higher Education in the Asia Pacific*.

The exhibitors included universities and other institutions from 35 countries. The venue of the conference and exhibition was the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. Overlooking the iconic PETRONAS Twin Towers and Kuala Lumpur City Centre Park, the centre is a technologically-advanced, purpose-built convention and exhibition facility strategically located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. It is comprised of two auditoria: Plenary Hall and Plenary Theatre, Grand Ballroom, conference halls, large exhibition space, meeting rooms and venues for short time bookings.



Petronas Twin Towers

A. Holub-Palonka



Y. Zulina Zubairi and A. Jelonek signing the agreement



Merdeka Square, Sultan Abdul Samad Building

A. Holub-Palonka

The Jagiellonian University was represented by Prof. Adam Jelonek, Rector's Proxy for Internationalisation, and the undersigned, IRO's liaison officer responsible for collaboration with Asian universities, and was part of the Polish booth organised by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange. The Polish booth was designed in accordance with the Polish governmental campaign *Ready, Study, Go! Poland*. We were glad to see that our booth enjoyed great popularity with the other exhibitors and visitors.

Besides the Jagiellonian University, the Polish booth included representatives from the following academic centres: the University of Science and Technology in Kraków, the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, the Graduate School for Social Research at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IPS PAS), the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the Medical University of Gdańsk, the SGH Warsaw School of Economics, the University of Wrocław, Wrocław University of Science and Technology, the University of Bielsko Biala and the Vincent Pol University in Lublin.

On the first day of the conference our booth was officially opened by Poland's Ambassador to Malesia Prof. Krzysztof Dębnicki

and Mr Łukasz Wojdyga, Director of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange. After a short ceremony, the Ambassador invited all the Polish representatives to a banquet.

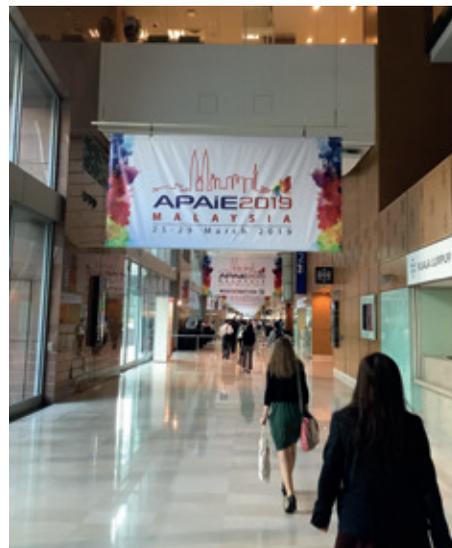
During the conference we had the occasion to meet representatives from over 20 foreign universities, both those with which JU has co-operated for a long time and with its new partners. Meetings with the latter focused on the details of the newly established agreements, especially the staff and student exchange. Our talks with colleagues from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Korea University, the National Chengchi University and Nagoya University of Foreign Studies concerned new forms of collaboration within the Erasmus+ Programme, double-degree programmes and other academic activities.

We were glad to meet JU potential partners, for example the University of Sains Malaysia, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea and Thammasat University, Thailand, which are the most prestigious universities in this region.

APAIE 2019 was also the time of signing three co-operation agreements between JU with the University of Malaya, Malesia, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and Soka University, Japan, as well as one Memorandum of Understanding with the University of



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Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre



A. Holub-Palonka, A. Jelonek, T. Ferakanita

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A student wearing her graduation gown



Indonesia. All of these agreements had been negotiated earlier with representatives of these institutions. It was Prof. Jelonek, representing the JU Rector, who signed the agreements of behalf of the Jagiellonian University, Prof. Young Zulina Zubairi, Associate Vice-Chancellor, University of Malaya; President Yoshihisa Baba, Soka University, President Bundhit Eua-arporn, Chulalongkorn University, Rector Muhammad Anis, University of Indonesia.

Our delegation participated in seminars on internationalisation: Mobility and Diversity: Developing Global Citizens, Transnational Higher Education and 21st Century Education.

On 29 March, the Polish representatives and Ambassador Dębnicki paid a visit to the University of Malaya. We were hosted by Prof. Kamila Ghazali, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Salmi Marsita Shaari, Head of the

International Student Centre, the other participants of the meeting being academics from different faculties of the University of Malaya. We discussed details of co-operation between our universities that would begin in the next academic year.

After the meetings that ended late afternoon, I had time for sightseeing. So I visited the most important monuments and other interesting places in the city that combines various cultures and nationalities. The district of Little India neighbours with equally noisy streets and monuments of China Town, and in its vicinity there is the Sultan Abdul Samad Jamek Mosque. I was extremely impressed by the skyscrapers contrasting with the 19th century buildings and ordinary blocks of flats. In order to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city, I visited one of the largest Bird Parks in the world. On its ca. 60 ha area you can forget that you stay in the centre of a 1.5 million city and admire the wonders of the world of nature. I must add that the local people were very friendly and helpful in showing me the way. I also met several students wearing their graduation gowns. No wonder, Kuala Lumpur is a university city.

Summing up, our participation is the APAIE conference and exhibition led to strengthening the JU ties with partner universities and establishing relationships with prestigious Asian universities. Recently JU has undertaken numerous activities to be visible on the Asian educational market.



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