

International Research Collaboration: The Strategies and Sustainability

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Sustaining international research collaborations is always a challenge due to the differences in culture, communications and gaps in research ecosystem between the collaborating parties. There are lots of suggestions, frameworks and ideas on creating international research collaboration as well as evaluating its achievement or impact. However, there are limitations in sustaining international research collaboration. Therefore, in this topic presentation we will give some ideas on how to sustain international research collaboration which consist of research administrator's roles and overview of strategies implemented at regional and institutional level. To increase the institutional visibility, there is a need to establish research collaborations with potential partners. The collaborations not limited between the institutions, but with the others such as government, industry at local and international level. The advantages of international collaborations not only for visibility purposes, but can also influence the research productivity between the counterparts. One of the strategies is to have a conducive research environment or platform for the researchers. Since the international collaborations may involve different work cultures and methods, home institutions must equipped the researchers in order to ensure the effort can be rationalized. Research environments may consist supports in terms of funding, research directions and goals, resources and personnel dedicated to assist the researchers. Successful research environment said to be the most influential predictors of research productivity. Networking or collaborative research work must also be supported by establishing specialized research fund scheme for existing and emerging research thrust. Developing a long term research-impact programme such as training or attachment between the counterparts also may be one of the effort to sustain the research collaboration. With that, the link not limited to individual personnel but stays at the institutions or partners.