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IMPLEMENTING RESEARCH IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN MALAYSIA

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Background



- In Malaysia, there are 109 HEIs comprising 20 public universities (including 5 RUs), 63 private universities, and 26 public university colleges.
- In addition to HEIs, there are 73 public research institutes (PRIs) from various ministries which were established since 1900.

Research Funders



- R&D funders in Malaysia are (i) federal, state, and local governments, (ii) business enterprises including government-linked companies (GLCs) and corporations (iii) private sectors and NGOs, and (iv) international agencies.
- The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) is the main agency for government research grants disbursement to public and private institutions and industry partners.
- The Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) is the major funder for HEIs, particularly for fundamental research and research universities block grants, as well as some pre-commercialisation, prototype grants.
- Other ministries also award grants, focusing on applied topics in agriculture, health, environment and others

Research Funds



In 2022, Malaysia's Finance Minister announced RM423 million allocation to the MOSTI and MOHE to intensify research and development (R&D) activities including RM295 million for public universities to continue their roles in the research ecosystem while encouraging collaborations with industry

Levels of Research Assessment





Project

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Requirements

- Human Capital Development
- Publications
- Intellectual Property
- Prototype

Institutional

• Standard Academic Performance Target (SAPT) • Key Performance Index (KPI)

Project-level Deliverables (KPI)



1. Human Capital Development

Master and PhD students and graduates, post-doc fellows, training of funders' employees

2. Publication

Research article in in refereed journals, proceedings, journal quartile, books, chapters in books

3. Intellectual Property (register at National or International level)

Patents, copyrights, industrial design, trademarks, product license, training modules

4. Prototype

Minimum Viable Product (MVP)

5. Others

Projects that address specific needs (eg. priority areas), reports and collaboration with certain target groups

Inception of Malaysian Research Universities (RU)



MURRENA ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH

5 Malaysian Research Universities (RU)



Universiti Malaya



Universiti Putra Malaysia



Universiti Teknologi Malaysia



Universiti Sains Malaysia



Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

FOUR PILLARS OF RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Research Prominence Talent Development Bridging the Grand Challenge Wealth Creation

Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA ®)



- MyRA[®] is a yearly assessment (1 Jan 31 Dec)
- Submission of data (Mac/April); subject to announcement by the Dept of Higher Education, MOHE.
- Upon submission, data goes through selfassessment & internal audit process.
- Internal Auditor appointed by Dept of Higher Education, MOHE
- Research University need to complete both MyRA [®] I & MyRA [®] II assessments.



Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA)



- The instrument quantitatively measures input and output, and some outcome and impact of Research, Development, Commercialization & Innovation (RDCI)
- Comprehensive RDCI data from each HEI is important for the authorities to develop and create the Ministry framework and National Higher Education policy.
- Research University block grants are determined by their MyRA score each year
- Other universities are required to be audited by MyRA in order to qualify to apply for various grants schemes under MOHE
- University colleges use MyRA to benchmark themselves for future upgrade

MyRA over the years





2005/2006

Development of Guideline/ Instrument for Assessment/ Establishment of RU 2012

Introduction of MyRA[®]II

2014

Glossary MyRA[®] (Amendment 2014) 2018

Glossary MyRA[®] (Amendment 2018)

Malaysian Research Assessment (MyRA)



- measures quantitatively
- input, output, outcome and impact
- Research, Development, Commercialization, Innovation (RDCI)

- research and innovation value chain

The advantages:-

- easily scored based on numbers
- gives a broad overview of the institution's achievement
- > comprehensive data of parameters for the entire institution / makes good enterprise data
- can be audited annually

Research Assessment



1. Quantitative

- Comprehensive, covering the P&I value chain horizontally (breadth)
- 2. Qualitative
 - Selected case reports, tracking underpinning studies that produce impact on beneficiaries

3. Research quality and integrity

- Quality of raw data sets (raw datasets), openness, transparency and sharing of data obtained, data integrity and data validity

Qualitative Impact Assessment



- beyond academic impact (h-index, citations), real impact, socio-economic impact
- narrative assessment qualitative in nature
- requires the deliberation of several evaluators
- confirmation (corroboration) from the beneficiary (third party)
- evidence of relevance to scientific research

Advantage:-

- > only selected cases are submitted for evaluation
- > small institutions have the opportunity to highlight strengths in certain areas
- evaluation based on long-term impact

Why Measure Research Impact?



- 1. Benefits and beneficiaries of research are tangible
- 2. Gives a sense of purpose to researchers
- 3. Every institution has the opportunity to excel in core areas

Proposed method for Impact measurement

- REF model (scaled down)
- Pilot report first not evaluated
- Starting the practice and culture



Looking at REF elements



- 1. REF does Not look at 100% researchers
- 2. Qualitative than quantitative
- 3. University can choose the cases to be submitted, based on "unit of assessment", i.e. the area of research
- 4. Impact based on the journey/story/narrative of a particular research (project/programme/topic), Not lumpsum report
- 5. Evaluation requires a deliberative process by more than 1 evaluator for each case report
- 6. Rubric for star rating

Thoughts for MyRA Impact Assessment



1. Based on WoS areas Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Engineering & Technology, OR

- 2. Based on STIE national economic areas
- 3. Universities to submit impact case reports based on the above areas
- 4. Format based on REF to start with

Proposed Definition of Impact for MyRA

The proposed 'Impact' definition for MyRA is as follows:



- a) Impact includes, but is not limited to, an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia.
- b) These may include changes in:-
 - the activity, attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding of an audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals in any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.
- c) Impact includes the reduction or prevention of harm, risk, cost or other negative effects.
- d) Impacts on research or the advancement of academic knowledge within the higher education sector (whether in the Malaysia or internationally) is assessed within category A F of MyRA.
- e) Impacts on students, teaching or other activities within the submitting HEI are excluded.
- f) Other impacts within the higher education sector, including on teaching or students, are included where they extend significantly beyond the submitting HEI.

Examples from REF 2014

Engineering



REF **Sciences** Impact case study (REF3b) Institution University of Cambridge Unit of Assessment: UoA6 Title of case study: A new MRSA emerging in human and bovine populations 1. Summary of the Impact (Indicative maximum 100 words) Research led by Dr Holmes has identified a novel variant of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in livestock. This represents a previously unidentified reservoir of infection which has had impact on the epidemiology of MRSA and its management. This research also impacts on **Medical Health** antibiotic use in agriculture and its role in the emergence of antibiotic resistance. As a consequence of these research findings commercial tests and testing protocols have been developed to detect the new MRSA variant, which are now used widely in clinical settings throughout Europe. The discovery has also been used to inform policy decisions at a governmental level in the USA and Europe. 2. Underpinning research (Indicative maximum 500 words) Staphiococcus aureus causes a wide range of diseases in humans and other animals, including bovine mastitis, a very common and economically significant disease of dairy herds. MRSA was first identified in 1961 and is distinguished by the fact that it contains a mecA gene, which encodes a penicilin-binding protein (PBP2a) with low affinity for β-lactam antibiotics and thus confers resistance to these antibiotics, which include methicillin. The mecA gene is located on a mobile staphylococcal cassette chromosome (SCC) forming SCCmec. MRSA can be sub-classified as hospital acquired (HA-MRSA), community acquired (CA-MRSA) or livestock associated (LA-MRSA); the last emerged in the early 2000s and provides a reservoir of infection for both farm animals and humans. From 2006 to 2010 Dr Mark Holmes (Senior Lecturer, Department of Veterinary Medicine from 1991 to the present) conducted a project, jointly funded by Defra and HEFCE, investigating the epidemiology of bovine mastitis. This research identified a novel isolate of S. aureus, which was phenotypically resistant to β-lactam antibiotics at levels that would normally identify it as MRSA despite testing negative for mecA or PBP2a using established tests¹. Further research, led by Dr Holmes, culminated in whole genome sequencing of this isolate (in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute) which found that the genetic basis for the β-lactam resistant phenotype was a novel mecA gene¹, provisionally named mecA_{LGA251} but since reclassified as mecc. mecc was located on a novel SCCmec (type XI). The failure to detect mecc using PCR was due to the low sequence conservation between mecA and mecC, with only 60% Identity at the DNA level and 63% similarity at the amino acid level. PCR primers were designed by Holmes in 2010 to enable detection of this new MRSA. Following the design of these new primers, a further 13 mecC MRSA isolates were found in a collection of 940 S. aureus isolates from 465 UK cattle herds which had submitted mastitic mlik samples to the UK Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA)¹. The AHVLA had aiready identified 24 of these isolates that had high levels of antibiotic resistance consistent with MRSA status, but were not identified as MRSA using established PCR assays (using specific primers for mecA) and a standard silde latex agglutination test (using a monocional antibody specific for the mecA-encoded PBP2a)1. These two tests were being used by the Health Protection Agency and other MRSA testing laboratories as 'gold standard' tests for MRSA at the time but they did not identify the mecC allele. Screening of mecA-negative MRSA isolated from humans from clinical disease and from MRSA screening, and from Scotland, England and Denmark, undertaken in 2010-11, in collaboration with national MRSA reference laboratories, identified a further 51 mecC isolates (still called mecALGA251 in the iterature at this time)¹. Strain typing of human and bovine isolates revealed an apparent spatial clustering, where isolates from the same geographical region were likely to share the same multi-locus sequence type (ST) or spa-type. All the isolates obtained from human samples had animal-associated STs, or were part of a cional complex whose founder was animal-associated Page 1

Impact case study (REF3b)	REF2014
Institution: Aston University	Research Escaliance Pharmoverk
Unit of Assessment: 15: General Engineering	
Title of case study: Advanced fluid flow modelling improves the efficience	w of industrial humans
	y or madeatar barriero
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words) Using advanced mathematics and numerical modeiling we have demonst understanding of laminar-turbulent transitions in fluid flows can save ener helped the cleantech company, Maxsys Fuel Systems Ltd, to understand technology and demonstrate to customers how it can reduce fuel use by i including Ford Motor, Dow Chemical and Findus testify to the impact from reduced carbon emissions obtained by installing Maxsys products on indi widely in many industrial sectors including automotive, built chemicals an Heat Technology Company bought the Maxsys brand to invest in this suc	gy. From 2008 we and Improve their 5–8%. Customers 1 financial savings and ustrial burners used d food. In 2010, Selas
2. Underpinning research (Indicative maximum 500 words)	
Nature of research insights Since the early 2000's, we (Generalis and the team at Aston University) in cutting-edge techniques to analyse the effects of turbulence on fluid mixin in-house deterministic modelling tools can pinpoint the transition between irregular turbulent flow (key references 3.1-3.2). In our unique approach, basic uniform laminar flow and the infinitesimal disturbances that promote into turbulence. We then solve for the disturbances by expanding orthoge harmonic expressions. This allows us to identify rapidly the nature of the bifurcates sequentially from the laminar state (3.1-3.3).	ng and energy transfer. I uniform laminar and we separate the flow into the descent of the flow anal polynomials as
Flows subject to internal forces, which occur in a number of industrial app especially complex challenge in fluid dynamics. We modelled the interpla driven by volumetric heating, inertial forces driven by either a constant flu constant pressure gradient (open system), and the viscous forces which (bfurcates (3.1, 3.2). These models have contributed fundamental knowle transition to turbulence of volumetrically-heated flows, allowing us to addr problems.	y between buoyant forces x (closed system) or a destabilise the flow as it dge regarding the
Models for Poiseuille flow were essential to the success of the R&D proje Systems Ltd (3.1, 3.2). We extended the work on volumetric heating to in Hagen-Poiseuille flow in pipes. This enabled us to specify the optimal ori and the influence they had on the flow, thus allowing significant improver of industrial burners to be realised.	clude magnetic forces in entation of the magnets
This breakthrough in energy saving was the direct outcome of an EPSRC with Maxsys, in which PhD student Ben Tocher (2007-11) developed nur the influence of the magnetic field on the flow in the pre-combustion treat The development built on several years of international collaboration focu elusive structures at the heart of turbulence. Working with Prof Fujimura (Japan, Generalis had assessed the limits of modelling techniques used to to turbulence (3.1-3.3). Generalis and itano (Visiting Scholar) later confin halpin vortex structure using the models and techniques thus developed fundamental insights were essential to the modelling for Maxsys because the that Generalis' code could be applied and the appropriate techniques used in transition region of turbulent flow in pipes. Following these ploneering work: eight grants including two Marie-Curie Fellowships (Nos. 274367 & 29868) Leverhulme Trust project grant (RPG-410, ~£175k with PI Dr Yassir Maki) Professorship (No. 22195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEng Distinguished Visiting Fellowships (Nos. 2195, £72k) and a RAEn	nerical models to tackle er of the Maxsys burner. used on understanding of Tottori University, o characterise transitions med the existence of a (3.4, 3.5). These ey contributed to the extent the search of the s, Generalis was awarded 31, ~550k€), a kawl), a Visiting ow. All these initiatives

Examples from REF 2014



Impact case study (REF3b)

Institution:

The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London

Unit of Assessment:

35: Music, Dance, Drama, and Performing Arts

Title of case study:

The Professional Development of Theatre Sound

1. Summary of the Impact (Indicative maximum 100 words)

Ross Brown's research has been instrumental in shaping theatre sound into a specialist discipline in its own right. It has influenced the practices, organisation and status of sound within professional theatre. Constructing a dialogue with a potentially hostile theatre industry over two decades, Brown's central formulation of a 'dramaturgy of sound' has changed the ways in which theatre professionals, independent artists, academics and specialist students think about and work with sound. In doing so it has helped make sound design a more central artistic consideration of theatre production and thus raised its profile in the industry.

2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words)

Brown began as lecturer in sound design at Central in 1994 and his research has three main phases. Phase 1, 1996-2001, saw research done as creative practice in professional settings. Noting the impact of emerging technologies in the early 90s it explored the potential erasure of category distinctions between music and sound effect. Conceiving of theatre sound as composition, Brown sought to establish the terms on which the auditory experience of theatre may be modelled as a coherent designed whole, as in scenography. This was noted in Susannah Clapp's Observer review of an early piece of his creative practice as research: 'One of the distinctive features of *I Am Yours* [at the Royal Court Upstairs] ... is the creation of a scenery of noise' (output 1). This led to the formulation of the concept of a 'dramaturgy of sound'. In order for this to make a difference to industry practice it had to be comprehensible by that industry, so it was initially tested in specifically industry-based contexts and publications: presentations for Tonmeister Association conference (Germany 1998), professional sound seminar at the Theatre Academy of Finland (Helsinki and Stockhoim 1998) and publications in trade journals. This testing in industry settings was to continue.

Phase 2, 2001-2006, began with a colloquium which drew industry professionals together with academics. It saw a concentration on the research's theoretical implications, with more dissemination in specifically academic contexts. Drawing on discourses from dramaturgy, musicology and aural phenomenology (outputs 1 and 2), the concept of 'dramaturgy of sound' questioned both the dominance of visuality in design and the compartmentalising of sound as purely 'technical' practice. At the same time there was focus on shaping the appropriate mode of articulating and documenting the concept. Brown was one of the earliest academics to develop new forms of artefact-based reflective documentation. These were described by the RAE 2001 report as 'a model for practice for the unit of assessment'. From here research experiments in documentation of process were aligned with the industry's interest in presenting artefacts of sound design within the format of the design exhibition. The results were offered for commentary in 2005 at the academic PARIP conference (Leeds) (output 3) and the industry-run World Stage Design Exhibition (Toronto), where Brown's documentary artefact won a bronze medal. This work of documentation was collected by the British Library's Sheffield Theatre Archive project and paved the way for sound's arrival as a scenographic element on equal terms with the visual, a moment and particular survey and as a scenographic element on equal terms with the visual, a moment and the way for sound's arrival as a scenographic element on equal terms with the visual, a moment and particular survey as a scenographic element on equal terms with the visual. **Social Sciences**

Music & Arts



Languages



contributions from leading academics from history, art history, material culture, and literature. Together the essays moved the study of Henry VIII beyond moralising about the King's actions, towards a wider assessment of the impact of Henry and his courtiers on politos, culture and religious change in the period. Lipscomb's essay in this collection furthered the study of influential individuals at the court by reconsidering the fail of Anne Boleyn as a crisis in Henry VIII's masculinity, an argument she also promulgated in a popular study, 1536: The Year that Changed Henry VIII (2009) [4].

Henry VIII: Heads and Hearts', the visitor experience at HCP, drew directly on Betteridge's, Lipscomb's and Longfeliow's findings, and thus in itself provided a new research model for how the humanities can inform public engagement with heritage institutions. As described in section 4 below, Lipscomb acted as a research advisor for every aspect of 'Henry VIII: Heads and Hearts'. This project also generated new research findings. Most significantly, Lipscomb's cultural research revealed how the Privy Council of Henry's closest advisors worked in practice. Lipscomb recounted the research findings of this experiment in translating cultural research into public engagement in an article in *The Public Historian* [4].

3. References to the research

 Thomas Betteridge, Tudor Histories of the English Reformation (Ashgate, 1999) (peer-reviewed and published by a highly-regarded independent academic press)

[2] Thomas Betteridge, Literature and Politics in the English Reformation (Manchester UP, 2004) (peer-reviewed and published by a highly-regarded university press)

REF201

Section B2. Underpinning research



This section with indicative maximum of 500 words should outline the key research insights or findings that underpinned the impact, and provide details of what research was undertaken, when, and by whom.

This research may be a body of work produced over a number of years or may be the output(s) of a particular project.

References to specific research outputs that embody the research described in this section, and evidence of its quality, should be provided in the next section.

Details of the following should be provided in this section:

- The nature of the research insights or findings which relate to the impact claimed in the case study.
- An outline of what the underpinning research produced by the submitted unit was (this may relate to one or more research outputs, projects or programmes).
- Any relevant key contextual information about this area of research.

Section B3. **References to the research**



This section with indicative maximum of six references should provide references to key outputs and evidence about the quality of the research. Underpinning research outputs may include various range of types and are not limited to printed academic work.

All forms of output cited as underpinning research will be considered equitably, with no one type of output being preferred over others.

Include the following details for each cited output:

- author(s)
- title
- year of publication
- type of output and other relevant details required to identify the output (eg. DOI, journal title and issue)

Evidence of the quality of the research must also be provided in this section. Details of key research grants or end of grant reports, the following should be provided:

- who the grant was awarded to
- the grant title
- sponsor
- period of the grant (with dates)
- value of the grant.

Section B4. Details of the impact



This section with indicative maximum of 750 words should provide a narrative, with supporting evidence, to explain: • how the research underpinned (made a distinct and material contribution to) the impact;

- the nature and extent of the impact. The following should be provided:
- A clear explanation of the process or means through which the research led to, underpinned or made a contribution to the impact (for example, how it was disseminated, how it came to influence users or beneficiaries, or how it came to be exploited, taken up or applied).
- Where the submitted unit's research was part of a wider body of research that contributed to the impact (for example, where there has been research collaboration with other institutions), the case study should specify the particular contribution of the submitted unit's research and acknowledge other key research contributions.
- Details of the beneficiaries who or what community, constituency or organisation has benefitted, been affected or impacted on.
- Details of the nature of the impact how they have benefitted, been affected or impacted on.
- Evidence or indicators of the extent of the impact described, as appropriate to the case being made.
- Dates of when these impacts occurred.

Section B5. Sources to corroborate the impact



This section with indicative maximum of ten references should list sources of external, provide corroboration of specific claims made in the case study.

This section should list sufficient sources that could corroborate key claims made about the impact of the unit's research.

These could include, as appropriate to the case study, the following external sources of corroboration (stating which claim each source provides corroboration for):

- Reports, reviews, web links or other documented sources of information in the public domain.
- Confidential reports or documents.
- Individual users/beneficiaries.
- Factual statements already provided to the higher education institution system by key users/beneficiaries, that corroborate specific claims made in the case study.



Proposed incorporation of impact in MyRA

I1. Institution's Readiness and Commitment to Realizing and Supporting Impact



- (i) research grants that emphasize on impact,
- (ii) research communication,
- (iii) programmes to track past research if more support is needed to realize impact
- (iv) programmes to engage with stakeholders
- (v) training on pathway to impact
- 12. Breadth of researchers engaged in realizing impact beyond academia

(1) bilangan penyelidik yang menjadi PI untuk geran yang menekankan impak secara explicit (indirectly checking if the university has any initiative to create such grants)
(2) bilangan penyelidik yang berjaya menterjemahkan (translate) penyelidikan ke dunia luar

- (3) taburan penyelidik dalam (2) dari segi tahap kerjaya awal, pertengahan, akhir (early, mid- and later career levels)
- 13. Selected Impact Case Reports

University to select projects/programmes to be submitted as case reports (format TBD) - emphasize on testimony by beneficiaries (Capped at 3 reports per year max)



Advantages



- Benefits to the society can be seen
- Instil the culture of seeing the research through to the next stage
- Universities can highlight their areas of strength
- Small institutions have the opportunities to show their niche and expertise
- Funders can see research performance across the board

Steps in implementation



Some questions:-

- Who to evaluate?
- How long will it take?
- How far back do we go?

Capacity building – evaluators, institutions, researchers, RMAs



How about assessing research quality?

Research Quality



- The value of research depends on the quality of the research
- Quality research produces quality data
- Refers to raw data (raw datasets)

- Research data sets quality, validity, integrity
- How do we measure?
- Starts with data sharing open science





GOAL

To collect and consolidate Malaysia's research data in a platform that would enable accessibility and sharing of these research data in accordance to the FAIR principle

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

To study the landscape and awareness of Open Science based on selected indicators (Available Policies, Number of Repositories, Skill Capacity and Infrastructure Capacity).

Draft National Policy & Guideline on Open Science in Malaysia.

Develop one technical specification document and to establish and deploy the MOSP Pilot Platform involving five research universities in Malaysia.

Create awareness about Open Science among local communities.

Develop a localized training module on Open Science for data stewards, which will be the guideline to train and upscale trainers (especially librarians) into Data Stewards.

MOSP FOCUS AREAS National Policy & Guidelines Materials Materi



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Moving forward



- The need to balance metrics with qualitative assessment
- Impact is important but how to measure impact and how to implement?
- Early stage of Open Science advocating sharing of datasets, FAIR principle, data quality, interoperability



Malaysia Association of Research Managers and Administrators (MyRMA)



THANK YOU





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https://umresearch.um.edu.my/