



Training Experience on International Strategies at Vilnius University & Outline of HEIs Internationalization Plans

Than Zaw Oo (University of Yangon)

Toolkit and Chinlone National Workshop

Yangon University Research Centre

11 January 2020

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





University Of Yangon

Mission to renovate and upgrade

Founded in 1920

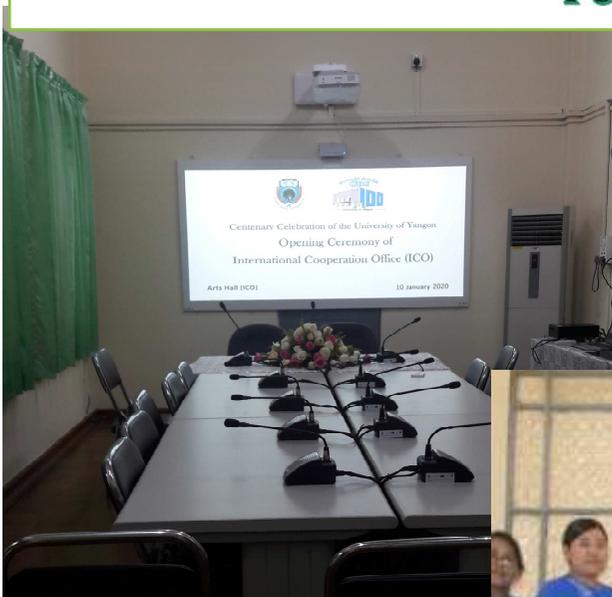


University Avenue Road, Kamayut Township 11041, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: +95-1 527067 Fax: +95-1 510721 Email: info@uy.edu.mm

University is going through a process of revitalization and involved in HE development programs that will create a flagship university for the future development of the country.

INTERNATIONALIZATION: AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN EDUCATION SECTOR TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORKS

Centenary Celebration of the University of Yangon
Opening Ceremony of International Cooperation Office (ICO)
10 Jan 2020





TOOLKIT - DESIGNING AND MANAGING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, EDUCATIONAL PROJECT AND MOBILITY SCHEMES IN ASIAN UNIVERSITIES

TOOLKIT is a three years (2018-2021) international project **co-funded by the European Union in the frame of Erasmus+ Capacity Building Key Action 2** the field of higher education

TOOLKIT's main aim is the enhancement and modernization of the internationalization strategies pursued by Asian universities, especially in terms of the capabilities displayed by the university governance and IRO staff in building up an “Asian way” to internationalization.

<https://site.unibo.it/toolkit>

Workshop on International Relations Strategies In the framework of Erasmus+ CB project “Toolkit” (7-11 Oct 2019) @ Vilnius University

Objective of workshop activities:

To support Asian partners in developing a strategy of internationalization, sharing EU good practices & focusing our own characteristics

- Univ. of Yangon
- YU of Economics
- Yezin Agriculture Univ



Vilnius Training: experience learned



- Learned the internationalization strategies of Bologna, Uppsala and Vilnius Universities which is very supportive to set the internationalization strategies of UY



- Learned the role/importance of the academic/non-academic community involvement, language issues in internationalization process



Vilnius Training: experience learned



- The inspirational talk of the president of the student union at Vilnius University about the Students as drivers for internationalization and how they overcome the challenges and get the solution is interesting and informative.



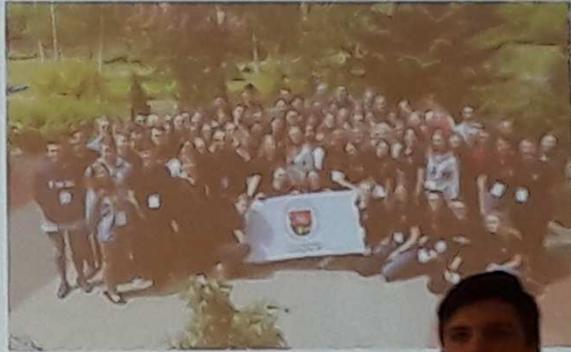
Who am I and why am I here?

- **Student** of Quality management (Master's degree)
- **Student** of Management and business administration (Bachelor's degree).
- **Chairman** of Vilnius University Students' Representation faculty of Economics and business administration.
- **President** of Vilnius University Students' Representation
- **Student representative** at the University Council



Vilnius University Students' Representation (VU SA)

- Represents the interests of **all students of VU**.
- Creates an environment for independence and improvement.
- Defends the rights of students in VU and beyond.
- Ensures the quality of studies.
- Takes care of social welfare.



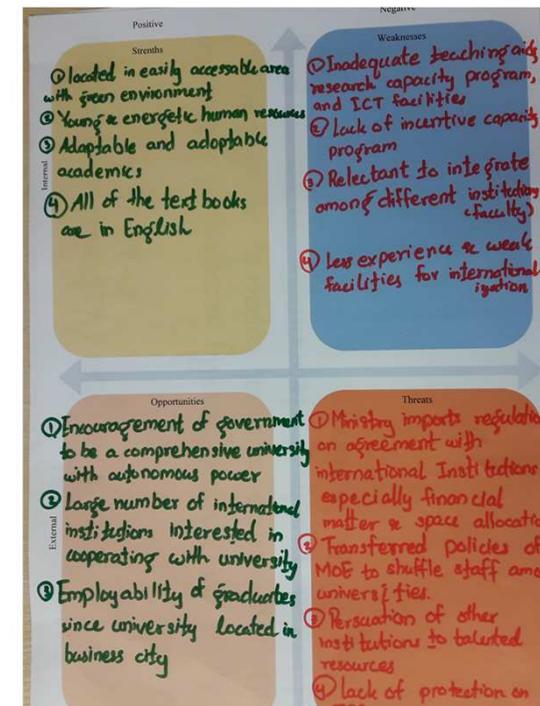
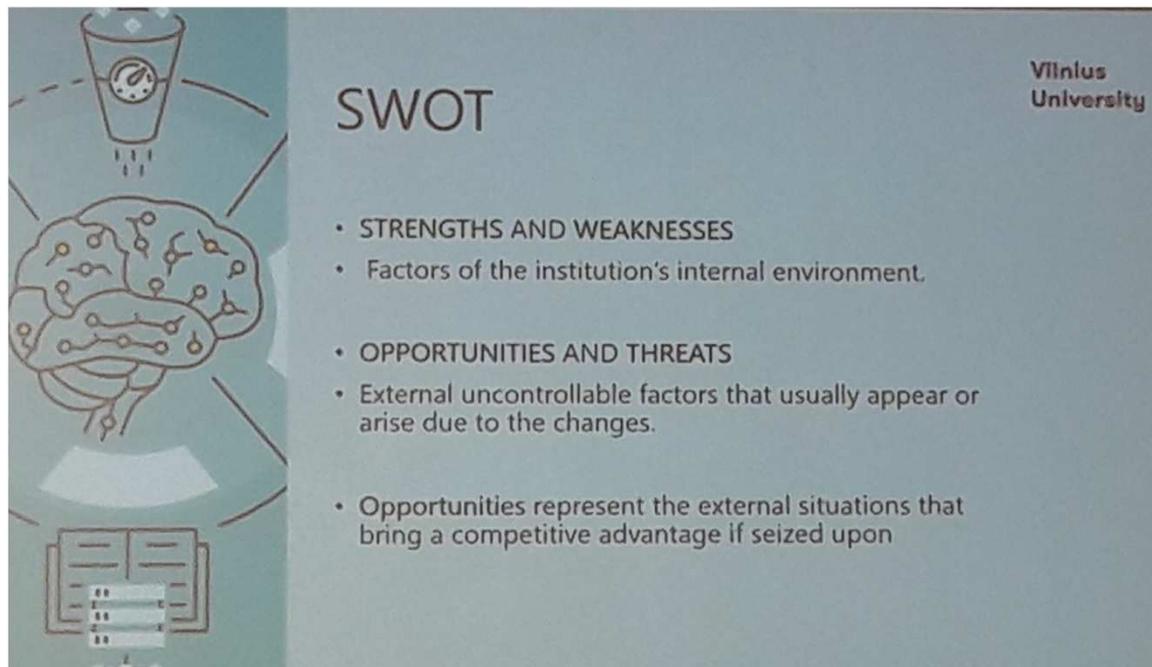
A group photo of the Vilnius University Students' Representation (VU SA) members, consisting of a large group of students standing outdoors in front of a building, holding a banner with the university's logo.



Vilnius Training: experience learned



- The interactive session on SWOT provided us invaluable experiences and effective guidance in assessing our university's current position prior to plan a new strategy.



SWOT ANALYSIS: Internationalization Strategy



STRENGTHS

1. Located in easily accessible area with green environment in business city
2. Young & energetic human resources
3. Adaptable & adoptable academicians
4. Prescribed textbooks in English
5. Accommodation for international scholars and students

WEAKNESSES

1. Inadequate teaching and research capacity program & ICT facilities
2. Insufficient incentive programs for skilled personnel
3. Reluctant to integrate among different institutions (faculties)
4. Lack of experience & weak facilities for internationalization.



SWOT ANALYSIS: Internationalization Strategy



OPPORTUNITIES

1. Encouragement of government to be a comprehensive university with autonomous power
2. Large number of international institutions interested in cooperating with university
3. Employability of graduates due to location of university in business city

THREATS

1. Ministry imposes regulations on agreement with international institutions especially financial matters & space allocation
2. Transfer policy of MOE to shuffle the staff among universities
3. Persuasion of other institutions to talented resources
4. Lack of protection of IPR



Strategy action lines derived from SWOT



1. To build up staff & student capacity
2. To develop internationalization strategy
3. To develop infrastructure
4. To promote good university governance



ACTION PLAN

(1) To Enhance Staff & Student Capacity

N o.	Activity	Responsible dept./ office/person	Success indicator	Due date	Resources required (staff, tech, fin. Etc.)
1. To enhance staff and student capacity					
1.1	To organize workshop/ conference/trainings (local & international)	Respective faculty	2 international, 3 local in each faculty per year	Every year	Faculty coordinator, IRO, University budget, funded organizations
1.2	To review & upgrade curriculum & syllabus with a more comprehensive & career-oriented vision	Department and faculty curriculum committee & experts	Board of Study Meeting	Every two years	Faculty coordinator, IRO, University budget, updated reference books
1.3	To stimulate & support innovative & cross-disciplinary research initiative & project	Centers for research & innovation, respective faculty	At least 2 research projects & 10 peer review publication in each faculty	Every year	Researcher, university budget, funded organization
1.4	To recruit & develop talented academics with merit-based mechanisms	Respective faculty, administrative board	40 persons of each faculty per year	Every year	Faculty level, selection committee & experts, university Budget
1.5	To enhance English language proficiency	Self-study, responsible department, English native speakers	2 courses per year	Every year	Volunteered native speakers, university budget, funded organization

ACTION PLAN (HEI Intl' Plans)



(2) To Set Up Internationalization Strategy

No.	Activity	Responsible dept./ office/person	Success indicator	Due date	Resources required (staff, tech, fin. Etc.)
2. To set up Internationalization strategy					
2.1	Students and faculty exchange	Respective department and IRO	5 exchange program in faculty per year	Every Year	University budget and development partners
2.2	Internationally transferrable credit system	Student affair, both home and host institutes			Register's office, credit system
2.3	Internationally accredited study programs	Respective department, QA department			AUN-QA framework & NAQAC framework
2.4	Collaborate with international institutions for teaching, research and development	Respective faculty, center for research and innovation, IRO	2 international project for every year	Every Year	Researcher, research partners and funds, post-graduate students

ACTION PLAN



(3) To Develop Infrastructure

No.	Activity	Responsible dept./ office/person	Success indicator	Due date	Resources required (staff, tech, fin. Etc.)
3. To develop Infrastructure					
3.1	Modernize the ICT infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IT department ▪ Administration board 	Modernized & efficient equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IT professionals ▪ Univ. Budget ▪ Development partners
3.2	Upgrade the campus and facilities as a vibrant place for learning, collaboration, personal growth, everyday life of students and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administration board ▪ Respective faculties ▪ Engineers and campus development department 	At least, 1 activity per week	Regular activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engineers ▪ Admin staff ▪ Univ. budget ▪ Regional government

ACTION PLAN



(4) To Promote Good University Governance

No.	Activity	Responsible dept./ office/person	Success indicator	Due date	Resources required (staff, tech, fin. Etc.)
4. To promote Good University Governance					
4.1	Develop a system of governance supported by solid structure and professional capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">University councilRespective Faculty			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Academic Board (Univ. Senate)Administration boardUniv. Budget
4.2	Develop and promote the institutional autonomy in academic affairs, organization, staffing and financial administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">University councilRespective Faculty			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Academic Board (Univ. Senate)Administration boardUniv. Budget

Recommendations for the development of internationalization strategy

- More projects to support the enhancement of international relations in **all universities** across Myanmar
- More projects to support the faculty exchange programs and student mobility programs.
- Projects providing a chance of acquiring the exchange views among students' unions of different universities



Thank You



Vision

To be a leading higher educational institution of excellence and as a Flagship University in Myanmar on par with regional counterparts in line with the international trends

Mission

- To create a vibrant and student-friendly environment conducive to learning and to holistic development of the students
- To provide high quality and effective programs that prepare graduates with the required knowledge, skills and proper attitudes to support the development of Myanmar
- To expand the frontiers of knowledge by developing research culture and academic collaborations