

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER #2

July 2015

// HOT TOPICS

The INTERWEAVE project officially started in July 2013 and will last until July 2017. We are now entering the midway point of this EU-Asia partnership project. The 146 fellows selected for the 1st batch are now in Europe or Asia, experiencing their new lives, learning from the difference of academic and cultural traditions, exchanging our common goals, building step by step a long-term and sustainable cooperation between our countries and continents.

Nepal

INTERWEAVE project and the world has been deeply touched by the earthquake in Nepal. This event reminded us how important solidarity is and the urgent need of scientific exchange to develop more and more solutions to deal with natural events. INTERWEAVE mobility will help developing knowledge in engineering that will be more important than ever to rebuild sustainable cities, able to better withstand natural disasters.

Spring and summer

You will also discover in this newsletter some pictures of our community experimenting spring in their new environment.

Enjoy your summer!

The INTERWEAVE coordination team

Second call for applications : results announced in April 2015!

Congratulations to the 21 selected students and staff in the framework of the INTERWEAVE project - Cohort 2. You will have the chance to undertake a mobility in one of the best European Higher Education Institution, partner of the project. Thank you for applying ! *See more details on this issue*

INTERWEAVE photo contest

THANK YOU all for your outstanding participation in this photo contest and congratulations every one for the beautiful pictures which were posted. The winner of the INTERWEAVE photo contest is:

Siva Prasad Nandyala, postdoctorate at Politecnico di Milano, with his awesome photomontage: My New life !

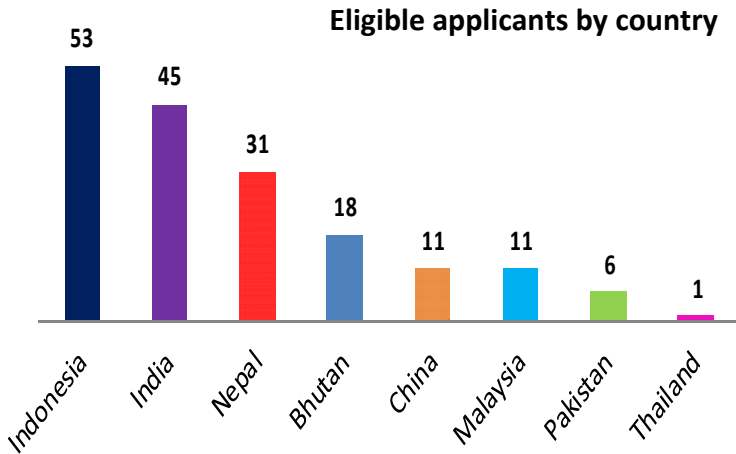
Congratulations! He received more than 400 likes and 62 comments!



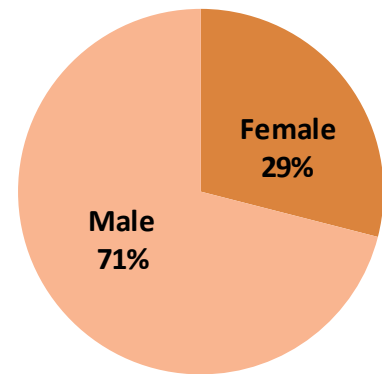
// STATISTICS COHORT 2

Cohort 1 : 1001 candidates have applied. 146 grantees were selected. All Master level scholarships were granted.

Cohort 2 : 226 candidates have applied for the exchange mobility still available. After the administrative checking by the Coordination Team, the total number of eligible applicants was 176. According to the remaining budget and the call requirements, 21 scholarships were awarded.



Eligible applicants by gender



European Union & INTERWEAVE are strongly involved in sustaining the growth, the structuration of developing countries.

INTERWEAVE projects is strongly willing to encourage female in engineering and sciences. For this cohort, the very good rate of 29% has been reached.

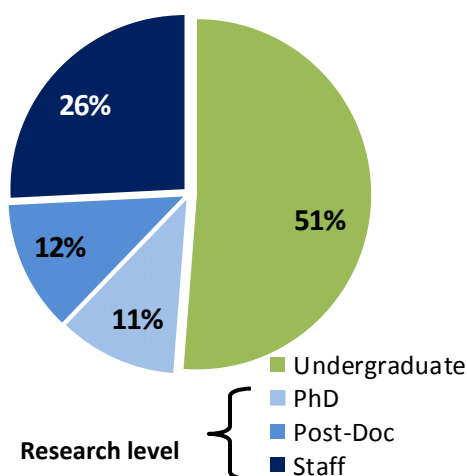
Group A refers to the least developed regions (according to the United Nations Development Programme -UNDP- Human Development Index -HDI- ranking).

Cohort 2 : 31% of applications from Group A : Bhutan, Nepal Pakistan were received, mostly coming from Nepal.

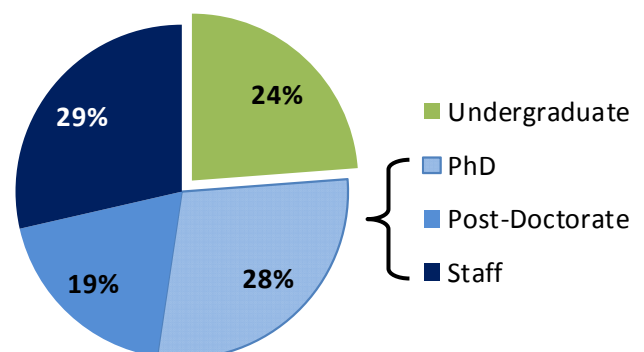
Total number of Group A participants selected, with Cohort 1 and Cohort 2, now reached 32 %

In the fields of Science and Engineering, the INTERWEAVE partner countries count from 20 to 30% female students as stated by the UNESCO. For Cohort 1 and Cohort 2, the rate of female selected also achieved 29%

Eligible applicants by level



Selected grantees by level



3/4 of the selected grantees for Cohort 2 belong to the research level. They will contribute to build this future together.

Research level grantees (PhD, Post-Doc, Staff) are essential for the sustainability of research, academic and administrative cooperations between partners and countries, during and after the INTERWEAVE project.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

“Student Exchange isn’t a year in our life, but life in a year” That quote express the most of my feelings about this experience. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, that is the name of my hosting university in Interweave Erasmus Mundus Student Exchange Program. Even though I have been here for around 6 months, but all the things I have got is more than just great, It is priceless.

The experience has started at September 12th, fly from Jakarta, Indonesia to Thessaloniki Greece for around 17 hours on the air. Literally poles apart from the education system in Indonesia, The education system in Greece and most of European country forces me to become an independent student. Because the learning process can happens anywhere. Not only inside the class, I can study with no borders of time. Meet the lecturer’s personally, Laboratory Study, and every other things so unique that can broaden my



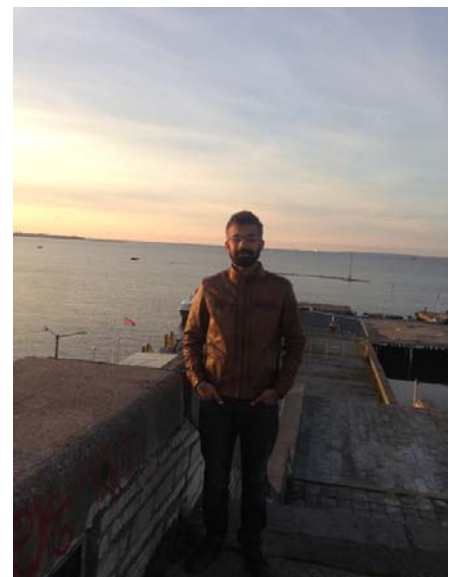
Greece is the place that bring you the brand new atmosphere like no other European countries bring. As we all know, this country is the place where the past was born and the future begins. The ruins of this country’s incredible civilizations scattered everywhere around the country. The beautiful island and pleasant blue beach can be found in no time. The weather in here is fairly good which is no extremely cold winter like found in some other European countries. At the end of my mobility, most of my friends reminded me that this is not it ends, but this is just the beginning. Thank you very much Interweave Erasmus Mundus for helping me developing the best of myself. Last time I call myself the citizen of Indonesia, now I call myself the citizen of the world.

Georgi Ferdwindra, Undergraduate student from Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Indonesia

Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

Interweave is a very good opportunity to explore and study at the same time, if you are curious about different cultures, want to break the mould of your usual life and study then I would recommend TUT. My program 'Design and Engineering' is an ambitious program that has combined people from so many different disciplines under one roof , so far I am very happy with the results and the studies, its project based, hands on approach is the thing that I always wanted. Estonia has been gifted with natural beauty and they have created an ecosystem of IT around it. When they say that you can go to a forest and have WiFi, they mean it. And lastly Estonia is a rising nation, if you want to ride the wave, then this is the place to be.

Mahan Hafiz, full Master in Design and Engineering from University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, Pakistan



Cardiff Metropolitan University, U.K

United Kingdom - one of the renowned countries which provides first-class education and I believe it is a dream of many people to study here. It was always my dream and I never expect that it could happen in my life. I was thoroughly overwhelmed with excitement, anticipation and enthusiasm when I was being accepted as one of the INTERWEAVE's grantees to pursue my Bachelor in Environmental Health at Cardiff Metropolitan University, U.K.

Initially, I experienced a hundred and eighty degree turn in their learning environment. Their interactive learning is what amazed me where students will take the initiative to participate and fully engaged throughout the class. They do early preparation, understand a certain new topic and share their thoughts and insights with the whole class. All the lecturers are very friendly, approachable and teach with a conversational tone that encourage students' participation. Speaking in class is a norm and everyone is expected to do it. Besides, group discussion will be conducted in every lesson to promote students' critical thinking and express their ideas within a small group. Another ways of teaching which motivated me is I get to learn from my own mistakes. Lecturers will give constructive feedbacks or face-to-face

interaction personally about your ward's performance in every assignment and exam. The grading is very transparent as there is a balance between marks and advises for improvement. However, sometimes you should expect to get a grade lower than you usually achieved in your country because their marking criteria is really strict and every mark counts.



Moving to the context about cultural differences, I am always well-prepared and excited to meet new people from diversities of backgrounds. Their English accent and speedy speaking struggled me to pay full attention when I was talking to them in order to catch every single bit of words. As a Malaysian studying in UK, understanding their cultural is a must but interestingly, I also have the chance to mingle with people around the globe. I am delighted to be a flatmate of 8 students from 5 different countries and I sincerely hope that this friendship will remain forever.

This one year exchange program has ultimately widen my exposure, enhanced my knowledge, broadened my social networking and altered my personal's thought and mind-set to plan my bright future. I am confident to say that this exchange program has created a good starting point for me before I step into the real working environment. My deepest gratitude and appreciation to Interweave, providing me with this once in a lifetime opportunity to explore, engage and upgrade myself at Cardiff Metropolitan University. I believe the success in my life in the near future is partially comes from the motivation and inspiration that I have picked up along the journey of my own personal growth and development in the United Kingdom. THANK YOU, INTERWEAVE!!!

Nguk Chin Eu, Undergraduate student, from University of Malaya, Malaysia

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

I never thought that I would have the opportunity to make my childhood dream- to travel in Europe comes true at such a young age. It was an incredible and amazing experience that you can never imagine.



Interweave program allowed me to gain a truly 'international education' experience in University of Thessaloniki, Greece by experiencing a totally different learning system and cultures of the European countries. At the beginning, I did face some culture shock as people in Greece practise a completely different lifestyle and culture as compared to people in my country, Malaysia. For instance, in terms of education, students use their mother tongue, which is Greek (I could not understand at all at the beginning) instead of English during lessons. In terms of their lifestyle, they live in a more relaxing pace as compared to Malaysia's busy and bustling life. The people in Thessaloniki are surprisingly much friendlier, nicer and more passionate than I thought.

Due to the short mobility period, I only managed to experience fall and winter season. Well, I am very grateful for that as people living in a country like Malaysia are impossible to feel and enjoy the sense and beauty of the 4 different seasons. Reminiscing the first time when I saw snow during my hiking tour with other Erasmus scholars really made me excited and happy. Living under a hot and humid weather for the past 20 years, I really loved and missed the cooling weather in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Thanks to University of Thessaloniki that I was given a chance to attend a 2- weeks intensive Greek language course during my mobility for free. I really appreciate the chance given as Greek Language is a whole new extra knowledge for me. People in Malaysia rarely learn Greek as many people out there said that Greek is one of the toughest languages to learn in the world. Well, I am proud that I've made it.



The best part of this program is that I met a lot of new and interesting friends from all over the world including people from other Europe countries such as France, Germany, Holland, Belgium and Italy, people from other Asia countries such as China, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Indonesia and people from other parts of the world. Knowing them built up my networking and I am glad that I still keep in touch with some friends even I am back to Malaysia. My knowledge on diverse cultures and lifestyle has also been widen and broaden as we shared our respective unique lifestyle among each other whenever we could.

Travelling around the world may be possible when a person is successful in his or her career in future, but the experience that one can gain as an exchange student will definitely be a totally special and commendable moment in life in which not each and everyone of us can experience it. Even though I did face obstacles and difficulties during the preparation of my mobility (Visa application), but this is still the best decision that I have ever made that brings no regrets in my life. Lastly, thank you very much for Erasmus Mundus Interweave program and University of Thessaloniki, Greece for the wonderful and irreplaceable experience and moments that I have gained in my life.

Joanne Chua Xiao Ping, Undergraduate student in Civil Engineering, from University of Malaya, Malaysia

Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

Tallinn University of Technology, (TTU) is the flagship of Estonian engineering and technology education. Creating a synergistic learning and research environment positions TTU as a global university. Of paramount importance to the cultivation of synergies is the university community composed of 8 faculties, 5 colleges and the Innovation and Business Centre MEKTORY (Modern Estonian Knowledge Transfer Organization for You), and collectively empowered to facilitate such endeavours.

Located in the area of scenic beauty, TTU is the only campus-type university in the Baltic countries and one of the most compact university campuses in Europe. There is always something exciting happening at TTU campus of 55.5 hectares – scientific discoveries and experiments, new technologies and products, important lectures and conferences, as well as many communal activities, cultural and sports events.

The main aim of TTU is to increase the international dimension in its studies, research and development activities in cooperation with strategic partners, as well as international benchmarking universities like Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden and Aalto University in Finland.

Founded in 1918, TTU is charged with the mission to create and intermediate values that secure Estonia's development in the globalised world. TTU degrees are highly regarded worldwide. According to labour market studies, most successful career makers in Estonia are TTU alumni. They are holding a broad range of positions from entrepreneurs, executives, top specialists and experts, government officials, politicians to other prestigious occupations.

For more information follow this link:

www.ttu.ee/en



Universidade Do Porto, Portugal

The U.PORTO is one of the largest higher education and research institutions in Portugal with around 31,700 students, 2,500 academics and researchers and 1,700 administrative staff.

It has 14 Faculties, 1 Business School and 60 Research Units located in 3 campuses within Porto. U.PORTO is the 1st choice of around 24% of the PT applicants to the public Higher Education System and is also the leading producer of science in Portugal, responsible for 23% of the scientific articles produced in the country (annual growth rate of 14% since 2006). Its research labs' contribution is crucial for the results of the scientific production, namely in the fields of health and life sciences; engineering/technology; natural sciences; agricultural and veterinarian sciences and education. U.PORTO provides a vast academic offer in all fields of study with more than 600 degrees at undergraduate, master and doctoral levels as well as professional training programmes.

For more information follow this link:

www.up.pt



Tsinghua University, China

Tsinghua University was established in 1911, originally under the name "Tsinghua Xuetang". The school was renamed "Tsinghua School" in 1912. The university section was founded in 1925. The name "National Tsinghua University" was adopted in 1928.

The faculty greatly valued the interaction between Chinese and Western cultures, the sciences and humanities, the ancient and modern. Tsinghua scholars Wang Guowei, Liang Qichao, Chen Yinque and Zhao Yuanren, renowned as the "Four Tutors" in the Institute of Chinese Classics, advocated this belief and had a profound impact on Tsinghua's later development.

At present, the university has 14 schools and 56 departments with faculties in science, engineering, humanities, law, medicine, history, philosophy, economics, management, education and art. The University has now over 25,900 students, including 13,100 undergraduates and 12,800 graduate students. As one of China's most renowned universities, Tsinghua has become an important institution for fostering talent and scientific research.

The educational philosophy of Tsinghua is to "train students with integrity." Among over 120,000 students who have graduated from Tsinghua since its founding are many outstanding scholars, eminent entrepreneurs and great statesmen remembered and respected by their fellow

Chinese citizens.

With the motto of "Self-Discipline and Social Commitment" and the spirit of "Actions Speak Louder than Words", Tsinghua University is dedicated to the well-being of Chinese society and to world development.

For more information follow this link:

<http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn>



Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, the sixth member of the IIT fraternity, was established in 1994. The academic programme of IIT Guwahati commenced in 1995.

At present the Institute has eleven departments and three inter-disciplinary academic centres covering all the major engineering, science and humanities disciplines, offering BTech, BDes, MA, MDes, MTech, MSc and PhD programmes. Within a short period of time, IIT Guwahati has been able to build up world class infrastructure for carrying out advanced research and has been equipped with state-of-the-art scientific and engineering instruments.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati's campus is on a sprawling 285 hectares plot of land on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra around 20 km. from the heart of the city. With the majestic Brahmaputra on one side, and with hills and vast open spaces on others, the campus provides an ideal setting for learning.

For more information follow this link:

<http://www.iitg.ernet.in>



// SPRING IN EUROPE



**We wish you a wonderful summer !
If you want to appear in the next issue , send us your pictures !**

INTERWEAVE Coordination Team

Website: <http://www.interweave-ema2.eu/>



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