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## FOREWORD



*There is growing interest in recent years among the HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) in Southeast Asia to engage in regional and cross border collaboration as a way to improve quality. Such collaboration has taken many forms, such as but not limited to, formation of university networks; student and faculty exchanges; research partnership; dual and joint degree programs; and twinning programs.*

*Among the factors that drive regional cooperation among colleges and universities in Southeast Asia are the Integration of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Community, the desire to support respective country's economic development program, and the growing domestic expectations to be included in the world ranking as indicator of global competitiveness.*

*Colleges and universities in the region generally engage in cross border partnerships as a strategy to raise institutional prestige, increase research production, expand international exposure, innovate curricular offerings, enhance instructional quality, and access expertise not locally available. The opportunities for cross border collaboration among the HEIs are made much easier by increasing openness by governments to establish support mechanisms in terms of policy, logistics, and infrastructure.*

*There is already considerable amount of relevant experience by HEIs in the region that needs to be examined. Are partner colleges and universities mutually benefitting from the arrangements? As the range of collaboration activities and models diversify, new issues arise which education leaders must address and research scholars must investigate.*

*The increasing interest in this emerging phenomenon of cross border collaboration among colleges and universities in the region is a fertile ground for interrogations that can eventually inform policies in higher education. There is a renewed interest by the international community in higher education, due to its power to shape the capacity of the work force and foster research and innovative thinking upon which to build a country's development in a global environment that is becoming more and more interconnected and competitive. The changing landscape of higher education in Southeast Asian region requires new thinking and updated practices.*

*Accordingly, I think, this MIMBAR PENDIDIKAN journal seeks to provide a platform for researchers to disseminate insights generated from their examination of the experiences in the region relevant to cross border partnership and collaboration among colleges and universities as these institutions pursue quality education. Articles included in this issue investigate the extent that government and higher education leaders in the region forge and undertake diverse partnerships and collaboration models, and how these are shaped both by domestic nuances and international trends.*

*Before reviewing the articles in this MIMBAR PENDIDIKAN journal, I would like to say many thanks and to give high appreciation, especially to the UPI (Indonesia University of Education) Leaders in Bandung, who have given me the opportunity to become a Guest Editor and to give a Foreword in this March 2020 issue of the journal. I think that between UPI in Bandung and PNU (Philippine Normal University) in Manila, there has been a long period of collaboration, even among the Institution Leaders who have visited each other to strengthen broad collaboration in the academic field.*

*There are also many Lecturers from PNU who contributed their articles to MIMBAR PENDIDIKAN journal owned by UPI in Bandung. This journal, as such, has been widely read and referenced by the "Civitas Academica" in the Philippines; although in the future, I hope, MIMBAR PENDIDIKAN journal will be indexed regionally and internationally, especially by indexing bodies, such as ACI (ASEAN Citation Index) and SCOPUS. I am confident and believe that the Editor will be able to carry out the indexing process of journal, both at the national and regional levels of Southeast Asia, and internationally.*

*The articles presented by the MIMBAR PENDIDIKAN journal, this March 2020 edition, come from the Lecturers of two countries, namely Nigeria and Indonesia. The article from the Nigerian Lecturer examines the problems of prison inmates as well as prison officials, and their relation to educational activities, especially guidance and counseling. When articles from Indonesian Lecturers are quite diverse, ranging from the problem of the need to inherit and maintain valuable historical sites; the role of a company's internal media in relation to motivation and work performance; learning via the internet, especially cell phones with the WhatsApp application; and the position and role of physical education teachers in primary and secondary schools in Indonesia.*

*Happy reading the articles that have been professionally reviewed and edited well. Hopefully it will benefit to our academic life.*

*Manila, Philippines: March 30, 2020.*

**Bert Jazmin Tuga, Ph.D.**

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