

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

It is my great pleasure to present the first issue of the Journal of International and Comparative Education (JICE). This journal serves as a platform for the dissemination of original and high quality research in the field of International and Comparative Education.

This journal is born at a time when International and Comparative Education field is gaining momentum, especially in the South-East Asia region. The region is taking a leadership role in economic development and education advancement. The contemporary education system varies from one country to another, and also within an individual country. The effects of worldwide globalisation have also influenced the educational development of countries in this region. This is exactly what JICE will illuminate in this, and in subsequent issues.

Although the International and Comparative Education is a close-knit field, its significance has been increasingly highlighted in the past decade. Many scholars have been concerned with the overall education development in this region and what it entails. The increasing demand for education, driven by globalisation and internationalisation has meant that nations and policymakers have had to make decisions and choices pertaining to who needs education, and what needs to be taught at which level. These concerns have led to many researches on central issues in education being conducted. JICE acts as a medium to capture and present these researches and their methods to readers.

It is also important at this point to congratulate the Centre for International and Comparative Education (CRICE) for its success in putting together the first issue of this journal. As the latest addition to research centres in University of Malaya, I strongly believe that CRICE has great potential to becoming a leading research centre in the field of education.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Editorial Board and International Advisory Board for their efforts in ensuring a high quality journal is delivered. I hope readers get insights through reading, analysing and reflecting on the articles published in this issue. If these effects are reached, this already would represent an important *raison d'être* of JICE. I look forward to your continued support.

GHAUTH JASMON  
Vice Chancellor