

HIGHER ED



Scholarships to study in regional Australia

By Hazelina Aziz

Education Australia



Australia Education Minister lauds ties with Malaysia in education and research.

A great partnership

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WITH a strong history of educational links between Australia and Malaysia, it came as no surprise that Australia Education Minister Dan Tehan chose Malaysia as his first international official visit since he took office in August last year.

"Malaysia is an important partner when it comes to education and I wanted to come to Malaysia given the rich history that we have between the two countries," Tehan said.

The Colombo Plan saw over 20,000 talented young students from around the

Asia Pacific region, including Malaysia, studying in Australia from the 1950s to the mid-1980s.

Tehan was appointed as Education Minister in August last year following the succession of Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister of Australia. Prior to this appointment, Tehan served as Social Services Minister.

He was described by The Sydney Morning Herald as a person with a reputation of "a likeable and reliable lover" that led to his installment in the education portfolio.

He remained as Education Minister under Prime Minister Scott Morrison following the 2019 Australian federal election in May this year.

During the visit, Tehan attended the inauguration of University of Wollongong (UOW) Malaysia KDU campus.

He also delivered an address at University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) as part of the university's Global Talk Series and visited research facilities at Monash University Malaysia.

"More than 23,500 Malaysian students are currently studying in Australia and our universities are working together on world-leading research that will make a difference in both countries."

"Our new Colombo Plan provides incentives and support for Australian students to study in Malaysia. We also have 7,500 Australian students who have come to

Malaysia over the last decade to study here.

"One of the things I've really enjoyed while in Malaysia has been exploring the policies that we have in Australia and exchanging views about what happens here in Malaysia."

"This visit has been quite extraordinary because everywhere I go, I would bump into someone who has studied in Australia or their children have studied in Australia. It creates warmth between our two nations," said Tehan.

In an exclusive interview with Higher Ed, Tehan shared details of the new offerings for international students to study in Australia and his take on the importance of partnerships between both countries in education and research. **TURN TO PAGE 30**