

# Capacity Levels of Academic Staff in a Malaysian Public University: Students' Perspective

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## ABSTRACT

This research aims to develop a competency model for staff of higher education institutions in Malaysia. The model involves the listing of the main features and implementation strategy for the development of academic competence. Specifically, this research aims to achieve the following research objectives: a) to identify if there is any significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff in terms of capacities, b) to identify if there is any significant correlation between the following demographics and levels of capacity, i. teaching experience, and ii. academic position; and c) to identify the level of capacity effectiveness among staff? This research applies a quantitative methodology through survey research. The sample includes 120 students in a public university evaluating 10 staff; 5 locally educated & 5 international. The instruments involves a modified questionnaire from an original instrument by Tengku Noorainun Tengku Shahdan (2011) The data analysis will use both statistical descriptive analysis - mean and standard deviation - and statistical inference analysis - Spearman's  $r$  correlation and Mann-Whitney U. This research found that there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated faculties in terms of capacities when  $p = 0.267$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). For the second research question, this research found that there is no significant correlation between teaching experience with capacity level when  $p=0.314$ . On the other hand, there is a significant correlation between academic position with capacity level when  $p=0.032$ . For the third research question, this research found that both locally and internationally educated staff have a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is more than 3.80. The implication of this research is staff must pay more attention to developing themselves through scholarly works.

**Keywords:** *Comparison, capacity, locally educated faculty members, internationally educated faculty members, public university*

## INTRODUCTION

After the Industrial Revolution in the 1900's, an organization is evaluated based on its performance. One major contributing factor towards high performance is manpower with capacity. This matter is mentioned by Askling (2002) that many studies found that there is a correlation between the effectiveness of an organization with the high capacity of its manpower. Moreover, employers tend to look at end product rather than at the process that includes capacities (Townsend, 2001).

In Malaysia, research on manpower is still limited. Marzuki (2004) portrayed the statement by arguing that research on manpower is only limited to university students doing their masters and doctorates which only involve a small sample size. The same goes to research on capacities, in which most scholars tend to prefer capacities of private university faculties over public ones (Tengku Shahdan, 2011).

Based on the above phenomenon, this research aims to evaluate capacities among public university faculties in enhancing manpower performance. The result of this study will benefit policymakers in setting up professional

development programs.

### Problem Statement

In recent years, output is assumed as a better indicator of an organization's success rather than the process that was implemented to achieve the success. Mahmud (2008) agrees with the statement by adding that organizations that are task-oriented overlook the process that includes the welfare of their employees. In fact, they put higher priority on achieving the objectives through the output standard that was set up (Abdullah, 2007).

Since the focus was on output rather than on the process, the welfare of staff are pushed more to the side. The implication of this situation is that the performance of organizations decline. This echoes the statement made by Nordin (2011) in which he argued that government investment in education achieved lower than targeted goals in terms of producing staff with high capacities. The staff in turn is demotivated from attending professional development programs (Abdullah, 2007).

Moreover, the phenomenon becomes more serious when universities promote faculty based on capacity levels rather than teaching experience. This situation discourages staff from excelling (Hussin, 2004) and decreases the performance of universities (Nordin, 2011). To take an example, capacity levels of staff are low because public universities stress on publications and researches instead of professional development (Siraj, 2003). In other words, universities only look at output of staff and neglecting their process in performing their tasks.

Based on the above phenomenon, there is a need to do a research that stresses the importance of capacity among staff in public universities. The results of this research can benefit universities to change their current policy to focus on both task and human-oriented.

### Theoretical Framework

Mulder, Gulikers, Biemans and Wesselink (2009) in their research argue that the concept of competency is always used in education. They said that competency consists of a set of capability integration, knowledge collection, skills, task performance, able to solve problems, and effective competency to a certain standard. Diagram 1 shows in diagram the discussion above.



Figure 1. Relationship between competency and competent with performance

Resource: Young and Dulewicz (2005). *Linking Competency and Competence to Performance*.

### Research Purpose

This research aims to develop a competency model for staff of higher education institutions in Malaysia. The model involves the listing of the main features and implementation strategy for the development of academic competence.

### Research Objective

This research is to achieve the following objectives.

- a) To identify whether there is any significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff in terms of capacities;
- b) To identify whether there is any significant correlation between the following demographics and levels of capacity:
  - (i) Teaching experience;
  - (ii) Academic position, and
- c) To identify the level of capacity effectiveness among staff.

### Literature Review

The field of comparative education on national level, at least in Malaysia, deals primarily with the notion of capacity building. Only by understanding the different types of capacity building available will one be able to go through the different models promoted by different scholars that will ultimately help one to understand the education policies especially in Malaysia. There are several types of capacity building, with each giving a slightly different name in front of the word capacity.

#### Definitions of Capacity

The first definition is Innovation Capacity which can be summarized as innovation being flexible new ideas for product or service advance with improved features. Then, the word capacity can refer to the dimensions of innovation on a time line. Thus, innovation capacity refers to “a continuous improvement of the overall capability of firms to generate innovation for developing new products to meet market needs” (Szeto, 2000). What this means is that a few seminars will not be sufficient for one to develop capacity in innovation because there is a need to do follow-up on the beginning step until one is able to reach the next level where the needs of the market, or in the context of this paper, the students.

Along similar lines, Sullivan proposes his idea of Collaborative Capacity which involves ‘Theories of change’ where one form of the theory-driven approach is used to evaluate complex public policies. This ‘theories of change’ requires education policies to explain the collaborative nature of the ‘process–outcome’ interactions within a ‘whole systems’ approach to education. The theory focuses attention both on the means available to “realize the partnership activities and the appropriateness of the organizational framework to support collaborative activity” (Sullivan, 2002). By linking both Innovation and Collaborative Capacity, one will find that both suggests changes to occur within the people involved so that they will produce better students that satisfy the needs of each specific audience.

However, one may need to be reminded that the phrase capacity-building may have become so “all-encompassing a term as to be ‘useless’ from an analytical and practical point of view” (Potter, 2004). For this very purpose, this paper tries to be very precise on what capacity-building should mean. This paper agrees with Potter’s recommendation through his own Systemic Capacity which emphasizes the creation or reinforcing of capacity for program implementation independent of the durability of an institution. Systemic Capacity refers to the creation, expansion or progression of a stock of wanted qualities and features called capabilities that could be frequently drawn upon over time. The focus of capacity building therefore tends to be on refining the stock rather than on handling whatever is available (Potter, 2004).

This definition of capacity building is supported by United Nations which adds that this kind of capacity building needs to be addressed at three inter-related levels: individual, institutional and societal. What it means is that it could also be described as being integrative across levels instead of independent of each other.

Researcher Rehman et al (1988) called capacity building as Competency Validation in his 1988 research. This paper has a questionnaire that used the keyword competency instead of capacity because most Malaysian scholars of capacity building uses the keyword competency to better suit Malaysian customs of understanding capacity as a horizontal measure rather than vertical. Competency (Capacity) Validation is the process of forming the need or lack of

need of a specific competency. Validation can be done by those who have appropriate insight to be able to judge the relevance and need of a competency in a professional perspective, at the moment or in the future. According to Rehman et al (1988), validation can be performed by in-depth content analysis or by a brief investigation conducted by experts. The validation process identifies specific competencies as acceptable norms for future direction.

Now that the definition of capacity-building has been agreed upon for the purpose of this paper, we now turn to look at some aspects of Malaysian education in both lower and higher institution to see the connection between the two in terms of native and foreign languages before going through several different models that has been suggested and will be used in this paper.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

A research design is a precise planning for data collection and data analysis (Zikmund 2003). According to Sekaran (2000), research design involves the process of decision and selection based on research objective, research location, unit of analysis, sampling method, data collection and analysis. In short, research method is used to answer the research questions.

This research uses an edited version of an original questionnaire that has been validated and certified. Questionnaire is chosen as the main method because through administration, unbiased student evaluation can be obtained. Further elaboration is available in the Data Collection. Besides that, it is the easiest method to obtain data from a large sample size (Othman 2002; Barbie 2000; Gay & Airasian 2000); Mitchell & Jolley 2004; Frankel & Wallen 2006).

### **Research Subject**

Research subjects are chosen based on the topic and research questions set by the researcher during planning. However, the main component of choosing them adheres to the research ethics that are based on their willingness to participate in this research. Frankel & Wallen (2006), Gay & Airasian (2000) and Patton (2002) all agree with the mentioned component which is their willingness of participate. On top of that, both Patton (2002) and Van Dalen (2001) suggest that researcher also consider the following; (a) research scope, (b) amount of data to be collected and analyzed, (c) interpretation and inference of collected data, and (d) time, expenses and energy used to complete collection and analysis. Therefore, the researcher has decided on the research subjects based upon the following:

### **Location**

A specific public university is chosen as the location for this research that is easily accessible through contact persons since the researcher is not in Malaysia at the time of research. This aligns with the opinion of Spradley (1980) and Taylor & Bogdon (2000) which explains that the researcher has his own reason for choosing that particular location. Furthermore, Marshall & Rossman (2001) suggest seven aspects as guide on deciding a location for research sampling; easily accessible, has an environment that is full of process (related with research issue), subject characteristics, conducive organizational environment, organizational structure that is preferred by the researcher, quality and reliability is maintained and close relationship between the researcher and research subjects.

For that reason, this research chooses a specific public university because the researcher has contacts inside the university that allows data collection without interruption since the researcher does not need to enter the environment. Besides that, the researcher also takes into consideration Snelbecker's opinion (1974) in which he stated that the implication of choosing a good location will provide a good model and able to become a reference in the future.

### **Population and Sample**

Research population consists of students from two classes that are taught by the researcher's contact person inside the public university. The two classes are "Early Childhood Leadership and Management" (60 students) and "Societies, Career and Education" (60 students). Students are chosen as research respondents because they are considered as the people who receive direct input by the staff members. Besides that, students can give an accurate picture of the capacity levels of the staff members (McNulty et al. 2005).

To decide the number of needed samples, Krejcie & Morgan (1970) and Sekaran (2003) is referred to as guidance. According to Sekaran (2003), a sample size between 30 to 500 people is enough to make an observation. Therefore, 94 students are enough to represent the whole department if not the university. Meanwhile, Haase & Nilson (1998) which is quoted by Baharom (2004) argues that the sample size needs to be more than the minimum to get

significant findings. A higher number of students will lead to a more accurate finding.

## Research Instrument

Data regarding research instrument is a very important component in determining a research design for the purpose of collecting data (Cresswell 1994). A research instrument will be able to help the researcher to collect the data needed in order to answer the proposed research questions. One can build it oneself, use an already existing instrument, or edit and combine the already existing one (Cresswell 1994).

This research uses a questionnaire that is modified from a questionnaire by Tengku Noorainun Tengku Shahdan (2011) because it is as follows a) based on Malaysian context; and b) developed by 15 experts in the higher educational field.. Questionnaire is used because of its quantitative nature and involves a big sample. The instrument for this questionnaire has two parts. The first part is the demographics of the evaluated faculty members which has four items; gender, years of teaching in university, highest academic achievement, and position within department. The second part has three types of capacity levels; self-development, academic knowledge, and institutional ethics. Student perception of faculty members' capacity levels is evaluated using a 5-point Likert scale as follows; (1) Never, (2) Seldom, (3) Sometimes, (4) Often, and (5) Very Often.

Then, the reliability of this instrument is 0.92 according to the Cronbach score while its content validity is evaluated by three experts in this field of organizational management. Specifically, each of the three capacity dimensions is in Table 1.

### Data Collection Procedure

Before field work is done, the researcher gets permission from many parties. At the first level, the researcher asks for permission through email from the dean of the department that supervises the students who are the respondents. After receiving the dean's permission, the researcher asks permission from a contact person who is teaching the students in the two classes to distribute the questionnaires during class.

The contact person gives the students 30 minutes to complete the survey and hand it in. On the first day, students evaluate locally educated staff members. The 84 students were divided into 5 groups and were assigned 5 different staff members. On the next day, the same procedure is repeated for internationally educated staff members. To make assorting easier, the front page of questionnaires for locally educated faculty members are colored blue while for the internationally educated ones are colored green.

### Data Analysis Procedure

The data analysis will use both statistical descriptive analysis and statistical inference analysis. According to Fink (1995), to test the data, the type of data needs to be identified first whether it is nominal, ordinal, range, or ratio. Accordingly, this research uses ordinal data because of the Likert scale from 1 to 5.

### Statistical Descriptive Analysis

Statistical descriptive analysis involves a comprehensive explanation about the different demographics. In this research, demographics include gender, years of teaching in university, highest academic achievement, and position within department. In answering the first research question, mean score analysis is used. To evaluate levels of mean scores, the researcher follows the interpretation as provided by Nunally & Bernstein (1994); 1.00 to 2.00 indicates a very low mean score, 2.00 to 3.00 shows a low mean score, 3.00 to 4.00 illustrates a high mean score, and 4.00 to 5.00 demonstrates a very high mean score. To evaluate the level of effectiveness and its interpretation, this research uses Gay's suggestion for determining the level of effectiveness and its interpretation as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Interpretation of mean score for capacity effectiveness level

Mean Score	Effectiveness Level	Interpretation
1.00 to 2.49	Low	Less Satisfactory
2.50 to 3.79	Average	Average
3.80 to 5.00	High	Satisfactory

(Resource: Gay, L. (1996). *Educational Research: Competencies for Analysis and Application*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall)

### Statistical Inference Analysis

Statistical inference analysis is used to find any significant correlation between the demographics of the staff members and the evaluation of their three dimensions of capacity levels (self-development, academic knowledge, and institutional ethics). Before testing out the hypothesis, the data needs to be determined whether it has a normal bell curve or not. Tan Soo Yin (1999) quotes Cohen & Cohen (1993) by arguing that if the data is not normal, then a transformation should be done to only use median ranges of 25 percent to 75 percent. The researcher discovers that there are no abnormal data being collected. For that reason, two statistical inference analyses are used to answer the remaining research questions; Spearman's  $r$  and Mann-Whitney U test.

#### Spearman's $r$

According to Hair et al. (1998), Spearman's  $r$  is used to test the difference in mean scores between two ordinal sample groups. Since this research has ordinal groups, Spearman's  $r$  is best to be used. Mohd Majid (1990) and Tabachnik & Fidell (2001) argue that Spearman's  $r$  can be used if the variables have two categories. For that reason, this research uses Spearman's  $r$  to analyze the difference in mean scores of capacity levels between locally and internationally educated staff members. To evaluate the power of correlation, this research uses Gay's suggestion for determining the power as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Power of  $r$  correlation

$r$ correlation size	Correlation power
0.91 to 1.00 or -0.91 to -1.00	Very Strong
0.71 to 0.90 or -0.71 to -0.90	Strong
0.51 to 0.70 or -0.51 to -0.70	Average
0.31 to 0.50 or -0.31 to -0.50	Weak
0.01 to 0.30 or -0.01 to -0.30	Very Weak
0	No correlation

(Resource: Gay, L. (1996). Educational Research: Competencies for Analysis and Application. 5th Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall)

#### Mann-Whitney U

Mann-Whitney  $U$  is a non-parametric test to analyze the difference between two groups that use ordinal scales. This test is used in this research to determine the correlation between capacity levels of locally and internationally educated faculty members. According to Chua (2008), a normal  $t$ -Test is not suitable to be used in this type of research because it does not use a mean score with a range or ratio score.

## FINDINGS

### Respondent Profile

Information for the respondents is as follows:

#### Student Profile

Information for the students is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Student information that comprises gender, ethnicity, and age

Category	Item	Total	Percentage
Gender	Male	72	60
	Female	48	40
Ethnicity	Malay	93	77.5
	Chinese	15	12.5
	Indian	9	7.5
	Others	3	2.5
Age	$\leq 20$	0	0
	20.1-21	0	0
	$\geq 21.1$	120	100

Table 3 shows that seventy-two (72) male students were involved and 48 female students. This number represents 60 percent for males and females (40%). Next, in terms of ethnicity, there are 93 Malays that represents 77.5 percent of the total respondents. Chinese (15 respondents, 12.5%), Indians (9 respondents, 7.5%), and others (3 respondents, 2.5%). Then, in terms of age, all of them are of 21 years old and above that represents 100 percent.

**Faculty Profile**

Information for the staff is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4** Faculty information that comprises gender, teaching experience, and academic position

Category	Item	Total	Percentage
Gender	Male	4	40
	Female	6	60
Teaching experience	<10 years	1	10
	11-25 years	3	30
	26-35 years	4	40
	>36 years	2	20
Academic position	Professor	4	40
	Associate Professor	2	20
	Senior Lecturer	2	20
	Lecturer	1	10
	Tutor	1	10

Table 4 shows that there are four male staff and six female staff. This number represents 40 percent for males and females (60%). Next, in terms of teaching experience, 1 staff has less than 10 years, which represents 10 percent of the total staff being evaluated. 11-25 years (3 staff, 30%), 26-35 years (4 staff, 40%), and over 36 years (1 staff, 10%). Then, in terms of academic position, 4 staff are professors which represent 40 percent of the total. Associate professors (2 staff, 20%), senior lecturers (2 staff, 20%), lecturer (1 staff, 10%), and tutor (1 staff, 10%).

**Difference of Capacity between Locally and Internationally Educated Staff**

This part is to answer the first research question. To answer the question, data was collected among 120 students to evaluate 4 male staff (2 local and 2 international) and six female staff (3 local and 3 international). The data was analyzed using Mann-Whitney *U* at a confidence interval of 0.05 or 5 percent. Overall findings are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5** Overall findings for locally and internationally educated staff

Overall	Category	Ranking Mean	z value	Sig.
Competency	Local	41.26	-1.459	<i>p</i> =0.267
	International	45.46		

(Note: \* = significant at confidence interval *p*<0.05 two tails)

Table 5 shows that there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff in terms of capacities when *p* = 0.267 (*p* > 0.05). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for international is 45.46 and local is 41.26. Detailed findings of the difference between locally and internationally educated staff in terms of capacities are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6** Detailed findings for locally and internationally educated staff

Dimension & Element	Category	Mean	z value	Sig.		
Self-development Competency	a) Self-control	Local	41.26	-1.639	$p=0.110$	
		International	49.93			
	b) Internal emotion	Local	41.80	-1.819	$p=0.231$	
		International	49.37			
	c) Psychological influence	Local	42.35	-1.427	$p=0.278$	
		International	48.89			
Academic Competency	Skill	Local	40.60	-2.638	$*p=0.049$	
		International	50.62			
	Knowledge	Local	42.22	-1.831	$p=0.232$	
		International	48.94			
	Understanding	Local	43.89	-0.854	$p=0.523$	
		International	47.18			
	English Competency	Local	33.99	-4.367	$*p=0.000$	
		International	57.54			
	Institutional Competency	Vision	Local	43.60	-0.699	$p=0.485$
			International	47.38		
	Institutional culture	Local	42.04	-1.165	$p=0.291$	
		International	49.11			
Coordination	Local	43.44	-1.176	$p=0.502$		
	International	47.65				

(Note: \* = significant at confidence interval  $p < 0.05$  two tails)

Table 6 shows each dimension of the competencies. For the first element of self-development competency, self-control, there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.110$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 41.26 and international is 49.93. For the second element of self-development competency, internal emotion, there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.231$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 41.80 and international is 49.37. For the third element of self-development competency, psychological influence, there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.278$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 42.35 and international is 50.62.

For the first element of academic competency, skill, there is a significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.049$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 40.60 and international is 49.93. For the second element of academic competency, knowledge, there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.232$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 42.22 and international is 48.94. For the third element of academic competency, understanding, there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.523$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 43.89 and international is 47.18. For the fourth element of academic competency, English, there is a significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.000$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 33.99 and international is 57.94.

For the first element of workplace competency, vision, there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.485$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 43.60 and international is 47.38. For the second element of academic competency, institutional culture, there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p = 0.291$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 42.94 and international is 49.11. For the third element of academic competency, coordination, there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated



staff when  $p = 0.502$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, capacity levels of internationally educated staff are higher than that of locally educated when mean score for local is 43.44 and international is 47.65.

To conclude the above findings, the majority of elements from the three dimensions have no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p > 0.05$ . There are self-control ( $p=0.110$ ), internal emotion ( $p=0.231$ ), psychological influence ( $p=0.278$ ), knowledge ( $p=0.232$ ), understanding ( $p=0.523$ ), vision ( $p=0.485$ ), institutional culture ( $p=0.291$ ), and coordination ( $p=0.502$ ). Meanwhile, there are two elements that have a significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff when  $p < 0.05$ . There are skill ( $p=0.049$ ) and English competency ( $p=0.000$ ).

**Correlation between Teaching Experience and Academic Position with Capacity Levels**

This part is to answer the second research question. To answer the question, data was collected among 120 students to evaluate 4 male staff (2 local and 2 international) and six female staff (3 local and 3 international). The data was analyzed using statistical inferential analysis Spearman’s  $r$  Correlation at a confidence interval of 0.05 or 5 percent. The research findings are explained with regards to the related demographics as follows and are shown in Table 7.

Table 7 Correlation between teaching experience and academic position with capacity level

Item	Capacity		
	$r$ correlation size	Sig.	Power
Teaching Experience	$r=0.101$	$p=0.314$	Very Weak
Academic Position	$r=-0.160$	$*p=0.032$	Very Weak

(Note: \* = significant at confidence interval  $p < 0.05$  two tails)

Table 7 explains as follows:

a) Teaching experience

There is no significant correlation between teaching experience with capacity level when  $p=0.314$  ( $p > 0.05$ ). However, its power is very weak.

b) Academic position

There is a significant correlation between academic position with capacity level when  $p=0.032$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). However, its power is very weak.

In conclusion, there is no significant correlation between teaching experience with capacity level when  $p=0.314$ . On the other hand, there is a significant correlation between academic position with capacity level when  $p=0.032$ .

**Level of Capacity Effectiveness among Staff**

This part is to answer the third research question. To answer the question, data was collected among 120 students to evaluate 4 male staff (2 local and 2 international) and six female staff (3 local and 3 international). The data was analyzed using statistical descriptive analysis which is mean and standard deviation. Overall findings for the level of effectiveness and its interpretation are presented with regards to the staff’s educational background as follows.

**Locally Educated Staff**

Overall findings for the level of effectiveness and its interpretation are shown in Table 8.

Table 8 Interpretation of mean score for capacity effectiveness level for locally educated staff

Competency	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level	Interpretation
Personal	4.21	0.67	High	Satisfactory
Academic	3.96	0.71	High	Satisfactory
Workplace	4.21	0.66	High	Satisfactory
TOTAL	4.13	0.68	High	Satisfactory

Table 8 shows that all of the capacity dimensions have a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is 4.13 and its standard deviation is 0.68. Based on each dimension, personal competency dimension has a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is 4.21 and its standard deviation is 0.67. Next, academic competency dimension has a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is 3.96 and its standard deviation is 0.71. Likewise, workplace competency dimension has a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is 4.21 and its standard deviation is 0.66.

### ***Internationally Educated Staff***

Overall findings for the level of effectiveness and its interpretation are shown in Table 9.

**Table 9 Interpretation of mean score for capacity effectiveness level for internationally educated faculty**

Competency	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level	Interpretation
Personal	4.42	0.63	High	Satisfactory
Academic	4.34	0.67	High	Satisfactory
Workplace	4.34	0.64	High	Satisfactory
TOTAL	4.37	0.65	High	Satisfactory

Table 9 shows that all of the capacity dimensions have a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is 4.37 and its standard deviation is 0.65. Based on each dimension, personal competency dimension has a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is 4.42 and its standard deviation is 0.63. Next, academic competency dimension has a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is 4.34 and its standard deviation is 0.67. Likewise, workplace competency dimension has a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is 4.34 and its standard deviation is 0.65.

To recap, both locally and internationally educated staff have a high level of effectiveness and satisfactory when the overall mean score is more than 3.80.

## **DISCUSSION**

National revenue emanates from income taxes which consist of individual and company taxes. If a company has higher revenue, it can make a larger contribution through tax charges. However, higher revenue can only be achieved when its manpower has high level of capacity effectiveness (OECD 2000). This statement agrees with the models created by Mulder, Gulikers, Biemans and Wesselink (2009) and Olawale (2010). Their models stress the importance of capacity in order to create a good product.

This research found that there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff in terms of capacities. This finding has its connection with the recruitment policy being adopted by most public universities in Malaysia. The policy requires applicants who wish to become a faculty in universities to have a high academic performance in both undergraduate and graduate levels. Sullivan et al. (2002) portrayed the statement through faculty recruitment policy as not just looking at academic performance; it also takes into consideration personal criteria and previous working experience. The implication of this policy is that an organization's productivity increases with employees' higher capacity level (Horowitz, 1989).

From the discussion of recruitment policies as above, university is successful in earning high performance faculties. Therefore, the process of promotion for staff is also based on their capacity levels (Szeto, 2000). By comparing some of the demographics, this research found that teaching experience has no significant correlation with capacity levels while academic position has. This finding contradicts with Abdullah's opinion (2007) which states that teaching experience has a correlation with capacity levels in educational institutions. This contradiction meets with Baharom (2004) which argues that capacity level increases with teaching experience because of facing different challenges throughout those years. However, this research is based on student perspectives towards their faculties compared to Abdullah (2007) and Baharom's (2004) opinion which are from the perspectives of the faculties.

Despite the significantly different demographics between faculties, this research found that both locally and internationally educated staff has high level of capacity effectiveness which is satisfactory. A sound reason for this situation is that high performance staff are attracted to incentives made by universities in terms of academic position and financial support. This statement is supported by data from Ministry of Education in 2007 that reports at least 11 school teachers transferring into universities after earning their doctorates throughout Malaysia (MOE, 2007). The implication of this situation is that schools lose their best teachers by mobilizing into universities with attractive incentives (Mahmod, 2008).

To sum up, this research found that capacity levels of staff are important to increase the performance of organizations. Therefore, to ensure that capacity levels are of high priority for the staff, universities make it as an indicator for promotions such as academic positions.

## CONCLUSION

To recap, the objectives of this research were to find any significant differences between capacity levels of locally and internationally educated staff, to find any significant correlation between capacity levels with both teaching experience and academic position, and find the level of capacity effectiveness among staff. It turns out that there is no significant difference between locally and internationally educated staff. Although there is no significant correlation between capacity levels and teaching experience, but there is a significant correlation between capacity levels and academic position. Both locally and internationally educated staff have high and satisfactory level of capacity effectiveness.

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