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Developing and Collaborating in Innovation and Entrepreneurship to Pursue ASEAN Emerging Market

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION FOR ENGINEERING: WHY NOT?

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Abstract

The entrepreneurship gets the attention and great support from various parties such as academic, government, and entrepreneurs. Right now it is only about half a million or about 0.24% of the 247 million Indonesian population to be entrepreneurs, still very few. Based on that reason the entrepreneurship program is encouraged in Indonesia. An entrepreneur would not be created overnight, but it takes the process and preparation from the beginning. Therefore the entrepreneurship program is included the college curriculum and the entrepreneurship is taught for students with a goal that after graduation the student will be not as job seekers, but as job creator. The entrepreneurship is related to the business including how to seek business opportunities, facing the risks and uncertainties, designing marketing strategies, and managing finances. Those things are often identified with economics or management. Thus, students in the social or business gain that knowledge. But entrepreneurship is global and universal, that can be run by people who have a technical education background. Especially in the field of engineering students generally gain knowledge and knowhow to make a better and innovative product or process. A study was conducted in a number of private universities in East Java. The results of the questionnaire given to 60 respondents showed that most of the respondents or 86.7% teach an Entrepreneurship courses in their institution. From 32 respondents who have Faculty of Engineering in their college, 81.25% stated that the Engineering course is also given to students in Faculty of Engineering. Other questionnaires were also distributed to 60 students of Faculty of Engineering, University of Surabaya, who had already the Entrepreneurship course. Collected data showed all respondents or 100% agreed that the course of Entrepreneurship is taught in Faculty of Engineering. They get some benefits from the course, such as getting an experience how to start a new business, generating an entrepreneurial spirit, getting entrepreneurship training, and getting entrepreneurial skills. They gave suggestion for other activities to supplement the Entrepreneurship course, like expo, guest lecture, business camp, and business plan presentation. Almost all respondents or 90% said that after graduation they are interested in becoming entrepreneurs due to some reasons, such as the ability to generate own money, selfreliance, and time flexibility.

Keywords: entrepreneurship, student, engineering

1. Introduction

The number of students in Indonesia in 2011 was 4.8 million people, or approximately 23% of the population aged 19-30 years. It is targeted to be 30% in 2014 (Kompas, 2011). Approximately 5 million college students today is the potential generation that will determine how the condition of our country in the coming years. When they are properly prepared and equipped, the student will be extraordinary generation, the generation that can manage our country better, improve the quality of the nation, and lead to economic

growth. But if they are not prepared properly, it will increase the number of unemployed intellectuals in Indonesia. As of September 2011 approximately 1.1% unemployment in Indonesia was a college graduate known as the actual unemployment (Kompas, 2012). It is unfortunate, because college graduates are people who have high intelligence and rational, which should be the ones that are useful and beneficial. But the fact is they do not have a job and become a burden to others. The increasing number of unemployment due to the orientation of scholars is looking for a job