Benefits of international collaborations on the educational scheme entitled 'Design, Assemble and Dismantle (DAD) Project'

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Abstract

Design, Assemble and Dismantle (DAD) Project was developed at the University of Surrey, based on the educational benefits of using full scale spatial structurs [1]. DAD Project is a two-phase hands-on scheme for civil/architectural engineering students to improve their understanding about the real construction. In phase 1, groups of students participating in the Project have to design a structure and prepare all the necessary documents for construction. This includes technical drawings, list of requirements, method statement and risk assessment. Then for the second phase, each group is given a set of documents, prepared by another group in phase 1, to assemble and dismantle the structure in a limited time. DAD Project has been organised for Surrey students since 2014 and two other universities from Mexico and Iran have also been involved in the design exchange for the past three years. Figure 1 shows a group of Surrey students in the UK assembling the structure designed by Mexican students, as well as a group of Iranian students after the assembly of the structure designed by Surrey students.

Figure 1 Left: Surrey students assembling the structure designed Mexican students, Guildford, UK. Right: Iranian students after the assembly of the structure designed by Surrey students, Mashhad, Iran.

The international collaborations require the Surrey groups to communicate with Mexican/Iranian students and proceed the project. This means the students have to manage lingual, cultural and time differences thus allowing them to develop their professional skills, which contribute to their employability. The present research discusses different aspects of the international collaborations on the DAD Project including the benefits and challenges for participants from the University of Surrey, as well as the other two universities. To elaborate, the DAD Project participants in the past three years from all the three universities will be invited to take part in a survey. Moreover, some of the student project managers will be interviewed. This research will provide some evidence for the benefits of international collaborations to improve student's experience.

References

[1] S. A. Behnejad, "Benefits of full-scale physical models in civil engineering education," in *Proceedings of the 123rd Conference of the American Society for Engineering Education - ASEE2016*, New Orleans, LA, USA, June 26-29, 2016.