

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER #1

November 2014

## Welcome to the INTERWEAVE Community Newsletter !

The first mobilities have now well begun, mid term exams have started, so it seems to be the perfect time for editing the first INTERWEAVE newsletter, sharing this great adventure and friendship between Europe and Asia. In this issue, we wanted to give the floor to the INTERWEAVE grantees, to highlight the testimonials of these adventurous people who chose to add to their lives the experience of studying and working in a different country.

*INTERWEAVE is an ERASMUS MUNDUS Partnership (EMA2 strand1) project funded by the European commission in July 2013, for 4 years. The INTERWEAVE Project is jointly coordinated by Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France and the University of Malaya (UM) in Malaysia. It is composed of 20 members: 10 EU partners from Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain and 10 Asian partners from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand, plus 2 associated partners. More than 140 scholarships have been awarded for the 1st Cohort.*

## // HOT TOPICS

### SECOND CALL FOR APPLICATION IS NOW ANNOUNCED!

The second call for applications of the INTERWEAVE project will be launched from **January 12, 2015 till March 13, 2015**. During these months, students, researchers, teachers and administrative staff from Asia can apply for a mobility in Europe through the official website of the project :<http://www.interweave-ema2.eu/>.

This call is open for:

- Undergraduate students: 6 or 10 months duration,
- PhD: 10 months duration,
- Post-Doc: 6 months duration,
- Staff: 1 month duration.

Spread the word among your network !

This is an excellent opportunity to widen your scope with a European exchange mobility !



### ***From RUB, Bhutan to ECN, France***

If I say it in the simplest way - it was a dream come true for me to get the INTERWEAVE Scholarship. It was an overwhelming moment for me, and my family and friends.

The first few months was a crazy ride - confusion about the documents and visa, fear of going to a completely new place, anticipation about the course and the new people I would be meeting, and excitement about starting a great journey.

I had never been outside my country before so, there was always a curious person in me who wanted to explore the world beyond my own little world and I couldn't have been happier than I was the day I got the news about the successful scholarship. I will always remain grateful to the INTERWEAVE Project for this great and wonderful opportunity. I am not only able to do my Masters for my career enhancement but also meet the huge number of international students, and learn different cultures for my own personal growth. It has only been over a month and I am very happy to say that I have already made some great friends and learned a lot of things.

It really is a great platform for people like me who come from small developing countries. And I am proudly taking this opportunity to encourage other Bhutanese to pursue the same.

Thank you.

***Tshering LHAMO, Master***

### ***From ITS, Indonesia to UPorto, Portugal***

I am really grateful to be one of the INTERWEAVE's grantees at the University of Porto (UPorto). This opportunity makes my dream come true. I could start to experience incredible moments in terms of education, cultural and personal life.

I started my academic life at UPorto very well and smooth. There were a lot of useful and joyful orientations for new Erasmus Students from around the world conducted either by my faculty and the EMA2 Projects Management Team of the university. This events help me a lot to know and understand the academic rules as well as the new environment in Porto. I also could meet with a lot of new Erasmus friend from many countries. I think I have started to broaden my network. During this mobility, I take some courses which really related to my study field at home university. It is really pleasure to experience the pleasant learning process at UPorto and interact with professional teacher and bright students from around the globe. I do enjoy all my classes here.

Located at Porto, UPorto gives a pleasant life environment to study as well as to understand the European cultural wealth. I travelled to some famous tourism places in Porto like Douro River, Dom Luis I Bridge, Clerigos Church, Casa da Musica, Livraria Lello Bookstore and many other places. Porto is very friendly city for foreigner to study and travel. I have fallen in love with this city. Thank you very much for INTERWEAVE Project for this such big opportunity.

***Mar'atus Sholihah, Master***



***Tshering LHAMO,  
Master in Civil Engineering***



***Mar'atus Sholihah***

***Master in Services Engineering  
and Management***

## ***My Indian adventure : from UPorto, Portugal to IIT Guwahati, India***

When I first knew I would be coming to India, I started preparing myself for the cultural shock. It would be easy I thought, little did I know the truth. The first strong impact was just coming outside the plane. India is supposed to be a hot country, I knew that but...not like this! Leaving the airport, my first impression was that I was watching a movie or a documentary maybe. It's just like we see in the TV: cows peacefully strolling in the middle of the roads, people sleeping in the streets, garbage everywhere... The difference between rich and miserable people can be easily noticed right away.

Arriving IIT was like entering a 5 stars hotel. There is no garbage or disorganization, the conditions are acceptable for European standards and the Hostel room I was given was in plane state waiting for its first inhabitant. It's reasonably spacious and it even has a balcony. The campus is enormous, just like a small academic city. It has its own hospital, hotel for visitors, complex market, twelve student's hostels, houses for the professors, three lakes, primary school for professor's children, grounds for practicing every kind of sports and so on. It is required to have a bicycle to easily move around the Campus. Everybody I met was always kind and helpful and every time I felt welcome. Some people are very curious asking from where I came from and what are my habits, some others can't even avoid staring. We are commonly called Gori, meaning fair skin person, which has great value among Indian people.

Coming to the differences in culture, it's not possible to describe it because there isn't one single similarity. The people's mentalities and habits are nothing alike ours and the food is completely different. Being a vegetarian for many years, I feel like I am in a food paradise. More than 60% of India's population is vegetarian and even the ones who are not, only eat meat or fish once or twice a week. The first month here was thought, I'm not going to lie. I didn't understand their accent, their way of thinking and even nodding is different here... The heat and humidity was almost unbearable, I used to take 5 showers per day in the first weeks. Three months have already gone by and I'm feeling like home already. I started to learn a bit of Hindi and Indian culture is not so strange anymore. I would even dare to say that I am 1% Indian already.

***Inês Lobo Antunes, Master***



## ***From TU, Nepal to UPorto, Portugal***

My aim was to complete my PhD and I was looking around. Being from an underdeveloped Asian country it was not possible for me to do manage this on my own. Then I saw the INTERWEAVE project on internet. It was dream come true for me as it was on full scholarship and can do PhD on reputed European universities. I was lucky enough to get selected and was to be chosen by University of Porto.

PORTUGAL, I was eager to visit this country with so great history. The colonies it had and the brave ancestors always led me towards respect for this country. Finally I landed on 7<sup>th</sup> September at midnight. There was a Erasmus buddy waiting for me for 5 hours. This is the chain and love they have developed for each other. An Erasmus guy waiting for another Erasmus guy as he would had somebody last year to do so. These small things were really touching he couldn't pronounce my name correctly but called loudly "Hey! Are you BARAK ?". Actually I am BHARAT but enjoyed somebody calling BARAK and I never corrected him. Today also I am BARAK Chetry for him. Then he took me to my residence which I booked on internet. There I found one old couple waiting for me. They were the parents of the house lady as the house lady was out of country. They welcomed me in their house and explained everything. I was surprised to know that they came from Aveiro to welcome me and had to return at night. They had bought food and everything one needs for one week for me. They also dropped the Erasmus buddy to his destination. In less than two hours Portugal and its people win my heart. The way they talk and the way they behave is really heart touching. They think about others keeping themselves on that position.

I went to the University from next week where I had the registration and orientation of one week. The university took me to different places to visit so that I may get familiar with the places in Porto. There were many presentation session to get knowledge about courses, time table and basic rules. Even the Police had their presentation to give information about basic rules and regulation.

I am feeling great to have my PhD of international level with international student of different countries with me. The photo below is the class in which students from more than 30 countries are there. I am sitting in the middle but it is hard for me to locate myself and I also want that, to get lost within these friends.

***THANKS INTERWEAVE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTO FOR GIVING ME SUCH INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM.***

***Bharat Chetry, PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering***



## ***Thanks INTERWEAVE***

First of all I am very happy and feel proud to be an INTERWEAVE fellow and also I came to know that I am the first student from Tribhuvan University, Nepal who got chance to study at renowned Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France. I came to know about Erasmus Mundus Interweave Project from my Home Institution and I became so happy and excited that I had a dream to get higher degree from any renowned Technical University in the World but due to my rather poor economic as well as socio economic condition I was far from this dream but Interweave Project provided a golden chance to grow up academically to fellow like me. It is very remarkable and historical as well as valuable action to help those student who are from socio economically politically vulnerable community and talented all over the world. As Interweave has categorized the TG which is very good and effective system. Now I am here in Master in Civil Engineering.

I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Navaraj Karki from my heart who helped and supported me during my application procedure and also he informed me about various aspects of this Project and my host institution which really helped me. He is really very punctual, helpful and respected as a Coordinator of Erasmus Mundus Interweave Project for Tribhuvan University. He helped me as my guardian. I got a different experience of travel, I got my luggage misplaced at Paris and I stayed here without my luggage for 7 days. I used the same clothes for those days and I am very grateful to International relation Office at Ecole Centrale De Nantes as they helped me so much to get my luggage, they made call several times to the Flight Company. So for me the first impression is about International Relations Office, I felt that they treat international student such that we can feel as we are in our home. International Relation Office here helps in every aspects. Also I enjoyed several welcome lunches, parties and events which was organized for us and still enjoying. I didn't feel any difficulties in communication during my first arrival. But I am learning French well here. With study we also get good chance to visit beautiful Europe and be familiar people and cultural, historical and various aspects of it. I have good accommodation facility. I don't have any problems regarding my stay here and I am enjoying here a lot. Talking about academic aspects, I think I am very lucky to get such advanced technical environment to boost up my knowledge and get higher degree from such renowned institution. The teaching methodology, Laboratory, Library and overall academic systems are outstanding. So Interweave Project has turned my life and it has really helped for being a highly skilled technical manpower who can survive everywhere in the World. I am going to be a property of my community and country who can really contribute in the nation's development. I will try my best to be a good product of Ecole Centrale De Nantes and lastly I would like to thank the Erasmus Mundus Interweave Project again from my heart which provided me such an outstanding and great platform in my life.



***Praveen Khapangi, Master in Civil Engineering***

**Riga Technical University (RTU)** is the first technical university in the Baltic countries – its history dates back to 1862 when Riga Polytechnic was founded. Long lasting traditions, advanced teaching methods, new technologies and innovative approach provide the University with the opportunity to ensure research excellence and offer exciting full-time or part-time studies at RTU in Engineering Sciences, Technologies, Natural and Environmental Sciences as well as in Architecture and Engineering Economics.

Riga Technical University is an accredited internationally recognised European university that consists of 8 faculties and 35 institutes. It is the second largest university in Latvia by the number of students, and it has the greatest number of state funded students.

It is ensured that each student of Riga Technical University gains practical experience during internships not only in Latvia but also abroad. More than 200 cooperation agreements have been signed with European and other foreign universities. RTU collaborates with the enterprises in major industries in Latvia and abroad as well as with state and local government institutions. Supported by European Structural Funds, RTU is taking active part in various research projects as well as the establishment of Competence Centres and National Research Centres.

RTU offers more than 30 study programmes in English (at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels) and has large community of foreign students (approximately 1000 students). The Foreign Student Department organizes field trips, introduction, sporting events, sightseeing etc. on regular basis, ensuring that the student community is being actively engaged into life outside the academia and campus.

**For more information follow this link:**

<http://fsd.rtu.lv>



**Mondragon Unibertsitatea (MU)** is a private, cooperative university of social initiative and social vocation, non-profit making and declared of public interest. The University was created in 1997 by the association of three educational cooperatives that are now the Engineering, Business and Education Colleges. A fourth Faculty is now devoted to Gastronomic Sciences. The present number of students is about 3,500.

MU is a partner in the Mondragon Corporation, the 10th industrial group in Spain, integrated by 256 cooperative companies and bodies and more than 83.000 employees with the presence of production units in 18 countries.

MU learning model involves a system of relationships which, with the educational system as the central theme, aims to involve the companies and institutions, in order to guarantee social accessibility, the combination of work and study, the development of research and the provision of Continuing Education. Added to the Erasmus exchanges within Europe, MU has extended the mobility model with Universities and Basque companies abroad, specifically in Shanghai (China) and Pune (India).

More than 50% of MU students have a 6 or 12 months study, or project internship, period abroad. MU hosts about 150 international students during this academic year; it is still a small number but continuously growing. MU is coordinating an Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Project LAMENITEC.

**For more information follow this link:**

<http://www.mondragon.edu/en/>



**University of Malaya (UM)**, Malaysia's oldest University is situated on a 750 acre (309 hectare) campus in the southwest of Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. It was established on 8th October 1949 in Singapore with the merger of the King Edward VII College of Medicine (founded in 1905) and Raffles College (founded in 1928).

The Carr-Saunders Commission on University Education in Malaya, which recommended the setting up of the university, noted in its Report in 1948: "The growth of the University was very rapid during the first decade of its establishment and this resulted in the setting up of two autonomous Divisions on 15 January 1959, one located in Singapore and the other in Kuala Lumpur. In 1960, the government of the two territories indicated their desire to change the status of the Divisions into that of a national university. Legislation was passed in 1961 and the University of Malaya was established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1962".

In 2012, UM was granted autonomy status by the Ministry of Higher Education. In 2014, the QS World University Rankings ranked UM at 151<sup>st</sup> position among the world.

With a total research funding of more than RM 184 million (approximately EUR 44 million), today UM have almost 9,000 undergraduate students (including 866 international students from 52 countries), more than 8,000 postgraduate students (including 3,018 international students from 80 countries) and more than 3,600 academic staff (including 791 international staff). UM consists of 2 Academies, 5 Institutes, 4 Centres and 12 Faculties including Faculty of Engineering.

At present, the Faculty of Engineering UM has 5 departments: Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Chemical Engineering. The Faculty offers various engineering programs for undergraduate and postgraduate which are accredited by professional bodies.

**For more information follow this link:**

<http://www.um.edu.my>



**Tribhuvan University (TU)** is the first national institution of higher education in Nepal. It was established in 1959 A.D. The Central Administrative Office and the Central Campus of the university are located on the north eastern facade of Kirtipur, an ancient and small town located five kilometers away from Kathmandu city centre. There are 38 central departments and 4 research centres in TU, and out of them 31 departments and 3 research centres are located at Kirtipur. The university at Kirtipur is spread over an area of 154.77 hectares.

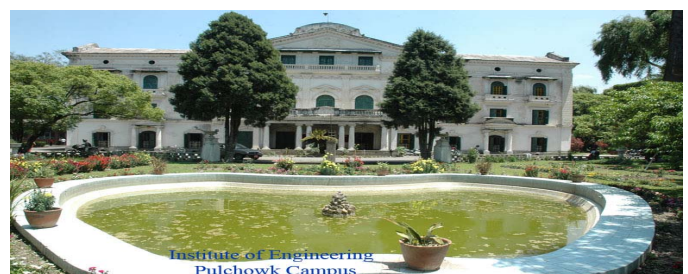
There are 5 technical institutes: Institute of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, Institute of Forestry, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences, and Institute of Science and Technology, and 4 other faculties- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Law and Faculty of Management. All the faculties and institutes are headed by their respective Deans. It has a wide range of course offerings at Bachelor's and Master's levels. TU offers Master and Ph.D. degree in different disciplines both at the Technical Institutes and other faculties.

TU runs its programmes through its 61 constituent campuses and 1053 affiliated (private and public) colleges spread all over the country. In the current academic session (2014-2015), altogether, 405 341 students have been enrolled at various levels of TU academic Programmes. 148 141 (36.55%) students study in its 60 constituent campuses including 38 central departments, while 257 200 (63.45%) students study in 1053 affiliated colleges. It clearly reveals that affiliated colleges do have more students than the constituent campuses. TU has 7966 teaching staff and 7230 non-teaching staff including the support staff in its constituent campuses.

Finally, Tribhuvan University has international relation with more than 100 Universities worldwide.

**For more information follow this link:**

<http://tribhuvan-university.edu.np>



## // WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE INTERWEAVE NETWORK ?

- ◆ In September, the INTERWEAVE Coordinator visited **IIT Guwahati** partner (**India**).
- ◆ In November, the INTERWEAVE Coordinator visited **ITS Surabaya** partner (**Indonesia**).
  
- ◆ In September, the Delegation from **Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)**, visited the **University of Porto (Portugal)**.
- ◆ Bilateral Agreement has been signed between the **Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember - ITS (Indonésia)** and the **University of Porto (Portugal)**.
  
- ◆ **Participation of the INTERWEAVE Coordinator in international fairs in :**
  - Beijing, China, (October 2014),
  - India ( October 2014),
  - Jakarta and Surabaya, Indonesia (November 2014),
  - Virtual Education Fair, "study in Asia" (from November 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015),  
in order to **promote the programme** and the **second cohort's selection**.
  
- ◆ **A workshop on Academic Recognition and Credit Transfer** was organized by 5 universities coordinating Erasmus Mundus Action 2 EMA2 projects targeted to **South East Asia**. The workshop took place in **Siem Reap, Cambodia on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**.  
You can see accurate information in the workshop webpage:  
⇒ <http://www.jku.at/conferences/content/e248706>

### ◆ **Photo Contest : « My New life »**

In December 2014, INTERWEAVE is going to launch a photo contest about your Erasmus Mundus experience.

We would like you send to us a picture showing your new way of living, how INTERWEAVE has changed your outlook since you have started your mobility within this programme.

**Be creative, share your experience and take part in this photo contest !**

The result will be announced by January 2015. You will find further information on the INTERWEAVE facebook page.

We are looking forward to seeing you in your new environment !

Should you want to share your story with us in the next newsletter or present some news, please send us an email : [interweave@ec-nantes.fr](mailto:interweave@ec-nantes.fr)

**Website** : <http://www.interweave-ema2.eu/>



<https://www.facebook.com/InterweaveErasmusMundusPartnershipAsiaEurope>

*INTERWEAVE Coordination Team*