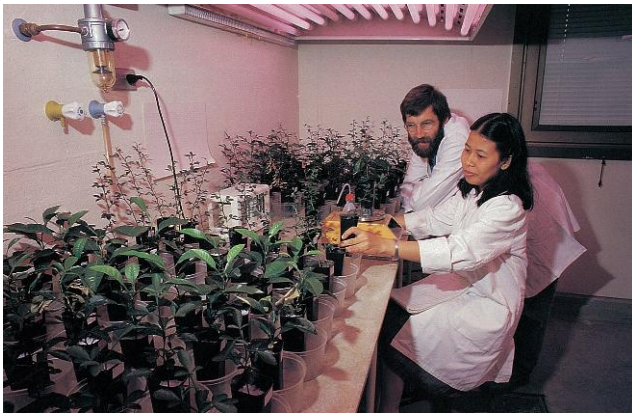




IDP History

Origins as an aid body

IDP has a proud heritage and history spanning more than 40 years. Its genesis was as an aid body, funded by the Australian Government at the time of the Colombo Plan when development aid was the dominant driver of international education.

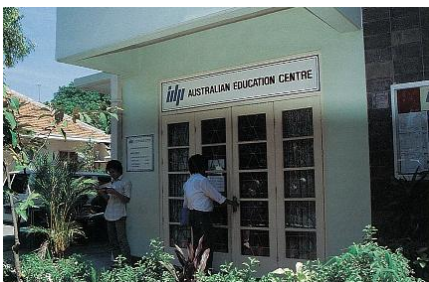


The organisation was established in 1969 as the Australian-Asian Universities' Cooperation Scheme (AAUCS). Its mission was to strengthen teaching and research in disciplines related to food production in a number of institutions in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. AAUCS became a leader in delivering education assistance to the Asian region.

The company's first fifteen years were spent developing a very effective, largely voluntary, scheme focussed mainly on the strengthening of a small number of universities in South-East Asia. In 1984, the company changed its name to International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges.

Government policy changes

In 1985, the Australian Government announced a policy on the export of education services which gave Australian universities the freedom to accept fee-paying overseas students.



IDP responded to the changes in Australian international education policy by setting up a network of overseas offices and building a new business. This provided counselling to prospective students and information about courses offered by its stakeholders (Australian universities and colleges).

IDP becomes a commercial company

In 2006, reflecting the trends in international education, IDP became a for-profit company. SEEK Ltd, Australia's leading online job search and training company, became a 50 per cent owner of IDP Education, with the other 50 per cent continuing to be held by Australian universities.

Multi-destination student placement

In order to offer students the widest choice of institution and course, IDP began a strategy to become a multi-destination placement service.

In 2009, IDP set up an office in the USA and began student placement into US universities. This was followed in 2010 with the establishment of an office in the United Kingdom, with recruitment planned for 2012. In 2011, the company began recruiting for universities in Canada.



The largest student placement organisation

Although, the IDP of 2011 looks very different to how it was in 1969, its purpose remains to work in partnership with quality education institution clients to ensure that overseas students have access to the best available education.

Today, IDP is the world's largest student placement organisation, with a global network of more than 80 student placement centres in over 25 countries. IDP has placed more than 300,000 international students over the past 40 years, and one in four international students in Australian higher education programs.

The need for a new English test

In the late 1980s it became clear that a new English language test for students was needed. IDP and a consortium of Australian universities partnered with Cambridge University Local Examinations Syndicate and the British Council to develop the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The IELTS test was developed over a period of two years by a joint Australian-British team. Following comprehensive testing worldwide, IELTS was officially launched in 1989.

IELTS™ IELTS has proven to be the world's most used English language test with over 1.5 million tests being taken across more than 130 countries in 2010. Recognised internationally as the test that sets the standard, IELTS measures the language proficiency of people who want to study or work where English is used as a language of communication.

English language teaching



IDP has been involved in English language teaching since 1988. Today it runs English language schools in Thailand and Cambodia, and partners with Insearch:University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in the Australian centre for Education and Training (ACET) in Vietnam.

Industry engagement

In 1987 IDP organised its first annual workshop with the theme *Overseas Students: New approaches and practices*. This initial workshop has developed into the Australian International Education Conference (AIEC), the largest international education conference in the Asia Pacific region and one of the pre-eminent international education conferences in the world.



The conference is now co-hosted by IDP and the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA). In 2011, the conference will be held in Adelaide with the theme: *International Education: The next 25 years?*

IDP has organised an international TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) conference in Cambodia, CamTESOL since 2006. The conference attracts 1,300 participants from approximately 30 countries, with 300 papers and workshops delivered annually.

Research

IDP published its first systematic research on international students in the late 1980s. Since then, IDP has regularly undertaken comprehensive research activities in the field of international education and over the years has published landmark research in this area.



IDP has taken a leadership role in the international student industry within Australia, based on its 40 year history, active engagement with key stakeholders and supported by comprehensive research and analysis. This has included a track-record of providing advice to industry and also engaging with government on policy submissions.

Contact IDP

Find out more about IDP Education and how a global network of skilled professionals in over 25 countries can benefit your institution.

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