



The campus in Malaysia will be located at Setia Alam with a second campus due to open in Ipoh in 2019

PHOTOS BY SHARIL AMIN

FEATURE

Quality ASSURED

Peninsula International founding principal Clive Rogers is focused on ensuring his teachers deliver a quality education

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Clive Rogers has 38 years of experience in the teaching profession. Starting life as a PE teacher, his vocation allowed him to travel the world teaching students from many different countries and sometimes it wasn't just about teaching students. Rogers was even involved in professional football, working with the late Graham Taylor when the latter was England manager, and though his role was related to developing leadership qualities, not many principals can claim to have worked with English Premier League stars after they had left school.

Having worked for an international school in Malaysia in the past Rogers now makes his return to the country as founding principal of Peninsula International School Australia (Peninsula), which is set to be the first school in Malaysia to offer Australia's Victorian Curriculum for primary and secondary students.

"I think Malaysia has a wonderful mix of cultures, which is one of the main draws for me, but I also think that Asia in general is also undergoing a transformation in terms of international education. Malaysia in particular has opened its doors to international schools so it shows that education is now very high on the agenda of not only the government but also parents who are thinking about what they need to do to prepare their children for an ever changing global environment," he said.

The Victorian Curriculum offered at Peninsula is equivalent to the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Curricula when it comes to preparing students for tertiary education and Rogers thinks by being the first school in the country to award the Victoria Certificate of Education (VCE) locally, Peninsula is offering Malaysian parents more options in an increasingly globalised education industry.

"Peninsula has a wonderful school in Austral-

ia with a great track record of preparing students for a future without borders and we're confident of being able to replicate that at the Malaysian campus especially since there are many connections between the two countries. Parents are also looking for alternatives to IGCSE and IB in the search to give their children the best level of education possible and I am confident they will find the VCE to be just as comprehensive as other curriculums.

"I also think it's advantageous when two partners with a substantial amount of experience in education (Peninsula and HCK Education) come together to build a school and put the education experience ahead of the profit expectations to ensure students are given the best education possible," he adds.

Because international school fees are fairly high in Asia, Rogers says that the main concern of parents is the quality of teaching offered in the schools. One of his jobs therefore is to ensure the teaching staff at Peninsula lives up to the promise of the brand and delivers high quality education to their students.

"After 38 years in the international educational business, I know what traits a good teacher needs to have and I have been more than happy to get involved in the hiring process to ensure that Peninsula hires the very best teachers possible for each subject taught. Aside from meeting the benchmarked academic requirements we set, we also look at their interna-

tional teaching experience while earmarking those with a strong background in pastoral care as well as a track record for working outside of the classroom because we believe in the holistic development of every student.

"On top of that, we will also perform extensive background checks on every applicant that has been shortlisted for a teaching position at Peninsula and do a thorough screening of their qualifications to ensure the safety of our students and that every teacher has the required knowledge, experience and in some cases, licence to be a member of our faculty. Finally, I will also have a face-to-face interview with each potential teaching hire, which helps ensure we can work together as a team," says Rogers.

On the subject of teaching methods, the founding principal of Peninsula is a believer that schools should teach the way children learn.

"I think that teachers and schools need to adapt their method of delivering knowledge to suit the needs of their audience. Therefore, there will be a lot of information technology incorporated into our classrooms but there will also be group discussions and other methods to increase the effectiveness of each lesson. It's important to remember that we will be preparing students today for jobs that aren't there yet, so we need to ensure that they will be able to understand and absorb the information they need to perform in their future working lives," he adds.

Many parents tend to compare the quality of various curriculums and schools to get some idea of where to send their children but Rogers is wary of such direct comparisons.

"Each international curriculum has its own set of merits and emphasises different areas of education so a direct comparison isn't accurate as each parent has a different set of priorities that they want to be fulfilled. Having said that, I think awards or recognition from external bodies and the administrators of the curriculums do carry weight because they are based on like-for-like comparisons.

"Ultimately, I think that when Peninsula opens the doors to its Malaysian campus in 2018, it will offer students and parents a viable alternative to other international schools and curriculums and I will work at overseeing its operations to ensure that we deliver on their expectations," says Rogers.

By having passion and clear dedication for teaching as well as understanding the need to focus on the details, Clive Rogers hopes to set Peninsula on the right path to delivering excellent education to its students. Though the first term only starts next year, it's abundantly clear that the first steps to ensure a quality educational experience have already been taken. ■



Clive Rogers, founding principal of Peninsula Malaysia