

# Why Thailand?

James Wise  
Australian Ambassador to Thailand  
March 2014

# Thailand in Focus: Why?

- ▶ Thailand offers a range of possibilities
  - outward mobility
  - research collaboration
  - academic exchanges
  
- ▶ Australia generally unaware of them
  
- ▶ New Colombo Plan

# Thailand: Common Views

- ▶ Good place for a holiday
- ▶ Poor and undeveloped
  - So education is not high quality
- ▶ Language Barrier
- ▶ Political Instability
  - Is it safe?

# But I don't speak Thai ....

- ▶ Language not a barrier in university sector
- ▶ TESOL opportunities

# Is Thailand Safe?

- ▶ Yes, it is
  - Personal safety risks are very low
- ▶ Politics does not disrupt education
- ▶ Easy to avoid trouble

# Thai Universities

- ▶ 100 top Asian universities *(THE 2012)*
  - 6 in ASEAN
  - 3/6 in Thailand: *KMUTT, Mahidol, Chulalongkorn*
  
- ▶ KMUTT ranked ahead of 24 Australian universities
  
- ▶ Thai universities are independent
  - best approach = direct approach
  
- ▶ Thai universities are internationalising - fast

# Internationalisation

- ▶ Growing number of joint degrees
  - 92 (2011)
  
- ▶ Growing number of international programs
  - > 1,000 (2012)
  
- ▶ > 20,000 international students (2011)
  - 11,000 (2007)
  
- ▶ Branch campuses

# Joint Degrees

- ▶ Rules are comparatively simple
  
- ▶ Currently nine Thai-Australia programs, e.g.
  - UOW and Assumption– B.Comm
  - UOW and KMUTT– B.Eng (Environmental Eng.)
  - UTS and Mahidol – Ph.D. (Science)



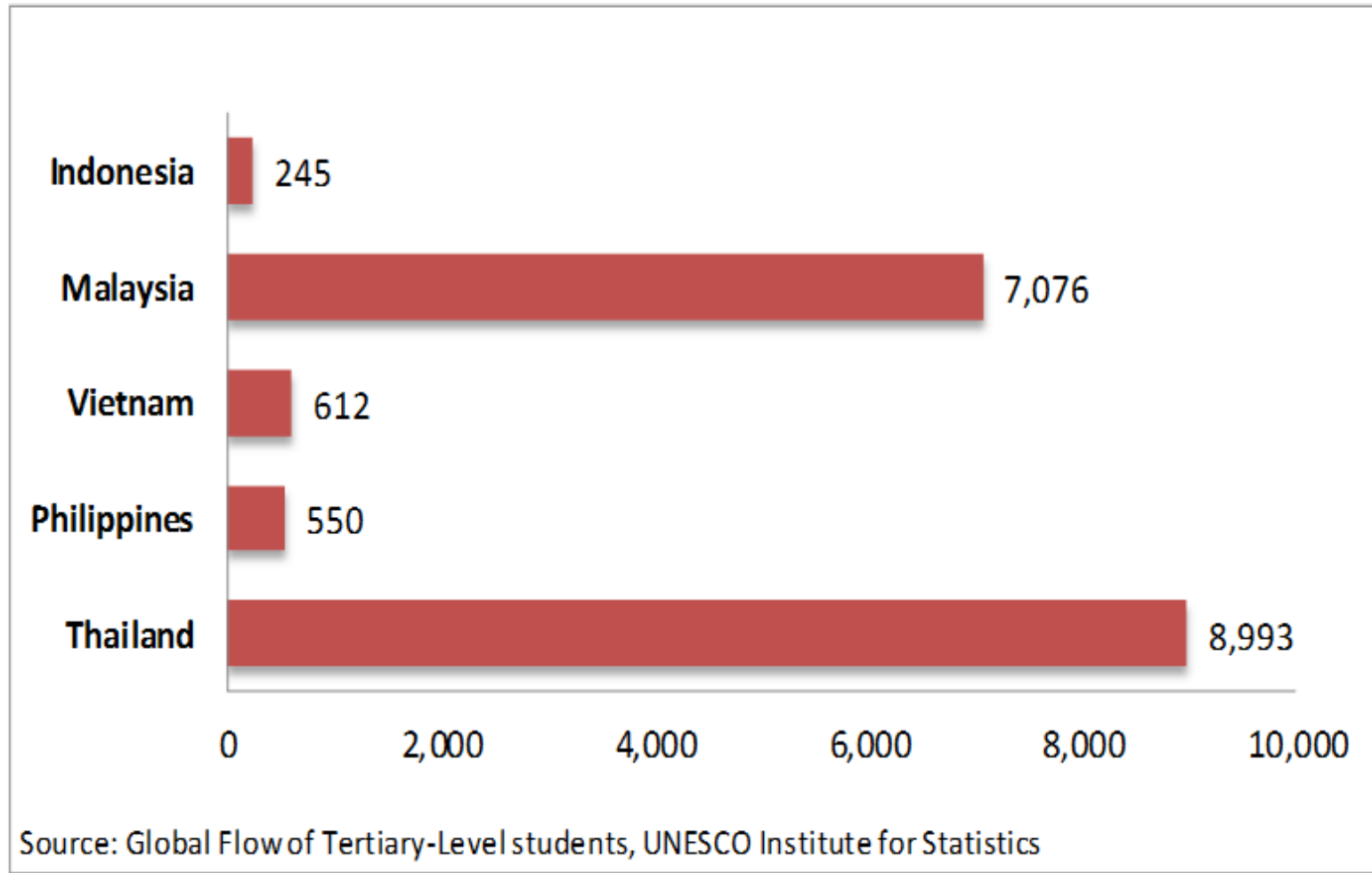
# International programs

- ▶ > 1,000 international programs (2012)
  
- ▶ Wide variety of courses
  
- ▶ All levels
  - ≈ 350 bachelors
  - ≈ 400 masters
  - ≈ 250 doctoral

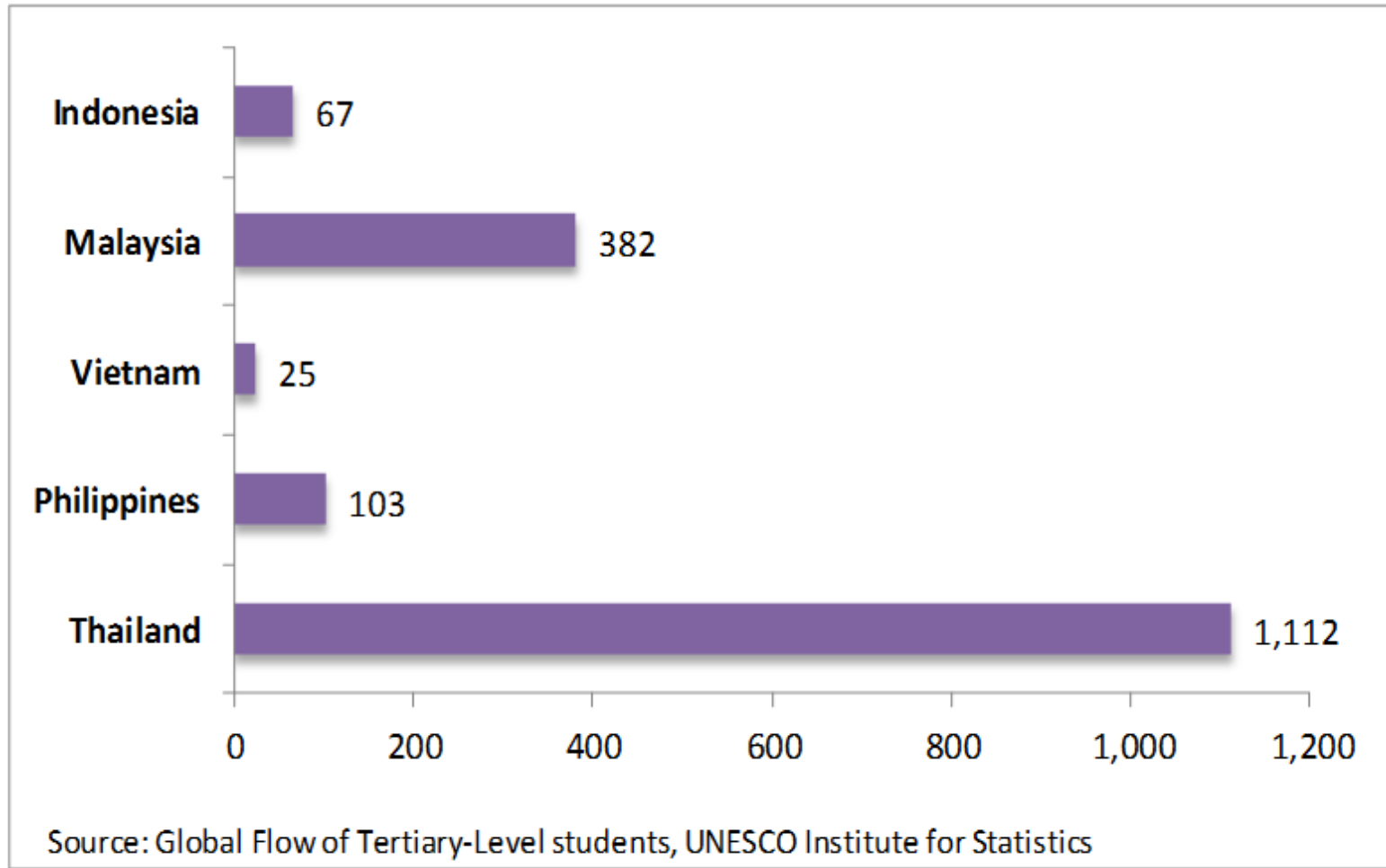
# Student Mobility: Numbers

- ▶ > 20,000 international students (2011)
  - 11,000 (2007)
- ▶ ≈ 9,000 from China
- ▶ Neighbouring countries heavily represented
- ▶ But look at EU, US, Japan, Korea too ....

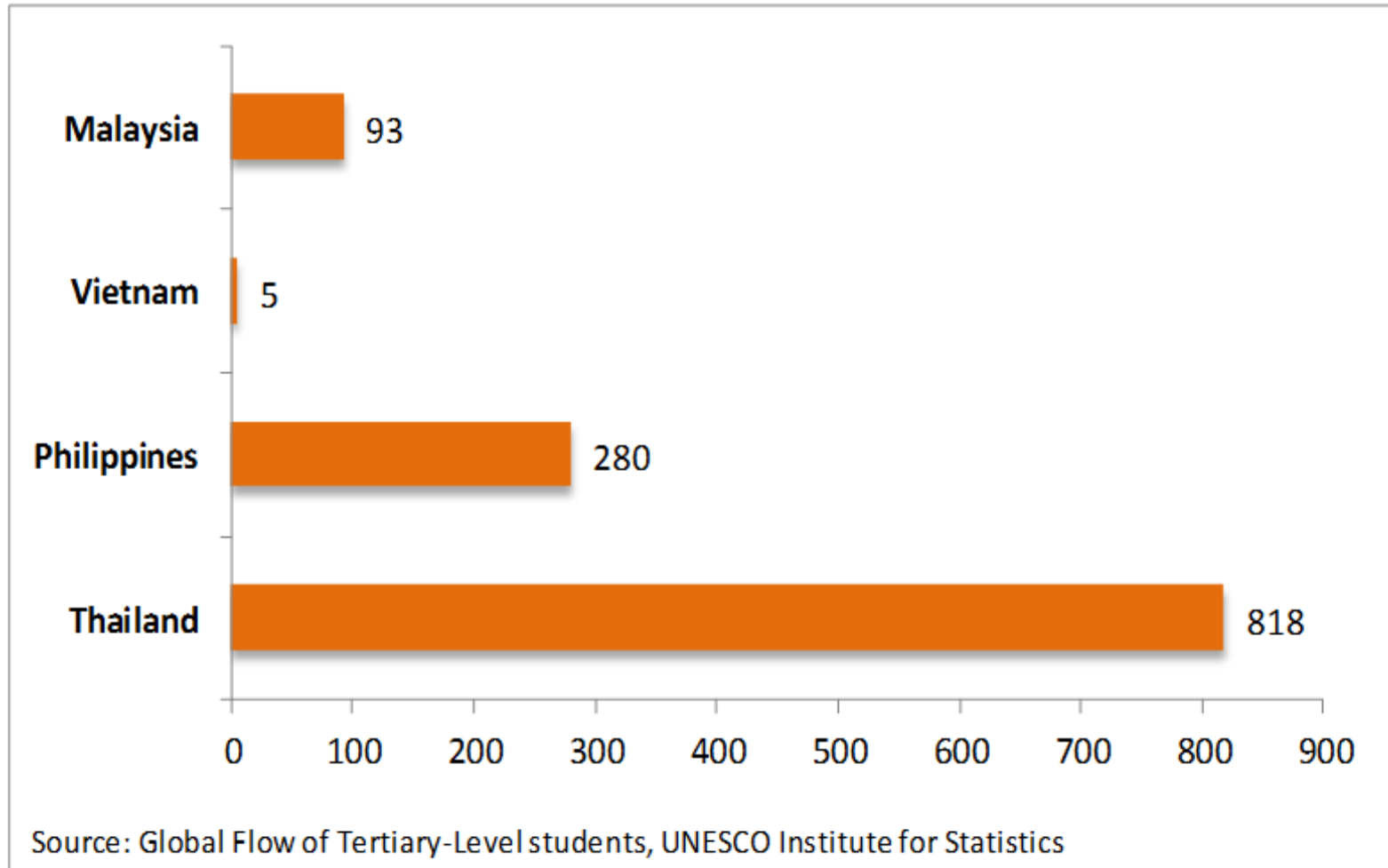
# Where are Chinese going...?



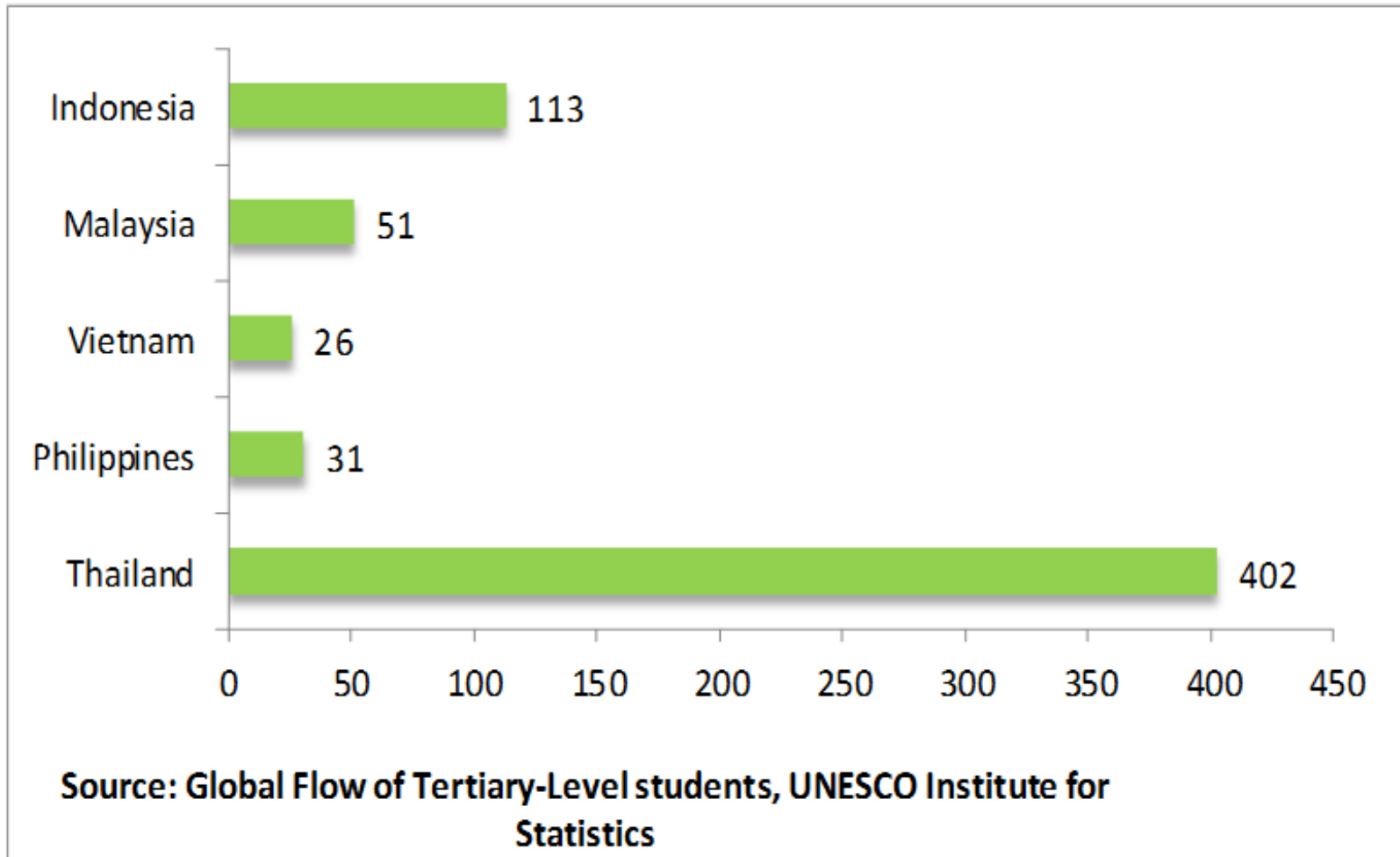
# Where are Europeans going...?



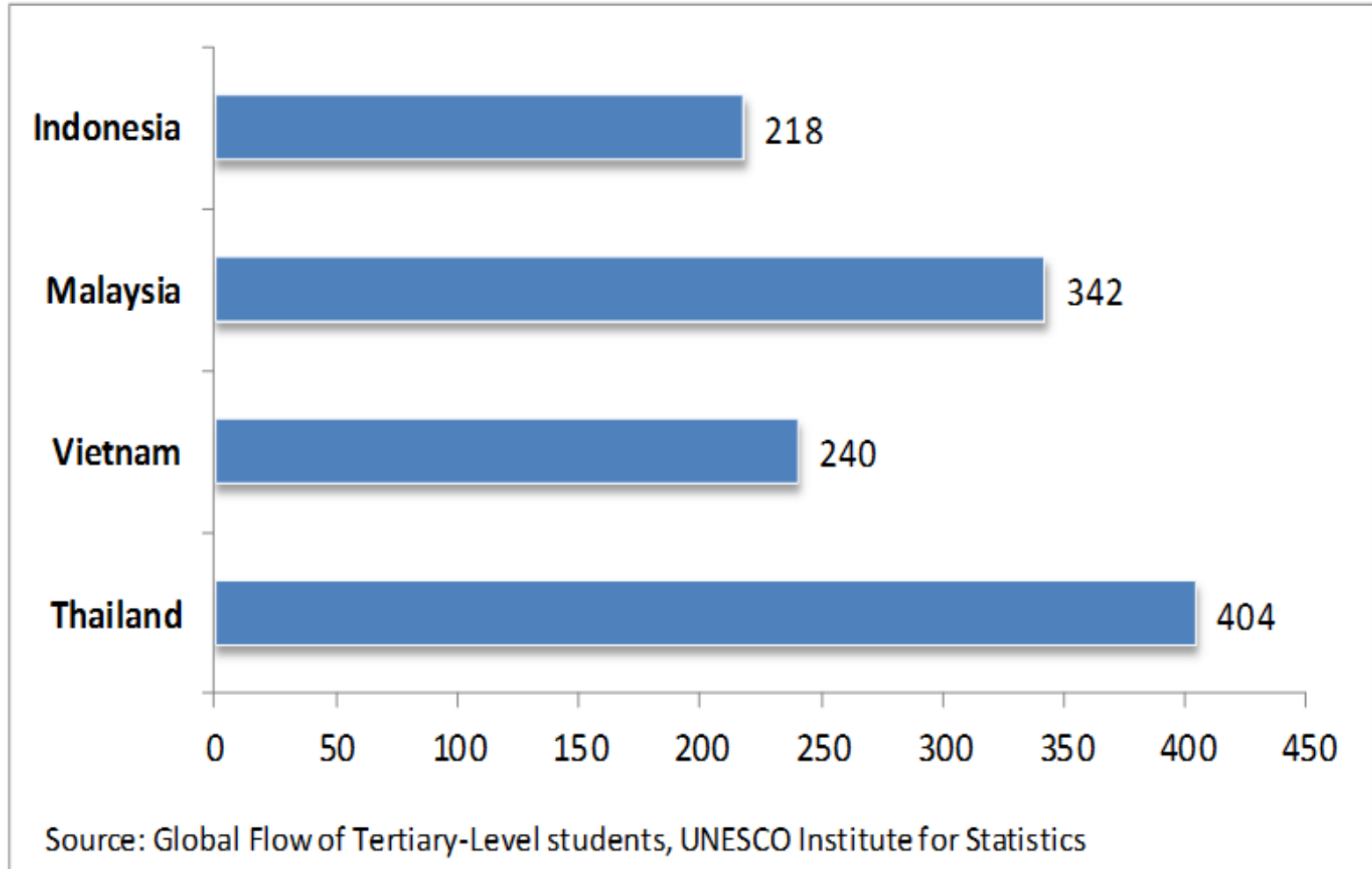
# Where are Americans going...?



# Where are Japanese going...?



# Where are Koreans going...?



# Student Mobility: Why Thailand?

- ▶ Good quality universities
  - Accustomed to international students
  - Tailor programs to suit students
  - Recognition of credits straightforward
  
- ▶ Internships not difficult
  
- ▶ Easy visa regime – for students and interns



# Student Mobility: Pastoral Care

- ▶ Airport transfers
- ▶ Clean, secure accommodation
- ▶ Visa facilitation
- ▶ Excellent medical facilities

# Student Mobility: Cost

## Average annual cost for international students

Country	Tuition Fees (USD)	Cost of living (USD)	Total per year (USD)
<b>Australia</b>	25,375	13,140	38,516
<b>Singapore</b>	14,885	9,363	24,248
<b>Hong Kong</b>	13,182	9,261	22,443
<b>Japan</b>	6,522	12,642	19,164
<b>Indonesia</b>	3,500	2,100	5,600
<b>Malaysia</b>	6,000	6,000	12,000
<b>Thailand</b>	3,800	7,200 (Bangkok) 3,000 (outside Bangkok)	11,000 (Bangkok) 6,800 (outside Bangkok)

Notes: Tuition fee based on general study disciplines: business, IT, Engineering, social sciences, arts, communication.  
Thailand's annual tuition fee will be less in regional universities.

Source: HSBC research Aug 2013: Review data on higher education in 13 countries

[www.studyinthailand.org](http://www.studyinthailand.org)

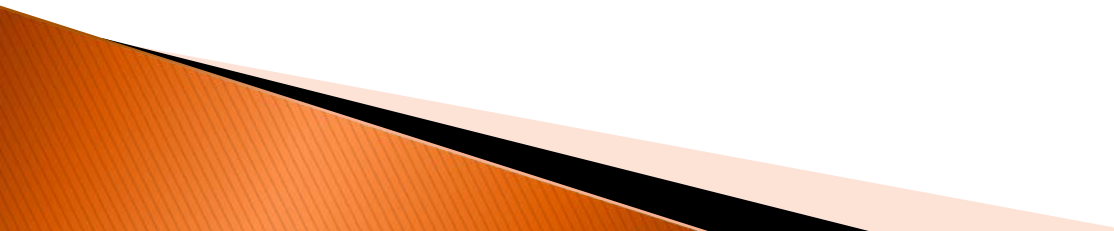
Thailand: A Study Abroad for Australian Students Guidebook by AEI

# Student Mobility: Examples

- ▶ UTS and Phranakorn Rajabhat University
  - Teaching practicum – 12 students last July
  
- ▶ SCU and Naresuan University
  - Cultural study and English language training
  
- ▶ Deakin University and KMUTT
  - Cross-Asia architectural experience
  
- ▶ (Very) few semester-long experiences – yet!



# New Colombo Plan: Aim

- ▶ Increase the number of Australian students in Asia
    - study
    - internships
  - ▶ 2014 pilot program
    - Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore
  - ▶ 2015 – full implementation
  - ▶ Wide range of disciplines
- 



# NCP: Funding & Eligibility

- ▶ \$100 million (5 years)
  - ▶ Funding covers:
    - host institution fees
    - two-way travel
    - living stipend
    - insurance
  - ▶ Open to Australian undergraduates
    - 18 to 28 years
    - studying at an Australian university
  - ▶ Credit recognition is essential
- 



# NCP: Access

- ▶ NCP is demand driven and flexible
- ▶ Step 1: design a program with a partner in Asia
- ▶ Step 2: lodge an application

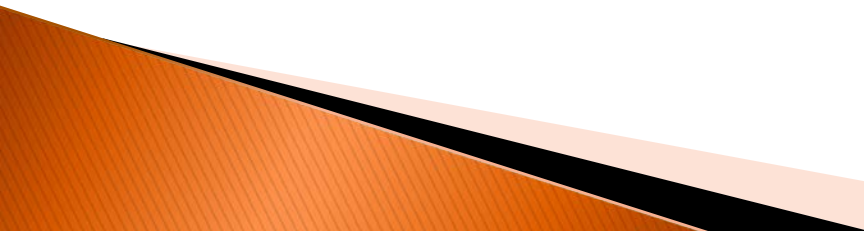


# NCP: Internships & Mentorships

- ▶ Internships and mentorships – a high priority
  - Work-ready students
  - With professional connections in Asia
- ▶ Strong interest from companies in Thailand
- ▶ Can the Embassy help?



# Other Mobility Programs

- ▶ Asiabound Grants Program
  - ▶ The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP
  - ▶ Study Overseas Short-term Mobility Program)
  - ▶ VET Outbound Mobility Program
  - ▶ Endeavour Scholarships/Fellowships
- 



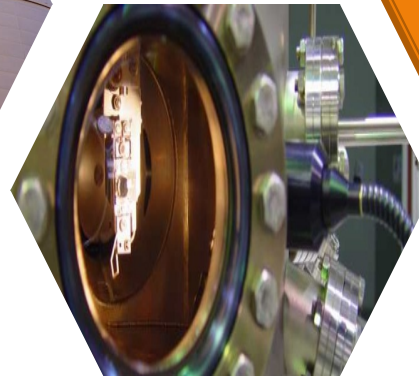
# Science and Research

Quantitative  
Goals for  
R & D

Nine  
National  
Research  
Unis

Thailand  
Science  
and  
Research

National  
Science  
Park



# Science and Research - Bilateral

- ▶ Scholarships offer (missed) opportunities
  - OCSC
  - Royal Golden Jubilee
  
- ▶ Examples of collaboration
  - Flinders University and Nanotec
  - QUT and NSTDA

# THANK YOU

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