Reasons to Recruit in Southeast Asia

Brunei

• Full government funding for higher education, including education abroad, is available to students who qualify for admission at recognized domestic and overseas universities. Annually, over a thousand students are fully sponsored as government scholars to study abroad. Students studying abroad account for almost half the Bruneian student population enrolled in higher education. Private scholarships also exist that award generous support to students who wish to pursue careers in the areas of health/medicine, engineering, the oil and gas industry, business, agriculture, military and the creative industry.

• Brunei is a small, oil-rich moderate Muslim country in Southeast Asia with Malaysia and Singapore as close neighbors. Bruneians can travel to the Unites States without difficulty and the overwhelming majority of applicants for student visas are granted.

• Education in Brunei is free and English is the medium of instruction at all levels. Bruneians are highly proficient in both written and spoken English. At the upper high school level, English in government schools is taught exclusively by native English speakers.

Cambodia

• A U.S. university degree is highly valued by employers in Cambodia and over the past three years, the number of visas issued to Cambodian students to study in the United States has increased by more than 60%.

• Cambodia has experienced steady and impressive economic growth over the past decade and shows promise of increasing the pace of development. This economic expansion has led to a rapid increase in the numbers of young Cambodians attending university and seeking professional careers.

• Cambodian youth are enthusiastic about education, especially English-language education. As a member of several regional groups that use English as the language of communication, such as ASEAN, Cambodia greatly values the use of English. English language proficiency is expanding rapidly among Cambodian youth, with English being the most popular foreign language taught in both public and private schools.

Malaysia

• Full government funding for higher education is available to qualified students to attend Ministry of Education approved U.S. institutions. To attend U.S. schools, the majority of Malaysian students depend on personal funds and scholarships from the U.S. institutions.

• Malaysians can travel to the United States without difficulty as more than 95% of Malaysian citizens will receive student visas with no difficulty and the number of Malaysians currently studying in the U.S. exceeds 6,700 – the highest number recorded in more than a decade.
Myanmar

- Recent political and economic reforms in Myanmar have contributed to an immense growth in the numbers of students interested in studying abroad, especially among youth. The U.S. government is in the process of easing travel bans associated with certain individuals, which will likely contribute to an increase in the number of students qualifying for a student visa.

- Although the level of English may be low, English is the official language of instruction in schools and higher education. There is a natural inclination for students to study abroad in English-speaking countries, especially America because of the perceived high quality of education.

- There has been an increase in the number of private high school in Myanmar’s larger cities (Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Lashio). These private high schools teach the Ministry of Education curriculum, like public schools, but attract a high level of students interested in university study. These schools, in conjunction with long-established international high schools, will be good venues for identifying students prepared and eligible for international education.

Thailand

- Thailand is one of the top 20 sending countries globally for foreign students pursuing study in the US. Thais can travel to the U.S. without difficulty and the overwhelming majority of Thai applicants for student visas are easily approved.

- Many Thais have superb English which allows them to enroll directly in degree programs, and many are also interested in ESL and English intensive programs prior to seeking a degree.

- The Thai student market, which already has a large contingency interested in studying in the US, will continue to grow. Currently there are more than 130 international secondary schools in Thailand, up from 40 in 1992. Thai schools with English language programs number more than 160, with nearly 20 new programs added in just the past five years. There are over 300 international undergrad degree programs, and nearly 1000 international university-level programs that use English as the language of instruction.

Vietnam

- The population is over 92 million of which 65% is under the age of 30. The majority of students start at community colleges. However, there in an increasing interest for graduate study in the U.S. thanks to government funding.

- Vietnam’s Ministry of Education and Training’s long-term plan is to offer great opportunities to establish and strengthen the linkage between U.S. and Vietnamese institutions: Training 2,500 Vietnamese Ph.D.s in the U.S. by 2020 and sending all university rectors and high school principals on training programs abroad.

- A wider section of the population is able to afford an international education. 75% students going to the United States are from southern Vietnam and receive significant financial support from their relatives in the United States.