



Mike Connolly
Education Counsellor, South East Asia
Ministry of Education
New Zealand

Mike Connolly is New Zealand Education Counsellor for South East Asia. Based at the New Zealand Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, he has been involved in developing and managing New Zealand's high level education relationships in South East Asia since July 2006.

Mike took up this position within the New Zealand Ministry of Education after 18 months as Chief Executive of the Association of Consulting Engineers New Zealand (ACENZ), the business association representing the consulting engineering industry's business interests in New Zealand and internationally.

Prior to joining ACENZ, Mike undertook consultancy work for Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) and an English language school, and was variously International Manager at The Open Polytechnic (1995-2003); Project Director and International Research Manager in the International Business Development Unit at Telecom New Zealand (1992-1995); Export Consultant with New Zealand Trade Development Board (1990-1992); and New Zealand Trade Commissioner based in Brisbane (1987-1989) and New Zealand Assistant Trade Commissioner in Melbourne (1986-1987). Prior to his posting to Australia Mike held various policy roles in the then Department of Trade and Industry.

Mike has a BA Honours degree in Political Science and International Politics from Victoria University Wellington. He has extensive business development experience throughout Asia, particularly in the tertiary education sector in Malaysia.

Mike brings strong networks across the academic, research, and commercial sectors to the Education Counsellor role. These networks are invaluable for the sharing of information, facilitation of collaborative projects, and the development of institutional understanding of the resources required to develop enduring, reciprocal relationships. He also sees the role as providing support for the institutions engaged in programmes in the region, acting as a central coordinator for New Zealand offshore academic activity, and facilitating exchanges between individuals and organisations.

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