



# BIOGRAPHY

## Prof. Dr. Saran Kaur Gill

Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Industry and Community Partnerships)  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
(National University of Malaysia)

Professor Dr Saran Kaur Gill is the first Malaysian Punjabi-Sikh appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Industry and Community Partnerships) of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (The National University of Malaysia). With this specific portfolio, Saran is responsible for developing mutually beneficial partnerships between the university, industry and community as they support the domains of education, research and service. This is planned for and implemented through the Industry-Liaison Office, the Chancellor's Foundation and the University-Community Partnerships Office.

Attached to the university for more than 30 years, Saran has a diverse background encompassing scholarly pursuits, human resource development and management of large projects. As Head of Academic Training, she collaborated with UNESCO in Bangkok in 1999 to develop and organize workshops on "Asian Women Leaders in Higher Education". In 2004, Saran was appointed member of the UNESCO Scientific Committee for the Asia-Pacific Region for Higher Education, Research and Knowledge. In 1998, she led the intercultural training of 10,000 volunteers for the 16<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Games. For her services, Saran in 1999, received the university's Excellence Award for Enhancing the Image of UKM at the National and International Levels, in the category of Human Resource Development.

Saran obtained her PhD from the University of London on an Academic Commonwealth Scholarship. In 2006, she successfully competed for a Fulbright Award to research on "Language Policy: Managing Ethnic, National and International Identities" at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2010, she received the inaugural award of "Education Personality of the Year" from the Australian High Commission in recognition of her efforts in developing Malaysian-Australian educational partnerships.

Through her portfolio, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) has gained the confidence and trust of many international organisations and is suitably positioned to lead in the area of community engagement. UKM is the secretariat of the **Asia-Talloires Network of Industry and Community Engaged Universities (ATNEU)**. The Talloires Network is based in Tufts University, US and is a network of over 200 universities in 59 countries around the globe, that have a passion for university social responsibility and civic engagement. In addition, UKM has developed a strong relationship with the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and has recently been endorsed as the secretariat of the **AUN thematic network on university social responsibility and sustainability**.