

## INTERVIEW SERIES WITH ALUMNI OF 'LOOK EAST POLICY'

# MOHD ZUHAIRI BIN AB RAHMAN

### **Tell us about your study in Japan**

Successfully studying in the field of Mechanics at one of the leading universities in Japan is a matter of self-pride. Studying and doing part time work to gain experience is one of the most fun and valuable things during the period in Japan. Nagoya is one of the largest cities in Japan full of a variety of surprises and diversity to learn. Among them is participating in the foster family program (homestay) and still in touch to this day.

### **What surprised you in Japan?**

4 seasons in Japan is indeed interesting especially in winter. So much fun when it snows. But the weather in summer is very hot and hotter than Malaysia. One of the most memorable surprises was the highly efficient and scattered public transport system especially the subway line. Apart from that too, the frequency of earthquakes that occur is among the most memorable experiences.

### **Look East Policy & you**

This policy enables many qualified Malaysian students to continue their studies in various fields of engineering in Japan. It is not just learning to acquire engineering knowledge but what is most important is learning a disciplined culture and kaizen spirit in doing something. Kaizen is a principle by which improvements are made over time in whatever we do. Japan is one of my favorite countries and I often visit it myself because I consider it like my own country after Malaysia.



## Your favorite:

### Person

- My homestay family, Mr. & Mrs. Takagi and their children

### Place

- Mt Fuji, Hokkaido, Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka

### Food

- Shashimi, Sushi, Yakisobo, Takoyaki

### Custom

- The tea ceremony (茶道chadō,) is very interesting when you see it done.
- Full of discipline and great customs of eastern Japan.



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## Future of Malaysia & Japan

The relationship between Malaysia-Japan can be improved not only in terms of politics or economy but also in cultural exchanges between the two countries such as the ease of entry and exit of people between Japan-Malaysia is very much needed. Sending national representatives to get to know and introduce the culture needs to be done all the time. Cultural exchange can also be done with the introduction of more television programs in Japan / Malaysia because the current social media is one of the sources that cannot be denied to play a very important role.

### Additional

Parties in Japan need to actively focus on promoting Japan to Malaysia in terms of social media, television programs such as dramas, music or anime because at present South Korea has taken over its influence in Malaysia. Most Malaysians have focused on South Korea because of the influence of K-pop that is sweeping the world nowadays. If Japan does not take drastic steps in this regard, it is likely that many will be more interested in focusing on the country of South Korea in the future.