

INTERVIEW SERIES WITH ALUMNI OF 'LOOK EAST POLICY'

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Tell us about your study in Japan

I studied Japanese Associate Degree Programme, which is a scholarship by MARA. I started the programme in 2002 after my SPM and studied for 2 years before I went to Okayama University of Science to study Chemical Engineering in 2004. Because MARA programme was 2+3 twinning programme, so I straight away entered the second year. It was quite challenging to make friend at first as I was the only foreigner in that batch. At first, it was tough for me to understand and communicate because Okayama has its own dialect which is a little bit different from the standard Japanese Language. My Japanese friends were very supportive and we exchanged and shared information on exam, study and report. After I graduated in 2007, I worked in Osaka for 1 year. The company was Katayama Chemical in Yudogawa-Ku, Osaka. I worked as QA quality analyst. My job is to check and record the industrial water quality. I resigned after working for 1 year and continued my Masters studies in Chemical Engineering in Shibaura Institute of Technology in Tokyo from 2008 and graduated in 2011.

What surprised you in Japan

Apart from the studies, it was my first time to experience in a 4 seasons country. I was very excited when I saw the snow. I was so impressed with the system in Japan. I had no safety concern and felt secured in Japan. I lost my wallet in Osaka, few days later I received a call from the police station and asked me to collect my wallet. I felt like this could be happened only in Japan. I even lost my bicycle, after a few months later I was informed by the police to collect my bicycle which was found at the train station. In Japan, we don't have the worry of losing our way or losing of items.

Look East Policy & you

The Look East Policy is a very good programme. In the past, Malaysia was a developing country while the developed countries were the US, UK, Japan and South Korea. This programme is beneficial because all the students have the chance to experience the tradition, environment and so on in Japan. When we came back to Malaysia, we bring back the good things we learnt in Japan to share with our friends.

Your favourite:

Person

Masadome Sensei. He is my supervisor. He is a nice person, very helpful and supportive during my Masters studies.

Place

Kyoto. The most beautiful place in Japan. The essence of traditional Japanese culture.

Food

Washoku, Sushi and Udon. Bukkake udon is very famous in Okayama.

Custom

Japanese customs are unique especially green tea and kimono which have long existed since the ancient of Japan.

Future of Malaysia & Japan

I wish Malaysia and Japan continue to maintain good relationship. I hope there can be more activities like the Ipoh and Fukuoka twin city programme. I feel really sad because some Japanese industries tend to transfer their operation out from Malaysia to other Asean countries like Indonesia and Vietnam. I hope Malaysia will attract more Japanese investors and create more job opportunities in the future.

Additional

The interview series is a very good programme to reach out to all the alumni of Look East Policy so that all of us can keep in touch.

