



INTERVIEW SERIES WITH SENPAI

Japan is a beautiful country. Mother nature blessed Japan with beautiful mountains, lakes, rivers, and coastlines. But also, Japanese people take care of their immediate surroundings, maintaining cleanliness and protecting beauty.

Visitors to Japan see its cleanliness culture in action. There are often no trash cans, even in tourist areas – but still no trash on the street. Local residents, young and old, clean outside their houses and shops, and around their neighbourhoods.

Japan's cleanliness culture starts at home, and is reinforced from a young age at school. Many schools do not have regular janitors. Kids clean the schools. They pick up garbage and wax floors. They learn responsibility for keeping their surroundings clean.

In Malaysia, we do not take personal responsibility for the cleanliness of our surroundings. Local authorities are responsible for making our country clean, and authorities are not able to create cleanliness on their own. The result is: our cities are littered with garbage, polluting our environment, and spoiling our natural beauty.

We Malaysians should learn from Japan about making our country clean. We should not depend on authorities for cleanliness. Rather we should each take responsibility for our surroundings, and teach that responsibility to our kids at home and school.

I hope that Malaysians who had the opportunity to study in Japan will put into practice what they saw and experienced in Japan starting with their family, and that this effort will slowly spread to the entire community. In the future, I hope that this type of mindset will be embedded in the Malaysian educational system.

Malaysia Boleh!

Written by Dato Hew Choy Kon