

INTERVIEW SERIES WITH ALUMNI OF

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Tell us about your study in Japan

In 2003, I started my study at Kyoto Institute of Technology, in the traditional city of Kyoto. I completed my Bachelor of Mechanical and System Engineering degree in 2007. I enjoyed the university and the city at the fullest. Spending 4 years in this beautiful city is something I could advise everyone.

What surprised you in Japan

I remember in April 2003; it was spring season. That was my very first time in Japan, specifically Kyoto. I was very excited to attend my first class at Kyoto Institute of Technology. However, during that class, the excitement turned into a shocking situation. I couldn't understand 90% (maybe a bit aggregated) of the lecture. I surprised at how the lecturer speak, the pace (fast), intonation and some words that I never heard before. His Japanese language was different from what I've learnt before I went to Japan. I thought that 2 years Japanese language preparation course is enough, but Kyoto dialect is quite different. I was confused and worried about how I'm going to catch up with all the lectures. Luckily, I have Malaysian seniors that always helped me in my study as well as my daily life.

Over the time, I started to get along with my Japanese classmate. Even though it was quite difficult for me to get into their circle of friendship. But, once I was acknowledged as one of their group members, they were helpful, and we became like brothers. Thanks to them that I have improved my Japanese language proficiency especially in understanding Kyoto dialect.

Look East Policy & you

Look East Policy provides opportunity to many Malaysians including myself to gain exposure to Japanese education, working style and culture. To be honest, Japan was my preference destination to study abroad because of the influence of Ultraman and Kamen Rider series. But living in Japan for 4 years has a great impact on my life. The good Japanese culture such as cleanliness, punctuality etc., mesmerized me. The endeavor to embed those positive value in myself is never end. In future, I would like to spend another year or two in Japan.

Your favourite:

Person

Chiba san; an officer at Malaysian Embassy in Japan. She is a very helpful person and like a mother to all Malaysian students in Japan.

Place

Kyoto city of course. Every corner of the city is super beautiful.

Food

Kappa Sushi; cheap but tasty sushi. Good for students. Takotora Takoyaki; the most delicious takoyaki. Last but not least, Saizeriya; Italian restaurant with super cheap drink bar. My friend and I used to spend hours in the restaurant.

Custom

I'm impressed with the amazing customer service in Japan, which can be found not only at luxury hotels, but at any shop or restaurant in Japan, even at convenience stores and food stalls.



Future of Malaysia & Japan

The Look East Policy has been implemented in Malaysia for almost 40 years. This policy has benefited both, Malaysia and Japan in many ways. I believe that the Malaysia-Japan relationship will get strongest and continue to enhance cooperation in many sectors such as education and economy.

Additional

As a person in education sector, I hope that Look East Policy will continue and provide more opportunity and east gateway for educators and students from both countries to get people-to-people exchange through education.

I highly recommend people to get experience in Japan education system at any level. It is not easy to master Japanese language, but I'm sure you will get a lot of benefit. Good luck!

