

INTERVIEW SERIES WITH ALUMNI OF 'LOOK EAST POLICY'

Irwan Sanei Bin Zainol Abidin

Tell us about your study in Japan

Tsukuba Science City is a very comfortable place to live and to experience Japanese culture.

The city is unlike Tokyo or Chiba or any other major cities. Tsukuba is calm. We have no train, just city buses as our daily mode of transportation.

Our streets are less congested. The traffic is calm.

Tsukuba University is huge and complete as a study place.

I graduated in 1994 and immediately started working with Itochu Corporation in Kita-Aoyama, Tokyo.

The life in Tokyo was shocking because it was totally different than Tsukuba. It was hectic, fast-paced and busy.

I love my experience in Japan, both as a student and as a company man.

What surprised you in Japan

The Japanese discipline and hard work ethics.

Look East Policy & you

Look-East Policy enables me to study in Japan. Choosing Japan as my destination was a blessing. The Japanese experience moulds me into becoming a person I am today.

Your favourite:

Person

Too many to write. The best three would be my Course Seminar Sensei Mrs Ayabe and two of my best friends Kai Satoshi from Kagawa and Tatewaki from Tokyo.

Place

Hakone and Tsukuba-san. I love Shinjuku, Harajuku, Shibuya, Ueno and Akihabara too.

Food

Most Halal Japanese food I love. The best is sushi – uni, toro, ikura and ama-ebi.

Custom

I respect and are really impressed with Japanese drivers. They are considerate of other road users. They think of safety first. This behavior makes driving in Japan an excellent experience.

Future of Malaysia & Japan

Malaysia and Japan have the opportunity to bond very closely. There are many fields, for instance the economy, agriculture, education, public safety and culture; where we can work together and move forward.

Malaysians are intrigued with the Japanese lifestyle and are appreciative in the Japanese values. We are ready to learn and get adapted to these values to improve ourselves, the community and the country.

Additional

- Further engagements on micro level, both cultural and business.
- Cooperation between city councils to let both Malaysians and Japanese learn about each other.
- JV opportunity in business. Setting up a lot more Japanese businesses in Malaysia like in the 1980's and 90's.



1992 Tsukuba University



2022 Current Photo



1996 Itochu Corp