



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

# NOR HAFIZAH SALWA BINTI MOHAMAD NORDIN

### Tell us about your study in Japan

My name is Nor Hafizah Salwa, and I am currently working in education field as a Japanese language teacher in one of the government high schools in Langkawi. I went to Japan in 2009 and safely graduated to get my degree after 4 years, which was in 2013. I was majoring in System Engineering, under the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Faculty, Hiroshima University. My favourite subject during those periods was Production System Engineering. Before going to Japan, I attended the preparatory course in University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur for 2 years, and then after passing the EJU (Entrance Japan University) examination, I flew to Japan with around 130 batch mate which then all of us were scattered all over the country. My 6 years degree program in Japan was fully funded by JPA (Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam) and I am truly thankful for that opportunity.

### What surprised you in Japan

The first thing that surprised me in Japan was that everyone was expecting you could not speak Nihongo at all and when you said something like 'Ohayou Gozaimasu', everyone was truly amazed, like you really did a great job. There is a saying that 'when in Rome, do as the Romans' and I believe when in Japan, do as the Japanese. Japanese is the main language and to be in the Japanese university, we must be able to understand and speak Japanese fluently. All courses are in Japanese, and we will be in trouble if we could not understand the language, not to mention how to understand the fundamental core of the subject itself. Other than the language, there was this one time that I was really surprised to find that nobody took my handphone that was left under the table in my lecture hall at faculty overnight! I was using the latest iPhone at that time, and I had trouble sleeping at night thinking about the possibility that my iPhone might be stolen, but it turned out that my phone was untouched as it was still there. That was amazing.

## Look East Policy & you

Thanks to this Look East Policy, my friends and I had been given the opportunity to fulfil our dream of studying abroad in Japan. We had the chance to see with our own eyes, to experience, all the positive aspects that had inspired Tun M to come out with this LEP. As Japan is a country that is very well-known with its highly advanced technology, positive work ethics with extreme care and diligence in everything they do, we managed to learn some of these positive habits that we wish could be brought and applied here in our country, Malaysia.

### Your favourite:

#### Person

My former lecturer and supervisor during my final year, Prof Katsumi Morikawa.

#### Place

The local attraction in Hiroshima, the Peace Memorial War, and also the impressive Torii Gate in Miyajima.

#### Food

Sushi and Hiroshima Okonomiyaki .

#### Custom

The customer service, never once disappoint me .

## Future of Malaysia & Japan

It has been 40 years since the LEP was launched, and through these 40 years, Malaysia has sent more than 10 thousand students to Japan to learn and bring back all the knowledge and values to build the nation. As of now, we can also see most of the Japan's graduates currently working in the Japan industry as well as utilizing Japanese language skill acquired in many fields that contribute to our country's development. I hope, in the future Malaysia and Japan will maintain this good relationship which will then help Malaysia to further develop.

### Additional

'Hujan emas di negeri orang, hujan batu di negeri sendiri', no matter how much I like Japan and its people, my love to my own nation and country is irreplaceable. Japan is surely the right place to learn many beneficial skills and knowledge, and to be able to use and apply those in our own country for the betterment of our nationhood is something we look forward to.

When in Japan, mingle with Japanese people as much as you can, if possible, not only with the same age friends/classmates, but also indulge yourself with many exchange programme involving homestay with Japanese family, visiting Japanese high school or kindergarten, and many more. All this experience will help you to widen your POV in life.

