



- UP TO NOW AND FROM NOW -

**JAPAN AND MALAYSIA
FIRMLY CONNECTED BY
“LEARNING”**

TAKAHASHI Katsuhiko

*Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Japan to Malaysia*

Since the launch of the Look East Policy (LEP) in 1982, some 26,000 Malaysians have visited Japan for study and training. Back in Malaysia, they fully utilized their knowledge and skills they acquired in Japan. Not only have they become the solid basis of Malaysia's industrial development, but they have also played a significant role in connecting Japan and Malaysia with friendship and trust.

Thanks to their presence, the two countries have been enjoying cordial bilateral relations.

The presence of the LEP alumni accelerates investment from Japan as they are familiar with Japan's working style and language. Currently, more than 1,500 Japanese companies are operating in Malaysia.

The success of the LEP is not limited to economic aspects. Out of the 27 posts in the Secretary-General level of all the Ministries of the Malaysian government, 13, which is almost half of them, have experience of study or training in Japan.

Another important facet is people-to-people connection sustained by the presence of the active Japan alumni and alumni organizations. More than 10 thousand members of JAGAM or ALEPS have maintained their strong ties with Japan, providing invaluable educational networks and platforms between Japan and Malaysia.

The 40th anniversary is a great occasion to highlight the outcome of the LEP, but we also need to seize the opportunity to think about how the LEP should make the Japan-Malaysia partnership even more valuable to each other, to the region and to the world for our future generations.



Y.B. Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali

*Senior Minister, Minister of International
Trade and Industry*

The bilateral relations between Malaysia and Japan achieved another milestone this year as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Look East Policy (LEP) as well as the 65th anniversary of diplomatic ties between our nations. It is indeed a momentous occasion that warrants reflection.



Beyond its education and training programmes, the LEP has enabled Malaysia and Japan to develop an invaluable bond at the highest level of government and business sectors. Founded on best practices in work culture, ethics and human capital development, the LEP has engendered new partnerships across a wide range of modern economic cooperation.

This broad spectrum of collaboration has been an impetus for the robust Malaysia-Japan bilateral relations, particularly on the trade and investment fronts. The stellar growth of bilateral trade achieved over the last four decades, with Japan emerging as the 4th largest trading partner and a top source of foreign investment in Malaysia in 2021, is a testament to the meaningful and productive ties enjoyed by us.

Moving forward, it is imperative for this LEP-inspired strategic collaboration to continue addressing emerging global issues, giving due regard to the areas of digital economy, green growth and robotics, among others, and in the process, forge new partnerships. I truly believe that the strong people-to-people ties will continue to serve as a foundation for our firm and lasting relations.

Malaysia remains steadfastly committed to the values of the LEP and looks forward to elevating our economic cooperation and bilateral ties to greater heights.

Heartiest congratulations to the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia for publishing this special brochure to mark this momentous occasion!

FOREWORD

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOOK EAST POLICY

The Look East Policy (LEP) is a Malaysian policy launched in 1982, with the aim to develop Malaysia's economy and society through learning from Japan. The idea was that economic development of modern Japan was supported by Japanese values, such as work ethic, enthusiasm for learning and working and morality. Since then, about 26,000 Malaysian students and government officials have studied or trained in Japan at universities, KOSEN (National Institute of Technology), private companies, local governments, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). After returning to Malaysia, these alumni have been active in a wide range of public and private industries. The LEP will continue to evolve to cope with the changing times. The Government of Japan and the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia will continue to support the LEP for future generations.

1982

The then Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad declared the LEP at the 5th joint annual conference of MAJECA/JAMECA



Photo credit to MAJECA

The 7th MAJECA-JAMECA Joint Conference Opening Ceremony in 1984

WHAT IS LOOK EAST POLICY?



In March Mr. Abe Shinzo, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan, handed the letter to Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaacob, Prime Minister of Malaysia, from Mr. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan.

2022



The 40th anniversary of the Look East Policy

GUIDE TO STUDY IN JAPAN

More than 8,800 Malaysian students have studied in Japan under the LEP. So, why don't you study in Japan? You could be one of them!



Learn more about Malaysian Government Sponsorship under the LEP programme:

	Degree Course (Ambang Asuhan Jepun/ Pusat Bahasa Teikyo)*1	Technical Diploma (Kolej Teknikal Jepun) *1
Length of Study	2 years in Malaysia + 4 years in Japan	2 years in Malaysia + 3 years in Japan
Application Period	After the announcement of SPM results	
Application Procedure	Application → Interview → Result	
	Twinning Programme (Degree Course) (Japan University Programme)*2	
Length of Study	3 years in Malaysia + 2 years in Japan	

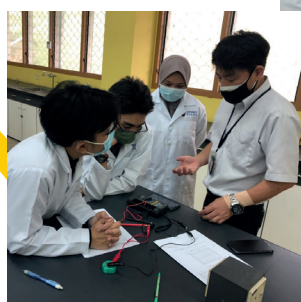
For more information, please contact Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) for *1 and MARA for *2

Another pathway to study in Japan

Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarships
(Undergraduate/Postgraduate/Japanese Study/Teacher Training/ Young Leaders Program)



AMBANG ASUHAN JEPUN (AAJ): BEFORE FLYING TO JAPAN



Ambang Asuhan Jepun (AAJ) is where you prepare yourself before going to Japan. The learning environment in AAJ is fast-paced but you will be fine as long as you are diligent and determined to move forward. The teachers are also helpful and nice. You can communicate with them to practice your Japanese language and consult your academic matters to inquire about the degree programme you would like to enroll in Japan. The programmes conducted here are not limited to academic only, they include opportunities to learn about Japanese culture. You may even practice your Japanese language in a 'Home visit' where you visit a Japanese home in Malaysia and practice speaking Japanese. The lifestyle here will help you to become independent and manage your daily routine efficiently. Overall, AAJ offers a balanced education both in academic and cultural experience.

Mr. Syed Fahmy Izzudin bin Syed Khidir

AAJ Graduate [2020-2022]

LETTERS FROM MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN JAPAN

Mr. Sri Sharmin Baskaran

*National Institute of Technology (KOSEN), Gifu College, Diploma in Civil and Environmental Engineering [2017-2020]
Toyohashi University of Technology, Bachelor's in Civil Engineering [2020-2022]*

From a very early age, the Petronas Twin Towers left a big impression on me and the fact that one of the towers was built by a Japan-based consortium inspired me to study in Japan. My time in Japan has to be one of the best moments in my life so far as it not only gave me the opportunity to study in my field of interest but also allowed me to appreciate the country and culture better. I am very grateful to have gotten this chance and hope to make good use of the wisdom I gained from my experiences in Japan.



Ms. Ang Kai Torng

*National Institute of Technology (KOSEN), Nara College, Department of Chemical Engineering [2015-2018]
Okayama University, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Applied Chemistry and Bio Engineering [2018-2020]
Osaka University, Graduate School of Engineering, Department of Biotechnology (Master) [2020-2022]
Osaka University, Graduate School of Engineering, Department of Biotechnology (PhD) ADMISSION [2022-present]*



I still remember the year when I first came to Japan, the scenery outside the window during the Shinkansen trip has always been deeply engraved in my mind, especially the blossoming of cherry trees all over the street. I am always grateful that I am able to meet many kind and helpful people who supported me throughout my life in Japan. I will be enrolled as a PhD student in Osaka university starting from next spring and I hope that my research could contribute to the society in the future.

MALAYSIA – JAPAN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MJIIT): JAPANESE-STYLE ENGINEERING EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA



If you would like to study Japanese-style engineering in Malaysia, MJIIT is for you! Established in 2011, MJIIT consists of Japanese academic staff and provides world-class educational programmes through research in Japanese-style laboratories, industry-university collaboration, joint research with the Japanese University Consortium (JUC), double degree programmes, student exchange, and faculty dispatch.

In collaboration with the Look East Policy, MJIIT will develop skilled talents who will be leaders of the future generations in Malaysia.



MESSAGES FROM ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS: STRONG SUPPORTERS FOR JAPAN-MALAYSIA RELATIONSHIP

ALEPS (Alumni Look East Policy Society)

The Look East Policy (LEP) has played a critical part in the development of Malaysia's transformation over the last 40 years. If there is one lesson learnt, it is that a friend in adversity is a true friend indeed. ALEPS and its members continue to support and strengthen the belief that together, both Malaysia and Japan can achieve great success. The knowledge, friendship, expertise and experience gained is truly invaluable. Thank you and congratulations to everyone who has played a part in the Look East Policy!



Mr. Zulfiqar Zainuddin,
President of ALEPS



Mr. Gary Tang Kok Lian,
President of JAGAM

JAGAM (Japan Graduates' Association of Malaysia)

Looking back 40 years where most of the countries only looked up to the West as a role model for development and growth, Malaysia under the visionary leadership of Tun Dr Mahathir had foreseen the future of Asia which will be led by countries in the East. While the country had certainly reaped profits in human and economic development thanks to the various Look East Policies, many JAGAM members are indebted for the opportunities that changed their lives forever. Happy 40th celebration of the Look East Policy, we are proud to be part of this historic moment!

COLUMN BY ALUMNI

Mr. Shamsairi M Ibrahim

Vice President, LNG Marketing & Trading, PETRONAS

Studying in Japan has left a significant impact on my personal and professional development, as well as helped to broaden my perspective overall. It is indeed an invaluable life-changing and eye-opening experience, which had enabled me to acclimatize to the Japanese language, culture and lifestyle.

The experience did not only allow me to embrace Japan's modernization and advancement in technology, but also learn the intricacies of the Japanese economy and cultural development. I also took home with me the values of integrity and accountability which the Japanese practice, as well as perseverance and analytical thinking ability which make up a large part of my way of life up until today.

As an alumni of the LEP, I would recommend students to study and be exposed to the opportunities in Japan. One will not only obtain a qualification from an education standpoint, but more importantly, they will have the chance to experience the colorful culture and rich history of this amazing country, while taking home a wealth of values that will enrich their lives.



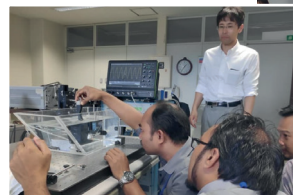
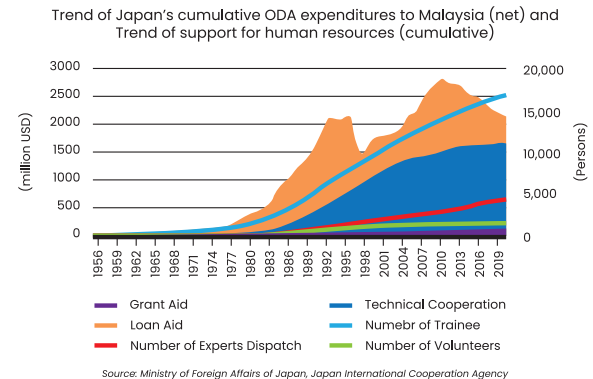
*LEP Batch #5 (taken in 1987)
Mr. Shamsairi is standing at the center of the photo.*

TRAINING IN JAPAN BY JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)

Not only students but also mid-career government officials and individuals come to Japan as JICA training participants.

JICA conducts Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (KCCP) as part of its technical cooperation assistance for promoting human resources development. Various training courses in diverse fields are offered in Japan for participants to obtain practical knowledge and technical skills relevant to the development needs of the country. It is expected that training participants would in turn apply what they have learnt for strengthening the economic and social development of their countries. Training courses are conducted throughout Japan in cooperation with various universities, research centers, hospitals and other public bodies and institutions which prepare the practical and theory of the training.

Since 2016, the Japanese Government has also been providing various tailor-made training programmes in such areas as education, healthcare, ICT, science and technology, SME promotion, disaster management, and environment in order to tackle policy issues and challenges in Malaysia under the LEP2.0, which is the second phase of the LEP. JICA arranges each programme to meet the needs of the Malaysian side, and bears the training costs.



COLUMN BY ALUMNI

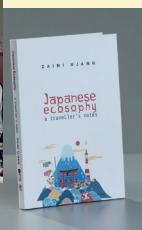
Dato' Seri Ir. Dr. Zaini Bin Ujang

Secretary General, Ministry of Environment and Water, Malaysia

When the LEP was first introduced in 1982, I kept looking for the opportunity to learn more about Japan and its culture, and it was in 1986 when I first visited Japan through one of JICA's academic programme.

Throughout my journey as academican and policy maker, especially when I developed interest and expertise on sustainability, innovation, advanced management and leadership, Japanese culture and work ethics were my main reference and orientation. It was the Japanese ecological philosophy (eco-sophy) that inspired me throughout the social or more importantly professional engagement with Japanese, and that also has led me to author a book (Japanese Eco-sophy). The Japanese eco-sophy has taught me that culture could not be transformed through organizational domain. The culture indeed requires both behavioural and habitual. While behavioural affected by incentives and punitive, it was the habitual that mainly charts the change of personal domain through the sub-conscious mind. And once the positive habits embedded as a lifestyle, good deeds naturally set in.

After 40 years have elapsed since its inception, the LEP has been deeply influential especially in supporting Malaysia's aspirations of being high-income nation. Hence, as we respond to complex challenges of the 21st century and beyond, Malaysia should not just limit the LEP to investment promotions and educational exchanges, but rather Malaysians must be bold in embracing the Japanese ecological philosophy for a better and sustainable Malaysia.



DID YOU KNOW?

As of 2021, under the LEP, **over 26,000** promising **Malaysian youth** have **come to Japan to study and train**. They have been playing an important role as a bridge to connect the two countries.

As of Jan 2022, of the **27 Ministries and Agencies of the Malaysian Government**, the incumbent **13 Secretary Generals or equivalent** have studied or trained in Japan.

As of 2021, **1,500 Japanese companies** are operating in Malaysia. The existence of Malaysians who have studied or trained in Japan is one of the major factors for Japan to invest in Malaysia.

FACTS & FIGURES

The **culmination of the LEP is the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT)**, which provides Japanese-style engineering and technology education in Malaysia. **Graduates' employment rate is 100%.**

The 1,500 Japanese companies operating in Malaysia are **employing 470,000 Malaysians in the manufacturing sector only.**

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The 40th Anniversary of
the Look East Policy



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