

Preliminary Understanding of Malaysia

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Malaysia firstly dropped in my mind because of their efforts to protect our environment while promoting the production and economic benefits from palm oil. Palm oil industry plays a vital role in economic development of Malaysia, which accounts for 85% of global palm oil production together with Indonesia. Simultaneously, large amount of oil palm waste generated need to be draw the attention in order to attaining sustainable production. Malaysia might be a precursor that has early awareness on this problem and has moved ahead to improve the environmental friendliness of palm oil industry.

When it comes to the popularity among the countries in Southeast Asia, Malaysia may be not the foremost country that would pops into people's mind. Its unique feature of multi-ethnic and multicultural with Islam as the state religion still catches my eyes. Interestingly, Islam was not the major religion in Malaysia until 14th century. Before that, the people of the Malay Peninsula adopted the religions of Hinduism and Buddhism because of the strong influences by traders and settlers from India and China. The continual western colonialism before Malaya's independence in 1957 also left indelible impact on Malaysia society and contributed for part of multicultural in Malaysia. Nowadays, around 30 million people are living in Malaysia, of which 50.4% are Malays. A further 24.6% of the population is Chinese and 7.1% is from India. There are over 130 languages spoken in Malaysia. Bahasa Malaysia is the official language, while English is widely spoken, particularly by business people. Besides, a form of colloquial English with Malay, Chinese and Tamil, so called as "Manglish", is very popular on the street, but are being discouraged by the government.

The society of Malaysia just likes a miniature of Southeast Asia, with harmonious coexistence of various ethnic groups. Abundant cuisine and public holidays originate from different culture enriched the cultural connotation in Malaysia. And because of that, Malaysia has become a country with spirits of inclusion, understanding and politeness. I'm looking forward to experiencing the multicultural of Malaysia personally.