

## Chevening Scholarships Scheme

The British **Chevening Scholarship Programme** is funded by the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and managed by the British Council. The programme has been supporting Malaysians in the UK since 1984 and aims to bring to the UK present and future leaders, decision-makers and opinion formers, including particularly able students with whom the UK's economics and political relations are expected to develop. During the 24 years of the Scheme's operation, 1,091 Malaysians have been given awards to study in the UK under the scheme.

Some of the Malaysian Chevening scholars who have made their mark in their chosen fields are:

- Tan Sri Dato' Azman Mokhtar - Managing Director, Khazanah Nasional
- Bernard Chauly - Film Director, Red Films
- Dina Zaman – writer
- Dato' Prof Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohadi - Director-General, Higher Education Department, Ministry of Higher Education
- Jennifer Too - CEO & Director, WOFS.com Sdn Bhd
- Rafidah Abdullah – Scriptwriter, TV Host, Actress, Columnist & Lyricist
- Edmund Bon – Lawyer (Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Malaysian Bar and legal counsel for both Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram) and Human Rights Society Malaysia (Hakam))

## UK Alumni Network (UKAN)

**UKAN (UK Alumni Network of Malaysia)**, a joint initiative by the British Council and the British High Commission, was launched in 2001 by the Duke of York. Helping Malaysian UK graduates stay connected – with the British Council and the British High Commission, with employers, with Universities and with each other – is the main aim of the Malaysia's UK Alumni Network (UKAN). UKAN today has a membership of over 11,000. Its members come from varied backgrounds and expertise from across the nation; all connected by their common link of having studied in UK Universities and Colleges.

The success of UKAN lies in its benefits, which have helped members network together and keep abreast with key UK-Malaysia developments. A key benefit of UKAN, especially for the younger members of the network, is the 'Job Help' service which helps boost the career prospects of its members by highlighting employment opportunities in Malaysia. This has helped many UKAN members secure employment and employers find the highest-calibre candidates in the market.

Every year, the British Council organises numerous events for UKAN members, such as career talks, master classes, seminars of general interest, UK University receptions, small get-togethers, quizzes, dinners and other social activities.

## School Links – Asian Dialogues

The **Asian Dialogues** project is an initiative of the British Council and the UK's DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families), which aims to provide **opportunities for schools in the UK to link with schools in the 7 participating countries from the East Asia Region** – including Malaysia – with a view to work on school based curriculum activities and other areas of common interest.

The vision of the British Council is to have a connected world of **global citizens**. In the context of this project, the term Global citizen is defined as a confident and creative independent thinker who is interested in and understands other cultures, who develops himself/herself through education and lifelong learning, who speaks English and other languages, who engages in debates and collaborates with other people locally and internationally on key issues facing the world.

The Asian Dialogues aims to achieve this vision through a school-based curriculum project, running from 2007 to 2010, where different activities will be taking place online and face-to-face to facilitate discussion and joint collaborative working in order to produce a suitable meaningful product. The curriculum is for students from aged 12+ to 15+.

The Curriculum projects will be around the themes of:

1. Climate Change
2. Sports and Health
3. Global Citizenship
4. Environmental Science
5. Enterprise
6. Tomorrow's World
7. Science and Innovation

60 Malaysian Schools are involved in this project, with the supervision of colleagues from the Sarawak State Education Department and the Curriculum Development Centre at the Ministry of Education.

### **BMCC-University of Malaya Student Internship Programme**

The British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (BMCC) the Centre for Industrial Training and Relations (CITRA) of the University of Malaya are collaborating to organise an internship programme between University of Loughborough (UL) in the UK and University Malaya (UM). Students from UM will be travelling to the UK to attend the internship exchange programme while students from UL will be coming to Malaysia.

This strategic partnership is being undertaken as part of an initiative to strengthen the Industry-Academia link and at the same time to enhance the level of skills that are readily transferable to the workplace, to allow for the smooth transition of students from the University to the working environment.

The programme in Malaysia will provide students from the University of Loughborough a chance to work in BMCC member organisations. The students are primarily from an Engineering and Business Studies background and are currently undergoing their undergraduate degree in the UK.

### **Youth Leadership – Dreams and Teams programme**

The Dreams and Teams programme is about developing Young Leaders and Global citizens through sports, the arts and development of international awareness. This is achieved through a number of sports, cross-cultural and school links activities. Young people who participate in this programme are constantly challenging their own assumptions, beliefs and behaviour relating to sport leadership and cross-cultural awareness. The Dreams and Teams programme provides opportunities for young people in Malaysia and the UK to form Global teams and offer them with leadership skills and opportunities to “think global” but “act local”. Participating schools in Malaysia – from Sabah and Sarawak – participating in this project are linked to a number of Sports colleges in the UK. Hundreds of Young Leaders in Malaysia have been involved in this scheme.

### **One World Fellowship Scheme**

The One World Fellowship Scheme, organised by British Council and the One World Broadcasting Trust in London, provides broadcasters from participating countries with the opportunity to spend two weeks in the UK learning from UK colleagues and the other international participants. This is one of the most highly regarded programmes run by the One World Broadcasting Trust. Aimed at senior radio and television broadcasters from developing countries, the Fellowship Scheme brings a select group of broadcast professionals to the UK for a two-week period. During this time they take part in a packed programme of discussion sessions and location visits, all of which are tailored to meet the interests of those selected to participate. The scheme has been running since 1996, and has involved over 60 fellows in total. Every year, around six fellows are invited to

participate. Currently, the scheme is supported by the Elizabeth R Fund, the Commonwealth Media Development Fund, and the British Council.

## **International Young Creative Entrepreneur Awards**

International award administered by British Council for young (25-35yrs) entrepreneurs from creative fields in emerging markets. Malaysia competes in Design and Music, where the finalist who represents Malaysia takes part in a 2-week long networking visit in the UK

## **Creative Entrepreneur network**

Malaysian delegation including a representative from MDeC took part in a week long networking visit in the UK. Further engagements under the programme take place via visits by UK creative entrepreneurs to Malaysia where they deliver talks and/or workshops to local creative practitioners and design/multimedia students.

## **Performance poetry**

Visiting UK poets engage and continue to play mentoring roles with aspiring writers and poets in Malaysia (most aged between 18-30). Visiting UK poets also conduct workshops with secondary school children, teachers and MoE officers. 1 Malaysian poet will take part in a month long tour in the UK with fellow poets from the region and a UK mentor in October 2008.

## **“Project Connect” - Youth Theatre Exchange**

An exchange programme between Soho Theatre, York Theatre Royal and Pilot Theatre in the UK and Drama Projects (PJ) and art learning centre Cloudbreak (Sri Hartamas). Approximately 10-12 young theatre practitioners from the UK visited Malaysia in June, a reciprocal number of young Malaysians are currently in the UK. A year-long project, it began last September with a series of pre-exchange programmes running up towards the actual exchange and travel. After their respective trips, they return to their own country to carry out community programmes that build public awareness on the arts.

## **International Networking of Young Scientists**

The International Networking of Young Scientists or INYS, is a programme for bringing together young researchers from the UK and other countries to make new contacts and promote the creative exchange of ideas through short conferences. Particularly for young researchers, mobility is the extended laboratory: it is a powerful source of new ideas and a strong force for creativity. Through our INYS programme, we help develop quality collaboration in science and technology between the UK and other countries and show the UK as a leading partner for achievement in world science, now and in the future.

British Council Malaysia has been running the INYS programme for the past 4 years. We have had the following numbers of INYS participants:

1. INYS1 on Nanotechnology, (14-18 March 2005), Universiti Malaya, 9 UK and 9 Malaysian participants
2. INYS2 on population Genetics, (13-15 Feb 2006), Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, 11 UK and 24 Malaysian participants
3. INYS3 on Imaging Techniques and GIS: applications in environmental and natural resources management (4-10 Sept 2006), Universiti Malaya & Universiti Terengganu Malaysia (formerly known as KUSTEM), 11 UK and 9 Malaysian participants (2 MAL participants pull out before the field trip in Pulau Redang)
4. INYS4 on Renewable Energy (12-16 Nov 2007) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 6 UK scientist and 19 Malaysian Scientists.

(Total numbers: 98 scientists – total UK and Malaysian young scientists)

## Research Exchange Programme

Our Researcher Exchange Programme (RXP) is an initiative aimed at supporting new links between postdoctoral researchers in the UK and in other countries. RXP provides individual researchers with awards covering travel and subsistence costs, and some consumables costs, needed to develop new scientific collaborations and contacts through exchange visits of between two week and three months. The purpose of RXP is to help develop new research links between higher education institutions and research laboratories in the UK and other countries. It aims to encourage mobility and internationalism among postdoctoral researchers for the exchange of information, ideas and knowledge, and for long-term relationship building.

So far, two Malaysian scientists have been awarded this grant (2007-08):

Dr. Nowshad Amin	National University of Malaysia, Malaysia	University of Wales, Bangor, UK	High efficiency cadmium telluride thin film solar cell fabrication.
Mrs Chai Ting Lee	Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Malaysia	University of Central Lancashire, UK	To establish the DNA fingerprinting databases of <i>Koompassia malaccensis</i> for forestry forensic

## Royal Society Research Programme at Danum Valley

For the last 24 years the Royal Society, the United Kingdom's premier science academy, has run a South East Asian Rainforest Research Programme (SEARRP). The Programme focuses primarily on the Danum Valley in Sabah, where the Royal Society maintains a research centre, in collaboration with its Malaysian partners, notably the University of Malaya Sabah, the Sabah Foundation, and the Sabah. SEARRP-led research, involving universities from the UK and across the world, constitutes a major Malaysian-based contribution to international knowledge of the rainforest, its ecology, conservation and sustainable management, and continues to enlarge scientific understanding of global environmental change.

Over the years hundreds of British researchers have visited Sabah to conduct their work, often in conjunction with local counterparts. Dozens of Malaysian scientists have earned their Masters and PhD qualification on projects based at Danum.

## Asian Young Leaders of Climate Change Conference –Bogor and Bali, Indonesia (AYLCF)

AYLCF took place in December 07 with the aim to provide a platform for young leaders to demonstrate to the world that, not only are they taking an interest in what is happening around climate security, but they are willing and able to play their part to reduce the threat. AYLCF builds an agenda for young people in Asia and creates an action plan which will be presented at the COP 13 in Bali in the form of a communiqué and then implemented across the region with support of in-country as well as regional partners. Malaysia was represented by 3 participants.

## The Prime Minister's Initiative Phase 2 (PMI2) Connect Scheme

This is a UK Government's initiative, which was announced at the end of 2007, whereby identified priority countries (Malaysia being one), could bid for funds in collaboration with UK institutions, for projects in these four strands:

1. Research Co-operation
2. Collaborative Programme Delivery
3. International Mobility of UK students
4. Partnership Development Grants

The **aim of the research strand** is to grow high quality research between higher education institutions in UK and priority countries. The process was a competitive bidding process which aimed to prime the pump for long term sustainable research and collaboration.

Malaysia took the lead amongst all priority countries with the largest number of bids submitted and the largest number of successful bids awarded: Malaysia was awarded around **£1 million with 25 research bids worth over £800,000, 8 Collaborative Delivery awards and 1 Student Mobility grant**. Of the successful bids, Imperial leads from the UK side with four awards whilst on the Malaysian side UM and USM were awarded seven each. The research areas were mainly technological e.g. nanotechnology, membranes, lasers, photonics, biotechnology and climate change. These PMI2 research projects align with current Malaysian research interests, in addition to meeting the overall needs of supporting the establishment of research universities. It will allow Malaysian academics to work with some of the top UK institutions and researchers. These fundamental research projects will hopefully lead to citations in international journals which are a key element of the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) global ranking table. More information is available (including details of successful projects) at [www.britishcouncil.org/pmi2-connect](http://www.britishcouncil.org/pmi2-connect)

In addition to the links between UK and Malaysian Universities under the PMI2 scheme, there are numerous existing research links and MoU's for collaboration between Malaysian and UK Universities and academics, in a wide variety of areas.

As for the third strand on **student mobility**, the key aims are:

- To encourage more UK students to gain an international dimension to their education
- To create self-sustainable models of student mobility
- To demonstrate mutuality and/or complementarity across the delivery partnership

British universities have recently received grants to send their students, mostly on 1-2 month exchanges, to Malaysian institutions with which they have links. Malaysia has once again been the most successful country in the region, with eight separate applications having been approved.

## Transnational Education sector

The Malaysian Transnational (TNE) Education sector, whereby foreign qualifications (from UK, Australia, etc) are delivered partially or totally in-country, is one of the largest and longest established in the world. Based on a survey carried out in May 2007 and commissioned by the British Council, there are a total of around 900 TNE programmes available in Malaysia, with undergraduate comprising around 67% of all programmes.

UK qualifications dominate the supply of TNE programmes in Malaysia, with around 40% of the market (around 360 programmes). These qualifications are offered through different forms of partnerships and collaboration with Malaysian institutions (mainly in the private sector), and through the Nottingham University Campus in Semenyih, which currently hosts around 3,000 students, from Malaysia and other 40 nationalities (including British students).

We fully expect this form of educational provision and collaboration to grow, with several UK institutions such as Newcastle and Royal Holloway likely to set up full faculties in Johor and KL respectively. There will be a wider range of programmes and greater stratification with a diversity of entry requirements and standards to reflect the needs of the market place, not just Malaysians but also for other students from the region and beyond, which are looking at Malaysia as an attractive and exciting study destination. This emphasis on quality will be a welcome development and will ensure Malaysia maintains its attractiveness as an international hub and UK institutions will continue to see Malaysia as a base to increase their brand value and realise their internationalisation strategies.

## UK International Schools and Malaysia

An increasing number of major and reputable UK independent schools are exploring the possibility of setting up branches here. We would expect at least two to have opened full branches within the next five years either within the major educational projects in Iskandar or Kuala Lumpur Education City (KLEC) or within Kuala Lumpur itself.

## Young People's Exchanges

Hundreds of young British young people visit Malaysia each year. Examples are:

**World Challenge** - In July/August 2008 approximately 400 students from a variety of UK schools and 6th Form Colleges came to Malaysia for organised 4 week challenge experience. The areas they visited were Kota Kinabalu, Mount Kinabalu, Sepilok, Miri, Bako, Bario, Niah Caves, Kuching, Cameron Highlands, Taman Negara, Tasik Chini, Kerong Rimba and the Crocker range.

**Raleigh International** - Each year Raleigh International, based in Kota Kinabalu have varying numbers of GAP students. They organise longer projects that last 3 - 6 months, all currently based in Sabah.

**Other GAP organisations** - have small numbers of students in mainly in schools, clinics and at various animal sanctuaries.

**Voluntary Service Overseas(VSO)** - no longer active in Malaysia, but many former VSO volunteers came back to Kuching in Summer 2008 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organisation's founding.

**Outward Bound** - several International schools use the Outward Bound facilities at Lumut for school camps and have done so for many years.

## Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

There are also extensive links between UK and Malaysian civil society groups, such as the recent Mercy Malaysia partnership with the Save the Children Fund UK, which was highly effective during the recent Cyclone Nargis crisis in Burma/Myanmar. There are other long-established Malaysian branches of British NGOs, who are working with local communities such as the Leonard Cheshire Foundation for the disabled, St John's Ambulance and the Salvation Army. The Royal National Institute for the Blind has a long-standing and strong relationship with the Malaysian Association for the Blind.

## Parliamentary Links

The links between the UK and Malaysian parliaments have historically been strong. The continue, particularly through multilateral parliamentary fora. August 2008 saw a visit from the UK group of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of which Minister Shafie Apdal is the current chair. There is an active All -Party Parliamentary Group on Malaysia working in Westminster to do more on the bilateral front. We have also extended an invitation to the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat to visit the UK parliament next year.

## Trade and Investment Links

Malaysia is one of the UK's key High Growth Markets along with India, China and Singapore. Close historical and educational ties (see above), a familiar commercial/legal framework and the widespread use of English have all facilitated this process. A substantial and increasing number of British companies have a presence in Malaysia, in a number of cases as a hub for their regional business interests. Malaysian investment in the UK is growing resulting in a heavy flow of visitors in both directions.

The UK is Malaysia's largest market in Europe (discounting the Netherlands, whose figures are inflated by transit traffic through Rotterdam), while Malaysia is the UK's second largest market for goods in South-East Asia after Singapore. The UK has traditionally run a roughly two-to-one deficit in goods trade. But trade in services is also significant at around £700 million, with a healthy UK surplus of some £250 million. Taking that together with other invisible flows such as profits from investment, the UK's current account with Malaysia is roughly in balance. In 2007 UK exports to Malaysia increased to £954 million, whereas Malaysia's exports to the UK fell to £1.7 billion.

The British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (BMCC) based in KL has expanded its operations in recent years. The number of Members has increased to nearly 300 with more Malaysians actively involved in its programmes and with several seats on the Board of Directors. The JPA and BMCC Programme is an example of a unique

and well-designed programme introducing Malaysian officials to specialist knowledge, professionalism and leadership qualities as the new ingredients for public offices. The 2007 programme included specialist training provided by Lancaster University's Business School and secondments to British companies in the UK. The programme has run since 1977 with approximately 200 Malaysians benefiting to date. The next round will take place in 2009.

## **Sporting Links**

The links in the field of sport are too extensive to summarise here but there are plenty of two-way visits in many sporting areas including badminton, squash, golf, cricket, hockey and football. Malaysians' love affair with the English Football League (EPL) is the perfect example, with many Malaysians watching more matches than British people. This is reflected in their knowledge of the game and in commercial sponsorship of British football by companies such as Proton, Celcom, Malaysian Airlines, Air Asia and others. Chelsea's recent friendly with Malaysia was a positive example of this relationship. Another was the recent Masters' tournament featuring past stars of the EPL in action at Shah Alam. Sporting links will grow further with London hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## **Veterans' Visits**

Many hundreds of British veterans, who served in Malaya or Malaysia during the Emergency or Confrontation, visit Malaysia each year, often with their families. These visits are supported by the Defence Section at the British High Commission in Malaysia. Among the main events attended by veterans are:

- Memorial service at the Cenotaph in Ipoh on the second Friday in June
- Memorial service/wreath-laying ceremony at "God's Little Acre" Cemetery in Batu Gajah, where the first victims of the Emergency are buried, on the second Saturday in June
- Memorial service/wreath-laying ceremony at the Gurkha Cemetery in Sulva Lines, Ipoh on the second Sunday in June
- Memorial service/wreath-laying ceremony at the site of Sandakan Prisoner of War Camp, Sandakan, Sabah in mid August
- Wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Gardens in Kundasang, Sabah, to commemorate the British servicemen who died in Sandakan, on the Death March from Sandakan to Ranau or at Ranau, in mid August
- Wreath-laying in Kuching to those British and other Commonwealth servicemen who fell in the defence of Sarawak
- Remembrance service and wreath-laying at the War Memorial in Kuala Lumpur on the second Sunday in November
- Remembrance Service and wreath-laying at the Commonwealth war Graves Cemetery in Labuan on the second Sunday in November.
- Wreath-laying service at the War Memorial in George Town, Penang on 11 November each year.

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