

Summary:

The research entitled A Survey of cultural and language issues among the Japanese citizens adopting Malaysia as a Second Home started in April 2009 to September 2010. The data for the research was collected with 120 Japanese participants of Malaysia My second Home. In order to gather information for the research a self-reported questionnaire was developed and administered to the respondents. A focus group interview was also conducted in order to get more information. The findings from the questionnaire indicate that the language choice among the participants when not using Japanese is English. This is due to the fact that English is widely used in Malaysia especially in the urban areas. The second choice is Malay which is the national language of Malaysia. The participants were also interviewed about the importance of learning Malay as it is the national language of Malaysia. They agreed that learning Malay is very important for communication as most of the government documents are written in Malay. From both the questionnaire and the interview we can conclude that the participants do not have serious problems regarding the use of language in Malaysia. Most of them communicate using Japanese with their Japanese friends and they use English with their non-Japanese friends in Malaysia. In fact, some of them found that they do not need to learn the local languages as English is understood by almost all Malaysians.

As for the cultural issue respondents were asked for their opinion about Malaysian food which is part of social and cultural aspects. From the data we can see that more than half of the respondents are very satisfied with the price of food in Malaysia. However, most of the respondents are not satisfied with the taste of Malaysian food. When we asked about the price of goods sold in Malaysia majority of respondents are seen to be satisfied with it. The respondents were also asked to give their views regarding the quality of the goods sold in Malaysia. Most of the respondents are not satisfied with the quality which can be seen from the table above.

We were also interested in finding out about safety in Malaysia. We asked the respondents whether they have experienced any robbery or burglary or experienced any snatch thief. More than half of the respondents (76.7%) claimed that they did not encounter any problems regarding safety during their stay here in Malaysia. Only 5.8% respondents reported that they had problems with robbery or burglary and snatch thief. This is due to the fact that almost all participants of Malaysia My second Home live in high rise condominium with maximum security or they live in the gated security housing areas.

As a conclusion, we can say that this programme is quite successful but still need a lot of improvements. The participants are concerned with the procedures which are not made clear for them. The Ministry of Tourism Malaysia should meet the representative of the participants for discussion so that their voice will be heard and actions could be taken to improve the programme.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

1. 23.9.2010 Nagoya Gakuin University, Nagoya, Japan. Invited Speaker. English, Malay, Chinese and others: Language choice among the Japanese adopting Malaysia as a Second Home. Presenter: Siti Hamin Stapa.
2. 25.3.2010 Equatorial Hotel, Bangi, Malaysia. The 4th International Malaysia-Thailand Conference on Southeast Asian Studies, Investigating social issues among the Japanese adopting Malaysia as a second home. Presenter: Dr Siti Hamin Stapa.
3. 25.4.2010 University of Thai Chamber of Commerce, Thailand. Language: In the Realm of Social Dynamics. Language choice among the Japanese adopting Malaysia as a Second Home Presenter: Dr Siti Hamin Stapa.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)