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My leap towards Asia: Report about my time at the German – Malaysian Institute

Thanks to GMI I have had the pleasure to live and work in Malaysia and get to know the working environment, intercultural differences and similarities, a multiethnic society and beautiful landscapes.

Internship tasks

During my internship I had the great opportunity to explore different sections and to complete a broad variety of tasks. My main tasks included the following:

Intercultural and Social Skills Training

I developed and conducted several intercultural training sessions to improve students' intercultural competence and to prepare them for their future stay in Germany. The intercultural workshops covered topics like cultural research, intercultural communication, German cultural habits as well as the analysis of behavioral differences. The social skills trainings on the other hand raised student's awareness for the importance of social skills.

Human Resource Development

I was given the trust to develop and conduct some modules for the Vocational Training Officer program certified by the Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia. With pleasure I developed modules to train skills including mentoring, coaching and motivation as well as to equip people with knowledge about learning and teaching theories and styles.

Event Organization

During my time at GMI there have been a lot of great events. For example, I supported the organization of the International Science Film Festival Malaysia, the education and career fair at GMI, the annual Intercultural Weekend as well as the DAAD German Alumni Networking Forum 2013. During the alumni forum, I had the honor to be the Master of Ceremony and to moderate this event.



Counseling

Regularly, I offered counseling services to settle cultural and social issues regarding students' study period in Germany. I supported students in various questions, including topics like network building, students' associations and opportunities for integration.

Quality Assurance

Moreover, I was also attached to the Quality Assurance Department and developed an evaluation form to assess the quality of GMI courses and programs.

Reflecting my internship here, I was given a lot of freedom and trust as well as the unique opportunity to become active in various fields. Great thanks to GMI for this opportunity.

Leisure time

All the people at GMI were really welcoming and as they are reported to be always worried about eating it was no wonder that the first words I have learned were: "Sudahmakan?!" ("Have you eaten already?"). When I arrived here, it was "Hari Raya", the ending of the fasting time and I was invited to families' open houses and immediately got to know typical Malaysian food.

I especially enjoyed one student's invitation to visit her family who is living in a "Kampung" at Borneo's rainforest. Staying with her and her family, trying the typical costumes and listen to traditional music of the Bdayu was a great and memorable experience.

Of course I was also travelling a lot during my time in Malaysia exploring the teaplantations of the Cameron Highlands, nature parks like Taman Negara, perfect islands for snorkeling like PulauTioman and of course the rainforest of Sarawak and Sabah.

During my five months at GMI, I completed exciting and challenging tasks, met great people and visited so many places in Asia. I would always recommend this experience to everyone else.

