

TARGET GROUPS

Junior to mid-career diplomats and government officers whose tasks and functions are related to diplomacy and international relations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of local cultures and traditions;
- Enhance their ability to communicate effectively in the context of diplomacy;
- Identify the way in which culture effect communication;
- Acquire knowledge on culture in preparation for them to effectively carry out their duties as diplomats.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

Participants will learn through classroom lectures, discussions, group and individual in-class exercises and simulations, field trips and briefings. A balanced approach to effective training and learning will be applied. The course will be fully conducted in English.

COURSE CONTENT

- Introduction to Cross-Cultural Awareness
- Introduction to the Malay Language
- Scope and Impact: Working Internationally
- Elements of Communication
- Culture and Effects on Communication
- Culture and Media
- Country Paper Presentation
- Cross-Cultural Competence – Towards Cultural Literacy

PREREQUISITE / ELIGIBILITY

Interested applicants must fulfill the following criteria:

- Nominated by their Government;
- Have a basic university degree;
- Below 35 years of age;
- Three or more years of working experience in international affairs/relations or cultural/tourism industry;
- Medically fit; and
- Proficient in the English language at the intermediate level.

HOW TO APPLY

Standard application form is available at any Malaysian Embassy/High Commission, and can be downloaded at https://mtcpcoms.kln.gov.my/mtcpcoms/online/list_course. All applications must be endorsed by the applicant's Ministry of Foreign Affairs before submission.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 17 JUNE 2016

CONTACT PERSON:

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

- All participants must arrive in Malaysia no later than the date of commencement of the course, unless expressly given permission by the Institute.
- Absence from any of the scheduled programs during the course, including study visits, for any reason is strictly prohibited without prior permission from the Institute.
- All participants are expected to maintain a high level of expectation during the lectures, and conduct themselves in an agreeable manner amongst their peers. Any show of poor conduct will be treated seriously and an immediate notification will be sent to the participants' mission in Malaysia and their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Participants must observe punctuality at all times. Those who are late or miss the IDFR transport must find their own way to the Institute to attend the lectures, or will otherwise be considered absent.
- Appropriate dress code during the course is working attire.

COURSE FEE: ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

All course fees are borne by the Government of Malaysia. Accommodation and food will be provided. Participants are not allowed to change any arrangement done by the Institute.

FARES

A return air ticket from the capital city of the recipient country to Kuala Lumpur on economy class is provided for participants from countries with GDP per capita below USD 5,000. Therefore, some MTCP recipient countries may need to bear their own fares.

MEDICAL

Participants should be certified medically and physically fit to participate in this program. In the case of emergencies and need of medical treatment, medical expenses in a government hospital will be borne by the Government of Malaysia. However, medical expenses at private clinics shall be borne by the participants.

VISA AND VACCINATION

All participants are required to enter Malaysia with Visa with Reference (VDR). Participants selected for the program will receive a copy of the letter of approval from the Institute. With the copy of the approval, the participants may obtain the VDR from the nearest Malaysian missions. Wherever applicable, participants are advised to arrange on their own any necessary vaccination prior to travel to Malaysia.

Expenditures on all visa-related fees, airport tax/airport user's charge, transit insurance, excess luggage, travel tax, transit fees, domestic passenger terminal fees, phone charges, private purchases, etc. are borne by the recipients. This also applies for vaccinations prior to travel to Malaysia.



MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP)



INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS AND DIPLOMACY COURSE 2016

21 JULY – 5 AUGUST 2016



INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND
FOREIGN RELATIONS (IDFR)
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MALAYSIA

ABOUT MALAYSIA



Malaysia is a Southeast Asian country occupying the Malaysian Peninsula and part of the island of Borneo. It is known for its beaches, rainforests and mix of Malay, Chinese, Indian and European influences. The sprawling capital, Kuala Lumpur, is home to colonial buildings, busy shopping districts such as Bukit Bintang and skyscrapers including the iconic, 451m-tall Petronas Twin Towers.

Nestled in between Thailand to the north and Singapore to the south, Malaysia is a federation which consists of 13 states (11 in West Malaysia, and two in East Malaysia) and three federal territories. As a federation, the governance of the country is divided between the federal and the state governments. Malaysia is a parliamentary democracy with a federal constitutional monarch, in which the DYMM Yang di-Pertuan Agong is head of state and the Prime Minister of Malaysia is the head of government.

Since the early 1980s, Malaysia has steadily diversified its economy. Major changes include a departure from a reliance on the cultivation and export of raw materials, in particular natural rubber, to a focus on services, manufacturing and tourism. Tourism, in particular, has had a significant impact and, as a generator of foreign exchange, is second only to the oil industry.

Malaysia is a tropical holiday destination, where temperatures fluctuate between 25 and 35 degrees Celsius throughout the year. It is usually very hot and humid, especially in the major cities. Cool breezes can be enjoyed on the many islands surrounding Malaysia, while the 'highlands' offer cooler temperatures that never exceed 25 degrees Celsius.

Language

Bahasa Melayu

Population

28.3 million

Ethnic

50.4% Malay, 23.7% Chinese, 11.0% Indigenous, 7.1% Indian & 7.8% Other

Capital

Kuala Lumpur

Currency

Ringgit Malaysia (RM) / Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)

Flag



MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

The Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP) was established in 1980 as Malaysia's commitment to South-South Cooperation through the sharing of Malaysia's development experiences and expertise with other developing countries.

The objectives of the MTCP are:

- To share experience with other developing countries;
- To strengthen bilateral ties with developing countries;
- To encourage and promote South-South Cooperation; and
- To encourage and promote technical cooperation within developing countries.

MTCP is premised on the principle that the development of a country is dependent on the quality of its human capital and resources. MTCP emphasizes on human resources development mainly through training, short-term courses in public and private Malaysian training institutions, and long-term courses in Malaysian public universities. Other forms of assistance include study visits, practical attachments and provision of services of experts.

Since its inception, more than 30, 686 participants have been directly trained under MTCP. Currently MTCP is extended to 142 recipient developing countries in ten (10) key areas as follows:

- Agriculture;
- Economic, Finance and Trade;
- English Language;
- Environment;
- Industrial Technical Training;
- Diplomacy;
- Management and Public Administration;
- Professional Services;
- Social Development; and
- Science, Technology and ICT Management.

A new direction for the MTCP was formulated following its placement under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (also known as Wisma Putra) in 2010. It entails prioritising developing countries of strategic interests, focusing on Malaysia's area of expertise, demand-driven courses/programmes, cultivation of potential participants who would later serve as 'friends of Malaysia', public-private partnership (PPP) and collaboration with new development partners beyond MTCP's traditional partners.

From the ten key broad areas, the MTCP would give more attention to the following eleven sub-areas namely Oil and Gas Industry, Products and Services including Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Palm Oil Industry, Food and Beverages, Halal Economy and Ecosystem, Islamic Finance and Banking, Education, Construction, Health services, Diplomacy and Governance.

INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, also known as IDFR, was established on 1 July 1991 under the Prime Minister's Department following a Cabinet decision dated 6 March 1991. It was officially launched that same year on 12 August by the then Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. On 27 March 2001, IDFR officially became part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. Located in Kuala Lumpur, IDFR is housed in the former building of the Foreign Ministry. Its new campus was opened in 2006.

As the Ministry's training arm, IDFR conducts training programmes for Malaysian diplomatic officers as well as officers from other government ministries and agencies. Apart from the main diplomatic training courses, IDFR provides mid-career and follow up professional skills training to help enhance the professionalism of serving officers.

The training programmes are practitioner-oriented and are aimed at equipping officers with the skills and knowledge to meet the challenges they face in the conduct of their professional duties. The Institute provides training in two broad areas-diplomacy and foreign relations, as well as foreign languages. In collaboration with the National University of Malaysia (UKM), IDFR offers a thirteen month postgraduate programme for a Master of Social Science in Strategy and Diplomacy.

IDFR also offers training courses to more than 136 countries worldwide, namely to participants from developing countries under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), ASEAN, Colombo Plan and Commonwealth countries.

IDFR trainees have numerous opportunities to participate in seminars, workshops and round table discussions, and benefit from keynote addresses and lectures by distinguished visiting scholars and international leaders. Speakers under IDFR's Public Lecture Series have included Ban Ki-moon, Kofi Annan, Lee Hsien Loong, Sultan Hassan Bolkiah, the late Nelson Mandela, the late Benazir Bhutto and the late Yasser Arafat.

MTCP: INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS AND DIPLOMACY COURSE 2016

Date : 21 July – 5 August 2016

Venue : Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Culture plays an important role in building strong connection between individuals, with language as the medium of communication. It can be defined as a powerful tool to link individuals with every aspect of life, family, work and in the diplomatic context. Culture in the diplomatic world could be a tool to share and exchange values and idea towards global peace and stability.

The objectives of the module are to raise participants' awareness about diversity, both multi-racial and multi-ethnic, and becoming aware of one's cultural values, beliefs and perceptions, and the processes of communication across cultures and between different cultural groups. The focus of the course is to instil awareness in participants on the importance of language, culture and international relations, with emphasis on culture in the diplomatic context.