

# Melting Pot of Races: Malaysia



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The 1st country where I started to work overseas, Malaysia. Just a few hours after landing at Kuala Lumpur Airport, I was so shocked and amazed by its diversity of races. Before I came to Malaysia, I had been in Mexico, San Francisco, Guam, Spain, etc. But this country gave me a totally different impression from those countries. It is literally 'Melting Pot of Races'.

In the street, you can see Malay ladies with Hijab, and when you see just behind these ladies, there are Chinese Malaysian men. And some more, on the other side of the street, there are Indian Malaysian beautiful ladies.

This is what we call DIVERSITY. 'Malay' 'Chinese' 'Indian'. In a company, they are working together. When they work together, of course, there will be a cultural (religious) problem. For example, 'Ramadan'. In this Ramadan term, Muslim people cannot have any food during the day (from sunrise to sunset). In this term, Chinese and Indian Malaysian people refrain from eating lunch in front of Muslim staff.

And there are 4 kinds of New Year in Malaysia. 'Lunar New Year (Chinese: Jan-Feb)' 'Hari Raya (Islamic: Jul-Aug)' 'Deepavali (Hindu: Oct-Nov)' 'New Year (Christian: Jan)'. Each staff of a company takes their holiday in these times, and takes care of the job when they are on holidays.

The rough percentage of each race is approx. Malay (65%) / Chinese Malaysian (25%) / Indian (8%) / others (2%). Let's check out the reason why there are so many races here in Malaysia.

Malaysia had played a very important role as a relay-exchange point between China and India. So, many merchants from China and India came to Malacca to do business. After the Malacca Kingdom was defeated by Portugal in 1511, the Chinese population has decreased a lot since the business had started to be controlled by Portuguese people. After the 19th century, the Malay Peninsula

is controlled by UK. Then they started plantation of Rubber tree and mine development. That time, UK brought many Indian and Chinese people to develop, from that time, the Chinese and Indian community become more and more in Malaysia.

If you have a chance, please try to stay in this country to work with local people. Then, you will be able to have more point of view in your life.