

FINAL REPORT: ACTIVITY REPORT

**THE IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROJECT,
“JAPANESE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE TO MALAYSIA” IN TOKYO**

31 JULY 2018 - Arrived in Tokyo. Checked in at rented apartment at Nishi-Kokubunji



1 AUGUST 2018 - Conducted library Research at JICA Research Institute, Ichigaya.



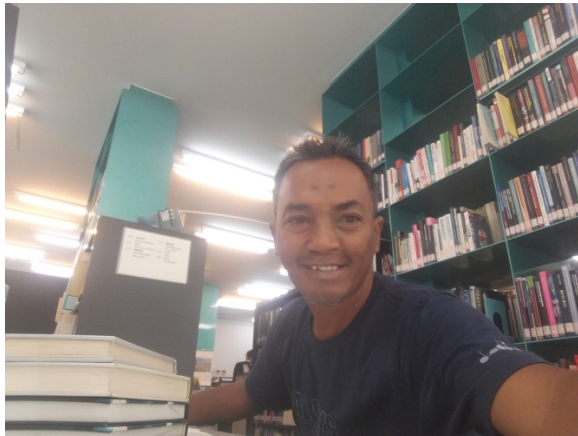
2 AUGUST 2018 - Meeting with host, Associate Professor Dr. Makio Ichihara at Hitotsubashi University. Dr Makio and I met to introduce ourselves. I felt very honored as Dr Makio has very wide global networking in the field of democracy assistance although he is relatively young. I am also proud as he is the first scholar to write comprehensively on Japan's role as an advocator of democracy. We discussed about my fellowship schedule and he recommended a few more names for me to contact and meet during my fellowship program. We also deliberated about the general framework of this study, issues that need to be highlighted and the deadline for my article writing.



3 AUGUST 2018 - Meeting with a Malaysianist, Dr Soda Naoki from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS). Dr Soda Naoki is a Malaysianist who is also an acquaintance of mine. Dr Soda is a history researcher, proficient in Malay language and he also frequently visits Malaysia. We also exchanged views regarding the recent regime change in Malaysia from a Japan's anthropologist perspective. Even though he described the change that happened as good, Dr Soda was also apprehensive about it as the arrangement of power sharing that has always been the backbone of Malaysia's stability will be shaken. The reason as to why is because all the ethnic-based parties have already left Barisan Nasional who was then in power. He also expressed his concern regarding the new governing party, Pakatan Harapan that they might follow the fate of DPJ for failure to meet voters' expectations.



6 AUGUST 2018 - Conducted library research at Japan Foundation Library, Yotsuya.



7 AUGUST 2018 - Meeting with Professor Dr Tatsufumi Yamagata, expert on Japanese ODA and Dr Masashi Nakamura, a Malaysianist at IDE-Jetro, Chiba. Also conducted library research at IDE-Jetro Library. Professor Yamagata is an economic scholar that has been involved in many of Japan's ODA valuations on other countries. We first know each other during my fellowship in IDE-JETRO in 2012. He gave a general explanation about the implementation of Japan's ODA, the uniqueness along with the challenges that occur in its implementation. Even though he acknowledged the fact that Japan's democracy assistance is vital, however, generally Japan's focus is still directed to assistance in the form of economy. Professor Yamagata admitted that Japan's democracy assistance has yet to be implemented consistently by Japan's government due to domestic considerations. It was paramount for me to have met him to get feedback from an economist's worldview who majored in development assistance.

Dr Nakamura is a Malaysianist in IDE-JETRO and I made acquaintance with him during my fellowship in 2012. We exchanged opinions about the situation of politics in Malaysia and he invited me to contribute an article for a book that he is currently editing. Sharing the same point of view as Dr Soda, Dr Nakamura also described the regime change in Malaysia as good for democratic progress yet at the same time, worried about the power sharing prospect within Harapan. Dr Nakamura has just published a book about the sharing of power in Malaysia and he outlined that Harapan confronts a very challenging mission to balance out the demands from vested interest. Besides that, Dr Nakamura also introduced me to Yukiko Taniguchi, Research Associate in IDE-JETRO who is currently working on his PhD regarding the relationship between election and protests in Malaysia.



8 AUGUST 2018 - Stayed home because possibility of typhoon. Meeting with Profesor Takeshi Yuzawa was rescheduled to 22nd August on his request. Preparing slide for 14 and 23th of August presentation.

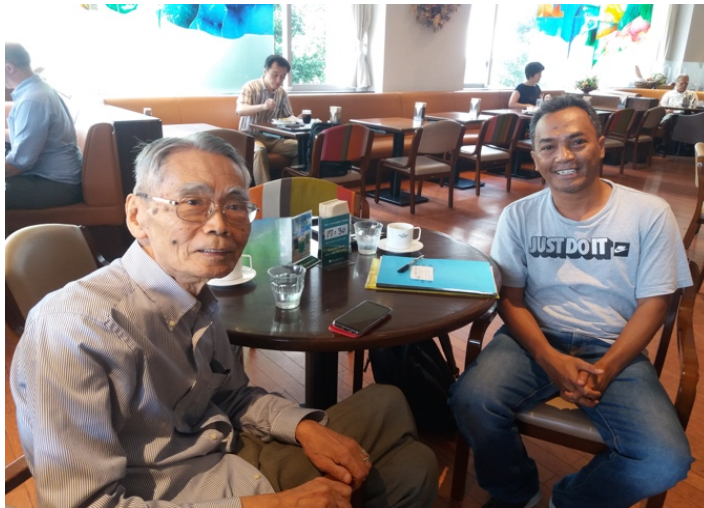
9 AUGUST 2018 - Meeting with Prof. Dr Khoo Boo Teik, prominent Malaysia's political scientist at GRIPS, Tokyo. Professor Khoo Boo Teik is a prominent Malaysian political scientist who has been teaching in Japan since 2009. We discussed about the transition of power in Malaysia and the prospects of democracy assistance from Japan. Since he is always involved with meetings and discussions with Japan's leading scholars (eg: Professor Akihiko Tanaka and Professor Takashi Shiraiishi who work with GRIPS and were involved in ODA's implementations), he presented general perceptions and views of the academic community and Japan's policy makers towards Malaysia. It seemed like Japan is not worried about the condition in Malaysia as the practice of democracy is relatively good. As an academician cum activist, Professor Khoo Boo Teik is very critical with democratic assistance specifically from Western protagonist and narrated that Japan can play a more neutral role regarding this.



10 AUGUST 2018 - Meeting with Prof. Yuko Kasuya, expert on democratization at Keio University. Professor Yuko Kasuya is an expert in democratization studies in Japan and he has written about the election in Malaysia. Prof Kasuya described the prospects of Japan democracy assistance to Malaysia depended on the national interest of Japan's government. He also perceived that there are not much roles that Japan can play in Malaysia other than the fields that are indeed Japan's renowned skills for instance like economic management, legal and judicial development along with maritime collaboration. She also downplayed Anwar Ibrahim's criticism on the passiveness of Japanese democracy assistance compared to non-state actor such as Sasakawa Peace Foundation.



13 AUGUST 2018 - Meeting with Prof. Ryokichi Hirono, prominent political economist and expert on democracy and economic assistance. The meet-up with Professor Hirono was probably the most constructive meeting and has left a great impression on me so far. He is a living legend in terms of implementation of economic and democracy assistance in Japan and has become an advisor for many foreign governments. He is also a close friend of Dr Mahathir Mohamad. I have never heard of him until Dr Makio spoke to me about him and suggested me to meet him. Even though he is at the advanced age of 88, he is still very sharp and I am very impressed as he is still at the fore front of seven NGOs in Japan and is still involved in giving inputs to Japan's government. Prof Hirono had also explained the motivation of democracy promotion by Japan and the steps that need to be taken by the Malaysian government in democratic strengthening. Apart from that, Prof Hirono also agreed that the Japanese government is still lacking in channelling democracy assistance to CSO even when he had already voiced out about this since the 1960s. He also touched about the importance of education since early stages to sow democratic values and proposed for this to be introduced by the Malaysian government through Education for Sustainable Development.



14 AUGUST 2018 - Giving lecture titled “Malaysia’s Silent Revolution and Prospect for Democratisation” to undergraduate students of Dr Maiko at Roppongi.



15 AUGUST 2018 – Meeting with Toru Takahashi, Editor for Nikkei Asian Review, one of the most influential English newspaper in Japan. We discussed about the opinion of the media and business groups in Japan regarding the appointment of Mahathir Mohamad as the Prime Minister and the prospect of cooperation between both countries in realizing the second version of the Look East Policy.



16 AUGUST

Meeting with Ken Inoue, Senior Advisor for JICA. However, Mr. Ken was interviewed in his capacity as member of The Experts Group for the Reconsideration of Japan's ODA and Democracy. He shared his experiences in organizing an economy and democracy aid programme in Japan alongside the challenges and hurdles that came up upon its implementation. As an advocate for the idea that Japan has to do more in the field of democracy assistance, Mr. Ken also sees that Japan's democracy aid is heavily influenced by political views and the values that are held by the Japanese.



16 AUGUST (CONT.) - Meeting with Dr Yuki Fukuoka, an expert on Indonesian democratization and former official at Japanese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. As a scholar and a former bureaucrat, Dr. Yuki provided an important insight regarding the bilateral relationship between both countries alongside the problems and challenges that must be faced with regards to any issues regarding democracy between both countries.



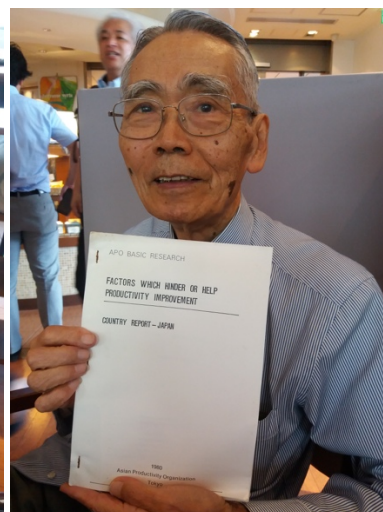
17 AUGUST - Meeting with host, Dr Makio Ichihara and representatives from Japan Foundation, Mr Ben Suzuki, Miss Kyoko Koda, and Miss Mari Shogase. We discussed about the preparation for the presentation that will take place in Japan Foundation on the 23rd of August alongside the issues that has to be highlighted. We also shared our opinions regarding the political scenario in Malaysia.



20 AUGUST – Meeting with Professor Emeritus Takashi Inoguchi from JF Oberlin University. Prof. Inoguchi is one of the respected scholars in Japan and a renowned democracy expert. He is also an editor for two renowned political science journals. We had a discussion on the role that was played by Japan in democratization, bilateral relationship of both countries and what could be done by Japan in the New Malaysia era. Meeting him was one of the three most interesting experiences during this fellowship besides meeting Prof. Ryokichi Hirono and Prof. Akihiko Tanaka (refer to the entry on 30th of August 2018).



21 AUGUST – . Second meeting with Prof. Ryokichi Hirono. We met for the second time to further discuss the draft of my paper. His willingness to sit and give constructive comment on a 60 pages long paper despite being 88 years old is fascinating. He also shared a few important documents and articles including one of the documents that was read by Mahathir when he was drafting the Look East Policy in 1981.



22 AUGUST - Meeting with Professor Takeshi Yuzawa from Hosei University. Prof. Yuzawa is an expert in the security studies and we had an insightful discussion regarding the role played by Japan in providing security assistance in Asia and Malaysia especially. Security aid is the biggest sector in the distribution of democracy assistance of Japan to Malaysia.



23 AUGUST

Meeting with Dr Washida Hidekuni from Waseda University. Dr Hidekuni is a young Malaysianist from Japan that has just published a book about UMNO in English with Routledge. He is considered as Japan's first young scholar who wrote about UMNO in English. We discussed about the prospect of reformation in UMNO as well as the party's direction after the 14th General Election.



23 AUGUST (CONT.)

Presented a presentation entitled “Malaysia’s Silent Revolution and Prospect for Democratisation” at the Japan Foundation office. The presentation was attended by 40 people including the staffs of Japan Foundation, academics, activists, and also the public. Dr Maiko Ichihara, a host fellowship, was also in attendance.



24 AUGUST- Meeting with Miss Aya Fukuda who is the Program Coordinator for Nippon Foundation, one of the most renowned foundation in Japan who channelled intellectual-related assistance activities. Miss Aya is experienced in coordinating API Fellowship Program that was organized by IKMAS before this. We had a discussion regarding the effectiveness of the program (which was stopped) alongside the future programs for Nippon Foundation in Malaysia.



27 AUGUST - Meeting with Dr Koichi Sugaira from Wayo Women University. Dr Sugaira is a young researcher who researches about the democracy assistance in Japan. We discussed about the role of Japan and the challenges and hurdles that came up in its implementation.



28 AUGUST - Meeting with Professor Lau Sim Yee from Reitaku University. Professor Lau is a Malaysian who has been living and working in Japan for 30 years. Professor Lau has also worked for Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), a renowned foundation in Japan and the prime mover for PKR's think tank group, Institut Kajian Dasar (IKD). We discussed about the implementation of SPF programme in Malaysia.



29 AUGUST – No specific activity. Cleaned up the apartment and packing stuff for return trip on the 31st of August.

30 AUGUST - Meeting with Professor Akihiko Tanaka, President of GRIPS and former President of JICA. Prof. Tanaka is another important informant together with Prof. Hirono and Prof. Inoguchi. We discussed about the implementation of foreign assistance by JICA and the prospect of expanding the Japanese democracy assistance Japan to Malaysia.



30 AUGUST (CONT.)

Meeting with Dr Akiko Horiba, program coordinator from Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Dr Akiko is the officer who supervised the implementation of SPF programs in Asia especially in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. We discussed about the funding status of SPF to IKD and the activities that will be conducted by SPF in Malaysia.



Farewell meeting with host, Dr Maiko Ichihara. We looked back on our discussion and what was achieved in the 30 days I was there. We also plotted a timeline for the writing of the article.

31 AUGUST – Farewell Meeting with Mr Ben Suzuki, Director, Arts, Culture and Exchange Section, The Japan Foundation. Mr Ben has been working with Japan Foundation for almost 30 years. He explained all the democracy related programs implemented by Japan Foundation within the context of cultural diplomacy. Even though they don't specifically call it "democracy assistance, the programme has implicit motive to expand democratic space and discourse.

THE STATUS OF ACTIVITY AT THE ACCEPTING ORGANIZATION OR THE CONTENT OF COLLABORATION WITH A COLLABORATOR

Within a month after the fellowship ended, the researcher will transcribe all the interviews conducted. Then, the first draft of the article which is the role of the state actor (Japan) will be finalized. We expect the first article will be finished by the end of 2018 before being sent to the publishing platform. The second article on the other hand delves into the role of the non-state actor is expected to be ready by early 2019. The researcher is also in the process of writing short articles to be published in the medias in both Malaysia and Japan regarding the ongoing project.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE TRAVEL OR TRANSFER DURING THE FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY

No additional travel or transfer took place during this fellowship. All activities were conducted in Tokyo and around its vicinity.

FUTURE PLANS OR PROSPECTS REGARDING THE PROJECT, ETC.

In 2019, the researcher might be going to Japan once again for a week to coordinate follow-up on articles.