

COMPLETION REPORT

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【Subject of Research Project】

Cross-Cultural Communication among Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and Japan Coast Guard (JCG) officers

Japan has been interested with the Straits of Malacca waterways due to its importance as a route for Japan's energy resources. Motivated by that, Japan has been taking some initiatives to enhance the safety of the straits by cooperating with littoral states coast guard namely Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. MMEA was established in 2005 as an effort by Malaysian government to enhance the effectiveness of waterway security. Before the establishment of MMEA, Malaysia's coast security was the responsible of more than one government agencies namely, TLDM (Royal Malaysian Navy), Jabatan Perikanan Malaysia (Department of Fisheries), Polis Marin (Marine Police) and Jabatan Kastam dan Imigresen (Custom and Immigration). The nucleus team were responsible to negotiate with the aforementioned government agencies to establish an agency that could provide security for Malaysia's waterway. JCG has dispatched its experts to work with MMEA through JICA to conduct technical cooperation projects in maritime law enforcement and search and rescue operations since the establishment of MMEA in 2005. One JCG expert has been stationed in MMEA HQ to coordinate these trainings. JCG regular training are in four main areas namely 1) search and rescue, 2) diving 3) law enforcement 4) forensic. There is another training where JCG Academy send their cadet (trainee) to spend their summer holiday in Akademi Sultan Ahmad Shah (AMSAS). This program is not under JICA. Collaboration between JICA and JCA with MMEA does not limited to Japanese training MMEA staff, but also included collaboration with Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA, where MMEA also conduct training for third world countries. As mentioned in the title, the study focuses on intercultural communication between MMEA and JCG staff. The intercultural communication issue between the two authorities are almost the same with cultural issues between other agencies or institutions of both countries such as in education, business, trade and politics that has been scholarly discussed before. However, the new intercultural issues between Malaysia and Japan that are scarce in academic literature are in terms of understanding the role of coast guard in protecting the sovereignty of a country, differences in the usage of firearms during raid due to different law of both countries and and the importance of understanding the bureaucracy procedure of both countries as well as the different principal in coast guard related training of both agencies. Both MMEA and JCG staff need to acknowledge the differences in those matters in order to ensure a smooth and fruitful collaboration.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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

1) International Conference Commemorating the 25th anniversary of Malaysia Japanese Studies Association (MAJAS), 30th Anniversary of Japanese Studies University Malaysia and 50th Anniversary of Japan- ASEAN Relations

November 3rd ~4th, 2023

Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

2) GUEST LECTURE AT THE CENTRE FOR MALAYSIAN STUDIES, SOKA UNIVERSITY JAPAN.

21st February 2024

Faculty of International Liberal Arts, Soka University Japan

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.)

Relationship between MMEA and JCG (estimated date of publication 2026)

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