

Malaysia as a N.I.C

Background

Malaysia is a relatively small country located in South East Asia that consists of thirteen states and three federal territories and with a total landmass of 329,847 square kilometres. The capital city is Kuala Lumpur, which is very famous for its quick development. The population stands at over 25 million. The country is separated into two regions, the Peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo by the South China Sea. Malaysia borders Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia and Singapore. The country is located near the equator and experiences a tropical climate. Most of Malaysia is covered by forest, with a mountain range running the length of the peninsula. Extensive forests provide ebony, sandalwood, teak, and other woods. Malaysia's government is headed by a Prime Minister. The government is closely modelled after the Westminster parliamentary system.



Kuala Lumpur was founded in 1857 and the location is on the junction of the Kelang and Gombak rivers, in the West Malaysian State. Its area covers 94 square miles with a population of 3.9 million. It is one of the world's youngest capitals. A century and a half ago, it was a camp set up by Chinese tin-miners in the middle of the Malaysian jungle. The name Kuala Lumpur comes from the Malay for "Muddy River Mouth", a reference to the muddy river-bed from which tin was scooped by giant dredgers. Due to its strategic position at the confluence of the Kelang and Gombak rivers, Kuala Lumpur grew rapidly as a tin centre, despite its humid, often malarial climate. When Malaysia became independent in 1963, Kuala Lumpur became capital and was perfectly placed to benefit from Malaysia's booming economy. The Petronas twin towers in Kuala Lumpur are very famous for one of the world's tallest buildings at 1,483 feet, which were designed by Cesar Pelli and were finished in 1996.

Economic Growth

Malaysia is the third richest country in South East Asia and is surpassed in wealth only by Japan and Singapore. The country is the world's largest producer of two primary products, rubber and tin and second to Nigeria in palm oil. Its economy, compared with those of most developing countries, is relatively advanced in terms of infrastructural facilities (roads, water, supplies, electricity, etc), institutional patterns, commercial and financial patterns, and management, professional and administrative skills.

The mineral resources of Malaysia include tin, iron ore, bauxite, coal, gold, china clay, monazite, ilmenite, columbite etc. Tin is by far the most important mineral in Malaysia which is found in 9 of the states, it is distributed in two belts, western and eastern. The main biological resources of Malaysia are its forests and its fisheries. The extensive areas still under rain forest in both West and East Malaysia are a source of various forest products. In recent years the exploitation of the timber resources has intensified; timber is Malaysia's third largest foreign exchange earner, after rubber and tin. The shallow seas off the coasts of Malaysia are the principal fishing grounds.

The power resources of Malaysia include coal, peat, wood, petroleum and hydroelectricity. Wood and charcoal have been the traditional domestic fuels but in urban areas they are rapidly being displaced by bottled gas. No hydroelectric power is generated in East Malaysia, but as on the peninsula, the abundant rainfall and steep gradients of the rivers in the interior highlands offer a good hydroelectric potential.

Most of Malaysia's manufacturing plants are located on the peninsula.