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■ Reports

Present and Future Urban Public Transport System in KL

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In this paper, I am going to introduce about present and future urban public transport system in Kuala Lumpur.

Currently, the central part of the city has seven rail lines; therefore, people can move smoothly without a taxi. Although these railways have a lot of functions to improve mobility, some of them are funny. I am going to introduce three funny stories. One is an electronic board. Some railways had an electronic board to provide an information about the next train at platform. On first glance, I thought the system was a very nice for passengers; however, it did not work: for example, some boards in KL Monorail line always provided the information “Next train is coming in three minutes.” Also, the electronic board in KTM commuter provided the information about next train and arriving time. I believed that information and got on the train; however, the train was going to different route; in fact, the board did not provide the information about the train. OMG! Another is a female only train car. KTM commuter had a female only train car. However, I could not understand what time male cannot use the train car because there was no additional information about it. In fact, I could use the train car from 10am to 2pm on Saturday. The other is a train IC card and a ticket gate. Although some train companies served the service of train IC card, it was not smart. For example, some ticket gates were out of work, and passengers could go through without showing their ticket.

However, future urban public transport system in this city’s is absolutely positive. According to the Master plan of urban public transport system, by 2020, one new rail line, 52km, are going to be established; two rail lines are going to be extended 17km each; new BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) line, 40km, is going to be established. The project will influence not only the accessibility in the metropolitan area, but also from rural area. In this city, the percentage of using public transport decreased about 35 % in recent 40 years (From 50%, 1970 to 15 %, 2010) due to recent rapid motorization. The result implies the development of inefficient urban transportation. In general, it is difficult to change citizens’ travel mode because they have already the syndrome of using private cars. The master plan has the project of developing the guideline of TDM (Travel Demand Management); therefore, I would like to expect the citizens’ thinking of using private car in the future.



Pic 1 Unbelievable electronic board



Pic 2 Female only train car



Pic 3 Smart ticket gate



Pic 4 New railway construction

Education System in Malaysia

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Education system of Malaysia is very complex. In this issue, I will introduce the education system of Malaysia which I understood through the visiting of USM (Universiti Sains Malaysia), PSP (Polytechnic Seberang Perai) and DISTED College.

Malaysian education system is consist of primary education (6 years) and secondary education (lower 3 years, upper 2 years), and then some students go on to university after university preparatory education (1 ~ 1.5 years), or some students go on to polytechnic or teacher training college directly after secondary education. Although the curriculum of whole education system is almost same until the secondary education of lower year, a national general examination is carried out at the time of the completion of each curriculum, and a school, where they go on to, is decided based on the result of the examination. The secondary education of upper year is divided into the ordinary education school, technical education school and job training school. Students of the ordinary education school go on to university after university preparatory education. The education length of university preparatory education varies by academic results. Education of the primary education is conducted in Malay, Chinese and Tamil since Malaysia is a multiracial nation, and a native language seems to be respected. All education of secondary education in public school, however, is conducted only in Malay. This education system makes Chinese and Indian Malaysians difficult to go on to university due to a language barrier. Furthermore, Bumiputera Policy, which aimed at improving the economic standing of the Bumiputera (the Malay race and other indigenous peoples), also make difficult to enter university of Malaysia for Chinese and Indian Malaysians. There are some private schools, where the education is conducted in Chinese or English, other than public school. Children of a wealthy family attend these schools. Such schools are not recognized as an educational institution but a company. DISTED College is such a private school corresponding to university preparatory education. All educations are conducted in English, and most students go on to an American and European universities.

I would like to write about polytechnic that seems to be related to National Institute of Technology (NIT). The students who have graduated secondary education school enter to polytechnic. Polytechnic has 21 campuses. Teachers are employed as a teacher of polytechnics, and they have periodical transfer Almost all of them do not .have PhD degree. I heard that most of their lecture is design education and workshop practice. Few lecture related to theory seems to be conducted. My impression of students is slightly childish, but I felt them to be innocent. We had an opportunity of school tour, and we saw the lectures of the integral calculus and the linear algebras. The level of the lectures was almost same as the class of Japanese university. Although I felt some difference between an impression of the students and the contents of lecture, they seem to be taught basic theory of engineering. It seems that PSP has no experience of the international relations, and PSP's teacher said eagerly whether they could have some kind of international exchange program with NIT. We need to consider that from now on.

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