

Appendix 2: Day-to-Day Report

Day One: Saturday, 17 August 2019 - Arrival & Welcoming Dinner

For some of the host parents, the day began very early as their Japanese youth arrived well before Fajr. The Chairman of Chiba Islamic Cultural Centre, Hajj Kyoichiro Sugimoto, also safely arrived in the morning together with his son, a participant of the programme. A banner was displayed to help the students spot the waiting hosts. At 5pm, the Welcoming Dinner began at a host parents home in Ampang, Selangor. During dinner, the researcher observed that the Japanese students carried themselves well. They were respectful of both their host family members and their Japanese fellow students. They had no trouble helping themselves to Malaysian food. In the beginning, they were rather quiet, possibly because they were not conversant in English. However, when the Japanese students were together, they communicated with each other in a more lively way. After a brief welcoming remarks by the Malaysian host, as planned, they returned to their respective homes early to rest and prepare for the following day.

Day Two: Sunday, 18 August 2019 – Preparing Local Cuisine and Distributing Food to the Poor (*Asnaf*) in Rawang

Upon arrival in Rawang, the Japanese students, their host families and interpreters were greeted warmly by the local Kejiranan Rukun Tetangga (KRT) committee members, led by the gracious sponsors for the day, Tuan Syed Omar and his wife, Puan Roslinah Omar. After a sumptuous breakfast, the Japanese and Malaysian youth were subdivided into smaller groups where both nationalities were represented. The Japanese youth had their first taste of preparing, cooking and packing local cuisine for the *asnaf* folks around Rawang area. With the guidance of the host parents and elders, the youth were tasked with preparing the basic ingredients to cook dhal curry, fry the marinated chicken and cut the vegetables for salad, and cook huge pots of tomato rice, all within 3 hours. Once ready, they packed the cooked dishes along with other basic dry foods needed, including rice and other items. *Zuhur* prayer was done at a nearby mosque, before proceeding to the 5 predetermined locations where the different *asnaf* groups were waiting. The distribution process took about 2 hours, and the Japanese students and host families congregated again for tea and 'Asr prayer at the sponsors' house, before calling it a day.

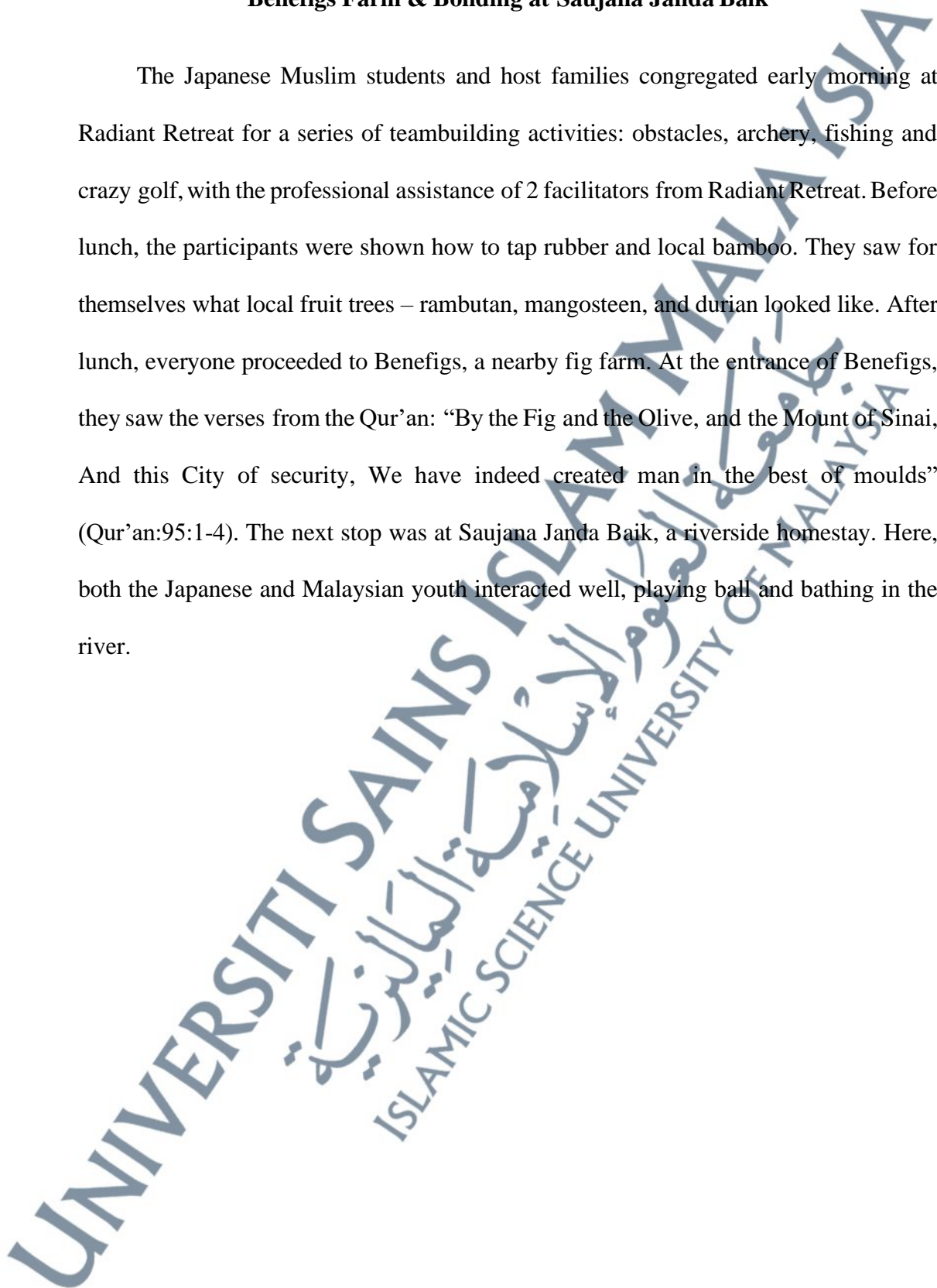
Day Three: Monday, 19 August 2019 - Briefing on Halal Industry, Halal Slaughtering, Tour of Halal Organic Chicken Factory

The founder and Managing Director of *Ayam Dr Zainol* organic chicken factory, Dr Zainol Ahmad Haja himself greeted the participants, volunteers and host families of the Cultural Exchange Programme. Dr Zainol took the time to explain the basis for halal slaughtering, backed by Qur'an and Sunnah evidence. He stressed that halal meat is best not just for Muslims, but for everyone. At this juncture, the second generation Muslim Japanese students began to ask questions about the halal concept and its relation to Islam and the Muslim way of life. This was the beginning of the many queries that would be raised by the Japanese Muslim students, especially to their host parents, about Islam. Later, both the Japanese and accompanying Malaysian youth were given the opportunity to slaughter the organic chickens for the first time in their life, inside the real slaughtering section. Before the guests left, Dr Zainol feted everyone to a hearty lunch of rice, fried chicken and mushroom chicken soup.

The next stop was at Masjid USIM, where *zuhur* prayer was performed. The Dean of the Faculty of Leadership & Management of the university and his team members greeted the entourage. A Japanese lecturer was also present as an interpreter. The staff of the Faculty of Leadership & Management introduced the guests to the interactive Global Halal Game (<http://islamicgames.com.my/global-halal-game/>) which provided a basic understanding of the halal concept in Islam. After 'Asr, the USIM Masjid gave a brief presentation on the functions of the mosque which included lectures, burial ceremony and Hajj courses. The youth were given a short demonstration of how to perform the ablution and prayer. The day ended with a short reminder on the significance of the Muslim personal identity since the Almighty Creator has created the human being as the best and special creation.

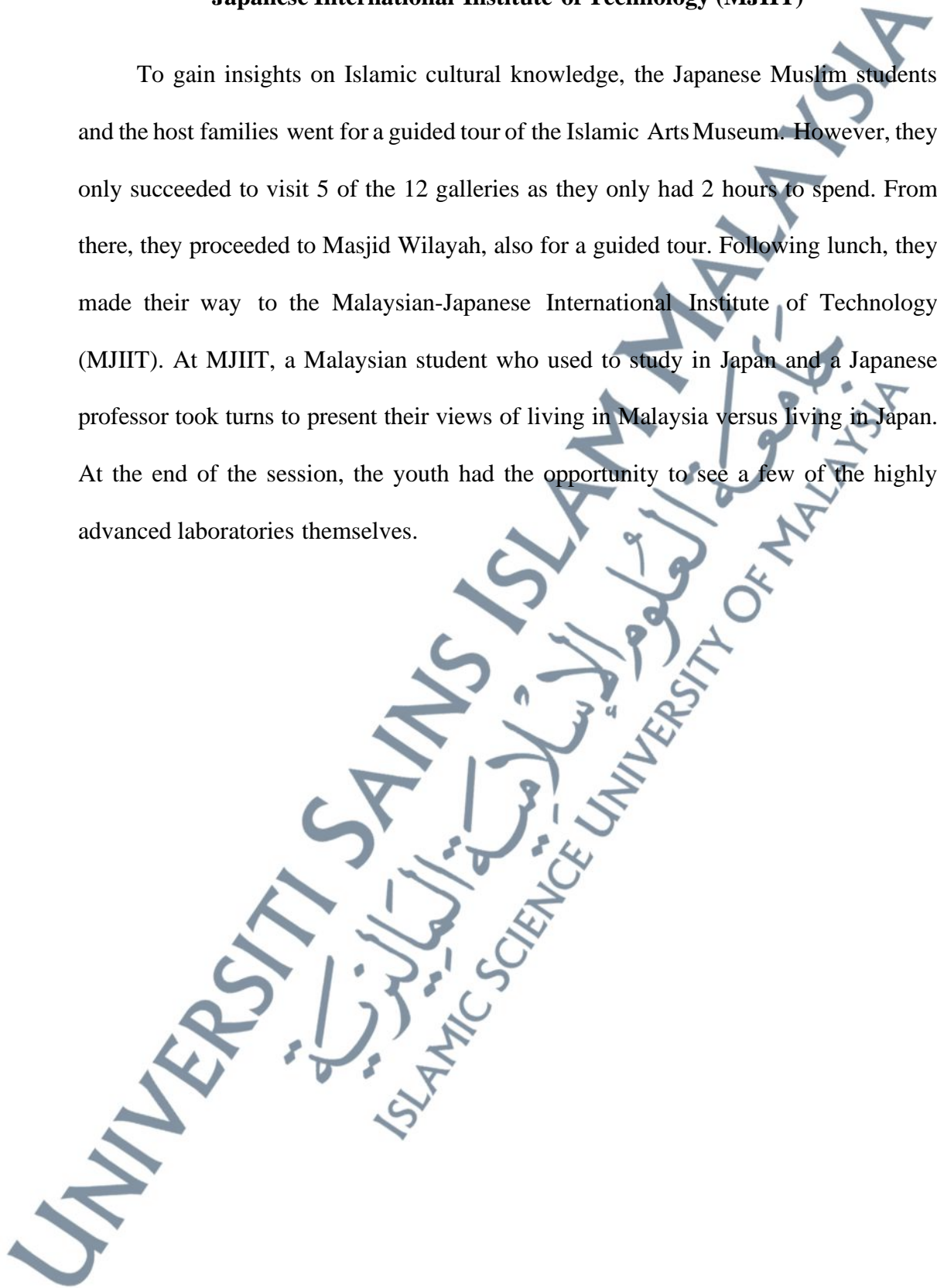
Day Four: Tuesday, 20 August 2019 – Team Building at Radiant Retreat, Visit Benefigs Farm & Bonding at Saujana Janda Baik

The Japanese Muslim students and host families congregated early morning at Radiant Retreat for a series of teambuilding activities: obstacles, archery, fishing and crazy golf, with the professional assistance of 2 facilitators from Radiant Retreat. Before lunch, the participants were shown how to tap rubber and local bamboo. They saw for themselves what local fruit trees – rambutan, mangosteen, and durian looked like. After lunch, everyone proceeded to Benefigs, a nearby fig farm. At the entrance of Benefigs, they saw the verses from the Qur'an: "By the Fig and the Olive, and the Mount of Sinai, And this City of security, We have indeed created man in the best of moulds" (Qur'an:95:1-4). The next stop was at Saujana Janda Baik, a riverside homestay. Here, both the Japanese and Malaysian youth interacted well, playing ball and bathing in the river.



Day Five: Wednesday, 21 August 2019 - Islamic Arts Museum, Malaysian-Japanese International Institute of Technology (MJIIT)

To gain insights on Islamic cultural knowledge, the Japanese Muslim students and the host families went for a guided tour of the Islamic Arts Museum. However, they only succeeded to visit 5 of the 12 galleries as they only had 2 hours to spend. From there, they proceeded to Masjid Wilayah, also for a guided tour. Following lunch, they made their way to the Malaysian-Japanese International Institute of Technology (MJIIT). At MJIIT, a Malaysian student who used to study in Japan and a Japanese professor took turns to present their views of living in Malaysia versus living in Japan. At the end of the session, the youth had the opportunity to see a few of the highly advanced laboratories themselves.



Day Six: Thursday, 22 August 2019 – Nasyrul Qur'an, Meeting with Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, iftar at Local Surau

The first stop was at Nasyrul Qur'an, where the Japanese students and their host families had a guided tour of the second largest Qur'an printing facility in the world. After that, the Japanese youths were whisked to the Perdana Leadership Foundation, to meet face-to-face with Tun Dr Mahathir and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, for a good half an hour. The Japanese are well-known to have a high regard for YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad; it is a mutual appreciation. In the evening, the Japanese students and the host families convened at Surau Dagang Avenue in Ampang to join the Jemaah for *iftar*, breaking fast together. Surau Dagang Avenue regularly holds *iftar* every Monday and Thursday. After breaking fast, they performed *Maghrib* prayer, followed by dinner, after which the Japanese students gave a brief presentation about Japan to those present at the surau.

Day Seven: Friday, 23 August 2019 – National Heart Institute, International Institute of Islamic Civilisation (ISTAC), Farewell Dinner

The Japanese youth were brought to the National Heart Institute (NHI) where they saw how Muslims and non-Muslims worked side by side in harmony. They were given briefings by NHI staff about the relevance of scientific imaging. At the end of the briefing, a Japanese student asked how *solat* (prayers) is performed if the heart surgery takes hours to complete. The question was fielded by Datuk Dr Ahmad Khairuddin, a practising Muslim himself. The next location visited was the International Institute of Islamic Civilisation (ISTAC), where the Japanese youth and their host families were shown some rare collections consisting of ancient manuscripts, circa 1200's. Later, the men did the Friday congregational prayer at the ISTAC masjid, while the ladies performed *Solat Zuhur* at a nearby surau, as the masjid was overcrowded. At 6pm, the Japanese youth gathered for the farewell dinner, together with their host families.

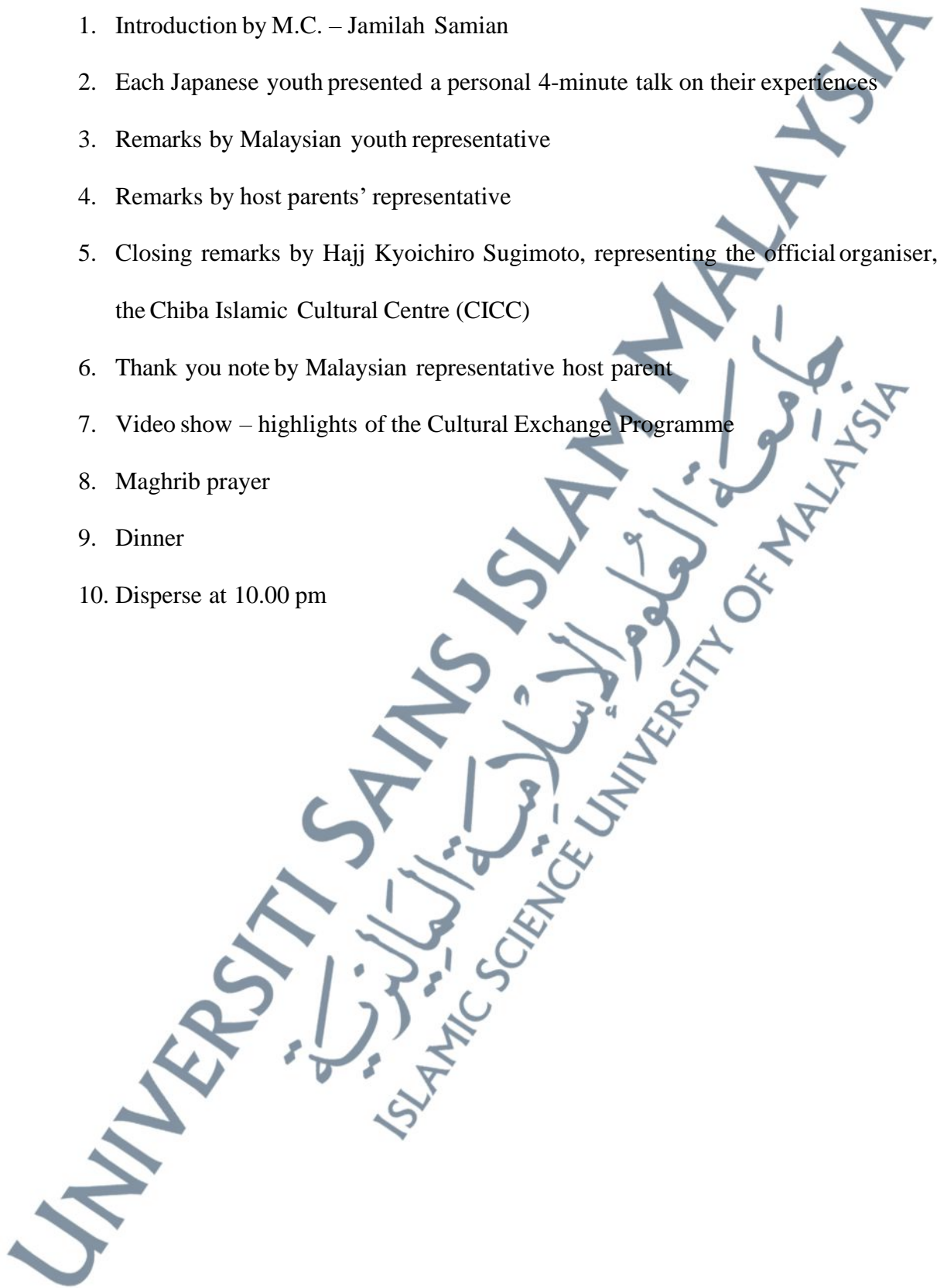
Day Eight: Saturday, 24 August 2019 – Depart to Japan

During the farewell at airport, when a one of the Malaysian hosts hugged Tatsuki and asked when he wanted to come back to Malaysia, he said, “Tomorrow”. Tatsuki worked part-time as a waiter to raise ¥40,000 to buy his plane ticket. His father decided on Thai Airways and topped up the extra fee. Tatsuki said that he had “come out of hiding and isolation” since he could be himself in Malaysia. The Cultural Exchange Programme has indeed changed his perspective on having a solid Muslim identity.

Some participants felt impacted when handing over the contributions including food to the needy. The programme ended with another delightful high tea and local cuisines including the famous 3D Jelly cake of a sponsor. Our sincere appreciation to Mr Syed Omar, his wife Mrs Roslinah Omar and their family plus the hard working KRT committee members. May Allah grant them barakah. For the Japanese Muslim youth in particular, the aim of the brief experience was to provide some insight on the spirit of assisting the poor based on Islamic principles, especially zakat.

Farewell Dinner Agenda

1. Introduction by M.C. – Jamilah Samian
2. Each Japanese youth presented a personal 4-minute talk on their experiences
3. Remarks by Malaysian youth representative
4. Remarks by host parents' representative
5. Closing remarks by Hajj Kyoichiro Sugimoto, representing the official organiser, the Chiba Islamic Cultural Centre (CICC)
6. Thank you note by Malaysian representative host parent
7. Video show – highlights of the Cultural Exchange Programme
8. Maghrib prayer
9. Dinner
10. Disperse at 10.00 pm



Appendix 3: List of Digital Documents

No.	Description	Remarks/Link
1.	Proposal for Japan-Malaysia Youth Cultural Exchange Programme 2019	Enclosed
2.	Poster used by Chiba Islamic Cultural Centre (CICC), Shizuoka Muslim Association and Osaka representative to promote the programme	Enclosed
3.	Host Parent Application Form	https://bit.ly/2X38kQX
4.	Student Application Form	https://bit.ly/2NdIytD
5.	Student Declaration Form	https://bit.ly/31VjcUT
6.	Banner to welcome visiting youth	Enclosed
7.	Host Parent/Student Feedback Form	https://bit.ly/2X77BhU

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Appendix 4: Online Feedback from Japanese Muslim Youth

No.	1
Name:	Haruto
What I liked about the programme:	Culture. Everyone was very kind
Suggestions for improvement:	Nothing special
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	1. Malaysian culture and kindness. 2. The importance of zakat, halal and creatures. 3. Feelings of caring for people The importance of workship and how to worship
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	Cherish worship. I can't hear Adhan.
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

No.	2
Name:	Kawai
What I liked about the programme:	Difference in culture
Suggestions for improvement:	I wanted more opportunities for interaction
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	1. Deep in Islam 2. Communication 3. Cooperation, cooperation
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	I want to study cultural differences with other countries
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

No.	3
Name:	Yuta
What I liked about the programme:	There were many programmes to deepen Malaysian culture and Islam, and it was a week of studying
Suggestions for improvement:	There are few programmes for student interaction
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	1. Halal production methods 2. Islamic history 3. Malaysian culture
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	Participate in exchanges with nearby Muslims
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

No.	4
Name:	Riku
What I liked about the programme:	What everyone can participate in
Suggestions for improvement:	The lecture is not good. Uninteresting.
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	1. The importance of halal. 2. The warmth of Malaysians. 3. I feel that it is very easy if the area is Muslim.
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	I want to take the lead in helping people!
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

No.	5
Name:	Marisi
What I liked about the programme:	It was gathered as planned. All programmes were completed. I was able to go to various sightseeing spots. Knowing Malaysian culture through nature. A lot of Muslim friends of the same age. I used a lot of English to communicate with local people.
Suggestions for improvement:	Everyone had little time to buy souvenirs.
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	First, I was able to learn how to live as a Muslim by interacting with Muslims of the same age. I haven't had any Muslim friends of the same age, so I was able to interact with Muslims of the same age and get to know them immediately. Second, I have never been able to tell my friends that I am Muslim. I am scared of how everyone has an image. However, the non-Muslim people I met in this programme were probably surprised, but I was glad to know about Islam, and I realised that if I told them properly, I could understand Islam. Third, until now, there was only interaction with Muslims living in Japan. However, I felt that Muslims living in Malaysia are very enviable because they are more comfortable to live in than Japan. Also, I thought it was good because there were various ideas of Islam.
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	I want to start by making more Muslim friends by participating more in the Muslim community in Japan.
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

No.	6
Name:	Kaito
What I liked about the programme:	I was able to do things that I could not do in Japan (useful as Muslims).
Suggestions for improvement:	I want free time.
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	1. Importance of teamwork. 2. Experience of Islamic culture. 3. Tips for how you can live as a Muslim in future.
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	I want to share what I got this time with my friends.
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

No.	7
Name:	Tokuda
What I liked about the programme:	There were many people of the same age and it was fun.
Suggestions for improvement:	I wish I could play and go out together after the programme was over.
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	1. I did a lot of things that I could not experience in Japan. 2. The importance of halal. 3. The greatness of the old Muslim.
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	I worship (solat) everyday.
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

No.	8
Name:	Daiki
What I liked about the programme:	I was able to learn more about Islamic culture.
Suggestions for improvement:	Not!
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of respecting multicultural culture. 2. The importance of zakat. 3. Preciousness of life.
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	Respect people
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

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No.	9
Name:	Tatsuki
What I liked about the programme:	First, the country I was going to was Malaysia. Warm, national character, passion for working for Islam, living with delicious rice. Second, the participants were mostly Muslim. We were the only Muslims at school in Japan, but here we were very comfortable with the majority. I was relieved to hear that they were having the same experience in the same circumstances while talking. I'm not alone. Finally, a rich programme content. It was a very packed schedule, but there was so much to learn and it was a lot of fun.
Suggestions for improvement:	I was happy as a male participant, but I thought it would have been better if I made the gender ratio closer. In particular, I was worried because there was only one Japanese Muslima. I made a Japanese friend with the same circumstances, but she didn't. I enjoyed the programme, but I was busy, so I wanted to have more time to talk with my host parents and participants. (Actually, the time to go home is late, but I wanted to talk a lot, so on the last day I was talking to my host parent until 3:00 am in the morning.)
Top 3 things you learnt in the programme:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While the number of Japanese people interested in Japanese culture is decreasing, Malaysians are very interested. 2. Love & Respect is a very important keyword in this country, and this is the secret to the successful realization of a multi-ethnic nation. 3. Be proud of being Muslim.
What is one thing you are doing differently now that you have returned to Japan?	Try not to be afraid as a Muslim and live a little more dignified.
Would you participate in future programmes?	Yes

Appendix 5: Verbal Feedback from Japanese Muslim Youth

No	Name of Japanese Youth	Verbal Remarks
1	Kaito	Good memory. learn about halal, didn't know why halal food, met Tun Dr Mahathir, eat together, listen & talk to them, taking wudhuk to do better, not much experience talking.
2	Yuta	Experienced cooking for poor people and handing the food over, learn to slaughter, saw Qur'an preparation, learn habits of Malaysians.
3	Riku	People in Japan are cold. People in Malaysia are warm. Malaysian kindness, keep asking to eat, diversity and live together, male/female complement roles, halal meal, would like to be as friendly like Malaysians.
4	Kawai	Learn zakat. I thought zakat is 2.5% only, but giving direct (to those in need) is good. Ate halal food. I learnt how it's being done, learnt to pray and take wudhu. I knew the stuff before, but now doing it properly. Now I know the minbar in a masjid have hollow to project the voice, Qur'an has many calligraphies, room to improve my English.
5	Haruto	Survey to study in Malaysia, know more about culture, didn't know English but I can relax due to kindness of Malaysians, hear azan anywhere you go. In Japan, perform solat only when I remember. Cook and give poor people, learn to take wudhu and solat, happy making fun of him.
6	Daiki	Learnt slaughtering, not easy taking life of animal. Tun Dr Mahathir a great leader for Chinese, Malay & Indians living together, cook & give to poor. Don't know much English but Malaysia hospitality . . . Malaysians made effort to talk to me . . . I want to return favour to others for what Malaysian did to me.

No	Name of Japanese Youth	Verbal Remarks
7	Tatsuki	Really learned a lot, impressed with Malaysia, work hard host family, Malaysia already thankful and felt hospitality. Everyone here likes Japan - anime, drama, character. Slaughtering chicken – felt pity but it's responsibility. Before this, I learnt Islam via internet e.g. YouTube. I thought it was enough but I came here to understand more detail. Giving to poor face-to-face, even did it in Pakistan e.g. giving clothes but did not see the people in need. I learnt basic knowledge in Islam in Malaysia unlike Japan. In Malaysia, people not fighting, Live together well. I feel proud being Muslim here, I am free to integrate MashaAllah. I will learn history and culture of Islam more and spread to others.
8	Marisi	Like Malay culture, country is unique, taught Malay language. I hope in Japan the number of Muslims will increase in future. I hope halal will spread in Japan.
9	Tokuda	Learnt important things close to my heart, slaughtering was good chance, mosque is big - can chill at back, At USIM, I learnt how to pray & perform ablution, give food to the needy, Malaysians are intricate (procedures) such as halal certification.

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Appendix 6: Feedback from Host Parents

No	Full Name	Comments
1	Mrs Rosila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programmes are too tight and too long - not enough bonding time with host family - Group is too big - Not enough interpreters to handle the big group as they tend to ask lots of questions even on Islamic aspects till my children got so exhausted but they are grateful and enjoyed it regardless - Priorities in all aspects should be given to our guests - More youth to youth bonding sessions - At my place they stayed up quite late to talk to each other, played card games, Q&A Did jemaah prayer together. - Usually I will ask them to sleep early but this time I let them stayed on since they didn't get to bond during the day
2	Mrs Sabariah	<p>It is clear that we have a stock of youths who are committed to Islam and can be counted to do <i>da'wah</i> or simply, make friends beyond the shores with other muslims. It is also clear that there is a problem to attract JP youth to Islam, as there are muslim youths who do not like Islam because of their strict upbringing, and there are muslim youths who do not know about Islam because maybe not exposed to it.</p> <p>Perhaps we can use this programme as a starting point to connect our youths together . . . the Malaysian youths who can do <i>da'wah</i> (or simply just go as Cultural exchange ambassadors and do soft <i>da'wah</i>) and our JP youths</p> <p>3. using the JP youths that came here, maybe we can now start a relationship with their mosques/communities etc</p> <p>One example is the Nagoya Mosque which Tatsuki is very actively involved in (his father is chairman), Maybe we can start a relationship with the youths from there.</p> <p>Definitely definitely my family would like to visit the children that we hosted, and it would be nice if we can also visit the youths there. Perhaps when the organiser goes there we can follow.</p>

No	Full Name	Comments
		<p>The messages are very good because you connect our activities daily, with Allah swt..I think even the Muslim youths in Malaysia sometimes (and me, a Muslim ex youth) , have to take this message to heart.everything we do, everything we are, everything we have, is because of Allah swt.</p> <p>and it is very easy to forget that in our daily lives. When Bro Fakri connected the activities to the 5 pillars, this is very good practice and habit for us too. The boys are very impressed with it when we talked about this in the car..how we should do more remembering, and when we remember we will inshaAllah behave differently and when we behave in a good manner, we will be attractive to other JP non muslims</p>

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Appendix 7: Feedback from Malaysian Volunteers

No.	Name	What I liked about the programme:	Suggestions for improvement:
1.	Naima	<p>I liked how we involved the Japanese youth in activities that would be normal school activities for Malay students, but was a once in a lifetime type of experience for the Japanese students. I feel like they were able to experience real Malay culture as well as 'Muslim culture'. I was given an insight into their lives as a minority and how difficult life in Japan really is for them, as they aren't able to eat freely or even find halal meat easily. I learned that I should be grateful and appreciative of the fact that I live in a muslim country where food is easy to come by.</p>	<p>I think the activities should be more timely and prepared. I was very disappointed in the university visits and felt like they could have made a bad impression on the Japanese youth (as they definitely made bad impression on me). I think in each location, the people in charge should be well informed and prepared before arrival, as to avoid any confusion or wasting of time. I also felt very conflicted and uncomfortable during the iftar at the surau when a man had the audacity to catcall a fifteen-year-old girl. Not only did he proudly laugh at his own comment, other men also joined him in laughter. I was horrified, especially since we were in a place of worship and were meant to be respectful. If I had the authority, I would have put that man in his place right then and there. I also wish that there was more free time so the students who were on vacation could have more time to visit places that they wanted to visit, instead of only following a schedule and barely having any time for anything else. Overall, I really did enjoy the programme but these were some small things that really bothered me</p>
2	Rohaya	<p>A lot of hands-on activities like slaughtering chicken, cooking Malaysian dishes, etc.</p>	<p>More fun, less academic. But can still be Islamically engaging. More time for the Japanese to bond amongst themselves. Maybe the schedule should be discussed between both parties so they know what they signed up for without being disappointed/surprised once the programme starts. More engaging activities, rather than sit-in lectures. Programmes should cater to the age</p>

			group accordingly. Probably will not join future programmes as we will be busy from next year onwards. But I hope this programme taught everyone a lot of things so that everyone can improve and create a better programme next time, in sha Allah.
3	Lina	Meeting with new people.	More free time for bonding.
4	Suraya	<p>Everyone I met and everything we did really touched my heart. So many different perspectives I got to learn from. Thank you so much for this week! I'm very, very thankful for this opportunity. I apologise if I did anything wrong this week. Hope to see them again sometime soon (in Japan!)</p> <p>I'm very happy to contribute again in this programme</p>	

Appendix 8: Feedback From Japanese Parents

No.	Parent	Feedback
1	Tokuda's mother	"Yes, he enjoyed all experiences. The greatest thing is that he started salat at school! Before he didn't pray at school, but he heard other members did, so he also decided to start at school."
2	Tatsuki's mother	"Thank you so much for creating great memories for Tatsuki. He told us a lot about Malaysia and gave us the presents. We are very glad for having you as the host parents. All the things you have done for him was more than I expected. Thank you again. May Allah reward you all. Please give us the chance to entertain you in Nagoya! We will see each other soon, InshaaALLah."
3	Daiki's mother	"Alhumdulillah (my son) tells us Malaysia all the time (emoji) alhumdulillah. He seems to have talked about being Muslim with his friends while staying there. Mashallah, You sent me back my son who grew up."
4	Riku's mother	"(My son) is so excited. He wants to tell everyone about the programme."