

To Explore the Sustainable Development in Singapore and Malaysia



5D Group C

Sung Tsoi Ling

Lai Hiu Kwan

Lee Tsang Tsang

Lee Wing Yee

Leung Tsz Shan

Leung Wai Yu

Lo Suet Ying

Sze Yan Ting

Tai Lok Yin

Yen Tong Yan

Content

Introduction	3
Methodology	4
Literature Review	6
Photographs Analysis	9
Findings of the Interviews	12
Conclusion	14
Reflection	15
Appendix	19

Introduction

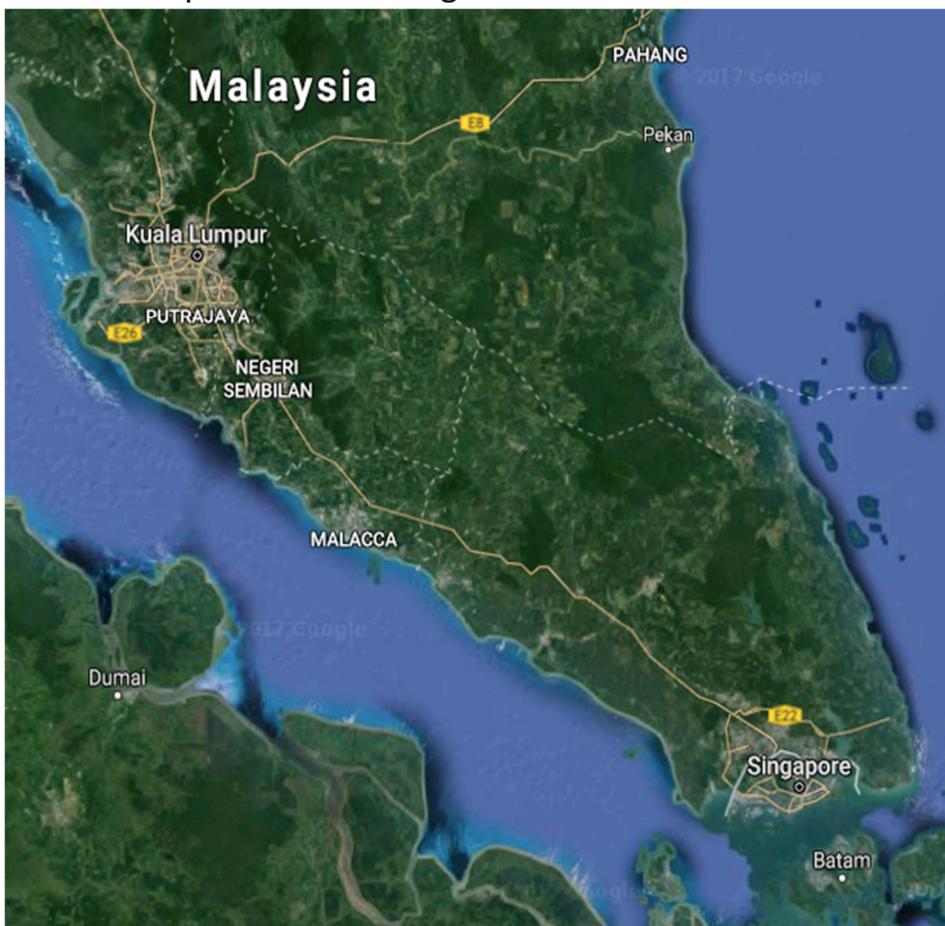
The destinations of this year grand tour are Singapore and Malaysia. Class 5D form King Ling College would like to explore the sustainable development in these two countries. In recent years, the sustainable development and city planning catch the eyeballs of the public. Other than that, one of the topics in Geography is building a sustainable city. We hope that we can develop a better understanding on the importance of practicing the 4Rs principles on constructing Malaysia and Singapore into sustainable countries. 4Rs represents Reuse, Reduce, Recycle and Replace.

According to the Green Power, the 4Rs principle can be interpreted in the following way:

1. Reduce: Using or buying only what we really need - there is no waste to treat when there is no waste to begin with.
2. Reuse: Don't throw away items that are reusable. Reduce waste by making full use of any item.
3. Recycle: Give items you don't need to persons in need; recycle broken but recyclable items so that the resources can be recycled into usable items.
4. Replace: Adopt eco-friendly goods or lifestyles, such as using handkerchiefs instead of tissues, travel by public transport instead of private cars.

Hong Kong is infamous for the ubiquitous skyscrapers. The situation is different in Singapore and Malaysia. Therefore, we would like to investigate the sustainability of these two countries.

Footnote of the map: Area of investigation



Methodology

1. Choice of method

Two kinds of means will be used to collect data. They are interview and photo analysis. During the first day in Malaysia, interview will take place in Rumah Charis(恩惠之家), which is a non-profit Christian based organization. On the fourth and fifth day, interview will take place in LEGOLAND and Arab street respectively. Moreover, observation and photo taking will take place during the whole trip.

2. Classification of the study target

The main theme of the study is to explore the sustainable development in Singapore and Malaysia. During the Grand Tour, we are going to identify whether Singapore and Malaysia achieve a sustainable development in three aspects, including environment, economic and social development. Moreover, our class would like to have better understanding on the importance of 4Rs, which are rehabilitation, revitalization, redevelopment and preservation, on constructing Malaysia and Singapore into sustainable development.

3. Target group

The target group in Rumah Charis will be the staff. As Rumah Charis is the place that need the citizens in Malaysia help and care. They must have many comments on the development in Malaysia since they need government support and more subsidies to earn a living. Through the interview, we can know what needy needs and their feelings towards the society in Malaysia.

Moreover, the target group in LEGOLAND will be the staff as well since they can give comment on the tourism.

Furthermore, the target group in the Arab street will be the local citizens since they must have the clear understanding on the development of Singapore. Mostly of the citizens in Arab Street communicate and interact with countless tourists. Therefore, our team think that it is easier for them to give comment on the development of Singapore. Moreover, our group will observe the types of buildings and the environment in Singapore and Malaysia and take photos as a record.

4. Questions asked in the interview

i) Rumah Charis in Malaysia

- How do you feel on the environment in Malaysia?
- To what extent do you think the implementation of 4Rs, which are rehabilitation, revitalization, redevelopment and preservation, is well organized in Malaysia?
- Do you think the transport network in Malaysia is convenient enough?

- Does the government provide enough subsidy and resources on helping the elderly and needy?
- What do the children in Rumah Charis need?
- Could you mention one setback and one triumph of the policy towards social welfare in Malaysia?
- How do you think about the communication between citizens in Malaysia in the society?

ii) Legoland in Singapore

- How many tourists come to LEGOLAND per day?
- Do you think the transport network in Singapore is convenient?
- How do you feel on the environment in Singapore?
- To what extent do you think the implementation of 4Rs, which are rehabilitation, revitalization, redevelopment and preservation, is well organized in Malaysia?
- To what extent do you think the environmental conservation in Malaysia is better monitor than the environmental conservation in Singapore and why?
- Do you think Singapore have a good economic development?
- How do you think about the communication between people in the society?

iii) Arab Street in Singapore

- Do you think that Singapore have a good environmental protection policy?
- How do you think about the communication between people in the society?
- How do you feel on the environment in Malaysia?
- How many tourists come to Arab Street per day?
- Do you think the transport network in Singapore is convenience?
- Do you think Singapore have a good economic development?

5. Problems faced and solution

i) The style of English or Putonghua may be different with Hong Kong people.

Therefore, the solution is that we can use body language to communicate with the local citizens.

ii) Some of the interviewees may speak too fast that we cannot jot down all the key points. The solution is that we may ask for their permission to record the interview so that we will not miss the information.

iii) Some of the locals may not want to have an interview so we will not disturb them and choose other locals to have the interview

iv) Photo taking may not be allow in some place so we will ask for the permission before we take photo.

Literature Review

Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development means "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The goal of sustainable development is to strike a balance between the needs of the environment, society and economy in order to maintain a quality standard of life for both present and future generations.

4Rs

Redevelopment

- replacing old dilapidated buildings with modern, quality and environmentally-friendly schemes
- enhancing the quality of the living environment through restructuring and re-planning of older districts
- providing appropriate community facilities and open space

Revitalisation

- reviving and strengthening the socioeconomic and environmental fabric of different districts through appropriate means of renewal
- adopting a 'holistic' coordinated approach with our partners and stakeholders to improve the quality of urban living through redevelopment, rehabilitation and preservation initiatives

pReservation

- protecting and conserving buildings with historical and architectural value which will be put to community, public or other suitable uses
- becoming functional parts of the community or tourist attractions
- sustaining local area characteristics

Rehabilitation

- working with owners, the Government and other partners to prevent the decay of the built environment by promoting and facilitating the proper repair and maintenance of buildings
- extending the useful life of buildings to alleviate the urgency of redevelopment

Sustainable Development in Singapore

Major success:

Since the independence in 1965, Singapore has relied on international trade and human capital to rapidly become one of the four Asian tigers. Singapore is also one of Asia's major financial, service and shipping centers. According to the latest "Global Financial Center Index" ranking, Singapore is the world's third largest financial center, second only to London, the United States, New York. The city in terms of greening and cleaning effect significantly, it has the reputation of a garden city.

Land use planning in Singapore:

To ensure Singapore have a sustainable growth, the Urban Redevelopment Authority states that the land use planning should follow these principles:

1. To develop a compact city to save land and optimize infrastructures
 - Revitalization of the City Centre
 - Amalgamation of fragmented plots
 - Parcels of land released for development through sales of sites

2. To provide a comprehensive transport network, and strengthen the use of land nearby the MRT and LRT trains stations such as the station at Sengkang and Punggol.

3. Dispersed commercial centers in order to prevent traffic connection in rush hour

4. To have a diversity of options of accommodation and the provision of comprehensive facilities in order to reach a higher quality of life

5. To preserve the natural and architectural heritage by maintaining important and historic buildings in nature reserves
 - The Urban Renewal Authority carried out a lot of maintenance and protection work for the landmark buildings left by the self-colonial period in Singapore

Sustainable development in Malaysia

Since independence in 1963 , Malaysia has had one of the best economic records in Asia, with its GDP growing at an average of 6.5% per annum for almost 50 years. Today, Malaysia has a newly industrialized market economy, ranked third largest in Southeast Asia and 29th largest in the world.

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country which includes ethnically Malay, and large minorities of Malaysian Chinese, Malaysian Indians, and indigenous peoples.

Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, ranked 7th in Asia from "Sustainable City Index" in 2016 which shows that Malaysia is a sustainable city and has high standard of living.

Land use planning in Malaysia

Land-use planning is regulating the use of lands and their resources to meet the socio-economic development of the country. For example, it is essential in physical environmental management and biodiversity conservation.

Land-use planning is to reduce land-use conflicts, conserve the ecosystems, and have better economic development in order to maintain sustainability. Thus, this can ensure a healthy and safe life for Malaysians.

Land-use planning in Malaysia

To conserve the environment, social and economic activities

- develop the protected areas
- species protection
- forest conservation and management
- freshwater conservation.

Photographs Analysis



Central Market, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
It was found in 1888 and originally used as a wet market.

The long and precious historical value of Central Market had been requested to demolish in 1970s for more spacious area to boost Malaysia's economic development. Fortunately, the petition letters from locals successfully prevent the demolition of Central Market and it also becomes one of the heritage sites in Malaysia now.

In terms of social, Central Market is well-organized for tourists to experience the varied cultures of Malaysia. The shop is located into different area according to the ethnic background like Malaysian, Indian and Chinese. Not only can you buy the traditional souvenir and clothing but also experience the activity hold on the courtyard of Central Market like craft-making demonstration and mini singing concert. When wondering around the Central Market, tourists will definitely immerse into its mixed culture and history. Therefore, Central Market is important for Malaysians to conserve and promote its culture to tourists.



Christ Church in Melaka, Malaysia

It is the oldest functioning protestant church in Malaysia. Construction began in 1741 on the centennial of the Dutch occupation, and it was completed in 1753.

Melaka and George Town, Malaysia, are remarkable examples of historic colonial towns on the Straits of Malacca that demonstrate a succession of historical and cultural influences arising from their former function as trading ports linking East and West.

The Dutch Square (Red House) is a famous tourist spot in Malaysia because the Dutch architectural style of building is shown nearby like the Christ Church and St. Paul Church. Government retains such building style reflects Melaka are living testimony to the multi-cultural heritage and tradition of Asia, and European colonial influences. By visiting the heritage site in Melaka, it shows that Malaysia government put a lot of effort in conserving the historical sites and restoring the original structure of buildings and monuments.

In terms of economy, it will create great chances for the locals to increase their income through selling the souvenir to tourist in the short run. In the Long run, it will attract many tourists to visit so as to promote their tourism which will increase government revenue for improving the quality of life of locals.

In terms of social, the government is carrying out revitalization in this district like repairing the old resident building in Jonker Street, improving road network and urban parks nearby, therefore it also known as Chinatown which attract many Chinese especially Fujian people gather and live in there.



National Orchid Garden Singapore

It is located the Singapore Botanic Gardens, was opened on 20 October 1995 by Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew.

Singapore Botanic Gardens is one of three gardens, and the only tropical garden, to be honored as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The National Orchid Garden, within the main gardens, is at the forefront of orchid studies and a pioneer in the cultivation of hybrids. Orchid is Singapore's national flower. Among the several varieties of orchids, the variety "Agnes" was chosen particularly for its vibrant colors, hardiness and resilience, the qualities which reflect the Singapore spirit.

In terms of environment, Singapore Botanic Gardens display great variety of plant species which offer both tourists and locals a closer relationship and investigation to the nature environment for educational and recreational purpose. Singapore government expanded the Botanic Gardens to 82 hectares in 2015. By increasing and expanding green space, it improves the air quality like lower the building density, reduces the flow of traffic, air pollution and heat island effect in the long run.

Findings of the Interviews

On the first day of the trip, we went to Rumah Charis to help prepare the funfair on the next day. We did not only do the service but also conduct some interviews with the staff after the service. We aimed at knowing their comments on the development of Malaysia in recent years and what the needy need and their feelings on the society in Malaysia.

Here are the findings of our interviews:

The staff and residents in Rumah Charis think the environment of Malaysia is quite good as the air quality is good and there are many rainforests around them. The transport network is also completed as the highway link up almost all the roads in the city. However, the government does not give enough support to the elderly and needy and the budgets of Rumah Charis are mainly from donations. The children in Rumah Charis need the care of others, like the other citizens and us but not only the food or education. People in Malaysia may not be the same race or speak the same languages, but they can communicate with each other with their body language and facial expressions. We also found that many people in Malaysia know more than 4 languages, even the orphans in Rumah Charis know 5-6 languages, such as Cantonese, Putonghua, English, Malay language, Southern Min, etc. They think Malaysia have a good economic development as most of the citizens have houses and a stable life.

On the fourth day of the trip, we went to LEGOLAND and conducted the interview when we were queuing up for the motor-driven games with the staff. We aimed at knowing about their comments on the tourism there.

The staffs said there were only a few thousands of people came to LEGOLAND per day if it was a normal day and there would be much more tourists during the holiday. Most of them are non-locals, such as Singaporeans, Hongkongers and Taiwanese. The transport network in Malaysia is convenient as many Singaporeans can come to LEGOLAND during holiday. They also thought the environment in Malaysia is suitable to live as their living area is big enough for them to live and the nature is kept well. They thought Malaysia have a good economic development in recent years as people start to become much wealthier than before and many rural areas started to develop. Also, the communication between citizens is good as even the different races can live together and mutual tolerance.

On the last day of the tour, we went to the Arab Street in Singapore and we conducted the interviews to the local citizens, asking them about the development of Singapore.

The local citizens thought Singapore have a good environmental policy as over 70% of the country surface are covered with greening. There was no big problem in communication between people as all people needed to learn English and even an elderly know English. So, different races can communicate with each other easily. The environment was good as the greening was enough even there are many buildings in the city center and the living environment w suitable for them to live as everyone have their own flat. There are about a thousand tourists visiting Arab Street on normal days and few thousands tourist visiting during holiday. Most of them were non-locals. The transport network in Singapore was convenient as the roads can link up all places in Singapore.

Conclusion

During the trip, our group had investigated the sustainable development in both Malaysia and Singapore.

In Malaysia, the economic development is mature and successful. Their ranking in the world has proved their work. Their economic development has brought about a high level of GDP and a stable life in general.

Secondly, in the aspect of environmental conservation, the land use planning in Malaysia has ensured the bonding between physical environment management and biodiversity conservation. They pay much effort on reducing the land use conflicts, conserve ecosystem and restore degraded conservation areas which help to improve citizen's standard of living.

Third, in terms of social progress, there is something that could be improved. For example, some citizens say that the support to the elderly and needy is not enough and most of their budgets are from the donation. The government can pay much attention to this field and conduct more measures for the elderly and needy, for example, provide subsidies to the elderly and help them to improve their living quality.

In Singapore, there are over 70% of the country surface covering with greening. The Urban Renewal Authority had paid much effort on land use planning. This shows that the government has put a lot of work to protect the environment which aims to provide citizens a clean and nice atmosphere to live.

Next, the social progress in Singapore is also successful. Citizens have a great social tie and the welfare from the government. The citizens are satisfied with the measures that the government produced. It shows that Singapore has a successful development in terms of social progress.

Last but not least, for the economic development, all of the citizens in Singapore have jobs and flats to live. Their public housing policy ensures every family has a place to live in. The development in Singapore has boosted them to be one of the four Asian tigers.

To sum up, both Malaysia and Singapore have paid much effort on developing a sustainable development of the countries. Singapore has conducted a sustainable development successfully while Malaysia has to do more on the field of social progress to give the elderly and the needy a better living environment and standard.

Reflection

Day1

It is a non-profit Christian based organization which taking care of the orphans and single parent children. We helped them set the tables and banners for the Fund Raising Charity Bazaar on the next day. Also we played with the children and communicate with some staff.

After being a volunteer in Rumah Charis, I think the Malaysian government should provide more resources and subsidies for the orphans and single parent children. As I observed that the environment in Rumah Charis was poor. For example, the tables were damaged. This poor condition may bring harm to the children like hurt by the infrastructure. Moreover the space of activities was not enough. In Rumah Charis, there are many children and youth but they only share a tiny park. To conclude, it is hoped that the government and the locals can give more supports and care for the charity organizations like donations.

On the other hand, I learned that I should treasure my life. Although the children in Rumah Charis live in a poor condition, they are happy and enjoying their life. So I should be happy that I have my parents and a fruitful life.

Although I arrived Malaysia for few hours only, I think the environment in Kuala Lumpur is better than Hong Kong. Since there are not much tall buildings but vast of trees. The street is clean with only one or even no rubbish bins. It is very different when compared with Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, especially Mong Kok or Tsim Sha Tsui, there are three or above rubbish bins on one street. The street in Hong Kong is crowded and a lot of rubbish on the floor. We should learn from Malaysia that teaching the citizens to have better environmental protection knowledge. In addition, the citizens are nice and talkative. Moreover, they are not as busy as Hong Kong people so we can take a rest and had a relaxing trip in Malaysia.

Day2

After finishing breakfast, we started our second day. We visited the Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Lake Gardens, National Monument, and Istana Negara. The tour guide told us a lot of history of Malaysia and the lifestyles of the locals. Then, we took class photos in these places and went to restaurant to have our lunch.

After that, we went to the Kuala Lumpur City Gallery. It showed the country's heritage and culture. We learnt local cultural and the history of Kuala Lumpur. Then, we took a photo with the giant, "I LOVE KL" and brought the souvenir there. We also visited the Central Market which was originally a busy wet market. However, it became a tourist spot which sold the traditional handmade crafts, wood carvings,

and some blown glass souvenirs. We could learn the traditional art and culture from the locals. Take the food culture as example, Malaysians eat many spicy food. We used half of the day to go sightseeing in the city. Although it was a bit tired, we learnt a lot about their culture, such as food culture, and also let us deeply felt the enthusiasm of the locals. It made a memorable day to all of us.

Day3

To start off, it was a fine day with great weather. After we got ready in our hotel room, we went downstairs for a complimentary breakfast. That day's breakfast was not as rich as the day before in the previous hotel, however, we still finished them with great temper. With all our luggages and happiness, we were off!

First, we took a ride to The Stadhuys. We started strolling around the place and taking pictures. Luckily, it was not very crowded. Although the sun hanged up in the sky and many of us soaked with sweat, the scenery there was astonishing and beautiful. When walking along the little street aside The Stadhuys, we saw how friendly and nice the local people were. They smiled a lot and promoted their interesting souvenirs enthusiastically. Even we did not buy anything, they still try to communicate with us nicely. We can definitely feel the local culture in Malaysia.

After that, we went to the St. Paul Church. The scenery in Malaysia never disappoint us. The buildings were majestic and we cannot put away our eyes. In the rest of the day, we went sightseeing in different places like Jonker's Walk. All the landmark in Malaysia deserve the name!

At night, we went to Bandaraya Johor Bahru and had dinner in a restaurant. That day was our classmate Eddie's birthday. We had prepared a surprise for him. Miss Lee and us had bought a birthday cake for him. We sang along the birthday song and ate the birthday cake together. Our surprise party was so successful and fun. We would definitely not forget this day.

On the third day of the trip, we had visited many landmarks and took a lot of pictures. It was really hot and most of our classmates soaked with sweat. Although the weather was not very satisfying, we still had some really great time in every places. We walked along the streets together and share our tissues and the little fan. We chatted and talked about the trip during the walk. Most importantly, the surprise party was the most unforgettable thing for us. All of our classmates were so excited and happy during the party. I honestly believe that our friendship had step to another level and we would never lost this memorable day.

Day4

On the fourth day, we went to Legoland Malaysia which is a very popular tourist spot. We aimed at exploring the recreational land use in Malaysia and understanding the economic contribution of Legoland Malaysia. Legoland is a place full of imagination and innovation. The most attractive place to Legoland Malaysia would be Miniland. There have been many famous landmarks around the world which are built by Lego blocks in Miniland. This was an eye-opening activity because all works looked exactly the same with the original. It was beyond the description.

Also, we played a lot of games together. This was the time when we built memory together. We had a lot of fun and took plenty of pictures. We could never forget this day.

At night, we left Malaysia and went to Singapore. We said goodbye to our tour guide and driver in Malaysia. They were very nice to us and the tour guide did a really good job of introducing Malaysia to us. We were all very thankful. When we first stepped in Singapore, we found a lot of differences between Singapore and Malaysia. It was very obvious that Singapore is more developed. However, we loved Malaysia because of the unique culture and nice people.

Day5

Time flies! It was the last day of grand tour and we started our journey in Singapore. We have visited the National Orchid Garden and Arab Street.

Without a shadow of doubt, National Orchid Garden was incredibly a great place for orchids lovers like me to explore a rich display of orchids of every colour, shape and species. It definitely worth a visit for such breathtaking scenery and totally broaden my horizons on discovering more different plant species.

Finally, we went to Arab Street as a final destination of the whole trip. Unlike the impression of Singapore's fast-paced life projected in my mind that a myriad of skyscrapers, both sides of the streets are lined with quaint and ancient shops which selling souvenirs and some authentic Arab products.

What is worth noticing is that the Singapore government put great effort to optimize urban spaces for greenery and recreation in order to achieve environmental sustainability. The tour guide told us that the Singapore government has proposed a tree planting day each year to plant shrubs and trees in public area. Not only planting trees, they will also promote recycling and nature treks. The successful achievement of greenery planning in Singapore really gives a great lesson to Hong Kong government follow suit. More importantly, it shed the light to me and Hong Kong citizens that the government is not the excuse for us to shrink the responsibility of protecting the precious environment. In fact, we should cooperate with government and take initiative step to do more for the nature. It is hoped that our city can preserve the greenery and recreational land use to retain the attractiveness of Hong Kong.

Appendix

Global Financial Center Index, 2016, Z/Yen Group

http://www.longfinance.net/images/gfci/20/GFCI20_26Sep2016.pdf

Our Common Future, 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development

<http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf>

Bibliography

Report:

-Global Financial Center Index, 2016, Z/Yen Group

-Our Common Future, 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development