

Malaysia

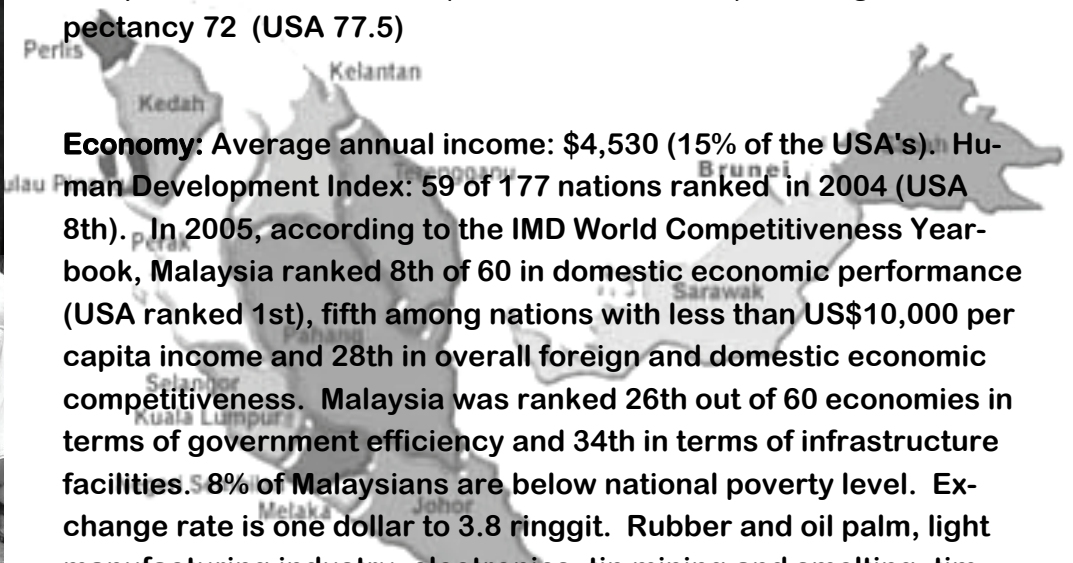
Fast Facts

Location: Southeast Asia bordering Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia and Brunei.

Population: 24 million, 57% urban; largest city and capital Kuala Lumpur in 2002 1.5 million (4 million metro area) Average life expectancy 72 (USA 77.5)

Economy: Average annual income: \$4,530 (15% of the USA's). Human Development Index: 59 of 177 nations ranked in 2004 (USA 8th). In 2005, according to the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, Malaysia ranked 8th of 60 in domestic economic performance (USA ranked 1st), fifth among nations with less than US\$10,000 per capita income and 28th in overall foreign and domestic economic competitiveness. Malaysia was ranked 26th out of 60 economies in terms of government efficiency and 34th in terms of infrastructure facilities. 8% of Malaysians are below national poverty level. Exchange rate is one dollar to 3.8 ringgit. Rubber and oil palm, light manufacturing industry, electronics, tin mining and smelting, timber, petroleum production, cocoa, rice, pepper, subsistence crops. The ethnic Chinese Malaysian influence on the economy is very substantial.

People/ethnic Groups: Malays 58%, Chinese 25%, Indian 7% (primarily Tamil), indigenous/tribal 10%. Of 189 total people groups, 64 are least reached (less than 1% claiming Christianity), equaling 6.5 million. Eight of these 64 have a known congregation or cell group. 137 are languages spoken-of which 24 have at least the New Testament. Official language: Malay (though English is common).





Recent History

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy which democratically elects its legislators and Prime Minister; It became independent of Britain in 1957. The politically powerful Malays have extended their influence over the non-Malay ethnic groups with very aggressive affirmative action "special

rights" in economic, educational and religious life. Malaysia is ranked 32nd out of 133 nations (USA is 18th) by the Transparency International corruption list.

In 1997, Malaysia suffered from the Asian Currency crisis. The Prime Minister at the

time, Mahathir, brought about economic stability, but tarnished his 22 year rule with human rights abuses, imprisoning his former Deputy PM, Anwar. In 2003, Abdullah Badawi became Prime Minister, and he did not interfere with the courts overturning of Anwar's Sentence.

Religion in Malaysia

285 missionaries are presently serving the Chinese, Indian and tribal peoples, with 60-70 tentmakers from six agencies discreetly serving the 60% majority Muslims. Outreach to Muslims is strictly prohibited. There is one known Malay-led cell group (1994). Nestorians came to Malaysia earlier than the Portuguese colonists did in 1511, and they, along with

the Dutch and British colonists, brought Christianity. Immigration of Chinese and Indians brought further Christians. The Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion but defines a Malay as a Muslim, causing considerable difficulties for the majority population and for those who outreach to them.

<p>60% Muslim, 20% Chinese/Buddhist 9% Christians 5% Hindu, 4% nonreligious 2% animist</p>
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Ministry in Malaysia

Mission to Unreached Peoples' ministry in Malaysia is relatively small. There are a few long term projects which provide platforms for ministry to unreached peoples. Work-

ers are needed to bring the good news to this hard to reach area. There are opportunities to use many gifts, teaching, administration, medical, and many other pro-

fessional and non-professional platforms. In the past and hopefully the future we have been associated with several effective short term trips.

Placement Options in Malaysia



Current Mission to Unreached Peoples Involvement:

See a MUP Representative or check out our Website at www.mup.org!

Personal Qualifications

- A mature Christian with a working knowledge of the Scriptures and a consistent walk with God.
- If married, a godly family which is also committed to missionary service.
- Demonstrated skills in evangelism and discipleship.
- Unusual flexibility and adaptability, perseverance, independence, good communication skills, and sense of humor.
- A willingness to experience the rigors of life and work in a developing country while maintaining an excellent Christian witness.
- Ability and commitment to build and maintain good interpersonal relationships.
- A local church body and pastor who are supportive of your application for missionary service and who will commission and send you out from the church as a missionary.
- A willingness to learn the language and understand the culture.

Important Information

- **Training Provided:** Excellent training and preparation is vital for successful ministry in Malaysia. Mission to Unreached Peoples' training program includes Cross-Cultural Living, Friendship Evangelism, Interpersonal Relationships, Spiritual Warfare, Language Acquisition, and a variety of other ministry related topics. Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) training is also available.
- **Local Support:** A supporting team of co-workers is important to us. You will be connected to and have fellowship opportunities with MUP personnel and other missionaries and have the opportunity to develop a strong local team of co-workers.
- **Support Services:** Mission to Unreached Peoples is dedicated to providing the support that will facilitate your ministry. Services include newsletter and electronic mailings; online, automatic, and manual receipting of the financial gifts from your friends and supporters; and full online web access to financial and other organizational information. In addition, our national and field offices are available to respond to and help with special requests. Field and organization-wide conferences are scheduled regularly for spiritual and emotional refreshment, encouragement, and further equipping for the work.
- **Pastoral Care:** Pastoral care is a very important part of our ministry to you. While you are in Malaysia, field-based or itinerant member care personnel will visit with you to encourage, counsel, share, and pray with you. Our staff is there to help with special needs.
- **Financial Arrangements:** Financial needs vary depending upon the missionary's unique situation: family size, schooling options, personal standard of living, and transportation costs, etc. A customized budget is created for each missionary. One-time initial costs must be raised or paid to cover the outgoing costs such as airfare, training, and health insurance. In most cases, you will need to raise personal support to cover personal expenses, health insurance, home leave transportation, and monthly Support Services.
- **Terms of Service:** The normal term of service is two-four years, with three months of home leave for every year overseas. Actual service terms vary with the type of placement and work. Shorter placements, including short-term, summer, and internships are also available, depending on need and individual qualifications.



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