



Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management

“GUFTAGU SERIES”

Guest Lecture on **“Tourist attractions in Malaysia and Singapore”**

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) organized session on. In the ongoing **Guftugu Series of Lectures**, Mr Vikas presented the session on the topic “Tourist attraction in Malaysia and Singapore” on 24th March 2022. Head of the department Dr Sarah Hussain welcomed Mr Vikas and had initial discussions about the session. Mr Vikas is MD of Virtual Holidays and have extensive experience in travel and tourism industry. He highlighted situations of these two countries in South East Asia at the heart of the Indian Ocean and providers of a budget-friendly travel option to Millions of people around the globe. He mentioned that these two countries to be highly modern and provides tourists with a variety of travel options.

Mr Vikas discussed about Malaysia to be a beautiful country to visit and as one of the favourite holiday spots for tourist around the globe. He informed the students that to diversify the economy and make Malaysia's economy less dependent on exports, the government pushed to increase tourism in Malaysia. As a result, tourism has become Malaysia's third-largest source of foreign exchange income and accounted for 7% of Malaysia's economy. He discussed about other socio-cultural aspects of it.

He mentioned about the government agency that is in-charge of promoting tourism in Malaysia to be Tourism Malaysia or the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB). On 20 May 1987, the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism (MOCAT) was established and TDC moved to this new ministry. TDC existed from 1972 to 1992, when it became the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB), through the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board Act, 1992.

He explained about, Malaysia that it is having a worldwide marketing campaign called "Malaysia, Truly Asia" which was largely successful and brought in over 7.4 million tourists. The extra revenue generated by tourism helped the country's economy during the huge economic crisis of 2008. Medical tourism is popular in Malaysia, with the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council reporting arrival of 882,000 foreign patients in 2014. He talked about the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council, a government agency to promote medical tourism, which was launched in 2009 as an initiative by the Ministry of Health and how this industry is booming in contemporary time also.

Further, he talked about the travel formalities and documentation aspects in Malaysia. Regarding the Visa policy there, the Visitors to Malaysia must obtain a visa from one of the Malaysian diplomatic missions unless they are a citizen of one of the visa-exempt countries. All visitors must hold a passport valid for at least 6 months. Fortunately, Malaysia offers Visa-free travel for 90 Days to 63 Countries of which Saudi Arabia is a part. Tourist having Saudi Arabian visas can travel to Malaysia without any visa for 90 Days.

Mr Vikas further provided detailed information about Singapore is a miraculous sight, particularly for travelers familiar with modern Asian metropolises. The destination maintains a remarkable balance of green space and skyscrapers, in addition to sustaining substantial ethnic enclaves like Little India and Chinatown. This motley group of cultures has brought to this former British colony something special – a common mindset.

He informed the students about the Museums that stand tall and welcome amateur historians to explore their vast interiors. He talked about large wetland preserves quietly rest in stark contrast to Singapore's modern achievements. The best time to visit Singapore is anytime. The island nation experiences a warm, tropical climate year-round with daily highs in the 80s. In addition, with a steady stream of business travelers, the city's hotels are seldom at a loss for occupants and maintain reasonable to high room rates. Policies regarding the visa as well as the other travel formalities were also discussed by him. He highlighted other relevant features of Singapore.

The session ended with questions and answers with the students and concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Vijay Kumar.