STRAITS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Non Mihi, Non Tibi, Sed Nobis

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## Company Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Current Profession</th>
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<td>Dr. Roslan Bin A Ghaffar</td>
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# Board of Governors

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| Dr. Roslan Bin A Ghaffar          | Chairman       | Malaysian   | • Chairman at KL Sentral Sdn Bhd  
• Board of KWSG                      |
| Dato’ Haji Azmi Zakaria           | Board Member   | Malaysian   | • Retired from the Ministry of Education  
• Board Member at Lembaga Penapis Filem Malaysia |
| Toh Puan Mariam Mustapha          | Board Member   | Malaysian   | • Business owner and Philanthropist  
• Wife of the late Tun Mustapha     |
| Dato’ Mohamad Taufik Bin Haji     | Board Member   | Malaysian   | • Holds Executive position in several companies                                      |
| Omar                              |                |             |                                                                                    |
| Lita Nasyitah Goh Binti Abdullah  | Board Member   | Singaporean | Business Owner                                                                     |
Key Profile – Dr Roslan A Ghaffar

Dr. Roslan bin A. Ghaffar holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, USA, and obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, USA. He has over 27 years of experience in the areas of economics, finance and investment.

Dr. Roslan was attached to University Putra Malaysia as a lecturer in 1984 and Associate Professor in 1991. In the 1992-93 academic year, Dr. Roslan was with the University of Kentucky, Lexington as Visiting Professor. On various occasions, he had served as consultant to various organisations which included the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Winrock International and the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister’s Department.

In 1994, Dr. Roslan was appointed as Director of Investment and Economic Research of the Malaysian Employees Provident Fund. He was promoted to the position of Senior Director in 1996 and later held the position of Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Fund until his retirement in 2007.

He is currently the Chairman of Kuala Lumpur Sentral Sdn. Bhd. and sits on boards of Baraka Telekom Sdn. Bhd., and Reach Sdn. Bhd., SIS Charter Sdn. Bhd. and SG Straits International Education Sdn. Bhd. He also sits on the boards of several public companies including SYF Resources Berhad and ING Funds Berhad. He is a member of the Rating Committee of Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad. He has also served as director of Bumiputra Commerce Holdings Berhad and CIMB Group Berhad and as commissioner of PT Bank Niaga, TBK, Indonesia.
Key Profile – Ms Lita Goh

Lita Nasyitah Goh bt Abdullah, Singaporean, aged 46, is currently the Chief Executive Officer of SIS Charter. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Company.

She holds a Professional Diploma in Early Childhood from University of Malaya in 2003 and she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from University of Hertfordshire, UK in 2011.

Lita began her career as an educator in 1997 when she joined Taska Pines Mont’ Kiara as a teacher. In 2003, she founded Ingeniouscare Sdn Bhd, an operator of three Singapore franchise education centres where she is currently owner and principal.
Key Profile – Charles Grayhurst

Charles Grayhurst, graduated as a teacher in 1997 following his BA (Hons) from the University of Leeds and his teaching qualification studied at Christchurch College, Canterbury.

He has taught in UK, Sri Lanka, Russia, Ecuador, China, Vietnam and Qatar and is particularly experienced in helping to open new international schools.

Mr Charles is concluding his MA in Educational Leadership and Management from the prestigious University of Bath with his final research thesis focusing upon the role of Head teacher in new international schools.
To all staff,

A big, warm welcome from all of us at the school! We are very pleased that you have decided to become part of our community and look forward to when you can join us. You have been employed not just because of your skills and knowledge, but because we also believe that you have the personal attributes and attitude to add to our existing staff team.

I think they might be a little shy about this, but I do believe that the staff room here is one of the best that I have worked in. Sure, we have to work hard and, as a new international school; there is much to be done. However, here lies the potential in your employment; you truly do have the opportunity to leave your mark. You can do things here that will leave a legacy in the years to come – the quality of teaching you exhibit, the love of your subject, the way you move your department forward and the huge contribution we ask of all to contribute to the whole school ethos of SIS. We want you to roll up your sleeves and get involved!

As I write this, I feel that this team spirit is actually reflected in this document. This has been designed to help you integrate into the school and life in Penang. After sending out a request for help, within ten minutes staff had volunteered, both local and overseas hires, to write all of what you find here. Long may that continue!

So, we hope that you find this guide helpful. Hopefully, you will have been in touch with your ‘buddy’ by now, but rest assured you can always get in touch with people at the school, no matter what the reason.

Regards,
Charlie
The Straits Way

• Straits International School believes that every child is unique and has the potential to be developed into individuals who are self-assured, selfless and spirited. We are committed to a style of education that demands academic rigour but recognises that success can also be counted in many other ways.

• Straits International School offers a stimulating and supporting environment, defined by this pursuit for excellence in all areas and based upon on the guiding belief of meritocracy.

• Students at Straits are expected to demonstrate hard work and effort in all that they do. They are proactive participants rather, than passengers. Straits students demonstrate an ethos of community through a caring attitude which shows respect for our school and all those who work within it. They seek to give back to their community through service and leave our school as well rounded, well qualified young people prepared for the challenges that await them.
Our Mission

Straits International School aims to prepare its students to take up their places in an ever evolving and challenging world, striving for continuous excellence in their pursuits, but tempered with empathy for others. Students of Straits will leave the school with strong moral and ethical Values and with a truly internationally minded outlook.

Our Ethos

Non Míhi, Non Tíbi, Sed Nobis

The motto of the school reflects the mission of our education, which is to develop in our students a sense of community spirit that enables them to become compassionate, well balanced citizens. As such a commitment to our community and the performance of service is the cornerstone of an education at SIS.
School Milestone

The Straits International School, Bayan Lepas Campus was established in 2012 as the first Straits International School. Since our inception in August 2013 we have grown rapidly and shall continue to do so.

Student numbers are healthy and feedback from parents is very positive. We are in a high quality and well-resourced temporary campus at present, but have scheduled a purpose built campus next to the airport for opening in 2014.

At the same time as this, a new campus shall also be built on the mainland, with further schools planned for Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu.
Our campus is strategically set near Penang International Airport and Penang International Sports Arena, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The school provides a well-equipped and very secure environment in which to study.
Our Curriculum

• Our curriculum is based upon the England and Wales National Curriculum, combined with Cambridge Primary and Secondary Checkpoint for Maths, English and Science.

• All Malaysian nationals study Bahasa Malaysia, while Mandarin is compulsory for all students at the school. French is also available to overseas students.

• Student in Years 10 and 11 are offered an IGCSE options package, also from Cambridge. Our curriculum in many subjects is “internationalized” to suit an Asian setting, particularly in the Humanities.

• Integrated within our curriculum is a focus service based learning as well as project work, which develops other “soft skills” such as independent thinking, presentations, group work and the conduct of research.
English as an Additional Language

English as an Additional Language support is offered at Straits International School and includes four weekly hours of specialist parallel classes in English, based upon the Cambridge ESOL curriculum. For those students with further requirements, SIS may also provide an intensive development programme via the dedicated EAL unit based at the school, which can add up to an extra six hours per week.
Beyond Our Classroom

• Modern education is about more than just classroom work and examinations. SIS promotes a developmental student-centred approach, nurturing a strong sense of self-esteem and personal integrity, and a respectful, caring attitude towards others.

• Hands-on experiences make active learning come to life. Whether it is the zoo, the planetarium or just a nature walk, students can explore more about the world and how to interact with others when they leave the sheltered environment of the classroom. Besides visits to historic or scientific spots, students can engage in arts and cultural events nationwide.
Technology & Facilities

Our school features the following facilities:

- Classrooms with multimedia courseware and presentation facilities, and e-mail or groupware for collaborative work
- Library/Media Centre with a database centre for multimedia courseware, and network resources like access to the internet
- Computer laboratory for teaching, and readily accessible multimedia and audio visual equipment
- Dining hall with e-purse facility for food purchases
- Access to an online teacher/pupil forum for assistance outside of traditional school hours and the sharing of materials
- A safe internet search facility linked to the UK curriculum
Co-Curricular

Straits operates an extensive co-curricular programme for students. A variety of activities are held for one hour every afternoon. Activities are themed to ensure that a range of skills are interests are covered.

These themes include Sport, Creativity, Academic Challenge and Support, as well as Service, Community and Culture. Through participating in activities which are themed in this way the school ensures a balance in experience. Indeed, we value the activity programme highly at SIS, with key learning outcomes attributed to each activity and a continual cycle of evidencing that builds a students’ personal Record of Achievement.
Our Community

At each level the students, staff and parents will be given opportunities to play a ventral role within the community and participate in service based learning, whether it be through hands on service, charitable schemes, out of school learning, events or connecting with other communities.

All are anticipated to participate actively and in a positive manner. Our educational ethos expects that all members of our community pursue lifelong learning and that we understand that education is not just limited to classroom academics. It is our vision to produce young men and women with the compassion, drive, communication skills and understanding which will best prepare them for their future roles in the world.
Penang is a state in Northern Malaysia that consists of both an Island and part of the mainland.

The capital of Penang, Georgetown is located on the north-easterly shore of the island, alongside the narrowest stretch of the adjacent channel. Georgetown is a fairly compact city and most visitors will be able easily find their way around on foot. Prominent areas of Georgetown include that colonial neighbourhood around Fort Cornwallis, and the financial district surrounding the street of Lebuhraya Pantai.

Maps of Penang are always useful if you intend to stray outside Georgetown, having chosen to rent a car. Close to Georgetown on the northerly coastline, the sandy beaches of Batu Ferringhi are a must. To the far south and within Bayan Lepas, the Penang International Airport ensures that is another busy part of the Island.
The Pearl of The Orient, Penang

A fascinating fusion of the East and west, Penang embraces modernity while retaining its traditions and old world charm. These are reflected in its harmonious multiracial populace and well-preserved heritage buildings which led to Georgetown being accorded a listing as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site recently.

Komtar is located in central Georgetown, along the north-south Jalan Penang and east-west Jalan Magazine. The 65-storey high-rise and mall is one of the most prominent landmarks in Penang with a viewing deck on the 58th floor offering views of the island and across the straits to Penang’s mainland.

The cylindrical skyscraper is the 6th tallest building in Malaysia & Penang’s tallest structure. It towers over Georgetown’s western corner, a section of town unofficially known as Chinatown since it is dominated by clusters of shuttered 2 storey shop-houses and kongsi (clan houses) that have stood here in a variety of forms since the late 18th century.
**The Pearl of The Orient, Penang**

**Penang Bridge** is no doubt one of the many architecture wonders of Penang. Ranks as the longest bridge in Asia and 5th largest in the world, the iconic bridge that took 5 years to complete was the beloved bridge for every Penangites. It marks the new milestone that brings Penang closer to the world attention.

**Penang Ferry** which started her maiden journey back in 1920s is still making its daily round along the bust water of Penang. Currently manage by the Penang Port, the ferry was the only mode of transportation connecting Penang Island and the Mainland back then. Getting onboard Penang ferry brings in many fond memories and unforgettable events that can never be forgotten.

**Penang Hill** is located on this island of Penang, within the area called Air Itam. The locals affectionately called it Penang Hill or Bukit Bendera. The hokkien chinese calls it “Seng Kee Sua”. It was Francis Light who plotted Penang Hill during his horse track way back in 1788. British colonials started building bungalows for private use in the 19th century as the climate is cooler on the hill compared to the city heat.
The Pearl of The Orient, Penang

**Ferringi Beach**, Batu Ferringhi situated along the coastal road north-west of Georgetown and lined with a string of international-standard resorts, is the most popular beach in Penang. Soak in the sun or unwind on the beach while you enjoy a host of aquatic thrills from wind-surfing to canoeing. For a spine-tingling adventure, try parasailing to enjoy the view of the beach from the sky. As the sun sets, Batu Ferringhi comes alive with a carnival-like atmosphere with an open-air bazaar selling anything from ornate curious to enticing souvenir items.

**Penang International Airport** is Malaysia’s third busiest airport. Situated just 9.9 miles / 16km south of Georgetown, the airport serves as transportation hub for western Malaysia and offers connections with major cities across South East Asia and the rest of the world. In 2010 some 4.2million passengers used this transportation hub and arrivals at Penang International Airport will be greeted by a modern, medium-sized airport which prides itself on fast check-ins and equally speedy baggage reclams services.
Butterworth Railway Station is a major train station and terminus for trains to Penang. Located about 100 meters from Pengkalan Sultan Abdul Halim, the old railway station was completed in 1967, and was opened by the fourth king of Malaysia, Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah. It is the only station in the country with a 0km distance meter, indicating that it is the beginning of the railway line heading north to Padang Besar and heading south to Singapore.

The old railway station was officially closed on 5 August 2011, to make way for the construction of a new state-the-art Butterworth Railway Station. In the interim, the trains to Butterworth stop at a temporary station located about 30km away, near the KTM Bhd Postal Office. The fully air-conditioned temporary station has a ticketing counter, two VIP lounges, a station master office, a police beat, a surau and toilets.
History of Penang

In the early 16th Century, Portuguese traders have been sailing to the Far East searching for spices. They came across a small uninhabited island where they could replenish fresh water supplies, which they then named it “Pulo Pinaom”

The island was part of the Kedah Sultanate. Its strategic location at the northern entry to the Straits of Malacca has made it a natural harbor during the monsoon months for Arabian, Chinese, European and Indian ships. Inevitably, it became a hunting ground for pirates.

Since the 17th century, Kedah have been sending “Bunga Emas” (Gold Flowers) to Siam (Thailand) as an acknowledgement of the Siam King’s sovereignty. In the 18th century, the spice and opium trade between the East and West had became extremely lucrative. The Dutch dominated the Far East spice trade and the British too needed to establish themselves in the region. Thus, in 1765 Francis Light was instructed by his company, Jourdain Sullivan and de Souza to establish better trade relations in this part of the world.

In 1771, the Sultan of Kedah offered Captain Francis Light the Island of Penang in return for protection from the Siamese and Burmese armies who were constantly threatening Kedah. This treaty never materialized as Francis Light’s superiors refused to offer any aid.

Captain Francis Light left Kedah for Junk Ceylon (Phuket, an island off southern Thailand) in 1722 to setup trade activities with India, southern Siam and northern Malay Peninsula. At that time, the British were involved in the Napolean war in Europe. Light was asked by the East India Company based in Madras to obtain Pulau Pinang to setup a base to repair British navy ships and as a trading post for trade between China, Indian and the archipelago.
History of Penang

In 1786, Francis Light acted as middleman in securing Penang from Sultan Abdullah of Kedah in return for promise of British protection from his enemies. The Sultan of Kedah was not aware that Light had acted without the approval of his superiors when making the promosi.

Light landed in that part of Penang now known as the Esplanade on July 17, 1786 with a small group of civilians and naval staff. On August 11, 1786, the Union Jack was hoisted as Captain Francis Light, known as founder of Penang officially took possession of the island for the Crown. The island was named “The Prince of Wales Island” as the acquisition date fell on the prince’s birthday. The settlement in the Eastern cape of the island was called Georgetown named after the King of England, George III.

In 1790, Sultan Abdullah formed an army to get rid of the Dutch and English after the Company had failed to provide military protection when Kedah was attacked by Siam. He assembled his men at Seberang Jaya (Province Wellesley) to retake Penang Island but was defeated by Captain Francis Light who had carried out night raids on the enemy’s fortress. The following year, Sultan Abdullah signed a treaty with the British, officially handing over Penang Island to the British. As part of the treaty, the Sultan of Kedah is paid 6,000 Spanish dollar annually. Captain Francis Light was appointed Superintendent of Prince of Wales Island.

The first settlement in Penang was at the present Esplanade area which was a swampy, malaria infected area at that time. Fort Cornwallis, the island’s main defense was located at the same area. In order to expedite clearing of thick undergrowth around that site, Light loaded the ship’s cannons with silver dollars and fired it deep into the jungle. The township was named Georgetown after King George III of Britain. Four original streets of Georgetown were Beach Street, Light Street, Pitt Street and Chulia Street.
History of Penang

When Light first took over the island, there were less than 1,000 Malay fishermen living on the island. To encourage settlers, Light introduced Penang as a free port in order to attract traders away from nearby Dutch trading post. In addition, new comers are allowed to claim as much land as they could clear.

Captain Light’s term as the first Superintendent of the Prince of Wales Island came to an end in 1794. he died of Malaria on October 21, 1794 at the age of 54 and was buried at the Protestant cemetery at the end of Northam Road. He was survived by Martina Rozells, a local Eurasian of Portuguese descent and son, William Light who later founded the city of Adelaide, Australia.

After Francis Light’s death, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Wellesley arrived in Penang to coordinate the defenses of the island. In 1800, Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Leith secured a strip of land across the channel from the island and named it Province Wellesley (Seberang Jaya). This gave Penang control over the harbour and food supplies from the mainland. The annual payment to Sultan of Kedah was increased to 10,000 after the acquisition. Today, the Penang State comprises both Penang Island and Province Wellesley and, the State Government still pays RM18,800 to the Sultan of Kedah annually.

In 1805, Penang was elevated from a colonial status to that of a Residency. A new Governor, the honourable Philip Dundas was appointed into office. His assistant secretary was Thomas Stamford Raffles, future founder of Singapore in 1819. in 1832, under the British administration in India, the Straits Settlements comprising the states of Malacca, Singapore and Penang was formed. Penang became its capital but in 1935 Singapore took over as capital of the Straits Settlements.
At the end of the 19th century, rich deposits of tin from neighbouring state and relentless demands of the industrial Revolution in Britain saw Penang enjoying a trade boom. This also includes trading of rubber, nutmeg, clove, sugar, coconut and pepper. In time, Penang’s property attracted immigrants from various parts of the world, especially those from Europe, China and India. European planters and Chinese towkays (business leaders) made their money in the plantations and mines in other northern states but built their mansions in Georgetown and dent their children to school here.

In 1905 the first hydro-electric scheme in Penang was completed, giving the island her first electricity. Penang got its first electric tramway in 1906. by mid 20th century, other modes of transport such as rickshaws, bullock carts and horse-carts gradually disappeared from the roads of Penang.

By the 1930s, Penang had become a busy port with ocean liners and coastal steamers docking at Swettenham Pier or anchoring in the waters of the channel. Penang became an entertainment centre, with cabarets, amusement parks and gambling establishments. When Wall Street crashed, the economy of Penang suffered badly.
History of Penang

Before the people of Penang could recover from the depression, the Second World War broke out on December 8, 1941. Penang was attacked by Japanese and the British field to Singapore living the island defenceless. The people of Penang live in fear and field to the interior to escape from ruthless Japanese army. The days of the Japanese Kempettai were the days of horror, torture and executions. On September 4, 1945, the Japanese surrendered to the British Forces. Remarkably, many of Georgetown’s historic building were virtually unscathed by the allied bombings.

After World War II, the Straits Settlements were dissolved and Penang became part of Malaysian Union, before it became part of Federation of Malaysia in 1948. Malaya gained independence in August 31, 1957 and Penang was one of its 13 component states. Penang was officially known as Negeri Pulau Pinang. Georgetown, which has the oldest municipal history in the country, was accorded City status by Queen Elizabeth II on 1st January, 1957.
Living in Bayan Baru

Bayan Baru is located in the southern part of the island, close to both the airport and the bridge over to the mainland. Surrounded by green hills—perfect for walking or cycling—it contains a mix of residential and commercial areas.

Food lovers will be spoilt for choice thanks to the huge Bayan Baru food court where you can find an impressive array of delicious Malay, Indian, Chinese and fusion dishes for incredibly reasonable prices. Nestled amongst the many residential developments and condominiums are plenty of hawker stalls selling local fare. As well as these more traditional outlets, there is the full range of ubiquitous fast food shops such as McDonalds, Pizza Hut and Subway. There is so much choice that you could eat in a different restaurant every day of the month!

If shopping is your thing, Queensbay Mall is only 10 minutes by car or bus. Shops, restaurants, supermarkets, bars and cinemas: Queensbay has it all including many European chain stores.

Georgetown is 35-45 minutes away by car depending on traffic. Although there are buses, they can take a long time and the routes are not that extensive: having a car in Bayan Baru definitely helps if you want to get to other places on the island.
You Want To Live Abroad?

**Advice on Making the Adjustment**

“Patience, an open mind and a ready sense of humour will get you through the rough times.”

**TEN COMMANDMENTS OF RELOCATING OVERSEAS**

1. Learn as much as possible about the host country in order to have realistic expectations.
2. Anticipate a challenging adjustment period of at least 6 months. Do not decide if you like it until these 6 months have passed.
3. Do not expect to replicate your current lifestyle. Look for what is there, not for what isn’t.
4. Develop tolerance for ambiguity and frustration by being flexible and open towards the new culture.
5. Look for ways to strengthen and maintain your enthusiasm.
6. Do not expect of the new culture the same sense of urgency or availability of conveniences.
7. Try to understand the host country perspective
8. In **ALL** things be flexible
9. Maintain a sense of humour, but most importantly be ready to laugh at yourself
10. Surround yourself with positive people. Do not allow negative comments and attitudes to darken your outlook.
Lifestyle of Penang

Food
Undoubtedly, one of the greatest aspects of Penang is the vast amount of delicious food on offer for only a few RM. Food choice range from street to fine dining and each race offers their own traditional favourite dishes with unique spices and tastes. Meals such as Char Koay Teow will cost less than RM5 from a street vendor or food court. Nasi Kandar costs around RM10 depending on what is added to the dish. Chicken rice with an additional 2 meats can cost as little as RM6. Be sure to visit food courts or small street vendors to sample a taste of Penang at very affordable prices.

Entertainment
There are several cafes, bars and restaurants to visit in Penang. Bora Bora in Batu Ferringhi offers seating on the beach, Chinahouse in GeorgeTown offers live music and comedy on certain nights of the week and most bars have karaoke. RM200 should be enough for a good night of food, drink and entertainment with your friends.
Lifestyle of Penang

Accommodation
Bayan Baru and Bayan Lepas are developing areas in the South of the island and both offer range of accommodation from housing to apartments in condominiums. One unit can be between RM800 – RM2000 per month for a decent sized with 2 or 3 bedrooms. Cheap backpacker accommodation is available in Georgetown and Batu Ferringhi.

Transport
Public buses are available in Penang and are very cheap. A single trip from Sunshine Mall, Bayan Baru to the terminal in Georgetown is less than RM3 and to Queensbay Mall is less than RM2. Taxi, however, are a little bit different. Most taxi in Penang do not use meters for their fares. Expect to pay between RM30-RM40 for a single trip from Sunshine Mall to Georgetown or RM10-RM15 to Queensbay Mall. Price typically increase after midnight so it will cost about RM50 to get from Georgetown to Bayan Baru. There are currently no trains, LRTs or MRTs available on the Island of Penang.
Do & Don’ts of Life in Malaysia

- Pointing your forefinger at things is considered rude instead, the thumb of the right hand with four fingers folded under is the preferred way.
- Do not wear hot pants and vests at mainland beaches if you are female. Malay women usually go swimming fully dressed and some their scarves on.
- Public behaviour is important is important in Malaysian culture. Most Malaysian refrain from displaying affection such as embracing or kissing in public.
- Do not be offended if your offer of a handshake is not reciprocated by a Muslim who is of the opposite sex. In Islam, physical contact between the opposite sex is discouraged.
- Don’t discuss ethnic relations or the political system. They are both sensitive subjects.
- Don’t drink alcohol. The country’s large Muslim population does not drink alcohol.
- Do not ever involve in illegal drugs. There is a mandatory death penalty for trafficking.
- Shake hand with men when greeting them, but not women unless they offer to do so first. The traditional greeting or salam resembles a handshake with both hands but without the grasp. People greet visitors by placing their right hand over the left chest to mean I greet you from my heart.
- Remove your shoe before entering a Malaysian home, temples and mosques. It is customary to remove and leave footwear outside.
- Use your right hand to receive or give anything. The right hand should also be used for eating. It is considered discourteous in Malaysian custom to use your left hand when you hand or received things.
Contact Us

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