

An Exploratory Study On Malaysia-India Relations: Present And Future

Suseela Devi Chandran

Abstract

Malaysia is a fairly prosperous, peaceful country located in a geographical area that is critical for peace and prosperity in South East Asia. The country has abundant natural resources such as oil, forest wealth, and not a large taxing population. Two large and powerful countries, India and China, are located not far from Malaysia. Although the value of peaceful and friendly coexistence with China and India has been realized for a longtime, only the relationship with China has been attracting the attention of several investigators but not with India. Realizing that such an oversight is unhelpful for both Malaysia and India in these days of globalization and international treaties for anti-terrorism measures, I am undertaking an intense study of the subject. The recent upsurge in the goodwill in Malaysia, mostly created by what is described as the 'Bollywood' phenomenon, must provide a helpful background for negotiating even complex deals between both the governments and private business concerns. As a starting point, an in-depth examination of the existing foreign policies and attitudes of both the countries is being undertaken especially to obtain a comparative Malaysian perspective. Similarly, positive and negative factors that were affecting Malaysian policies that came into effect immediately after the cold war period, are being identified. These will be compared with the present state. Finally, an investigation would be carried out to get the responses of ASEAN countries to make certain that the already existing 'friendship' is not negatively affected by the changes made.

Keywords: *international relations, diplomacy, foreign policy, government, ASEAN*