

# Greater KL Offers Expats an Easy and Enjoyable Lifestyle

Compared with other cities in the region, Greater KL is an easy choice for expats. Offering an enjoyable lifestyle with clear business advantages, no language barriers, and plenty of activities for expat families, the Malaysian capital delivers a clear advantage.

**W**e recently spoke with Yugo Kishikawa, an expat hailing from Japan, about his thoughts on living in Greater KL. Though still fairly new to Malaysia, Yugo and his family have found much to like about their lives here.

**The Expat:** Can you tell us about yourself and the work you do here in Greater KL?

**Yugo Kishikawa:** I moved here from Japan in October 2015. I am working for Kadokawa Gempak Starz Sdn. Bhd., which was formerly known as Gala Unggul Resources Sdn. Bhd., as Chief Operating Officer and Director. Kadokawa Corporation, which is a major entertainment contents provider in Japan, acquired an 80% share of Gala Unggul Resources Sdn. Bhd., which is one of the biggest comic publishers in Malaysia, in 2015. Currently, we are aiming to expand the original Malay contents to other countries and other media.

**How long have you lived in Greater KL and what do you and your family think about the quality of life here?**

I have lived here for almost a year and my wife and son have been here for about eight months. Basically, we are comfortable with our life in KL, because we can move anywhere by using public transportation or taxi, we can enjoy a wide range of various foods, and we can receive quality medical service if needed.

**Where in Greater KL do you live and work?**

My family and I live near the Raja Chulan monorail station and the office is near Bandar Tasik Selatan LRT station. I use public transit to go to the office every day, so it is convenient to live near the train station.

**What are the key factors for a company making a decision to locate in Greater KL, especially when it comes to placing their expatriate employees?**

Originally, our company was located in Greater KL. I came to KL around the time the company in Japan was completing the acquisition process and I became an expat employee after obtaining my work permit. That process was quite smooth and straightforward, which I certainly think is an advantage for companies (and the employees). The overall quality of life here makes it easier for employees to be assigned here, too.

**What advantages do you see Greater KL offering over other cities in the region?**

Probably one of the key advantages is that foreigners, like me, can communicate with local people in English with no difficulty. This is seldom the case in many Asian cities. Also, expats can easily use public transportation if they want. Greater KL is perfectly located within the region, making travel a breeze, and a convenient place from which to go on business or leisure trips to other countries. Finally, there's plenty to see and do here, and as expats, we can get the daily necessities and take advantage of Malaysia's good medical services with no difficulty.

**What was your first impression about the lifestyle in Greater KL and tell us about your usual weekend.**

My first impression was that life here is more convenient and enjoyable than I had ever imagined, because there are plenty of shops and restaurants, and there are several places to play with my son. I often go to KLCC park with my son, which is great for both of us. City life can get hectic and overwhelming, and taking time to relax and enjoy what Greater KL



has to offer is very important. It's a good thing that Kuala Lumpur has many great spas and wellness centers, so when I have the time, I drop by over the weekend to refresh my mental and physical health.

**Tell us about some of your favorite places in the city.**

Well, as mentioned, I often go to KLCC park to play with my son. We use the playground equipment and the pool in the park. After that, it's not uncommon for me to go to Kinokuniya bookstores to get some Japanese comics! During the working day, I regularly go to Old Town White Coffee to have lunch. Malaysia is a great place for food, so I'm still exploring and trying all the various things offered here. ■



Tasked by the Malaysian government to attract and facilitate large global multinationals to set up their regional business, innovation, and talent hubs in Greater Kuala Lumpur and strategically grow their business in Asia, InvestKL works with other government ministries, entities, and agencies to formulate attractive fiscal packages and help corporations identify business opportunities while strengthening their competitiveness regionally and globally.