

# ENGLISH MATTERS

BULLETIN: AUGUST 2023 (08/2023)



**DIRECT ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE TRAINING**



**DIRECT ENGLISH  
INTERNATIONAL  
LANGUAGE CENTRE**



**BULLETIN  
AUGUST 2023**

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# A CHAT WITH *Tunku Iskandar*



**TUNKU DATO' SERI (DR)**

**ISKANDAR TUNKU ABDULLAH**

Group Executive Chairman, Melewar Group  
Director, Melewar Learning Resources

When we think of the independence of a country, we visualise a country that has been overpowered and colonised by a stronger power and then struggled to regain independence. Nelson Mandela said, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Malaya was granted independence from the United Kingdom after being colonised by the UK for about 130 years. However, Malaya had been under the rule of European colonialists since 1511 when the Portuguese conquered Malacca for over 300 years until the Dutch usurped the Portuguese who ruled Malacca for about 130 years.

## **WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?**

Prior to that, neighbouring powers were jealous of the strategic positioning of the Malay peninsula, flanked on the west by the Straits of Malacca and the east by the South China Sea. In Europe, even Greek and Roman geographers in classical antiquity, including in Claudius Ptolemy's 2nd-century "Geography" named this land the Golden Chersonese meaning the Golden Peninsula. The Siamese from the north and the Bugis from Celebes Islands made various conquests against the Malay Sultans.

The British who had held Batavia (Jakarta) agreed with the Dutch in 1824 to swap territories and thus continued the colonisation of Malaya. The British rule was however interrupted during the 4 years of WW2 Japanese occupation which gave rise to the impetus to be freed of the colonial yoke, fuelled by the independence gained by neighbours such as Indonesia, India, the Philippines and Vietnam.

**We usually regard the independence gained by the USA from Great Britain in 1776 as one of the most memorable but we tend to forget that England was conquered by the Romans, Normans and the French and we could perhaps even surmise that they actually never went away and the kings and queens who ruled continue in some form or other until today.**

**There is however always a price to becoming independent and that is the effort to remain free. As the former US President Ronald Reagan said, “The price of freedom may be high, but never as costly as the loss of freedom”. Just as Malaya was threatened by China-backed communist terrorists and later by Indonesia with Soekarno’s “ganyang Malaysia” attacks, Vietnam that has gained independence from the French became the battleground of the “Vietnam War” waged by the US against the Ho Chi Minh regime for 20 years spilling over into Cambodia and Laos.**

**None is more bizzare and divisive than how the British decide to vacate the Indian sub-continent in 1947 by separating it into two, Hindu- majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan and this contrived division resulted in the two separate territories of Pakistan, the eastern one becoming Bangladesh and the western one remaining as Pakistan. These countries have never really been at peace. Kashmir remains disputed and armed border incursions are a regular feature. As Kashmir’s last Maharajah, Karan Singh had reflected, “People today do not realize the tremendous trauma of Partition, whose negative vibrations continue to haunt us even today.”**

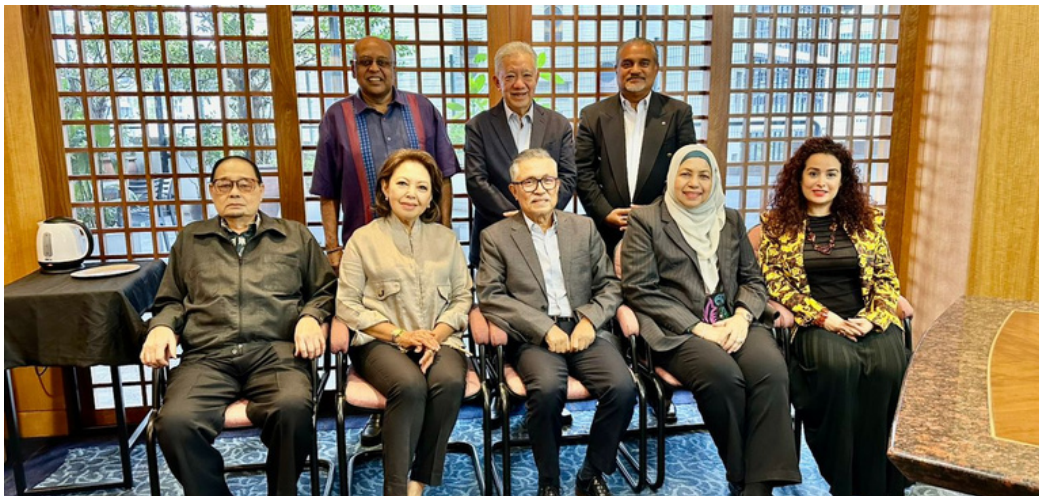
**Tunku Abdul Rahman, Soekarno, Mandela, Gandhi have all been credited with achieving independence of their respective beloved motherlands, each achieving what they fought for in their own way but there is no denying Franklin D. Roosevelt’s sentiments of “In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved.”**

# Direct English International Language Centre Board of Governors Meeting

The annual Direct English International Language Centre (DEILC) Board of Governors Meeting took place early July 2023.

The meeting covered a wide range of corporate strategy topics. This covers corporate rules and regulations, business performance metrics, and upcoming projects.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Mohd Rusland bin Abu Samah, the chairman of DEILC. The meeting was attended by Board of Governance members Tunku Tunku Dato' Seri (Dr) Iskandar Bin Tunku Abdullah, Dato' Satinah Binti Syed Saleh, Mr. Surendran A/L Dass, Mr. Jayapal Ramasamy and Directors of the company, Datin Seri Maneesah Ahmad and Prof. Albert Madamba Ladores.



The DEILC progress and development was presented by the Principal of DEILC, Ms Rajaa Abughosh. Everyone present at the meeting appeared to be pleased with the company's growth. The company's future is clearly brighter and seems to be more exciting as a result of the growth in the number of international students as well as the renewal of KDN and other licences.



## **CLASS TRIP TO KLCC PARK**

Our English class embarked on an unforgettable journey to KLCC Park, nestled in the heart of bustling Kuala Lumpur. KLCC Park, located at the base of the iconic Petronas Twin Towers, proved to be a refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Strolling along the paved pathways, we encountered various species of flora, meticulously arranged in themed gardens. As we continued our explorations, we discovered numerous children's playgrounds scattered throughout the park.

The park's strategic location provided a fantastic vantage point for admiring the awe-inspiring Petronas Twin Towers. Standing at the foot of these majestic structures, we were humbled by their sheer height and architectural marvel.

Our trip to KLCC Park not only provided us with an opportunity to explore nature's beauty but also served as an educational experience. We learned about the importance of preserving green spaces in urban areas and the significance of environmental consciousness.



## **COSMIC BOWLING**

During our highly anticipated class trip to the bustling bowling alley, the air buzzed with excitement as we donned our stylish bowling shoes and formed spirited teams. The vibrant venue echoed with the clatter of pins being knocked down and resonated with cheers and laughter from enthusiastic bowlers. The friendly competition and playful banter created a lively atmosphere, strengthening the bonds among classmates and leaving us with cherished memories that would forever be etched in our hearts.



# TRAINER'S THOUGHTS

## WHY DO PEOPLE ACCEPT BRIBES?



**SHAHARUDIN GHANI**  
TRAINER

**Bribery is defined as the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of an inappropriate advantage of any kind, whether pecuniary or otherwise, for the purpose of influencing the action of a public official in the discharge of his or her official duties. It is a serious crime that can have a devastating impact on society.**

**There are many reasons why people accept bribes. The chief reason is greed, hoping to gain financial or other benefits. Some do it out of fear, believing that they will be harmed if they do not comply. Still others do it out of convenience, hoping to get things done more quickly or easily.**

**In some cases, people may accept bribes because they believe that it is the only way to get things done. This is often the case in countries with weak or corrupt institutions, where the rule of law is not respected. In these countries, people may feel that they have no choice but to pay bribes in order to get their basic needs met, such as access to healthcare, education, or employment.**

**Whatever the reason, accepting and giving bribes is a crime and a bane that has no place in a just and fair society. It corrupts the system, undermines the rule of law, erodes public trust, and distorts the market. If we want to create a world that is more just and equitable, and if we want to live in peace and harmony, we must work to eliminate bribery and corruption.**

# ENGLISH DIRECT *to the* WORLD

Our Business English (Direct English, UK) course is tailored specifically for working adults and professionals as well as clients from the corporate sectors.

The course is designed to polish and enhance the Business English and communication skills of the learners to enable them to use Business English more competently and professionally in their work environment.

The course will also enable learners to build their confidence in carrying out their important work or business functions.

There are nine units to be completed in the course and these nine units cover a wide range of topics that include Presentation, Negotiations, Customer Care, Managing Change etc. There are also topics on Teamworking and Social English.

The course comes with a learning pack that consists of Course Book, Workbook and audio-video learning materials. Learners are also provided with online learning support materials to help enhance their English proficiency. This is made available through "Direct English Interactive".

Learners are required to sit for the Direct English Proficiency Assessment prior to enrolling in this course. Direct English Proficiency Assessment is a 15-minute online test that can be taken anytime, anywhere. This multiple-choice test is designed to give you a quick way of assessing your knowledge of English grammar, English vocabulary and English usage.



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