

# Warming Up to Malaysia

Barely over a year since arriving in the country, Wasim Saifi, Chief Executive Officer & Global Head, Consumer Banking of Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad is already considering Malaysia as a potential home. We find out why.



## You've recently come to Malaysia to work, what was your overall first impression of the country?

It's been a wonderful experience so far. I like how open and friendly people here are, and everyone talks to you in a very natural and comfortable way. There's definitely genuine warmth. There's also a beauty in the country itself, it's very diverse with natural beauty from rainforests to mountains and beaches. I've been here over a year and my family and I have taken every opportunity to see the country and its many attractions.

## Was adapting to the work culture an issue for you?

Not, at all. It's a very easy place from the work side of things. In my line, it's interesting because

Malaysia is at the centre point of Islamic Banking. There aren't many places in the world where you can be part of a system that promotes Islamic banking and everyone here from the government to the practitioners to the Syariah side of things are very much focused in taking this industry to the next stage. I feel that contributes to a very positive aspect of this country.

## How has the RP-T (Resident Pass-Talent) programme contributed to your Malaysian experience?

In my case, it was fairly simple and straightforward. My home is Bombay, but because I've lived so long overseas, I can't really say for sure where I would retire as every place I was posted to prior remains a possibility. Personally, the RP-T gives

someone like me, the flexibility of living here. If a foreigner wants to stay beyond their work contract, there are a lot of processes one has to go through. But the RP-T gives you the flexibility of staying here without necessarily having a corporate sponsor behind you.

## So are you going to stay here?

It is a distinct possibility. The last place I was posted to was Singapore and we considered it as well as Dubai. But when I came to Malaysia, I personally found that it has a right blend of modernity and tradition, whilst also providing the eco-system for your beliefs and religious practices. From that perspective alone, Malaysia appeals a lot to both my family and me.

## Bio

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