

## A history of Malay secular schools in colonial and post-colonial Singapore, 1819-1985



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### Abstract

This research attempts to study the development of Malay schools since the founding of Singapore in 1819 by Sir Stamford Raffles. He outlined his plans to set up a Malayan college to educate “sons of the higher order natives and others”. It examines how the Malay schools evolve during the period of colonial rule by the British (1819-1941; 1946-1955) and the Japanese (1942-1945) and the post-colonial period (1955-1985). It also examines the development of Malay schools with the changing political and socio-economic conditions. From time to time, comparative studies were made with the development of English, Chinese and Tamils schools that coexisted until 1985 when the school system switched into an English stream. The historical survey method was used for this research. As far as possible primary data in the areas of school reforms, school enrolment by gender, teacher training, curriculum and content were gathered to evaluate how these factors contribute or hinder the development of Malay schools. The findings suggest that at different periods, insufficient resources in the areas of infrastructure of the school system, teacher training and the development of teaching and learning materials were deployed towards the development of Malay schools.

### Biodata:

Lim Peng Han graduated from the University of Singapore with a BA degree. He has a MA in Mass Communications and MSc in Information Studies. He was a Research Fellow at the National Library Board. He obtained his PhD in Information Studies from Loughborough University. His research interests covers history of schools, librarianship, sports studies and Southeast Asian Studies.



**You are welcome!**



Please register your interest to attend this seminar to Ms Saripah Basir ([saripah.basir@nie.edu.sg](mailto:saripah.basir@nie.edu.sg)). For further information, please contact the Convenor, Jalinan Budi Seminar Series, Dr Mukhlis Abu Bakar ([mukhlis.abubakar@nie.edu.sg](mailto:mukhlis.abubakar@nie.edu.sg)).