Brain Drain Fact Sheet

Definition
The term brain drain was coined by the British Royal Society to describe the outflow of scientists and technologists to the United States and Canada in the 1950s and early 1960s. Nowadays, it is widely used to describe the loss of skilled intellectual and technical labour through the movement of such labour to more favourable geographic, economic, or professional environments.

Statistics
According to the 2005 World Bank report, Malaysia has almost 1.5 million nationals living overseas (for a country of 28 million). In one year (2008-2009), 305,000 people left for greener pastures. In 2000, over 100,000 Malaysians with tertiary education had emigrated to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

Contributing Factors
Sexuality - Homosexuals feel like they are more accepted in other countries especially Western Countries as they could be prosecuted for their sexuality in Malaysia.

Religion - Non-practising Muslims would like to live in a more liberal society

Political reasons – Malaysia has problems: corruption, inefficient public sector and GLCs, politicizing of every single issue, childish exchange of words in parliament, occasional outburst of racist remarks by certain ministers, lack of meritocracy. And the mother of all problems is that the majority (not all) of the Malaysians are either too afraid or too ignorant and uneducated to make any change.

Quality of Life – Having lived in Scotland for a year, and being exposed to the ways of living in an advanced country, gives me the opportunity to choose to work there in the future if I ever will leave my country. It could be due to career opportunities, better quality of life, and fairer system of meritocracy.

Career - I have already put in my application for Permanent Residency in Australia, just waiting for the results which would take about two years given the recent change in rules by the Australian government. The main purpose for staying here is because of my career. I am a registered psychologist. The opportunity for me to advance in my career in Malaysia is very difficult.

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2 Retrieved from http://pluggingthebraindrain.wordpress.com/
3 Ibid at ‘Reasons’
Talent Corporation
Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad ('Talent Corp') has been established under the Prime Minister's Department to initiate and facilitate initiatives that will help the country meet its talent needs. Talent Corp will work closely and build partnerships with world-class talent, leading companies and Government agencies. There will be programmes to engage and attract Malaysian diaspora and foreign talents and focus on nurturing those already within Malaysia.¹

Aim
To attract high skilled workers to Malaysia specifically in the area of science and research.⁵

Key Incentives⁶
i) One-stop centre to deal with related matters pertaining to immigration and government documentation

ii) Open-ended visas to foreign workers earning more than RM 8 000 a month and allowing them to buy cheaper homes costing RM 250 000 and above

iii) The flexibility to change jobs and not tied to one employer only

iv) Foreigners are allowed to bring along their maids and their spouses are allowed to work

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⁵ ‘TALENT CORPORATION’ TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE CAPITAL IN MALAYSIA at Malaysia’s effort to expand its human capital, retrieved from [http://www.ipptn.usm.my/attachments/359_Talent%20corporation%20to%20increase%20knowledge%20capital%20in%20Malaysia_No%2093-31%20Dec%202010.pdf](http://www.ipptn.usm.my/attachments/359_Talent%20corporation%20to%20increase%20knowledge%20capital%20in%20Malaysia_No%2093-31%20Dec%202010.pdf)

⁶ Ibid