IETF Venue Assessment Report: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

This is a review made by the IETF Executive Director of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as a potential location for an IETF meeting, based on the assessment made by the IETF Secretariat of mandatory and important criteria taken from the requirements documented in RFC 8718[1].

Overview

This is a **preliminary recommendation** made on 22 May 2023 prior to community feedback.

Based on the assessment below of the conditions for hosting an IETF meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia the **preliminary recommendation** is that Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is **suitable** as a potential location for an IETF meeting.

Classification system

This assessment uses the following classification system for each criterion:

Assessment	Indicator
Met	
Uncertain but possible	
Not met	
Unable to assess / not assessed	

Methodology
Each test is applied on a <u>country</u>, <u>city</u> or <u>venue</u> basis. For some, local level exceptions may be considered. Some tests use an external source with no IETF LLC judgement. Others require the IETF LLC to assess multiple sources and make a judgement, as does community feedback. A venue must meet all mandatory criteria to be approved.

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[1] https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8718

Assessment of individual criteria

CRITERION: City includes one or more venues able to accommodate an IETF meeting (*mandatory*[2]).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
1.1	Venue: Possible venues evaluated for size and general location acceptable to hold an IETF meeting	At least 1 venue has been identified.	

CRITERION: The level of Internet freedom is acceptable (*mandatory*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
2.1	Country: VPNs can be freely used *Region/City exceptions may override*	VPNs can be freely used so this criterion is **met**. https://www.comparitech.com/vpn/where-are-vpns-legal-banned/	

CRITERION: An overwhelming majority of participants who wish to do so can attend (*important*[3]).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
3.1	Country: Visa requirements are such that 80% of IETF attendees will be able to obtain a visa without excessive effort or cost	80% of attendees, by country, can enter Malaysia without a visa or through a standard application process at reasonable cost. However, Malaysia does not issue visas to Israeli citizens. https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/subcategory/1543	

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[2] Corresponds to RFC 8718, section 3.1 Mandatory Criteria
[3] Corresponds to RFC 8718, section 3.2.1 important Criteria

CRITERION: Travel risks associated with holding an IETF meeting are acceptable (*important*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
4.1	<u>Country</u>: US State Dept travel advisory[4] is at level 1 (*Exercise Normal Precautions*) or level 2 (*Exercise Increased Caution*) and not at level 3 (*Reconsider Travel*) or level 4 (*Do Not Travel*) *Region/City exceptions may override*	US State Dept travel advisory is at level 1 of 4 and so this criterion is **met.** https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/malaysia-travel-advisory.html	

CRITERION: Health risks associated with holding an IETF meeting are acceptable (*important*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
5.1	<u>Country</u>: No local disease outbreak or epidemic or regular vaccination requirements[5][6] for serious diseases other than those we expect all attendees to be vaccinated against (*Currently: Chickenpox, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Measles, Mumps, Pertussis, Polio, Rabies, Rubella,Tetanus and Typhoid*) *Region/City exceptions may override*	Other than isolated outbreaks of Dengue fever away from Kuala Lumpur, no local disease outbreaks or epidemics (other than COVID19) and so this criterion is **met**. Standard vaccination requirements. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/ireland https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news	

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[4] https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html
[5] https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/vaccination-requirements-and-recommendations-for-international-travelers-and-malaria-situation-per-country-2020-edition
[6] https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list

| 5.2 | City: Air Quality Index[7] in March, July or November is below 50 (*Good*), or below 100 (*Moderate*) or below 150 (*Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups*) for at least 16 days of the month for 2017-2022. | Good data for Kuala Lumpur does not appear to exist but from the limited data available it appears that this criterion is **met**.

https://www.airnow.gov/?city=Bandar%20Kuala%20Lumpur&country=MYS | |

CRITERION: Human rights risks associated with holding an IETF meeting are acceptable (*important*).

#	Test	Assessment	Indicator
6.1	Country: Women Peace and Security Index[8] score from the Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace and Security is above 0.7[9] *Region/City exceptions may override*	The WPS Index score of **.702** is in the required range to be **met**.	
6.2	Country: Safe for LGBT people, researched on an individual basis using multiple sources including Global LGBT Acceptance Index[10], Asher and Lyric Fergusson LGBTQ+ Danger Index[11] and others found at the time of assessment. *Region/City exceptions may override*	Rated 115/175 on Global Acceptance Index; scored F on LGBTQ+ Danger Index. However, traveler experience partially contradicts this (see link below). On balance, we assess the level of LGBT acceptance and safety as **not met**. https://queerintheworld.com/gay-kuala-lumpur-travel-guide/	

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[7] https://aqicn.org/map/world/
[8] https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/
[9] This test previously required a country to be in the top two quintiles but the general scores have all lifted and so this has switched to an indicative measure.
[10] https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/projects/gai/
[11] https://www.asherfergusson.com/lgbtq-travel-safety/

| 6.3 | Country: No significant discrimination or persecution of religious freedoms, researched on an individual basis using multiple sources including World Bank[12], Religious Freedom Report[13] and others found at the time of assessment.

Region/City exceptions may override | Level of religious freedom is **met** at 0.45. | |

Additional sources including community feedback

- Community feedback will be incorporated into the next revision of this report.

Summary

Both of the mandatory criteria have been met. Of the important criteria, one is not met while all the other six are met. The one not met criteria relates to LGBT safety and assessing that using the published indices is becoming increasingly difficult to assess: there is an increasing disconnect between laws and experiences of travelers; and assessment indices increasingly include factors that primarily affect residents and not travelers (e.g. access to gender reassignment surgery). This requires community feedback to assess further.

We also note that Israeli citizens cannot enter Malaysia. While the criterion around this is met, this level of explicit banning is unusual and again an area where community feedback is required.

Date of assessment and recommendation: 22 May 2023

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[12] https://govdata360.worldbank.org/indicators/hd6a18526?indicator=41930&viz=line_chart&years=1975,2018
[13] https://religious-freedom-report.org/#map