

US Presidential Election 2012: Issues and Trends in Domestic and Foreign Policy under the Second Obama Administration

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Outline

- State of relations
- Pace changers
- Takeaways



State of relations



Defence & security


“For many years US and Malaysian forces have cooperated on a wide range of missions with virtually no fanfare or public acknowledgement. And in spite of its success, our bilateral defence relationship seems to be an all too well-kept secret”.

Defence Minister Najib Razak

“US-Malaysia Defence Cooperation: A solid success story”

The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC

3 May 2002



Trade & investment

Importance of US in Malaysia's trade	Importance of Malaysia in US' trade
<p>In 2000, US was Malaysia's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st trading partner and followed by Japan, Singapore and Taiwan; • 1st export destination and followed by Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong; and • 2nd largest source of imports after Japan, and followed by Singapore and Taiwan. 	<p>In 2000, Malaysia was US':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th largest export destination; • 11th largest source of imports; • 2nd largest export destination among the ASEAN countries after Singapore; and • 1st largest import source among ASEAN countries.
<p>In 2006, US was Malaysia's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st trading partner and followed by Singapore, Japan and China; • 1st export destination and followed by Singapore, Japan and China; and • 2nd largest source of imports after Japan, and followed by China and Singapore. 	<p>In 2006, Malaysia was US':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th largest export destination; and • 10th largest source of imports.
<p>In 2010, US was Malaysia's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th largest trading partner after China, Singapore and Japan; • 4th largest export destination after Singapore, China, and Japan; and • 4th largest source of imports after Japan, China and Singapore. 	<p>In 2010, Malaysia was US':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th largest export destination; • 16th largest import source; • 2nd largest export destination among the ASEAN countries after Singapore; and • 1st largest import source among ASEAN countries.

► **Importance of US in Malaysia's trade & the Importance of Malaysia in US' trade, 2000 - 2010**

Source: MATRADE and IMF's Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook 2000, 2007 and 2010

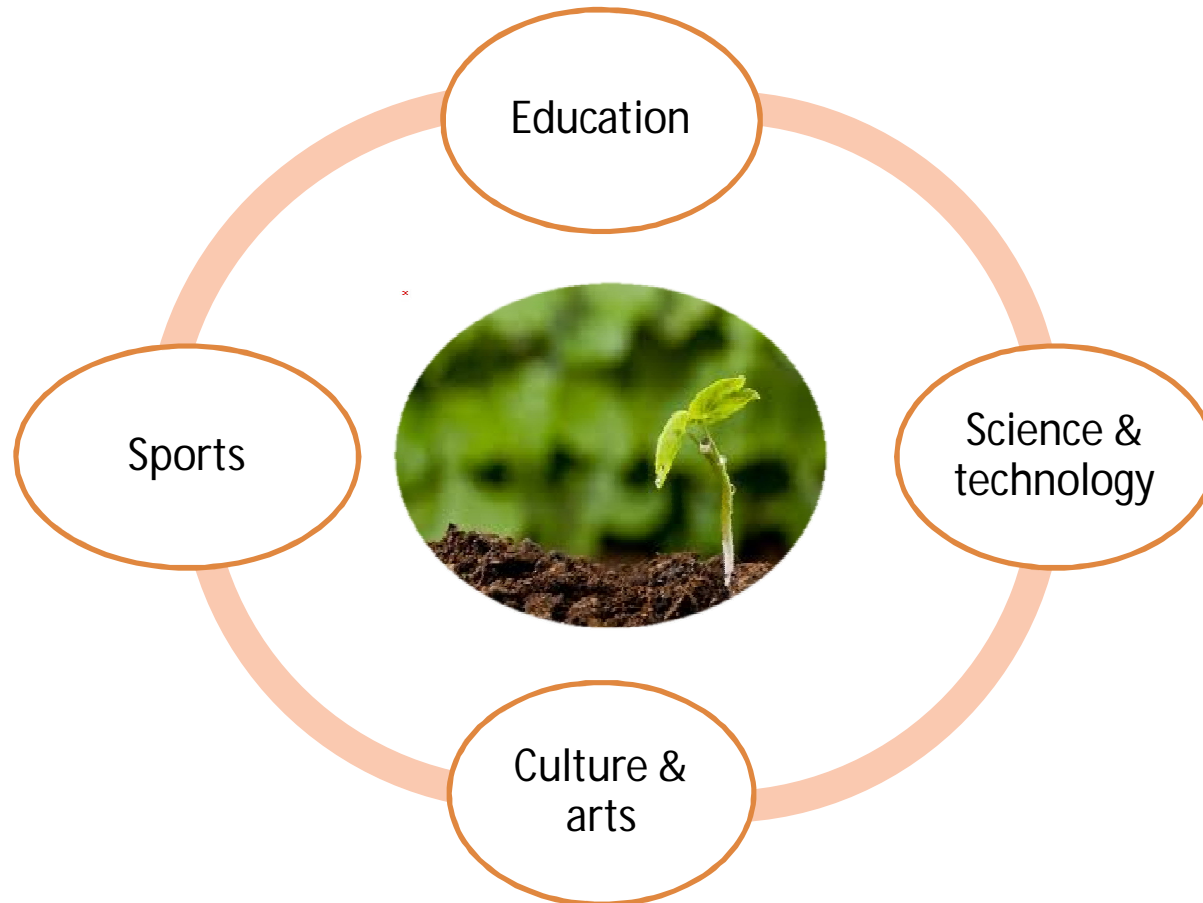
Politics & diplomacy

“For decades, this relationship did not realize its potential. We all too often found ourselves on different sides of geopolitical fault lines, and at times, in the past, have struggled to rise above mistrust. And yet today, this relationship has become one of America’s most promising in all of Southeast Asia”.

*William J Burns
US Deputy Secretary of State
“The United States, Malaysia, and the Asia Pacific”
ISIS Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
15 December 2011*



Socio-cultural initiatives, science & technology





Pace changers

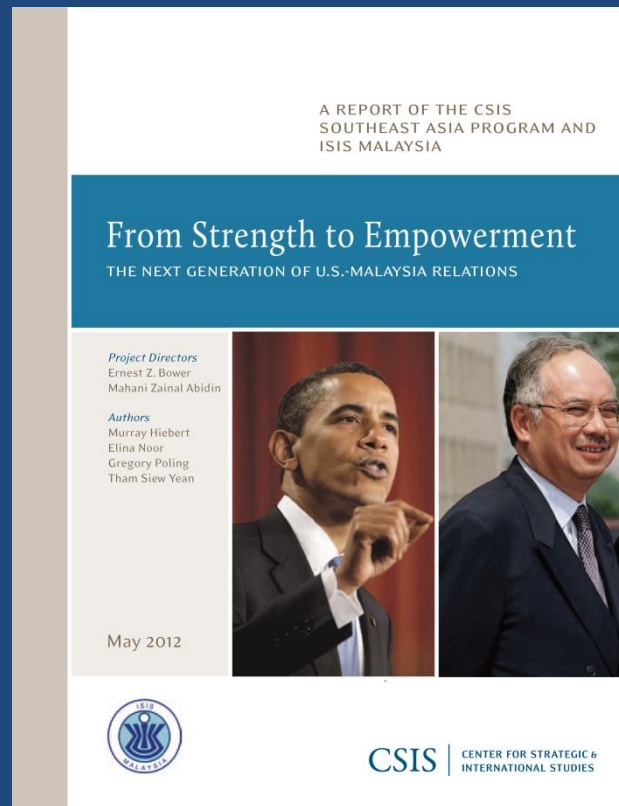
- US domestic issues – economy, gun control, immigration, Congressional divisions;
- Cabinet /Personality changes;
- Regional dynamics - SCS, US-China
- International flashpoints – Afghanistan, Middle East, Iran, terrorism.

Takeaways

- ▶ Substance of bilateral relations will likely remain largely unchanged;
- ▶ Bilateral relationship grounded in multiple issue areas, complemented by institutionalised regional cooperation will:
 - I. Benefit the strategic interests of both countries and of the region;
 - II. Endure the vagaries of politics and time.
- ▶ Long-term opportunity of empowering current relationship for the next generation.



Thank you



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