



ISIS PRAXIS Conference
“Malaysia Beyond 2020”

Hilton Kuala Lumpur, 21-22 October 2019

Monday, 21 October 2019

0830 – 0900 Arrival & Registration

0900 – 0910 Welcoming and Opening Remarks
YBhg Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa
Chairman and Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

0910 – 0930 Keynote Address
YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad
Prime Minister of Malaysia

0930 – 1000 Q&A with YAB Prime Minister

1000 – 1030 Refreshments/Media Conference

1030 – 1200 SESSION 1 - High-Level Panel on Revisiting Vision 2020: Challenges and Prospects for Malaysia for 2020 & Beyond

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced *Vision 2020: The Way Forward* in 1991. In his speech, Prime Minister Dr Mahathir envisioned the future of Malaysia as a nation, conceptualising a long-term plan for the development of Malaysia’s economy, politics and society. As we are fast approaching the year 2020, this session aims to shed light on what we have achieved as a nation nearly three decades later, and what lies ahead for Malaysia beyond 2020. What are the challenges that remain and what is the plan for the future? How will Vision 2020 square with both the Shared Prosperity 2030 model and the incoming 12th Malaysia Plan? Amid challenging economic conditions at home and abroad, how can the government, businesses and the rakyat contribute towards advancing the development of New Malaysia?



Instigator:

- **YBhg Tan Sri Kamal Salih**
Chairman
Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER)
Malaysia

Panellists:

- **YB Dato' Seri Azmin Ali**
Minister
Ministry of Economic Affairs (MEA)
Malaysia
- **YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed**
Chairperson
Special Select Committee on the Budget
Malaysia
- **YBhg Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz**
Group Chairman
Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB)
Malaysia

1200 – 1330

Luncheon tête-à-tête session: Malaysia's leadership role in charting APEC 2020 and beyond

Moderator:

- **Datuk Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood**
Board Member
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Speaker:

- **YB Ong Kian Ming**
Deputy Minister
Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)
Malaysia

1330 - 1445

SESSION 2 - Navigating Turbulent Waters: Global Macro and Geopolitical Risks in 2020 and beyond

As economic expansion cycles around the world turn decades-old, economic activity in Asia and abroad are beginning to show signs of cooling. While economic booms tend not to die from old age, a multitude of emerging hazards threaten to derail the engines of world economic growth. Macroeconomic risks continue to mount, including slower growth in most major economies and high levels of foreign-currency debt in multiple emerging market economies, even as crisis response measures remain limited around the globe. At the same time, global geopolitical and macro events continue to generate uncertainty, from



the 2020 US Presidential elections and global trade conflicts, to tensions in Europe and the Middle East. Moving forward, what is the outlook for the regional and global economies? How will major geopolitical events develop in the years ahead, and how should governments, businesses, analysts, and policymakers navigate these turbulent waters?

Instigator:

- **Melisa Idris**
Assistant Vice President and Editor
Astro Awani
Malaysia

Panellists:

- **Dr Richard Record**
Lead Economist
Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice
World Bank Malaysia
- **Thrinh Nguyen**
Senior Economist
Natixis
Hong Kong SAR
- **Julia Goh**
Senior Economist and Senior President
Global Economics and Market
United Overseas Bank (UOB)
Malaysia

1445 - 1500 Refreshments

1500 - 1615 [CONCURRENT] SESSION 3 - The Next Decade of Regional Competition, Trade and Investment in ASEAN

As the ASEAN economies continue to grow rapidly, and as regional free trade agreements continue to proliferate, major emerging exporting economies like Vietnam and Thailand are increasingly the focus of trade and investment in the region. This session aims to examine the role of free trade agreements in facilitating export competitiveness and attractiveness in terms of foreign investment. How can Malaysia continue to build upon its comparative advantages and move up the export value chain? Going forward, how can exporting economies in ASEAN continue to increase trade openness?

Instigator:

- **Patrick Tay**
Deals Partner, Economics and Policy



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PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)
Malaysia

Panellists:

- **Dato' Lokman Hakim Ali**
Secretary-General
Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)
Malaysia
- **Prof Tham Siew Yean**
Senior Fellow
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
Singapore
- **Ryohei Gamada**
Senior Economist (Asia)
Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

[CONCURRENT] SESSION 3 - Technology, Human Capital, and Upskilling: the Malaysian workforce beyond 2020

Vision 2020's Strategic Challenge 9 conceived a technologically proficient, innovative, skilled and productive Malaysian economy by 2020. Three decades later, many legacy issues remain, including low high-skilled job creation rates, underskilled graduates, as well as a fragmented education system and labour market policies. At the same time, new challenges are fast emerging such as automation and artificial intelligence, creating enormous pressure for the nation to quickly embrace and adapt to technological advancement. This session provides an evidence-based, policy-focused view on realistic solutions to enhance the skills of the Malaysian workforce, encourage technology upgrading in firms and indigenous innovation in Malaysian businesses. What are some successful policies adopted around the region and the world? How can the government, businesses and workers overcome both the challenges of the past and meet the changing demands of the future?

Instigator:

- **YBhg Prof Datuk Dr Mazlan Othman**
Project Director
Mega Science 3.0
Malaysia

Panellists:

- **Prof Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak**
Rector
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)
Malaysia



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- **YBhg Datuk Boonler Somchit**
Member of the National Education Advisory Council;
Former CEO of the Penang Skills Development Centre (PSDC)
Malaysia
- **Shanti Jagannathan**
Principal Education Specialist
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
The Philippines
- **Jacob Lee**
Council Member and Chairman Industry 4.0 Committee
Federation of Manufacturer Malaysia (FMM)
Malaysia

1615 - 1630 Refreshments



1630 - 1745

SESSION 4 - Financing Shared Prosperity: Government Revenue and Economic Development

Economic aspirations need to take into account the constraints of fiscal space and government revenue. A stable and sustainable government revenue stream encourages good governance and accountability in addition to promoting long-term economic growth and strengthening the administration of public services. However in Malaysia, structural obstacles — including a perceived need to keep corporate tax rates low, implementation failures of value-added taxation, and a narrow tax base — remain larger than ever. Meanwhile, new issues including demographic shifts, technological change and challenging fiscal conditions are rapidly emerging. How can the government broaden the revenue base while reducing the tax burden on the middle class? What are the political economy considerations of the future of Malaysian taxation? This session aims to highlight the fiscal constraints and potential solutions to financing the future Vision for the nation's economic development.

Instigator:

- **YBhg Dato' Haji Abd Aziz Abu Bakar**
President
Malaysian Association of Tax Accountants
Malaysia

Panellists:

- **Dr Verinderjeet Singh**
Member
Tax Reform Committee
Malaysia
- **YBhg Datuk Seri Subromaniam Tholasy**
Former Director-General
Customs Department
Malaysia
- **Esther Lai**
Head
Sovereign Ratings
RAM Ratings Services Berhad
Malaysia

1745 - 1800

End of Day 1



Tuesday, 22 October 2019

0900 - 1015 SESSION 5 - Achieving Bangsa Malaysia: Socio-political Considerations Beyond 2020

Prime Minister Tun Mahathir Mohamad in his Vision 2020 speech in 1991 introduced the idea of a united Malaysian society with a sense of common destiny, living in harmony made up of one 'Bangsa Malaysia'. Then, it was envisioned that Malaysia would have a mature, liberal and tolerant society living in full and fair partnership by 2020. Yet three decades later, many of the societal development goals envisioned for the future of Malaysian society have yet to be achieved. Identity and race politics still continue to shape the fabric of Malaysian society, while emerging socio-political developments create new risks and political uncertainty. This session aims to explore the existing institutional, political and economic structures undermining social unity in Malaysia. What social structures and institutions would we need to put in place? Looking ahead, what are the key emerging socio-political developments and its implications on Malaysia and its people in the future?

Instigator:

- **Mr Sharaad Kuttan**
Host - "Let's Talk with Sharaad Kuttan"
Astro Awani
Malaysia

Panellists:

- **YB Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman**
Minister
Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS)
Malaysia
- **Dr Muhammad Abdul Khalid**
Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister
- **YBhg Distinguished Prof Datuk Dr Shamsul Amri Baharuddin**
Director
Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
Malaysia
- **Dr Serina Abdul Rahman**
Visiting Fellow
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute
Singapore

1015 - 1030 Refreshments



1030 - 1145

SESSION 6 - Confronting a New Scarcity in Securing Sustainable Development

In Vision 2020, environment was not one of the nine challenges, but it is understood that development must ensure that our land remains fertile, our atmosphere clean, our waters unpolluted and our forests capable of regeneration. Presently, the consequences of rapid development are increasingly being felt. As a nation where resources are in abundance, Malaysia's ability to protect the environment, cope with climate change and pursue sustainable development should not be compromised. Looking to 2020 and beyond, there is a need to address this new scarcity, one that is defined not only by the availability of resources, but also the ability of the natural environment to continue to provide the services that support our livelihoods and economy. This session explores how Malaysia can confront this challenge. Specifically, it asks how can the importance of the environment and the impact of climate change be elevated as a key policy priority beyond 2020? What are the key elements and instruments needed to transition towards sustainable development?

Instigator:

- **Alizan Mahadi**
Fellow
Technology, Innovation and Environmental Sustainability (TIES)
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Panellists:

- **YB Yeo Bee Yin**
Minister
Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and
Climate Change (MESTECC)
Malaysia
- **Dr Hezri Adnan**
Chief Executive Officer
Langkawi Development Authority (LADA)
Malaysia
- **Dr Simon Lord**
Chief Sustainability Officer
Sime Darby Plantation Berhad
Malaysia

1145-1200

Refreshments



1200-1315

SESSION 7 - Comprehensive Social Assistance & Protection in an Ageing Malaysia

As Malaysia surpasses the high-income nation threshold in the coming years and becomes an ageing society by 2020, it becomes increasingly crucial that economic growth be inclusive and lead to tangible improvements in the welfare of all segments of society. Yet, hurdles remain: fragmented social assistance programs, a lack of inter-agency coordination and perceived tight fiscal conditions remain obstacles--while population ageing and lacklustre female labour participation rates present fresh challenges to equitable growth. To this end, the creation of an integrated and comprehensive social protection and redistribution system is key in increasing equity and alleviating poverty, while ensuring every Malaysian has adequate opportunities to participate in meaningful economic activity. This session aims to highlight current progress and identify obstacles towards the creation of a comprehensive social protection system. How can current programs be improved, and where do we go from here? What are the challenges in program implementation, and what are the international best practices in designing effective social protection systems?

Instigator:

- **Tunku Alizakri Alias**
Chief Executive Officer
Employees Provident Fund (EPF)
Malaysia

Panellists:

- **Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Norma Mansor**
Director
Social Wellbeing Research Centre (SWRC)
University of Malaya (UM)
Malaysia
- **Dr Achim Schmillen**
Senior Economist
Social Protection & Labour
World Bank Malaysia
- **Prof Dr Sulochana Nair**
Yayasan Sejahtera Board Member;
Vice-Chancellor and Professor
Binary University
Malaysia
- **Prof Datuk Dr Tengku Aizan Hamid**
Director
Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
Malaysia



1315-1430 **Lunch**

1430-1515 **ISIS PRAXIS Conference 2019 Wrap-up Chat: Reflections, Insights, and Ways Forward**

Moderator:

- **YBhg Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa (Moderator)**
Chairman and Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Speaker:

- **YAB Tun Daim Zainuddin**
Former Chairman of the Council of Eminent Persons (CEP)
Former Minister of Finance (MoF)
Malaysia

1515-1530 **Closing Remarks**

YBhg Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa
Chairman and Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia