

Hosted by ISIS Malaysia

# PRAxis

3-4 Oct '22 | Kuala Lumpur



BUILDING  
A BETTER  
MALAYSIA







## PRAXIS 2022 Building a better Malaysia

In the third year of the pandemic, much has changed. Across the world, borders have reopened while domestically, Malaysia's economy is at pre-crisis levels.

Yet, as Malaysia lives with Covid-19 in the endemic phase amid hope and certainty, the global environment is becoming increasingly turbulent.

The crosswinds of geopolitical conflict, climate and energy crises, and the pandemic's legacy of inequality threaten to derail Malaysia's development.

Our aim is to convene policymakers, researchers, civil society and the private sector to examine how to build upon the Covid-19 recovery and pave the way towards a sustainable, resilient and better Malaysia.



## We all have a stake in paving the way towards a better Malaysia

Antonio Gramsci's observations on Italy's ideological crisis in 1922 share eerie similarities with the post-pandemic world economic order. He wrote: "The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying but the new cannot be born; in this interregnum, a great variety of morbid symptoms appear".

In the economic context of today, we are experiencing extreme inequalities, spiralling inflation trends and climate disasters that have emerged against the backdrop of our drive for growth.

Are we ready and able to disentangle this global economic impact of not just the pandemic, but years of policy missteps?

I invite you to join policymakers, researchers, members of civil society and the private sector as we examine the economics of today and where Malaysia stands.

Let's discuss and debate about our path forward. For we all have a stake in paving the way towards a sustainable, resilient and better Malaysia.

**Herizal Hazri**  
Chief executive  
ISIS Malaysia





## Solutions only come through honest intellectual discourse

If Malaysia were to be handed a report card detailing the post-Covid-19 progress of our economy, social welfare, climate preparedness and readiness to sustain global shocks, what would it say?

No one can say that we are failing, for we *are* recovering and showing positive momentum. But no one can say that we are excelling either.

Whether we are between passing grade and excellence is secondary to discussing our shortcomings, learning from them, and finding solutions for them.

This can only come from honest intellectual discourse between our speakers, moderators and delegates. We not only welcome, but encourage the floor to grill our experts on their assertions, as we believe that only through honest debate do we find concrete and well-rounded solutions to our issues.

These discussions will form the basis of policy proposals that ISIS Malaysia will put forward in the coming year, for Parliament and when advising and engaging state governments, ministries and the private sector.

We invite you to engage with our experts and join in the discussions, not as a silent observer, but an active participant, so that together, we can find holistic and inclusive solutions and pave the way forward to a better Malaysia.

**Alizan Mahadi**  
Senior director (research)  
ISIS Malaysia



# Event Programme

## Day 1

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

0930 - 0940	Welcoming remarks by ISIS Malaysia chief executive Herizal Hazri
0940 - 1055	<b>Session 1</b> - 2023 outlook: rosy or risky?
1055 - 1110	Refreshments (15 mins)
1110 - 1220	<b>Session 2</b> - Human cost of climate crises
1230 - 1340	Lunch
1345 - 1405	<b>Keynote address</b> by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department <b>Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed</b>
1410 - 1520	<b>Session 3</b> - Career, care and woes
1520 - 1535	Refreshments (15 mins)
1535 - 1645	<b>Session 4</b> - How do we spur the creative economy?
1645	End of Day 1

## Day 2

4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

0930 - 1040	<b>Session 5</b> - Towards a safer digital future
1040 - 1050	Refreshments (10 mins)
1050 - 1200	<b>Session 6</b> - Resilience: building back better
1200 - 1400	<b>Lunch wrap-up</b> - Building back more sustainably: Future pathways for Malaysia
1400	End of Day 2





0930-0940 | 3 Oct

## Welcoming remarks

**Herizal Hazri**

Chief Executive  
 ISIS Malaysia



0940-1055 | 3 Oct

## Session 1

# 2023 outlook: rosy or risky?

As we move into 2023, Covid-19 risks are receding in major economies. Yet, other risks are mounting, including rising energy prices, inflation and supply chain issues. Geopolitical risks like conflict and regional political stability also show no signs of abating.

What are the emerging risks for Malaysia and Asean in 2023? How can policymakers prepare?

### Moderator

**Alizan Mahadi**

Senior director (research)  
 ISIS Malaysia



### Speakers



**Prof Evelyn S. Devadason**

Faculty of Economics  
 and Administration  
 Universiti Malaya



**Nadia Jalil**

Regional head,  
 group economics &  
 market analysis  
 CIMB



**Prof Aries A. Arugay**

Department of Political Science  
 University of The Philippines  
 Diliman  
 The Philippines



## Session 2

# Human cost of climate crises

Climate disasters push the most vulnerable in society further into the margins. Malaysia has been no stranger to such disasters, with floods becoming a regular occurrence for coastal communities and vulnerable groups, such as the Orang Asli.

With erratic weather patterns on the rise in Malaysia, taking stock of the communities that will be most negatively impacted by the climate crisis is key.

It is important for Malaysia to look at how policies can cushion the worst effects of a climate disaster and delve into climate adaptation and mitigation policies for the future.

1110-1220 | 3 Oct

### Moderator

**Ahmad Afandi**Senior analyst  
ISIS Malaysia

### Speakers

**Ili Nadiyah**Co-founder  
Klima Action Malaysia**Assoc Prof Dr Yanti Rosli**Lecturer  
Universiti Kebangsaan  
Malaysia (UKM)**Lakshmi Lavanya  
Rama Iyer**Head of Policy and  
Climate Change  
WWF Malaysia

## Keynote address

**Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed**

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department

1345-1405 | 3 Oct





## Session 3

# Career, care and woes

Prior to Covid-19, women worldwide were already facing a crisis of care. The imposition of lockdowns and movement restrictions during the pandemic only exacerbated this, with women taking on the bulk of care work and other household duties.

Malaysian women have not been spared, with Labour Force Survey results indicating that household and family duties have been cited as one of the key reasons for remaining outside the labour force.

Malaysia stands to benefit from an improved and accessible early childcare and education (ECCE) system as well as conducive gender-sensitive labour policies. Adapting these policies to the exigencies of the pandemic will also be a key priority.

### Moderator

**Lee Min Hui**

Analyst  
ISIS Malaysia



### Speakers



**Assoc Prof Dr Lydia Foong**

Dean  
SEGi University  
& Colleges



**Shazana Agha**

Head of research  
Women's Aid  
Organisation



**Mahuran Saro Sariki**

Vice-president  
TalentCorp



## Session 4

# How do we spur the creative economy?

The concept of a creative economy extends beyond the contribution of the fine arts. Broadly, the creative economy involves industrial design, innovation and the creation of new products and knowledge.

However, Malaysia's creative economy potential has not been fully tapped – with a contribution of only about 2% of GDP, lower than international benchmarks of about 5%-6% of GDP.

At the same time, innovation has also been weighed down by a lack of talent and originality of industrial design, according to World Intellectual Property Organisation. Given these challenges, how can we make the Malaysian economy more creative, innovative and productive?

### Moderator



**Eddin Khoo**

Senior fellow  
ISIS Malaysia

### Speakers



**Junady Nawawi**

Group CEO  
MyCreative Ventures



**Izan Satrina**

Senior director  
Think City



**Mahadhir Aziz**

CEO  
Malaysia Digital Economy  
Corporation (MDEC)



**Ambika Sangaran**

Co-founder  
Mereka



## Session 5

# Towards a safer digital future

As internet technology becomes more ubiquitous and makes further headway into our daily lives, the amount of data generated will only increase.

Questions surrounding data privacy, protection, notification, access, ownership and use will correspondingly become more pertinent along with the need for better infrastructure, cybersecurity and policies underpinning the data ecosystem.

What can the public and private sectors do to introduce and uphold safeguards for data management? Can regulation be synonymous with the benefits of the data economy while preserving user autonomy or will it stifle innovation?

### Moderator



**Farlina Said**  
Senior analyst  
ISIS Malaysia

### Speakers



**Dr Rachel Gong**

Deputy director of research  
Khazanah Research Institute



**Mazmalek  
Mohamad**

Personal data protection  
commissioner  
Communications and  
multimedia ministry



**Fabian Bigar**

CEO  
Strategic Change Management  
Office (MyDIGITAL)  
Economic Planning Unit



## Session 6

# Resilience: building back better

1050-1200 | 4 Oct

Covid-19 has laid bare the importance of protecting the most vulnerable.

In times of crises, more inclusive social protection will create macroeconomic stability and safeguard the welfare of Malaysian families and workers.

As we move into the endemic phase, what policy steps can we take to make Malaysia more resilient to shocks while safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable groups? How can we prepare better for future crises?

### Moderator



**Prof Emeritus Datuk Norma Mansor**

Director  
Social Wellbeing Research Centre  
Universiti Malaya

### Speakers



**Edmund Cheong  
Peck Huang**

Chief strategy &  
transformation officer  
Social Security  
Organisation (Perkeso)



**Dr Amanina  
Abdur Rahman**

Economist  
World Bank Malaysia



**Dr Lee Hwok Aun**

Senior fellow  
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

## Lunch wrap-up

# Building back more sustainably: future pathways for Malaysia

1200-1400 | 4 Oct



**Alizan Mahadi**

Senior director (research)  
ISIS Malaysia





## ISIS Malaysia 40 years of nation-building

Since its inception in 1983, ISIS Malaysia has been true to its mission of providing thought leadership, shaping policies and working towards helping Malaysia achieve its goals and aspirations.

As a premier think-tank, we play a major role in influencing actions on strategic domestic and regional issues, contribute towards national discussions, and disseminate research and findings on national and international issues for the benefit of Malaysia.

Our goal is to contribute towards nation-building, achieve peace, shared prosperity and sustainability. This outlook is imprinted in our DNA and provides an impetus for what we do today and have done in the past year.

Our work is esoteric in nature, leveraging on our position both domestically and internationally to interpret current and emerging strategic policy issues through Track-Two diplomacy and undertaking research; informing key stakeholders, including governments and non-government actors, on strategic and emerging issues; and influencing public discourse through publications and media engagement.

Although we engage actively in Track-Two diplomacy, we also focus on development, socio-economic and

foreign policy issues. Through our research and other inputs, we help shape better-focused national policies and programmes. We engage at multiple levels, including with both state and non-state actors, to influence the implementation of policies on the ground.

ISIS Malaysia is in a unique position as it was established by the government but not part of it. This allows us to serve as an important external sounding board and contributor to policy discussions and developments in Malaysia.

In efforts to broaden our impact, we engage with non-state actors, such as through the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG), to address local and global community concerns and agenda.

Many foreign governments and international organisations also turn to ISIS Malaysia for accurate and nuanced views of policymaking and strategic issues in the country.

We see this as a duty to the nation and its people that we must uphold as best we can. We are driven by the vision of a nation that is secure, prosperous and progressive that is at peace with itself and in the global community of nations.



## PRAXIS 2022 partners

### Building a better Malaysia

#### Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a German non-profit, non-governmental and independent think-tank present in more than 120 countries. KAS Malaysia facilitates a platform for dialogue among all stakeholders and across various topics, such as good governance, sustainable and economic development and international security dialogue.

KAS provides analyses and forums for exchange, contributing actively to international cooperation and understanding. PRAXIS 2022 is organised in partnership with ISIS Malaysia.



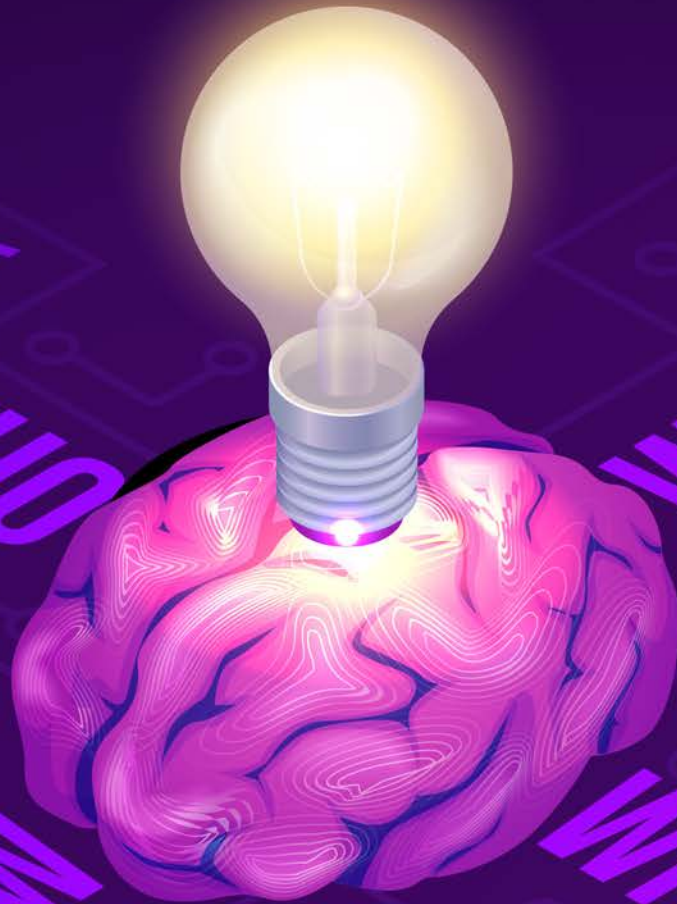
#### Astro AWANI

Astro AWANI was recognised as Malaysia's 'most trusted news brand' by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism in 2018. Launched on 6 September 2007, AWANI, with its multiple platforms and content, is now a household brand among Malaysians who seek a go-to channel for breaking news and to take part in leading conversations.









ISIS Malaysia, established on 8 April 1983 as an autonomous research organisation, focuses on foreign policy, security studies, economics, social policy, nation-building, technology, innovation and environmental studies.

As a premier think-tank, ISIS Malaysia engages in Track Two diplomacy and fosters regional integration and international cooperation through forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Roundtable (APR), Asean Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (Asean-ISIS), Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and Network of East Asian Think-Tanks (NEAT).



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