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THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE - ROLE OF SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

by Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid
Fifth holder of the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in
International Studies, ISIS Malaysia

20 February 2024 | 4:00pm-6:00pm
Auditorium, ISIS Malaysia

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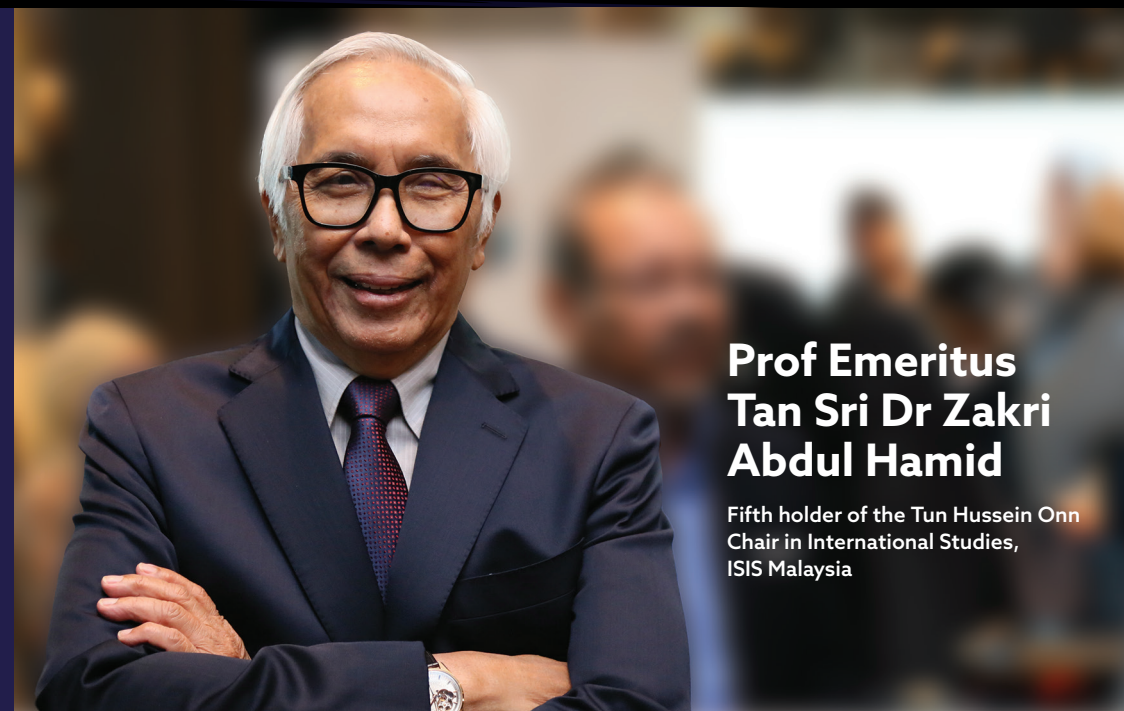
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The politics of climate change – role of science diplomacy

The international community started to discuss environmental degradation, particularly climate change, in the 1970s. The first United Nations conference on the human environment was held in Stockholm in 1972, followed by the seminal work of the Brundtland Commission and the publication of *Our Common Future* in 1987. The book defined the term "sustainable development", which brought to focus the need for a balance between the conservation of natural resources and the right to development.

Geopolitics entered the debates right from the start, with countries from the Global South reminding the industrialised Global North of their responsibility to provide new and additional funding to the poorer countries to mitigate and adapt to global warming. This is especially compelling, as the North is the bigger emitter of greenhouse gases but the impacts of climate change are felt in the South. Efforts to secure consensus on the many issues of climate change are assisted by scientific evidence facilitated by multilateral dialogues in science diplomacy.

The speaker is the fifth holder of the Tun Hussein Onn Chair at ISIS Malaysia. He is a student of science diplomacy with more than four decades of experience as an academic, government official, negotiator and UN official.



Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid

Fifth holder of the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies, ISIS Malaysia

3:30pm	Arrival of family members of the late Tun Hussein Onn and YBhg Datin Paduka Dr Faridah Abdullah and family
4:05pm	Welcoming remarks Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah Chairman Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
4:15pm	Remarks YAB Dato' Onn Hafiz Ghazi Representative of Tun Hussein Onn's family
4:25pm	Public lecture on The politics of climate change – role of science diplomacy by Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid
5:15pm	Q&A session
6:00pm	Lecture ends Hi-tea

Prof Zakri is a founding director and professor at the International Institute for Science Diplomacy & Sustainability at UCSI University. He is chairman of Atri Advisory, a consulting company advising governments and international organisations on sustainable development.

Zakri is also pro-chancellor of two universities – Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris (UPSI) and Multimedia University. He is the joint chairman of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), chairman of the Business Council on Sustainable Development and chairman of the National Biodiversity Roundtable. He was the science adviser to the prime minister and former director of the Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University.

His professional interests include crop science, biodiversity and science diplomacy. Among his awards are Fulbright-Hays fellowship; ISSAAS Matsuda award; Zayed International Prize for the Environment; Midori Prize for Biodiversity; Asean Biodiversity Hero; United Nations Malaysia award; and Anugerah Akademik Negara.

Zakri has had three species named after him: beetle (*Paleosepharia zakrii*), cicada (*Pomponia zakrii*) and pitcher plant (*Nepenthes zakriana*).