

**Welcoming Remarks by
Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa
Chairman and Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies
(ISIS) Malaysia
at the
ISIS PRAXIS Seminar
Sheraton Imperial Kuala Lumpur
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Bismillahirrahmanirahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam Sejahtera

Menghadap Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan,
Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-
Maghfur-Lah,
Royal Fellow, Institut Kajian Strategik dan Antarabangsa (ISIS) Malaysia.

Ampun Tuanku Beribu Ampun Sembah Patik Mohon Diampun.

Patik bagi pihak Institut Kajian Strategik dan Antarabangsa (ISIS) Malaysia dengan penuh hormat dan takzimnya merafak sembah menjunjung setinggi-tinggi kasih di atas limpah perkenan Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku sudi mencemar Duli berangkat ke majlis pada hari ini.

Sesungguhnya keberangkatan Duli Tuanku amat besar ertinya kepada patik-patik sekalian dan akan menambahkan lagi seri majlis ini.

Ampun Tuanku

Patik mohon limpah perkenan Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku untuk patik turut mengalu-alukan kehadiran tetamu yang lain serta meneruskan sembah ucapan dalam bahasa Inggeris.

Distinguished Board Members of ISIS Malaysia,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests and participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of ISIS Malaysia, I have the honour and privilege to welcome all of you to the ISIS Praxis Seminar 2018. This is the fourth seminar in the ISIS Praxis series which began in 2011. We have now resumed following a hiatus of a few years. We aim to make the Praxis seminar an important annual forum not only in the ISIS Malaysia calendar of events but also for the community at large, in particular those who are interested in economic and business related issues.

2. The theme for this year's seminar is #gamechangers2019. We think that this is appropriate considering that the world around us is constantly evolving. Change is occurring at an increasingly amazing speed. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "Nothing is permanent except change". While change is a constant, its effects, whether positive or negative, are far from certain. Most notably now are the effects of change, innovation and disruption in the field of technology which are felt in politics, business, finance, trade and commerce, communications, information and in almost every facet of human life.

3. In these last few months we have witnessed change occurring in our own country, the wider ASEAN region and in many other parts of the world. We have seen the spread of anti-globalisation and protectionism leading to situations such as the current trade tensions between the world's large economies and trade war between the United States and China. The global economy is fraught with uncertainty. While some are bracing for another global financial crisis, others shrug off such a prospect because of a stable US economy and the strong US dollar. But clearly many of the emerging economies are facing increasing pressure. So how do we cope or deal with the situation? It is hoped that this Praxis seminar can provide some of the answers.

4. The ISIS Praxis seminar strives to provide participants with novel, information-rich analyses and views, among others, to assist in planning business and growth strategies in the coming year. The hope is that we are able to connect the relevant policy knowledge with business practices. As the saying goes, "knowledge without practice is useless, and practice without knowledge is dangerous".

5. "Praxis" itself is defined as the point at which thought turns into action, when theory becomes practice, and when knowledge transforms into operation. I hope this spirit will guide our discussions today. For that purpose we have assembled a distinguished panel of speakers and discussants who possess a vast collective reservoir of knowledge, expertise and experience that, I believe, would be of tremendous value to us today.

6. To Malaysians, the greatest change of all that has recently occurred is the transfer of power to a new government for the first time in the country's history following GE14. It is no exaggeration to say that we should expect more changes occurring in Malaysia in the months to come. In this new environment, it is opportune for us to take stock and examine the future direction of our beloved country. We hope to do that in the last session which would address the government's policies and priorities in 2019.

Distinguished guests and participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

7. In making today's economic seminar a success, ISIS Malaysia has had to rely on a lot of people. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to the distinguished speakers for taking the time out of their busy schedule to contribute their thoughts and views in our deliberations today. I would also like to convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our sponsors — CIMB Bank and Huawei — as well as our supporter, Hong Leong Investment Bank for their generous

support. I also thank members of the media for covering this event. Last but not least I thank all participants for your interest and support.

In concluding, I would like to thank all of you for being with us this morning and I look forward to a lively and engaging discussion today.

Thank you.

Ampun Tuanku.

Sekianlah sahaja sembah ucapan patik. Patik sekali lagi dengan penuh hormat dan takzimnya merafak sembah menjunjung kasih di atas limpah perkenan Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku sudi mencemar Duli berangkat ke majlis pada hari ini.

Ampun Tuanku beribu ampun sembah patik mohon diampun.

Wabillahitaufik, Walhidayah
Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.