

## Proposed Centre for Public Policy Studies in Asia

### Objectives

In response to the growing need for informed debate and discussions on Public Policies, ASLI intends to establish a Centre for Public Policy Studies to focus on five critical areas of priorities. This Centre will strive to uphold an independent, non-partisan and non-racial perspective in its discussions and policy debates. The five priority areas are:-

1. **National Unity**: To review policies that may have an adverse impact on National Unity and to put forward appropriate recommendations on Public Policy that can enhance and strengthen National Unity. This will include researching the Social Contract, Education and Economic Policies and to suggest appropriate policy intervention or policy changes. To carry out research studies into inter-ethnic relations.
2. **Economic Competitiveness**: To look into Malaysia's international competitiveness, particularly with the rise of China and the emergence of India. To put forward policy recommendations on how National Competitiveness can be further enhanced and growth can be sustained. We hope to put forward specific recommendations for the Ninth Malaysia Plan and the new National Development Agenda.
3. **Education and Human Capital Development**: To look into the need for education reforms and the appropriate policy changes needed to leapfrog Malaysia into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century globalized world. To also put forward policy recommendations on apportionment of scholarships and study aids. To also look into the issue of student underachievement, as well as the nurturing of excellence in education.
4. **Low Income Families**: To look into the plight of the low income families – the forgotten lot – in between the poor and the middle-class. To put forward policy recommendations to assist the low income families and to suggest measures to overcome urban poverty.
5. **Environment and Sustainable Development**: To look into the issues of environmental protection and conservation and the need for balanced development to ensure sustainability. To put forward policy recommendations for corporate social responsibility and sustainable development policy.

### Structure

This Centre will be headed by **Prof. Dr. Lim Teck Ghee** as ASLI's Senior Research Fellow. Prof. Lim will be assisted in his work by the Directors and Heads of ASLI's other Centres, in particular **Ms. Caroline Cheong Yuet Siew**, **Ms. Ong Tok Lee**, **Ms. Nur Shaireen**.

- Ms. Caroline Cheong is ASLI's Vice-President, Programmes (working on economic competitiveness, CSR, sustainability & low income family issues).
- Ms. Ong Tok Lee is ASLI's Director, Centre for Competitiveness & Industry (working on education issues).
- Ms. Nur Shaireen is ASLI's Director, Centre for Knowledge & Business Leadership (working on national unity issues).

It is further proposed that an **Advisory Panel** be established to guide the work of the Centre. Members of the Advisory Panel will be drawn from the business community, academia, civil society and will be chaired by ASLI's Director, **Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam**.

Proposed members of the Advisory Panel who can be called upon from time-to-time to **brainstorm** over various issues could include:-

Datuk Yong Poh Kon, Tunku Abdul Aziz, Tan Sri Simon Sipaun, Dato' Dr. Raj Karim, Ms. Yeo Kar Peng, Mr. Philip Koh, Tunku Shamsul Bahrin, Dr. Denison Jayasooria, Dato' Seri Kee Yong Wee, Mr. Tan Koon Swan, Dr. Colin Abraham, Dato' Dr. Gan Khuan Poh. Additional members can be appointed as may be required.

ASLI will provide the Secretariat for the Centre.