



Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute
Dedicated To Creating A Better Society

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PRESS RELEASE – 2018 NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Kuala Lumpur, 10 July 2018 – The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) organised and held the 2018 National Waste Management Conference. The conference, themed '*Towards Sustainable Waste Management*', was held at the Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysians produce an average of 30,000 tons of waste each day but only 5% of it is recycled. For years, local and national governments have been trying to curb the flow of garbage onto sidewalks, into landfills, over hillsides and through rivers, but Malaysia's turbulent pace of change has made that process extremely difficult. Our consumption and disposal rates are escalating faster than Malaysia's utilities can handle. Efficient and sustainable waste management has thus become a major challenge for the federal government, state governments and its municipal bodies.

The forum opened with a brief welcome from ASLI's Chief Executive Officer, **Tan Sri Dato' Dr Michael Yeoh** who spoke about the objectives of the conference. As 'waste is gold', he urged Malaysians to seriously consider contributing more to waste management. We were honoured to have **YBhg. Dato' Sri Hajji Mohammad bin Mentek**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia, as the opening keynote speaker. He spoke briefly about several initiatives introduced by the ministry to help curb Malaysia's rising waste build-up including the planned building of more sterile landfills by 2020 and the set-up of the first cutting-edge integrated waste management facility in Negeri Sembilan. The goal set is to divert 40% of waste by 2020.

The conference focused not just on solid waste but addressed liquid waste, marine litter and educating the public on proper recycling techniques. Panel sessions addressed the challenge of sustainable waste management in terms of integrated waste management and exploring government initiatives like the Five-Year Development Plan and National Green Technology Policy for ways to ensure a nation-wide focus on sustainable waste management. Another big challenge is marine litter, which is mainly composed of plastic waste and is a major environment and public health problem especially for local fishing communities living close to our beaches. The topic of food wastage was also addressed and explored through the lens of using smart technology as a way to prevent wasted food at the source as well as encourage reuse and recycling.

The problem of poor waste management in Malaysia is one of the nation's biggest issues to date. The 2018 National Waste Conference is the first such conference held by ASLI. It is intended to be a platform not just for industry experts to share their knowledge and ideas, but also to set the policy agenda to meet future challenges in waste management.

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About Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI)

The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) is an independent, private and non-for-profit Think Tank headquartered in Malaysia. ASLI is committed to creating a better society and to help organisations enhance their competitiveness, leadership and strategic capabilities through its Public Programmes, Conferences, Publications, Policy Research, Business Councils and CEO peer groups. With over 20 years' experience, ASLI is the super-connector between Government, Business and Civil Society, having managed high-level business partnerships in Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Japan, China, Australia, USA, Canada, Britain, Germany and South Africa. Further information of ASLI is available at www.asli.com.my

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