Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Sri Mohd Najib being presented with a portrait of his father, the 2nd Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Abdul Razak by Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali. Looking on are Dato Nizam Razak, Tun Ahmad Sarji and Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, ASLI CEO with Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ms. Christine Lagarde.

Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Sri Mohd Najib being greeted by ASLI Chairman, Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah and ASLI Director, Tan Sri Razman Hashim.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, ASLI CEO with Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ms. Christine Lagarde.

Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Sri Mohd Najib with ASLI CEO, Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh.

Deputy Prime Minister Dato Seri Zahid Hamidi with Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh.

Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, ASLI Chairman welcoming former Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, ASLI CEO and Mr. Max Say, ASLI Senior Vice President greeting the Chairman of Russia’s Upper House of Parliament whilst Dr. Sautov, Chairman of the Russia Business Council looks on.
The Legacy of Leadership

Commemorative Seminar on 2nd Tun Abdul Razak > 14 January 2016

Tun Abdul Razak has become one of the most respected and recognized leaders in the Malaysian history. He is widely recognized for his integrity, unity, frugality and tolerance and their considerable effects on his leadership and the success of charting the way forward for modern Malaysia. Yet, surprisingly little deep analysis of Tun Abdul Razak’s leadership exists today. It is in this context, Yayasan Cemerlang in collaboration with the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) organised a special commemorative seminar entitled “Legacy of Leadership of Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, 1970-1976. The event was held on 14 January, 2016 at the Royale Chulan Hotel in Kuala Lumpur with a launching of a book entitled “My Recollections of Tun Abdul Razak” authored by Tun Ahmad Sarji.

In conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of the passing of Tun Abdul Razak, this seminar was held with an aim to appreciate the significant contributions of Tun Abdul Razak as both a person and national leader. The Seminar also aspires to shed light on the leadership style of Tun Abdul Razak. The event was attended by more than 250 delegates widely represented by key leaders from the public and private sectors, members of diplomatic corps, the UN, civil societies and the academia.

The keynote address at the seminar was delivered by YAB Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia. YAB Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib said this seminar is particularly meaningful to him, as it marks the 40th year of his father’s passing. Tun Razak’s passing in some way is parallel to his own involvement in politics for the past 40 years. With the passing of his father, he was ready to step into his shoes and began his involvement in politics.

YAB Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib went on to share that in 1969, after the dark events of May 13th, Tun Razak became the Director of the National Operations Council with unprecedented powers. Many others in that situation would have held onto those powers. Indeed, his actions went against the grain of many leaders in the world and this region at the time. “But Tun Razak was a great democrat. He never wanted to use the powers he wielded – in fact he seemed fearful of them – and as soon as he could, he sought to relinquish them. By 1971, peace and order had been restored in the country and Tun Razak willingly re-established parliamentary rule. That was a remarkably swift turnaround. It saved Malaysia, and it saved Malaysian democracy from the fate that many other developing countries endured”, said YAB Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib.

Commemorative Seminar on 2nd Tun Abdul Razak > 14 January 2016

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Sri Mohd Najid launching the book on the 2nd Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak with PNB Chairman, Tun Ahmad Sarji at the Seminar. Looking on are Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali and Dato Nizam Razak.

ASLI Chairman, Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah greeting the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Mohd Najib on his arrival.

Prime Minister Dato Sri Mohd Najib viewing the photographic exhibition on Tun Abdul Razak accompanied by ASLI CEO, Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh and Minister of Communications & Multimedia, Datuk Seri Saifah Said Keruak.

Prime Minister Dato Sri Mohd Najib having a word with Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa, PNB Chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji, ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael. LTAT CEO Tan Sri Lodin Wok Kamaruddin and MBIB Chairman & Yayasan Cemerlang Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

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Commemorative Seminar on Tun Abdul Razak > 14 January 2016

YB Dato’ Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Defence delivered an opening address. YB Dato Seri’ Hishammuddin said that although he is a nephew of Tun Razak, he belongs to all Malaysians. In his own words, Dato’ Seri Hishammuddin said: “Tun Razak was more than just our second Prime Minister”. He was more than just a hero of our struggle for independence and nation-building. He was more than just a wise and great leader of our country. The many great things that Tun Razak achieved are well-documented. He gave us the New Economic Policy (NEP), which eradicated poverty irrespective of race and restructured Malaysia’s economy. Many of the national institutions that we take for granted today were founded under his watch: FELDA, FELCRA, Tabung Haji, MARA, PETRONAS, SIRIM and MAS. These were just a few of sources of national pride and development that he gave us. He introduced dynamic education policies and left behind several profound legacies, most notably expanding access to secondary and tertiary education. What he was and what I hope history will remember him for is the exemplar of being a Malaysian.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, CEO of ASLI hopes this seminar will shed more light on the Razak legacy and the role and contributions of Tun Razak in his short premiership prior to his passing at the age of 53. He went on to ask “what the Razak legacy would be had Tun lived for another 20-30 years”? Nevertheless, he said that Tun Abdul Razak had served the nation well. “And as many speakers today will share their reminiscences on Tun and his contribution, it will suffice for me to pay tribute to Tun Abdul Razak as the Father of Development, the Father of ASEAN and the Father of Unity”, remarked Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh. He further said, Tun Razak’s legacy in rural development has charted the course for the upliftment of the rural population. His commitment to development had rightfully earned him the epithet of being recognised as the Father of Development. It is also rightfully to address Tun Razak as the Father of ASEAN as he was one of the 5 ASEAN statesmen who had signed the declaration to establish ASEAN.

Throughout the seminar, Tun Abdul Razak was remembered as an inspiring humble leader of modern Malaysia. He was a conviction statesman whose life testimony is characterful and eminently quotable by his compatriots and contemporaries. He had made significant contribution in promoting national unity, good governance, democracy and integrity.

Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, Chairman of Yayasan Cemerlang in his welcoming speech noted the importance of recording the oral history of Tun Abdul Razak’s leadership. It is viewed as a process that will produce a comprehensive strategic document, which will serve as a critical step to strengthen Malaysia’s development. It is precisely what takes place in this event that will enable Tun Abdul Razak’s contemporaries to share their reminiscences on stories and moments journeyed with Tun Abdul Razak. The lessons learned during Tun’s time as Malaysia’s leader are as relevant as ever and should be applied today. Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali urged. He also hoped that the commemoration ceremony would leave all those in attendance with a deep appreciation of who the man was as both a person and national leader. In closing, Tan Sri Halim spoke of how the Razak legacy and the role and contributions of Tun Razak in his short premiership prior to his passing at the age of 53. He went on to ask “what the Razak legacy would be...
ASLI HOSTS CHAIRPERSON OF RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT
H.E. MRS. VALENTINA I. MATVIENKO > 15 MARCH 2016

Interactive Meeting and Business Luncheon
on the occasion of the Official Visit of
HE Mrs Valentina I. Matvienko
Chairperson of the Council of Federation
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation


It was well attended by 80 Malaysians and Russians. Amongst the Malaysians present were YB Dato’ Seri Ong Ka Chuan, Minister II of International Trade and Industry; YB Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang, then President of the Senate of Malaysia; Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, Group CEO of AirAsia; Tan Sri Tiong Hiew King, Chairman of Rimbunan Hijau Group; Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, CEO and Director of Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute; Tan Sri Rastam Isa, Chairman of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia; Tan Sri Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman, Vice-Chancellor and President of International Medical University and Mr Zaim Mohzani, Founder and Principal of Nation Building School. HE Valery Yermolov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Malaysia and Dr Vladimir Sautov, Chairman of the Business Council for Cooperation with Malaysia were part of the Russian delegation.

In her speech, HE Mrs Matvienko shared that Russia is working to expand trade partnerships. Part of the efforts included modernising railways and diversifying into areas of high technology and peaceful use of nuclear power. She strongly believed that there is great potential to boost trade and investment cooperation between Russia and Malaysia. She further stated that “Investing in Russia is investing in the future.” She also expressed delight to witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute and Business Council for Cooperation with Malaysia to re-establish the Malaysia-Russia Business Council and its counterpart the Russia-Malaysia Business Council, and assured both organisations of the support from the Russian government for the business community.

The Malaysia-Russia Business Council will be co-chaired by Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh and Professor Datuk Seri Dr Md Zabid Abdul Rashid, President and Vice Chancellor of Universiti Tun Abdul Razak while the Russia-Malaysia Business Council will be chaired by Dr Vladimir Sautov. The main priorities for both councils would be to promote investment, trade and commerce, science and technology, information exchange and culture.
ASLI PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL FOUNDATION ROUNDTABLE IN ROME
THE GLOBAL FOUNDATION’S ROME ROUNDTABLE > 17-18 JANUARY 2016

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh with Secretary General of British Commonwealth, Baroness Patricia Scotland of Asthal.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh being greeted by the Vatican’s Secretary of State Cardinal Parolin.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde addressing the Roundtable. The Vatican’s prefect for the Economy Cardinal Pell looks on.

The Vatican’s Secretary of State Cardinal Parolin delivering the keynote address.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh speaking during one of the sessions.

ASLI Programme Director, Elaine Kok with IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh with the Anglican Primate of Australia and Archbishop of Melbourne Philip Freier.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh participated in The Global Foundation’s Rome Roundtable centred on the theme of “Rejecting the ‘globalisation of indifference’ – mobilising for a more inclusive and sustainable economy” on 17 and 18 January 2016 in his capacity as CEO of ASLI and Chairman of the World Chinese Economic Summit.

It was inspired by Pope Francis’ call to reject the globalisation of indifference, and brought together 66 people from faith, business, international institution, academia and civil society backgrounds. Some prominent participants were His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State; His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy of The Vatican; Mr Dominic Barton, Managing Director of McKinsey & Company; Mr Jerome Bedier, Deputy CEO and Secretary-General of Carrefour; Baroness Patricia Scotland of Asthal, Secretary-General of British Commonwealth; The Honourable Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of International Monetary Fund; Dr Mari Pangestu, Professor of Economics at the University of Indonesia; Sir Partha Dasgupta and Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics from the University of Cambridge; Ms Maurizia Iachino, President of Oxfam Italia and Mr Steve Howard, Secretary-General of The Global Foundation. Amongst the observers invited to join selected discussions was Ms Elaine Kok, Business Council Secretariat and Programme Director of ASLI.

The roundtable focused on discussing human-centred strategies to address the challenges of economic governance and revolved around the three central pillars of (1) improving governance and reducing corruption, (2) empowering women and youth, and (3) eradicating forced labour/slavery in the global supply chains.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh proposed 13 measures/specific actions to bring about a new paradigm which included strengthening partnerships among governments, businesses, civil societies and faith groups; giving greater voice to developing economies; placing more emphasis on the SEs of education, employment, environment, energy and ethics as well as the 3Is of investment, innovation and infrastructure; linking economic reform to educational and governance reform; scaling up the war against corruption; and continuing the global conversations.

The roundtable ended with concordant commitment to action on the part of all participants, who accepted the responsibility to become agents of change to spin out action and carry on related conversations with a wider circle of interested parties.

PM APPOINTS ASLI CHAIRMAN TO GLOBAL SCIENCE & INNOVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Mohd. Najib chairing the Global Science & Innovation Advisory Council meeting in London. ASLI Chairman, Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah is on far left.

Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah making a presentation at the GSIAC meeting. On his left is Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Dato Wan Junaidi.
ASLI organised its 20th Malaysian Education Summit at Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa on 14th -15th April 2016 with the theme “Education: Creating Value, Building Societies”.

Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, Chairman of the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) and Chairman and Founder of Sunway Group, delivered the welcoming remarks, where he urged the government to encourage tertiary education by providing incentives through a more liberal tax measures or to incentivise public universities so to encourage them to provide more scholarships for training and research.

Minister of Higher Education, YB Dato’ Seri Idris Jusoh, delivered the keynote address and pleased to report the English proficiency at college level (MUET) has improved by 27.8% over past year. He also announced an entrepreneurial “2U+2I” programme, denoting 2 years in university and 2 years in industry, has been launched in several public universities. YB Dato’ Seri Idris remarked that the Ministry aims to promote future students who are not only multi-disciplinary and multi-lingual, but who are also value-driven. The Minister also encourages delegates to use the “Soaring Upwards” gesture, as a recognised symbol of Malaysia’s aspiration to excel.

In the special panel entitled “What is the Purpose of Education? Producing a Literate Society or Producing a Learning Society?”. The session discussed Malaysia’s preparedness for the 4th Industrial Revolution- a digital revolution, where there is strong need to equip graduates to deal with the modern economy. The panel called for curriculum reforms to include the promotion of thinking and skills through more emphasis on liberal arts so to promote inter-disciplinary subjects. Education also needs to be inclusive and comprehensive of all members of society. Efforts by the all public and private universities must be seen as an overall national endeavour and not be compartmentalised between the top tier and lower ranking universities. The panel also found that the problem is not with policy, but often an issue of implementation. To accomplish this, a bigger data set is needed to allow analysis and informed decision making for much needed reforms.

In the Vice Chancellors Rountable, the topic of “Becoming a University of Choice – Key Issues & Strategic Challenges” was deliberated. The panel agreed for the need to create a flexible learning environment to attract a diverse variety of students which will in turn create global visibility, a place for employability and entrepreneurship. The panel cautioned that a balance must be found between the academic and business obligations of the university. Marketing and profiling is also required as students are behaving more like consumers in higher education. Students have many choices, and are driven by brand and rankings.
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high-skilled workers are still much neeeded. With 70 million youths unemploye globally despite the heightening number of enrolment into the education system, the industrial demands are yet to be met, indicating that there is misallocation of specialised labour. This in part is due to the negative perception of TVET in Malaysia, which must be changed to encourage its development.

The second session, entitled “Revisiting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) - What Industry Needs most?”. Despite 4th Industrial Revolution, high-skilled workers are still much needed. With 70 million youths unemployed globally despite the heightening number of enrolment into the education system, the industrial demands are yet to be met, indicating that there is misallocation of specialised labour. This in part is due to the negative perception of TVET in Malaysia, which must be changed to encourage its development.

The third session took place on the second day of the Summit, which discuss the “Role and Impact of Internationalising Higher Education to the Malaysian Education System”. The panel agreed that higher education has opened up to the global market, allowing transnational strategic alliances and partnerships among universities are forming. The increasing demand for institution, universities, higher education providers to students to have a truly international experience. This also requires a change in the mindset of students from being country-centric to one with a globalised worldview.

Ultimately, the goal of education is to prepare students for life in their country of stay, not the one they will leave behind. Malaysia has plans to attract international students to study in Malaysia by providing easy access, aiming for 250,000 enrolment of international students by 2025.

Session Four was entitled “21st Century Technology in Education. Beyond the four walls: Teacher’s Technological Literacy Misplaced?”. The panel advised educators to understand the new learning styles of today’s students and adapt to new technologies to meet their needs as the 21st Century education is no longer only about reading, writing and mathematics, but is also being exposed to the best state of the art technology. To achieve this, transformation in schools need to be guided by

proportion performance measures and management which involve all stakeholders. The provision of proper infrastructure, such as Internet connection, in rural areas is often an obstacle that prevents technology from being fully utilised in education.

The fifth session with the topic “Reimagining Schools - Scaling up Quality Education in Schools for all”. Panel members highlighted that the main reason why Malaysia has not really seen the impact of these educational initiatives in schools is due to its lack in maintaining its interest, passion and seriousness in implementing these various new initiatives and projects. There are many challenges to fine tune the details from policy to implementation, as there are many complications in the Malaysian school system with its diversity, politics, race, variety of school types, all of which are factors. There is a need for a review of the current education curriculum which should not be overly focused on academics and examinations, but instead adopt a more holistic approach in teaching and assessment. The panel suggested the use of concept-based teaching and learning to open up student’s mind and cultivate creativity to solve real-world problems. Though there are many types of schools, they are all focused on developing the nation.

The sixth session, with the title “Selling your Soul or Commercialising Research?”. Mr. Goh Peng Ooi, Founder and Group Executive Chairman of Silverlake Group shared his passion in research and asserted that barriers cannot be placed on researchers and that drawing barriers around countries is futile.

The seventh and final session entitled “Big Data vs Big Risks - Are we seeing the impact yet?”. As the average Malaysian spends about 50% of their time online, it is possible to obtain data on student activities for analytical purposes, allowing universities to better able to make concrete designs for teaching & learning. However, the data itself is the biggest challenge is how to store and manage data. Much effort is needed to process the data, turning them into meaningful and presentable forms. It is also important to be clear on the objectives the data is meant to achieve, otherwise, people will end up doing it just for the sake of doing so.

In her closing address, YB Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching, Deputy Minister of Higher Education shared that the Malaysian education system aiming to provide quality education of on par with the world standards to students, which is clearly stated in the National Education Blueprint for schools (2013-2025) and the National Education Blueprint for Higher Education (2015-2025) with the aim of preparing students to be globally competitive and play an effective role in nation development. She shared that though the 2016 budget is allocated less compared to the year before, the amount is still significant, showing the government is serious in taking on education, and the challenge is to do more with less.
The 18th Malaysia Strategic Outlook Conference was held on 26th January 2016 at the Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, with the theme “Coping with Uncertainty – The Way Forward in Difficult Times”. YB Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation delivered the Opening Keynote Address on the “Outlook for Innovation and Technology – The Way Forward for Malaysia”. YB’s speech highlighted the needs to create a national innovation environment/ecosystem to stay competitive in order to achieve Vision 2020. He hoped that R&D works will translate into viable and sustainable businesses which are paramount in strengthening the economic prosperity of the nation. Minister also emphasised the need to ensure invested funds in R&D garnered returns. He shared MOSTI has been proactively in incentivising GLCs to support start-ups in order to penetrate the market at the local, regional and even international level so to prevent local start-ups from leaving the country. The Minister concluded his speech by advising delegates to continuously advance in the fields of science, technology and innovation, which is necessary to maintain an advanced nation status in time to come.

The first session focused on Malaysia’s Economic Outlook. Panellist discussed the global slowdown and its effect on Malaysia’s economic performance in 2015 due to the change in China’s consumption from a production based economy has impacted the commodity markets, depreciation of the Ringgit, and the tightening of U.S. monetary policy. It was highlighted that structural reforms are needed as Malaysia has high records of debt within the Asian region with its national debts close to 55% and household debts close to 80% of the entire GDP. Major transformations in monetary policy. It was highlighted that structural reforms are needed as Malaysia needs to use these measures to keep the public safe.

The second session focused on the political outlook. Panellist discussed upcoming themes for the next elections and foreseen that issues will be centred on addressing the economic needs of the people due to increasing inequalities such as rising income gaps. Islamism, not so much race, was also identified as a focus in the next general elections. The impact from the youths voters, as the largest demographic group, will also be a factor, spurred further with the use of social media. The disintegration of Pakistan Rakyat was also discussed and was defended as a realignment of a new front in the form of Pakatan Harapan which has overcome its past ideological differences. The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, YB Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed, delivered the Special Luncheon Address entitled “The Security Outlook – Keeping the Nation Safe, Ensuring Public Security”. The Minister shared that there were new threats which encompass cybercrimes, money laundering, human trafficking, smuggling, piracy, and the rise of foreign fighter insurgency and terrorism, all of which do not respect traditional borders. Hence, ensuring peace and security can no longer depend on conventional means. To counter these threats, the Minister highlighted the importance for the international community to work more closely together and to foster greater interagency cooperation, such as in the area of information sharing, as there is a need to safeguard Malaysia’s safety and security in the international and domestic scene. YB Datuk Nur Jazlan clarified that legislations like the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012 (SOMSA), the Prevention of Crime (Amendment) Act (POCA), the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act, as well as the introduced NSC bill, despite critics, are meant to more effectively address new unconventional threats. He ensured that the government will not arbitrarily use these legislations to silence criticism and quell political dissent, but will use these measures to keep the public safe.
The third session highlighted Sectoral & Industry Outlook. The session revealed that the SME sector constitutes 98.5% of Malaysian business entities, contributing to 65% of total employment. However, only 17.8% of the SMEs are involved in export. Therefore, there is a need for a government led strategy to support local SMEs and educate them on the know-hows of exporting to take advantage of the opportunities in ASEAN. Limitations of SMEs in Malaysia include low technology, limited access to financing, and increase cost in raw materials due to oil prices and the depreciating Ringgit. For logistics, freight rates will continue to be on the down trend due to falling oil prices. However, there is a significant drop in standard bunker factor (SBF) which is good for all importers and exporters. Shipping is still the cheapest way to export goods and continues to make up more than 90% of the worlds imports and exports, compared to land and air modes of transport. In the area of commodities, various commodity prices have exhibited the same trends and patterns due to an oversupply of goods in the market and the downward trends in the price of oil. Global commodities for 2016 is likely to anticipate a depression in prices. However, there is a shimmer of hope in the form of palm oil, which has been recovering quite rapidly due to biodiesel programmes which are spurring growth.

The fourth and final session focused on the Corporate Outlook. During the session, there were calls of support for the TPPA as it will open up Malaysia to more markets. However, the GST was criticised for dampening domestic consumption. The session also revealed confusion in consumption patterns in Malaysia, as consumer spending still remained high despite speculation and doubt in the market. There were also calls for the government to run the economy more efficiently, as greater risk awareness and confidence are needed to weather market challenges.
ASLI organised the “Malaysia-United States Forum: Towards a Comprehensive Partnership” in collaboration with the Malaysia-America Society (MAS) and the ASEAN Studies Initiative (ASI) at American University on 19th April 2016 at the Mary Graydon Centre, American University in Washington D.C. It was attended by 60 representatives from the governments of the US, Malaysia and other ASEAN countries, as well as businesses, trade associations, think tanks, academics and students interested in developments between Malaysia and the US.

The purpose of the forum was to review the progress made and examine long-term opportunities and challenges to strengthening political, economic, technological cooperation, people-to-people cultural and educational ties between the two countries, which President Obama and Prime Minister Najib jointly committed under the Comprehensive Partnership in April 2014. Its timing coincided with ASLI’s 20th year engagement with the US. ASLI helped to form the Malaysia-US Business Council in 1996. ASLI has also worked with think tanks such as Brookings and Heritage, and over the years have hosted numerous key people for outreach purposes including Sen. Bob Corker (Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee), Asst. Sec. of State Daniel Russel and President Clinton after he left the White House.

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Michael Yeoh together with Dr Lynn Juhl, President of MAS and Dr Louis Goodman, Professor and Emeritus Dean of the School of International Service welcomed the speakers and participants at the American University. Mr Shaiful Anuar Mohammad from the Embassy of Malaysia shared on economic cooperation and the TPP; defence and security cooperation and the South China Sea issue; as well as people-to-people ties in his keynote, noting that 5 MOUs have been signed between the two countries since April 2014. Mr James Carouso from the US Department of State in his keynote expressed confidence in moving the TPP forward and highlighted the US’ recognition of Malaysia’s leadership on regional security.

The first topic of discussion was “Enhancing Malaysia-US Political, Diplomatic and Security Cooperation: What Next?” Dr Michael Anderson of MAS chaired the panel comprising Mr Murray Hiebert of CSIS, Dr Pek Koon Heng of ASI and Dr Jayum Anak Jawan of Ohio University. The panel agreed that Malaysia mattered to the US and vice versa with specific references to both President Obama desired legacies and PM Dato Sri Mohd Najib desired in broadening the international ties, TPP, SCS, ISIL as well as human rights and press rights.

The second topic of discussion was “Deepening Business Cooperation: Opportunities from TPP and AEC” which was chaired by Mr Murray Hiebert of CSIS. The speakers were Mr Marc Mealy of US-ASEAN Business Council, retired Ambassador James Keith, Ms Aireen Omar and Dato’ Charon Mokhzani in the panel on Deepening Business Cooperation: Opportunities from TPP and AEC.
ASLI organised the “China and United States Economic, Trade and Cultural Cooperation in ASEAN Symposium” in partnership with the ASEAN Studies Initiative (ASI) at American University on 20th April 2016 at the McDowell Formal Lounge of American University in Washington D.C. It was attended by 70 representatives from the governments of US, China, Malaysia and other ASEAN countries, as well as businesses, trade associations, think tanks, academics and students interested in China and the US’ cooperative initiatives in ASEAN. The purpose of the symposium was to examine the China, US and ASEAN perspectives regarding the impact of China and US initiatives in ASEAN in the areas of trade, investment, infrastructure and energy.

It began with welcome remarks by Dr. Nanette Levinson of American University followed by introductory remarks from ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr Michael Yeoh who shared on the ASEAN charter, ASEAN centrality, connectivity and ASEAN investment in the first session. A pertinent question raised was the importance of the protection of intellectual property rights of the ASEAN countries and the need for enhanced cooperation in the area of economic cooperation hence the need to foster win-win partnerships that contribute to peace and stability in the region. There are extensive areas of cooperation under AECTA, RCEP and the OBOR initiatives that the US and China have put in place. ASEAN needs support from both countries to achieve its own goals and visions.

President of Asia Society, Ms. Josette Sheeran called for investment, infrastructure development, inclusive growth and innovation. Both His Excellency Mai Sayavong, Ambassador of Lao PDR and Dr Wang Huiyao, President of Centre for China and Globalisation, PRC delivered the opening remarks. His Excellency spoke about Lao PDR’s priorities as ASEAN Chair to focus on implementing ASEAN Vision 2025; and on enhancing the cooperation with partners through initiatives like RCEP, TPP, China’s 21st century maritime Silk Road and AIIB. Dr Wang spoke about the many cooperation commonalities between China and ASEAN with emphasis on the “One Belt, One Road” or OBOR initiative and the AIIB, noting that China and ASEAN combined account for 60% of the total trade in Asia.

Dr Miles Kahler of American University, Dr Wang Hui Yao, Tan Sri Dr Michael Yeoh and Ms Yun Sun of the Henry L. Stimson Centre discussed China’s trade and infrastructure initiatives in ASEAN in the first session. A pertinent question raised was the importance of the protection of intellectual property rights of the ASEAN countries and the need for enhanced cooperation in the area of economic cooperation hence the need to foster win-win partnerships that contribute to peace and stability in the region. There are extensive areas of cooperation under AECTA, RCEP and the OBOR initiatives that the US and China have put in place. ASEAN needs support from both countries to achieve its own goals and visions.

In the second session, Dr Pek Koon Heng of American University, Mr Hairi Yah Yaacob of the Malaysian Embassy, Mr Edmund Sim of the National University of Singapore and Mr Vikram Nehru of the Henry L. Stimson Centre deliberated on the challenges of US-China-ASEAN cultural and educational cooperative initiatives in ASEAN. The purpose of the symposium was to examine the China, US and ASEAN perspectives regarding the impact of China and US initiatives in ASEAN in the areas of trade, investment, infrastructure and energy.

The Honourable Rosalis De Leon, Undersecretary of Finance, Philippines and Mr Casey Mace, Director for Maritime Southeast Asia & ASEAN Affairs, National Security Council, US delivered keynotes at the luncheon. The former highlighted that ASEAN while concerned over the impact of China’s economic slowdown; used countercyclical coping mechanisms. AEC is intensifying intra-ASEAN trade; RCEP will widen trade with Japan, Australia, Korea, and New Zealand; and US trade with Hong Kong has been standing steady. However, investments in connectivity will be critical to strengthen regional and intra-regional value chains, and impact on its position as the fourth largest exporting region globally, and as home to the world’s third largest labour force. The latter shared about ASEAN’s importance to US’ rebalancing strategy—deepening partnerships; promoting economic prosperity; advancing a regional security architecture, and enhancing regional capabilities on global challenges. He noted that US and ASEAN are becoming increasingly like-minded on many important issues, and a key outcome of the Sunnylands Summit was the shared vision to advance rules-based order.

The third session explored US perspectives on US-ASEAN-China Economic Cooperation with Dr Randall Henning of the American University, Mr Marc Mealy of the US-ASEAN Business Council and Mr Ruben Duran of the US Chamber of Commerce. They agreed the relationship was not a “zero sum game”. ASEAN needs to engage both US and China as it receives significant capital inflows from both. Global supply chains and value chains linking US and China run through various markets in ASEAN. US businesses are actually cautiously optimistic over the OBOR initiative and AIIB, which they hope will present opportunities for businesses to compete and succeed against global competitors although there are still some concerns.

Dr Enn Collins of the American University, Ms Robin Diallo of the Department of State, Dr Wang Hui Yao, Tan Sri Dr Michael Yeoh and Mr. Max Say, Ms. Josette Sheeran, Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, Mr. Jackson Ewing, Ms. Elaine Kok and Mr. Sanjeev Sharchan.

Mr. Casey Mace, Director for Maritime Southeast Asia & ASEAN Affairs, National Security Council the White House in conversation with ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh.

Dr. Wang Huiyao, President of Centre China and Globalisation, PRC with Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh at the China & US Economic, Trade and Cultural Cooperation in ASEAN Symposium.

Mr. Casey Mace poses for a photo with the Chinese dignitaries at the China & US Economic, Trade and Cultural Cooperation in ASEAN Symposium.

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Dr. Wang Huiyao, President of Centre China and Globalisation, PRC with Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh at the China & US Economic, Trade and Cultural Cooperation in ASEAN Symposium.
EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Governor of Malacca Tun Mohd Khalil Yaacob and ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh.

Defense Minister Dato Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein receiving a memento from ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh.

Tun Rahah, mother of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Sri Mohd. Najib and Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, wife to the Prime Minister arriving at the Tun Razak Commemorative Seminar Luncheon.

Higher Education Minister Dato Seri Idris Jusoh, Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh and Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah.

Dato Seri Hishammuddin greeting Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato Seri Azmin Ali at ASLI’s Chinese New Year Open House with Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh.

Dato Tan Chin Nam (seated) with Ms. Jean Wong, Ms. Tan Lei Cheng, Mr. Max Say and Dato Lee Hau Hian.

© Tun Rahah, mother of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Sri Mohd. Najib and Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, wife to the Prime Minister arriving at the Tun Razak Commemorative Seminar Luncheon.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh greeting the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa whilst ASLI Chairman Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah looks on.

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh welcoming Defence Forces Chief General Tan Sri Zahedi.

ASLI and Yayasan Cemerlang organising team.

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh at the Istana Negara with Dato Seri Mah Siew Keong, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department, Dato Seri Low Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport, Dato Madius Tanggak, Minister of Science, Technology & Innovation and Dato Seri Dr. Subramaniam, Minister of Health.

Former Governor General of Australia flanked by Securities Commission Chairman Tan Sri Ranjit Singh and ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh.

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh welcoming Defence Forces Chief General Tan Sri Zahedi.

Minister of Communication & Multimedia Dato Seri Saifuddin Tun Saad Keruak, former chief Justice Tun Dzaiddin Abdullah and former IGP Tun Hanif Omar.

ASLI team with Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at ASLI Chinese New Year Open House.

ASLI team with CIMB Group Chairman Dato Seri Nazir Razak

ASLI team with Tan Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at ASLI Chinese New Year Open House.

ASLI team with CIMB Group Chairman Dato Seri Nazir Razak

ASLI team with Tan Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at ASLI Chinese New Year Open House.
WORLD CHINESE ECONOMIC SUMMIT 7th WCES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A Special Conferment Ceremony was held on 13 May 2016 at the Ministry of Transport in Putrajaya for awardees of the Lifetime Achievement Award who was not able to attend the award presentation ceremony held at the 7th WCES in London in November 2015.

YB Dato’ Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport Malaysia who is the Honorary Adviser of WCES, presented the awards to Tan Sri Azman Hashim of Ambank for his contributions in the field of banking (specifically in Islamic Banking) and Mr Goh Peng Ooi of Silverlake for his contributions in the field of technology (specifically in universal banking solutions).

At the ceremony, YB Dato’ Sri Liow took the opportunity to reiterate the government’s support for WCES, especially by Prime Minister Dato Sri Mohd Najib and Deputy Prime Minister Dato Seri Zahid Hamidi. He also expressed the importance placed by the government on the country’s bilateral relationship with China, highlighting that China has been Malaysia’s largest trading partner for the past 6 years with trade value exceeding $1 billion. Malaysia will continue to render its support for China’s “One Belt One Road” initiative and the AIIB. YB Dato’ Sri Liow is confident that WCES is the ideal platform to further strengthen this strong bond, and the government hopes to increase Chinese investment in Malaysia, in contrast Malaysian investment in China is currently stood at 1:6. Personally, he is delighted with the upcoming 8th WCES which will be held in Malacca in November 2016 and is hoping that the exposure generated will attract more investments from China especially from Guangzhou Province.

COURTESY CALL ON MALACCA CHIEF MINISTER

Patron and Co-Founder of WCES, Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew in his remarks shared that the WCES was conceptualised as a bridge between the East and the West in building a better world together, and there is a plan in the pipeline to form a “Lifetime Achievement Award Circle” as a platform to bring together all past award recipients so to contribute towards this vision.

SABAH UNITY BLUEPRINT STUDY ROUNDTABLE IN TAWAU

ASLI CEo Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh calling on the Malacca Chief Minister Dato Seri Idris Haron discussing the 8th World Chinese Economic Summit.

ASLI Chief Partnership Officer / Senior Vice President Mr. Max Say, Chief Minister of Malacca Dato Seri Idris Haron, Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh and Dato Lim Sue Beng.
The Greater KL & Smart City Summit 2016 was held on 26 February 2016 in Sunway Putra Hotel with 150 delegates. REDtone International and MKH Group were the Corporate Sponsors and Uber Malaysia was the Mobility Partner for the event.

Session one titled “Sustainability Consideration for the Smart Cities in Malaysia” with Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, President and CEO of Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) as moderator and panellist were Dr. Thomas Tang, Managing Director of Kuala Lumpur Centre for Sustainable Innovation (KLCSI); Mr Fermin Fautsch, Vice President of Global Enterprise, Telekom Malaysia Group/Chairman and Board Director of EU-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr Jaffri Ibrahim, CEO of Crest.

Session two’s topic was “Smart Connectivity for Smart City”, moderated by Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, Chairman of ASLI-CPPS and Corporate Advisor, Sunway Group. Panelist were Dato’ Wei Chuan Beng, Managing Director of REDtone International, Dato’ Haris Fadzilah Hassan, Director of Commercial and Land Management, Mass Rapid Transit Corporatin Sdn Bhd; Mr Mohamed Shajahan Mohamed Iqbal, Chief Technology Officer of Three-Opp (M) Sdn Bhd / Board of Director & Treasurer of FTTH Council Asia Pacific; Ms Norma Nun, Senior Manager for the Planning Unit, Suruhanjaya Pengangkutan Awam Darat (SPAD); Mr Leon Foong, General Manager of Uber Malaysia and Ar. Mustapha Kamal Zulkarnain, Chairman of Urban Wellbeing, Sustainable Housing and Environmental Resilience Committee, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia.

Session three was on “Realising the Vision of Greater Kuala Lumpur” moderated by Mr. Salry Adre Sarkum, President of Malaysia Green Building Confederation and panelist were Mr David Mizan Hashim, Group President of Veritas Design Group, Mr Scott Dunn, Vice President of AECOM Southeast Asia, Mr James Chua, Executive Director of GreenIT Sdn Bhd, Ms Elviza Michele Kamal, Advisor to the Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government and Mr Lai Voon Hon, Group Managing Director of Ireka Corporation Berhad.

Session four titled “Case Studies of Jumpstarting: We are in this together” where Panelist presented a case study. “Kuala Lumpur – the ongoing transformation” was presented by Datuk Hj. Mohd Najib, Executive Director (Planning) of Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur; “Elevating CyberJaya into a Global Technology Hub through Smart Collaboration” by Mr Faris Yahaya Managing Director of Cyberview Malaysia; “Investment into Kuala Lumpur by Mr Hew Wee Choong, Director & Team Leader for Investor Relations of InvestKL and the session was moderated by Dr. Daniele Gambero CEO & Co-Founder of REI Group of Companies.
THE 2ND TUN ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI: HUMAN CAPITAL SUMMIT

“Enhancing Human Capital for a Competitive Economy” > 25 MAY 2016

The 2nd Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Human Capital Summit held at the Sunway Putra Hotel in Kuala Lumpur focused on Enhancing Human Capital for a Competitive Economy. In introducing the patron of the event, and guest of honour, Dato’ Kulasegaran Sabaratnam, President of High School of Bukit Mertajam Alumni Malaysia noted that Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is the school’s most illustrious alumnus.

Y.A.Bhg. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia delivered the morning Keynote Address entitled ‘The Future of Our Nation’. His speech focused on the point that human capital is the lifeblood of our nation. It translates into the success of our country and corporations. Therefore, we should be constantly developing, re-skillig and appraising these resources, he said. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi also shared that the economy is moving away from being labour and the intensive use of resources, to one in which new technologies and methods will be leveraged upon to improve productivity and transform the country’s whole value chain.

Y.B. Khairy Jamaluddin, Minister of Youth and Sports hosted the event’s luncheon. During his address he noted that Malaysia is a young nation, not only in age but also in the sense that 62% of our workforce is comprised of the youth. “Young people drive this nation”, he said, “not just in terms of ideas but also through their labour force”. Y.B. Khairy Jamaluddin also stressed the point that we needed to change the culture of our workforce. Young people hold different interests and lifestyles than the managers of today, he said. He noted that work-life balance is very important to them. In closing, he urged for more private sector and university linkages to identify human capital needs.

The day also featured various panel sessions. The first was entitled “Human Capital Development in the 11th Malaysia Plan: Our Key Priorities and Strategic Challenges”, CEO Panel. Dato’ CM Vignaesvaran Jeyandran, Chief Executive, of PSMB urged that we need to push industry in furthering certification training rather than ‘team-building’ exercises, which is where the majority of their training budgets are being spent at the moment.

The second panel was entitled “What Sort of Human Capital Do We Need? How Do We Address the Mismatch Between Demand and Supply?”. Mr Daniel Bernbeck, Executive Director of the Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry commented that the issue of mismatch is also a problem in Germany. A recent study involved 40,000 German employers of which 40% indicated the same issue. Moreover not only were they under-skilled for the positions, but some were also over-skilled.

The final session was entitled “Are our Universities Producing the Graduates Industry Need? How Can We Scale Up TVET (Technical and Vocational Education) to Meet the Manpower Shortage? How Can We Enhance Retraining and Skills Development?”. Prof. Dr. Wahid Razally, Deputy Vice Chancellor of University Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia brought up the old debate of what the purpose of the university is. Is this to nurture democratic citizens, or to develop workers for the economy, he asked?
In the SIF Ministerial Roundtable and Dialogue, YB Datuk Seri Salleh, Minister of Communication and Multimedia began his speech by thanking ASLI for the invitation and focused his speech on improving communication services in Malaysia and issues surrounding the governance of communication.

Similar to all other countries in the region and around the world, communication services have been the cornerstone of growth and development in Malaysia, Datuk Seri Salleh commented. The Government launched a national strategy – the National Broadband Initiative (NBI) to bring broadband to the whole nation. Things move rapidly and strategically since three zones were identified. Zone 1 was the High Economy Impact Area; Zone 2 the Suburban Area; and Zone 3 is the Rural Area.

The Government introduced tax incentives by way of investment allowances and sales tax exemption to facilitate the implementation. The NBI has also increased the efforts to improve broadband adoption through programs such as the establishment of wireless villages (i.e. WiFi access node areas). In relation to schools, under the 1BestariNet programme, a total of 10,132 schools has been provided with connectivity to support the teaching and learning processes.

YB Datuk Seri Salleh shared that the focus remains on the coverage, affordability and quality of service. Aggressive broadband access plans were targeted to improve coverage. The network infrastructure projects are seen as the engine of growth that will fuel the development of the local content and applications industry, with many potential high bandwidth next-generation applications.

The network infrastructure and high-speed connectivity are expected to boost the development of ICT-related industries and contribute to fulfilling the government’s inspiration of elevating Malaysia into a high-income nation. In terms of household broadband penetration, Malaysia was at 11% in 2006 compared to 77.3% in 2015. For mobile penetration, Malaysia had seen an increase from 72.3% in 2006 to 145% today. MyTV is aimed to introduce digital terrestrial broadcasting (DTTB) which is to allow more efficient use of the spectrum by 2018.

The Malaysian government obligated to safeguard the citizens by implementing safeguards for consumer protection and ensure that the country grows harmoniously. The Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) is the regulator and developer of the communications and multimedia industry. The newly proposed Communications and Multimedia Acts 1998 (CMA) amendments stated the objective is to move forward by ensuring openness in its policy.

According to YB Datuk Seri Salleh, the Communication and Multimedia Ministry policy trusts are ensuring universal access to robust and sustainable communication infrastructure, increasing network security to enable communication, information network, and to provide confidence and trust for users to transact online. YB Datuk Seri Salleh, concluded that the Ministry is working towards ensuring and achieving the target of 95% penetration by 2020 and everyone in the country will be able to reap the benefits of collaborative planning.
Ms. Anabel Gonzalez, Senior Director for Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness, The World Bank Group

“Trade and Competitiveness in this New Era of Regional FTAs such as the TPP and How These will Enhance Global Growth?”

> 26 FEBRUARY 2016

At the Roundtable discussion moderated by CPPS Chairman Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, Ms Anabel Gonzalez, Senior Director for Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness at the World Bank Group commented that we are at an important juncture for Malaysia, and that the TPPA is a very important component of this. Ms. Gonzalez shared that Malaysia is well integrated into the global value chain, however the domestic value added is still relatively low. Preferential trade agreements provide potential for greater market access for Malaysia, the agreements are also important for structural reforms for private sector led growth.

She shared that the World Bank has made estimates on what the TPPA will mean for the signatory nations, but we need to be cautious because this is based on parameters that may affect the result. On average the deal should raise the GDP of member countries to 1.1% by 2030 and increase global trade in the same period.

The largest increase in manufacturing exports are Japan, the US, Vietnam and Malaysia, Ms. Gonzalez explained. This is similar for imports and primarily be driven by the size of trade flows, as well as markets and tariffs. Most of the economic gains from the TPPA will come from regulatory reforms rather than lower tariffs. This is by virtue of Malaysia already having agreements with many TPPA countries ensuring low tariffs.

In closing, Ms. Gonzalez shared that one of the biggest sweeping reforms will come from legally enforceable conditions that go beyond the WTO - this includes areas such as competition and labour.

ASLI CEO AT BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh attended the BOAO Forum for Asia with Chairman Malaysian Green Technology Corporation Tan Sri Peter Chin.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh with former President of Philippines and former Chairman of BOAO Forum for Asia Fidel Ramos.

Former Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi with former Prime Minister of France Mr. Villepin.
ASLI-CPPS GLOBAL RANKING

ASLI Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) maintains 6th Ranking for “Top Best Think Tanks in the Southeast Asia and Pacific Region”

ASLI Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) earned its way into the Top-99 Think Tanks Worldwide in the recently published “2015 Global Go to Think Tank Index Report”, a study involving over 6,500 think tanks. The annual global study also saw the emergence of parent organisation, Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) improve its global ranking as the Top 124 Think Tank Worldwide (non-US). The study was conducted by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania which is known as the “think tanks think tank”. TTCSP examines the role of public policy research organisations in 1989. The Global Index of Think Tanks.

CPPS maintained its ranking as the 6th Top Think Tank in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region, consolidating its position as the No.1 Malaysian Think Tank. CPPS also improved on its world ranking of Transparency and Good Governance Think Tanks from 27th to 25th. It sits at 25th in the global ranking of best Trans-Disciplinary Research Programme at a Think Tank. CPPS is also ranked 11th globally for Best Quality Assurance and Integrity Policies and Procedures; 66th globally in the best use of social network; 38th in the world for Best Advocacy Campaign and 50th globally in the education policy think tank. CPPS introduced a Single Price Policy in 2015, proposing that businesses display prices inclusive of GST and service charges. This policy was taken up by the Ministry of Domestic Trade.

The CEO of ASLI, Tan Sri Dr Michael Yeoh is delighted to announce that both ASLI and CPPS have maintained its presence in the global ranking. This year, ASLI ranked for the first time in the Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tank category, with a respectable 84th place, becoming the only Malaysian think tank in this category. ASLI also ranks as the 55th Best Managed Think Tanks in the world and among one of world’s 40 Best Independent Think Tanks. “We would like to thank our supporters and partners from the Malaysian government, corporate sectors and the public at large, as this would not have been possible without their collaborative efforts. 2015 was once again a busy year with many new projects and initiatives for the ASLI and CPPS team, from local and international avenues, which have been carried out with high level performance and standard. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my abled-staff for their pains and efforts in making both ASLI and CPPS nationally and regionally renowned institutions.”

CPPS ROUNDTABLE > 18 MARCH 2016

On 18th March 2016, the Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) organised a roundtable discussion with the theme, “Making Markets Work for Young Entrepreneurs: An Approach to Bring Government, Private Sectors and Local Businesses to Strengthen Entrepreneurship in Malaysia”. The event was held at the Bukit Kiara Equestrian & Country Resort and was attended by 35 young participants from various sectors.

ASLI-CPPS Chairman, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam delivered the introductory remarks. He lamented that tens of thousands of Malaysian youth graduates are unemployed, as well as the poor level of higher education standards in the country. The lack of skills among today’s youths significantly impedes their chances of success. Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam encouraged participants to emulate successful entrepreneurs like Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, who have contributed to societal welfare through their business enterprise. He urged participants to develop the spirit of entrepreneurism, such as being hard-working, frugal as well as having a high sense of accountability.

Summary of ASLI’s Rankings:
- No. 27 in Top Think Tanks with Annual Operating Budgets of Less Than US$5 Million
- No. 29 in Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed by a Think Tank
- No. 32 in Best Trans-disciplinary Research Programme at a Think Tank
- No. 40 in Think Tanks with the Most Significant Impact on Public Policy
- No. 44 in Top Transparency and Good Governance Think Tanks
- No. 51 in Best Use of Social Network
- No. 53 in Best Advocacy Campaign
- No. 58 in Best Managed Think Tank
- No. 59 in Think Tanks with the Best External Relations/Public Engagement Program
- No. 64 in Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tank
- No. 124 in Top Think Tanks Worldwide (Non-U.S.)
- No. 40 in 40 Best Independent Think Tanks

Summary of CPPS’s Rankings:
- No. 6 in Top Think Tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- No. 11 in Best Quality Assurance and Integrity Policies and Procedures
- No. 17 in Best Policy Study/Report Produced by a Think Tank
- No. 25 in Top Think Tanks with Annual Operating Budgets of Less Than US$5 Million
- No. 29 in Best Trans-disciplinary Research Programme at a Think Tank
- No. 34 in Best Use of Social Networks
- No. 38 in Best Advocacy Campaign
- No. 38 in Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed by a Think Tank
- No. 47 in Best Think Tank Network
- No. 49 in Think Tanks with the Most Significant Impact on Public Policy
- No. 50 in Top Education Policy Think Tanks
- No. 52 in Best Think Tank Network
- No. 53 in Think Tanks with Outstanding Policy-Oriented Public Programs
- No. 63 in Top Think Tanks with the Best External Relations/Public Engagement Program
- No. 66 in Best Use of Social Networks
- No. 67 in Best Managed Think Tanks
- No. 99 in Top Think Tanks Worldwide (U.S. and non-U.S.)

Panel speakers for the event included Dato’ Chevy Beh, Founder and CEO of BookDoc; Mr. Henry Goh, Co-Founder and Group COO of Macrokosk; Ms. Figa Liyana Chong, Founder of PIQOS; and Mr. Zaim Mohzani, Founder and Principal of National College of Hospitality.

During discussions, the panel highlighted that entrepreneurship can be used as a platform to overcome chronic issues of youth unemployment. However, this requires them to have creativity and innovation to overcome obstacles, as well as a malleable and adaptive environment is needed to encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship. Mentorship is a crucial factor for new start-ups which can be connected through extensive engagements with other grassroot entrepreneurs. Young people also need to develop confidence and leadership. Young entrepreneurs also faced difficulty in securing funding but fortunately government initiatives like MaGIC have been implemented to address such limitations.

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh moderating the session with Minister in the Prime Minister Dept Dato Seri Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar.

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh with a member of Parliament from Morocco, Ms Ng Yeen Seen and Tan Sri Dr. Munir Majid.

Minister in the Prime Minister’s Dept Dato Dr. Wee Ka Siong, Former Prime Minister Tun Abdulahh Badawi and Minister of International Trade & Industry, Dato Seri Mustapa Mohamed at the opening of the conference.

Dedicated To Creating A Better Society

WORLD HALAL CONFERENCE

AMBASSADORS PANEL:
“STRATEGIC FORESIGHT ON ECONOMIC & SOCIAL ASPECTS”

ASLI CEO moderated the Ambassador Panel at the World Halal Conference.

Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh with a member of Parliament from Morocco, Ms Ng Yeen Seen and Tan Sri Dr. Munir Majid.

Participates at the CPPS Roundtable.

Halal Conference.
THE HEALTHCARE FORUM 2016
“Globalising Malaysian Healthcare: Challenges and Opportunities” > 29 MARCH 2016

ASLI organised the Healthcare Forum 2016 themed “Globalising Malaysian Healthcare: Challenges and Opportunities” on 29th March 2016 at the Palace of the Golden Horses in Kuala Lumpur. This forum was supported by the Palace of the Golden Horses, REDtone MEX, Pfizer, Prudential, the Association of Private Hospitals of Malaysia (APHM), the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia (APFM), InfoMed and Oxford Business Group. A total of 140 people attended, which comprised of industry professionals, regulators and academics.

The first session was entitled “Balancing Healthcare Demand and Supply and the Era of Globalisation: Opportunities and Challenges”. Dr Hooshmand Palany, Healthcare Specialist from Agensi Inovasi Malaysia moderated the panel comprising of Dato’ Dr Azman Abu Bakar, Director of the Medical Development Division of the Ministry of Health Malaysia; Mr Leonard Ariff Abdul Shatar, Group Managing Director of CCM; Mr Ahmad Shahizam Mohd Shariff, CEO of Pantai Holdings and Prof Dr Rifat Atun, Director of Global Health Systems Cluster at Harvard University. They touched on the rise of non-communicable diseases, the potential of telemedicine, the economics of healthcare and the management of resources, as well as the limited impact of the AEC and some concerns over certain clauses in the TPP.

The next session was “Exceeding Expectations: Ensuring Private Healthcare is Indeed Better Healthcare”. The moderator was Dato’ Dr Jacob Thomas, President of APHM while the panelists were Prof Dr Rifat Atun, Director of Global Health Systems Cluster at Harvard University; Mr Ahmad Shahizam Mohd Shariff, CEO of Pantai Holdings and Dato’ Chevy Beh, Founder and CEO of BookDoc. They discussed about the third way (i.e. hybrid) consisting of public-private partnerships and outsourcing in addition to social organisations in the public sector that possess many private characteristics; the complementary relationship between public and private; and the role of private insurance. Thereafter, Mr Yee Kar Fong, CEO of REDtone MEX delivered a special presentation on “The Use of Collaborative Telemedicine Systems”, citing its many benefits. “Becoming the Destination of Choice in ASEAN for Medical Tourism: Rising Above the Competition” was the topic of the third session. Dr Chua Hong Teck, former Director of NKEA-ETP from PEMANDU moderated the panel comprising Ms Shereene Azura Aidi, CEO of Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council and Ms Kiranjit Kaur, Director of Transformational Health at Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific. They saw the need for Malaysia to differentiate herself from her regional competitors by undertaking an assessment of her key specialties and focusing on them to grow the medical tourism sector in terms of both arrivals and revenues.

At the Opening Ceremony, ASLI CEO and Director Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh warmly welcomed the delegates and delivered the introductory remarks which commended the Ministry of Health for their bold vision. Next, Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew delivered the Welcoming Remarks and proposed to host the next forum over 2 days in order to incorporate a component on Chinese medicine. The Opening Keynote Address was delivered by YB Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, Minister of Health Malaysia. YB spoke about the need to promote and incentivise healthy living such as encouraging more physical activity and less sugar consumption. YB also drew attention to the need to strengthen primary care and upgrade ICT for better operational efficiency and patient outcomes. Also at the Opening Ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ASLI and the Palace of the Golden Horses to host the following year’s conference.

The fourth and final session was on “Making the Golden Years the Best Years: Innovating Aged and Palliative Care”. Tan Sri Dr Mani Jegathesan, Chairman of the Medical Committee and Executive Board Member of the Olympic Council of Asia moderated the panel that was made up of Dr Sylvia McCarthy, Medical Director of Hospis Malaysia; Dato’ Dr Chan Kok Ewe, Chairman of Penang Health Association; Dr Thomas Sk Tang, Head of Department at Penang Medical College and Dr Thomas Sk Tang, Chief Executive of Hospis Malaysia; Dato’ Dr Chan Kok Ewe, Chairman of Penang Health Association; and Prof Dr Abdul Rashid Khan, Head of Department at Penang Medical College and Dr Thomas Sk Tang, Director of Sustainability, Asia from AECOM. The conversations focused on looking beyond retirement; palliative care as a basic human right and insurance coverage for home care; opportunities from the silver economy; social support for the elderly as well as intergenerational living.
Tan Sri Azman Hasim, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers and AmBank Group delivered the introductory speech in which he advised for the need to re-imagine the banking industry to one that is highly professional, trustworthy, and reputable; as well as capable of providing customers with the best service across both traditional and digital channels. Additionally, he said it should be a sector where students and graduates want to develop their careers and become the chartered bankers of the future.

Dato’ Muhammad Ibrahim, the newly appointed Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia, in his address, noted changes in the pace of disruptive technology, which he said, are challenging existing business models in various sectors. Despite a challenging economic environment, successful implemented measures have led to steady economic growth of 4-6% over the past five years. He also pointed out that the Malaysian economy has been only moderately affected by external development shocks due to its openness and integration with the international financial system. Despite this resilience of the Malaysian economy and strength of its fundamentals, Bank Negara predicted that the Malaysian economy would grow at a slightly slower 4-4.5% for 2016. Dato’ Muhammad Ibrahim also announced that Bank Negara would introduce a framework for fintech firms to test innovation in the financial services operational environment. This framework would deliver regulatory clarity for fintech start-ups, banks and consumers, and lower barriers to entry and accelerate the time-to-market for productive innovation, resulting in up scaling their activities to better anticipate and account for regulatory expectations.

In a session moderated by ASLI Director and CPPS Chairman, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam identified challenges banks faced in relation to new technologies. A lack of awareness of some technologies was seen as a major problem. It was noted that the banking industry also faces many problems in getting the right talent, who are crucial in spurring innovation. In-house training and a relook of the syllabus of tertiary education to train up the right skills were said to be needed to be looked at. During a special World Bank presentation by Mr. Jose de Luna Martinez, Lead Financial Sector Specialist, on Economic Challenges, Banking Reforms and Implications for Malaysia, he reported that the economic outlook in Malaysia is looking very positive as it is located at one of the most dynamic regions in the world.

The luncheon keynote address was delivered by YB Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani, Deputy Minister of Finance II. He advised banks to play a part in development by providing those in the B40 group with business means in terms of financing and capital. YB Datuk Johari also hoped to see more banks and financial providers give out loans not only because of returns, but out of the intent of helping others to improve their standards of living. He also urged that the TPPA offers greater opportunity for local banks to expand into new markets. He advised local banks to up their game by providing efficient and top-notch services to their customers on the global stage in order to spur innovation. By doing this, Malaysian banks can be the banks of choice in the eyes of the international community, he urged. The summit also featured a special presentation by Mr. Faris Hadad-Zervos, Representative to Malaysia and Country Manager of The World Bank. He spoke about Malaysia’s past, current, and future economic prospects. Drawing from the latest PISA studies results, he compared Malaysia’s ranking with others in comparable income groups. He stressed that if Malaysia aspired to be a high-income nation by 2020, there is an urgent need to address its educational deficits to sustain continued productivity.
THE 20th MALAYSIAN BANKING SUMMIT

(left) Mr. Renzo Viegas, CEO of Group Consumer Banking, CIMB Bank Berhad; Mr. Michael Foong, Group Chief Strategy Officer of Maybank Group; ASLI Director Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, Mr. Joel Konreich, Group CEO of Alliance Bank; Dato Kong Sooi Lin, CEO of CIMB Investment Bank.

(left) Ambassador of Vietnam, Australian High Commissioner, Mr. Tay Kay Luan, Tan Sri Eddy Chen and Tan Sri Mohd Sheriff Kassim at the event luncheon.

(left) ASLI Chief Business Partnership Office/SVP Mr. Max Say, Ms. Seow-Chien Chew Partner of Bain & Company Malaysia Inc; Mr. David Hovenden, Managing Director of Southeast Asia, PwC Strategy& (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd; Mr. Chu Hong Keong, Former CIO of HSBC Bank Mspa Bhd.

(left) Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh presenting a memento to Mr. Faris Hadad-Zervos, Representative to Malaysia and Country Manager of The World Bank Group.

(left) Mr. Goh Peng Ooi, Group Executive Chairman of Silverlake Axis speaking at the Summit.

(left) ASLI Chief Marketing Officer Ms. Melissa Ong, Mrs. Nora Manaf, Group Chief Human Capital Officer of Maybank Group; Mr. Tay Kay Luan, Chief Executive Officer of Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers; Mr. Reza Ghazali, Office Managing Director of Korn/Ferry; Mr. Anthony Raja Devadoss, Vice President – Asia Pacific of Kelly Outsourcing & Consulting Group; Mr. Pathik Gupta, Head of South East Asia, McLagan (AoN Hewitt); Mrs. Hamidah Naziadin, Group Chief People Officer of CIMB Group.

(left) ASLI Director Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam presenting a memento to Mr. Michael Foong, Chief Strategy Officer of Maybank Group.

Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani, Deputy Minister of Finance II with the Australian High Commissioner and Sponsors of the Banking Summit.
The Malaysia-Indonesia Business Council (MIBC) organised a business mission to Jakarta and Lampung on 6 & 7 April 2016. Tun Ahmad Sarji (Chairman) headed the delegation comprising representatives from Amanah Nusantara International, ASLI, BIMP-EAGA Malaysia Business Council, I&P Group, MATRADE, PNB and Sime Darby Plantations.

A joint meeting of the MIBC-IMBC was held on 6 April 2016 with 18 attendees from IMBC including Bapak Tanri Abeng (Chairman). Bapak Tanri Abeng is currently also Chairman of PERTAMINA, Indonesia’s state-owned O&G Corporation. The meeting provided a platform for members from both sides to network and share about their business interests as well as to discuss about the re-launching of the councils. Key opportunities identified included financing, infrastructure, education, housing and property development, logistics and F&B.

On 7 April 2016, Bapak Tanri Abeng joined the MIBC delegation to meet with the Governor of Lampung, Bapak Ridho Ficardo and his officials. At the meeting, Tun Ahmad Sarji provided an overview of the MIBC-IMBC as well as a brief about MIBC members’ interest in Indonesia. Bapak Governor presented the main investment opportunities available in Lampung (i.e. plantation such as palm oil, paddy, bananas, coffee and coconut; animal husbandry especially cows and chickens; shrimp farming; free trade zone development; power plant development as well as township development) and emphasised his warm welcome for G2G as well as B2B cooperation between Lampung and Malaysia.

ASLI CEO & SVP ATTEND FORUM IN MOROCCO

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Michael Yeoh and Chief Partnership Officer/SVP, Mr. Max Say were invited by the Government of Morocco to attend the Cransa Montana Forum on South -South and African Nations Cooperation hosted by the Government of Morocco. The speakers included ministers from African countries; academic and business leaders from Europe, Asia and USA. Among them are US civil rights leader Rev Jesse Jackson and the First Lady of Afghanistan.

ASLI CHAIRMAN, CEO & COO HONOURED

ASLI CEO, Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh was recently elected to be a Fellow of the Institute of Directors, United Kingdom

ASLI COO, Ms Ng Yeen Seen was made a Global Young Leader by the World Economic Forum

ASLI Chairman, Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah was appointed by the Prime Minister to the Global Science & Innovation Advisory Council
ASLI CHINESE NEW YEAR OPEN HOUSE

VIPs at ASLI Chinese New Year Open House

Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Tan Sri Wong Fooong Meng, Tan Sri Joseph Kurup and Tan Sri Radio Mansor


ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh greeting Dato Seri David Yeat

ASLI CEO Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh greeting Dato Seri Desmond To, Mr. Max Say, Tan Sri Dr. Michael Yeoh, Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, Ms. Lillian Too, Ms. Jean Wong and Mr. Matahari Lee

ASLI Director Tan Sri Murphy Pakiam, Archbishop Emeritus of Kuala Lumpur, Rev Julian Leow, Catholic Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Minister in PM’s Dept Tan Sri Joseph Kurup; ASLI Director Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam; Minister in PM’s Dept Datuk Paul Low; then Senate President Tan Sri Abu Zahar and ASLI Director Tan Sri Razman Hashim.

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Former Minister Dato Chua Jui Meng, Former IGP Tun Hanif Omar and Datin Honey Chua.


Ms. Ng Yeen Seen with Dato Lim Si Pin and Selangor Gerakan Leaders.

Ms. Jean Wong, New Zealand High Commissioner Dr. John Subritzky and Dato Noor Faridah Mr. Goh, Ms. Ng Yeen Seen, Puan Sri Kurup, Tan Sri Joseph Kurup, Tan Sri Razman Hashim and Mr. Henry Goh.

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