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PACING FORWARD WITH STREAM – A WISE CHOICE? ‘From STEM to STREAM – Innovating Malaysian Education’ 1ST THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SERIES ON EDUCATION POLICY

Bandar Sunway, 6 March 2019 – The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) in partnership with Malaysian Scientific Association (MSA) organised the 1st Thought Leadership Series on Education Policy at the Sunway Lagoon Club, Selangor. The welcome address was delivered by Tan Sri Dato’ (Dr) Ramon Navaratnam, Chairman, ASLI Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS). He stressed on the need to support and heed the government’s call for a greater public and private partnership to reform the education system, specifically moving forward with STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Arts, Engineering, Mathematics) rather than focusing solely on achieving the 60:40 STEM to Arts enrolment quota.

As the discussion commenced, several important points were raised during a dialogue session co-chaired by Tan Sri Dato’ (Dr) Ramon Navaratnam and Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Mazlan Othman, President of the Malaysian Scientific Association (MSA). Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Mazlan argued that although she welcomes the Ministry of Education’s effort to inculcate STREAM into the curriculum, this raised an important question of whether the students can cope with the sudden change in their education system, again. Tan Sri Dato’ (Dr) Ramon meanwhile added that such an expansion in the curriculum will surely widen the career opportunities for Malaysian students in the near future, creating more holistic, value-driven students and in turn diversifying Malaysia’s human capital pool.

A discussion was also held on the future job prospects led by Dr Tan Shu Ying, Principal Analyst, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT). She asserted that STREAM as proposed by the government is too idealistic at a time where Science and Mathematics-based learning need to be amped up in order to propel Malaysia to achieve a developed nation status in the near future.

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato’ Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Rector of IIUM, in his presentation opened the floor for a debate on STREAM where a robust discourse was held on the government’s effort to reform the education system in regards to the curriculum.

This roundtable discussion was intended to tackle multiple issues faced by the current education system to propose a holistic and quality education in equipping students for the future.

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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 25 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

About MSA (Malaysian Scientific Association)

Malaysian Scientific Association (MSA) is a premier professional association registered under the Societies Act since 1955 with the main aim to promote the advancement of science and technology in Malaysia. Through the years, MSA has played an active role in organising national and international scientific conferences and seminars, publishing scientific publications, conducting public education of science and youth technopreneurship development programmes, and conferring recognition to distinguished scientists and leadership. MSA has engaged ministries and state governments, national and international scientific and technological professional associations, science promotion institutions, academia and educationists as well as chambers of commerce, charitable organisations and youth groups to accomplish its missions.

MSA has played a leadership role, representing and championing the Malaysian scientific and technological fraternities in science related national issues. MSA works closely with think-tanks and national leaders of education and industries.

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