

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deepening Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals

ASEAN Sustainable Development Summit 2019

Bandar Sunway, 18 November 2019 – The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI), the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (JSC) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Malaysia (SDSN) jointly organised the ASEAN Sustainable Development Summit 2019 (ASD2019) at the Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa. An evolution of the ASEAN Ministers Workshop inaugurated in 2017, ASD2019 convened ministers and senior public officials from most ASEAN countries in a one-day event to explore the region’s efforts and strategies towards achieving sustainable development agenda.

Themed “The Future Together: Deepening Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals”, ASD2019 comprised 3 plenary sessions coupled with 2 sets of parallel tracks in between focussing on pertinent themes such as urbanisation, education, inequality and inclusive growth, technological transformations, and responsible corporate action.

Chaired by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, Chair of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University and a Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on the SDGs, Plenary Session 1 discussed contemporary challenges facing ASEAN’s sustainable development. The panellists for this session were YB Hajah Zuraida Binti Kamaruddin, Minister of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia, HE Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Minister Delegate attached to the Prime Minister, Cambodia and HE Dr Safri Burhanuddin, Deputy Minister, Coordination Ministry for Maritime and Investment Affairs, Republic of Indonesia.

Meanwhile, in his welcome address titled, “The Future Together for A Sustainable World”, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Founder and Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, suggested that ASEAN may want to consider adopting the Shared Prosperity Vision (SPV) 2030, announced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia recently, as a regional initiative. The SPV 2030 incorporates all major elements of the 17 SDGs. He concluded that building a sustainable future requires the commitment of all elements of society – the private sector, academia, civil society, and, of course, every single individual.

Professor Woo Wing Thye, Director of the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University, chaired and spoke at the Plenary Session 2 alongside fellow speakers such as HE Thongpahn Savanphet, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR, HE Kim Rithy, Vice Governor of Kandal Province, Cambodia and YB Steven Sim, Deputy Minister of Youth & Sports, Malaysia. The session explored the efforts taken by each ASEAN country in integrating innovation, technology and new development paradigms to achieve truly sustainable development.

The second half of the summit explored a variety of topics, including the environment and responsible corporate action. It also discussed the importance of investing in people through education, health and people’s wellbeing as well as the need to resolve the imperatives posed by urbanisation and the importance of addressing inequality to ensure inclusive growth. The parallel tracks convened regional experts as well as captains of industries to discuss imperatives, feasible and effective implementation strategies and solutions for ASEAN.

The final plenary session saw a discussion chaired by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs and featured YB Puan Yeo Bee Yin, Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, Malaysia and YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries Malaysia. The session revolved around the need to implement bold reforms for dynamic sustainable development.

In summarising the event. Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs stated, “The summit symbolises the ASEAN aspiration for a collective action in realising the SDG agenda. It is immensely heartening to witness the serious commitment by various stakeholders across the region here today. Therefore, ASEAN governments need to be dedicated in ensuring the effective delivery of the SDGs”.

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About Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI)

The Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute or in short “ASLI” is Malaysia’s leading independent, non-partisan and not-for-profit think-tank. Since its establishment in 1993, ASLI has established a renowned reputation as the definitive link between the public sector, the private sector, academia and civil society in pursuit of its mission of creating a better society. ASLI is owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF). We curate thought-provoking and intellectual dialogues in an effort to bring change in public policies for the betterment of society. We provide strategic analysis and advise on critical issues impacting the nation and beyond. In the wider Asia Pacific region, we capitalise on our influential network to harness best practices and connect strategic partners across APAC on highest-value business investment and trade opportunities to foster bilateral relations and economic growth. Further information of ASLI is available at www.asli.com.my

About the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development

The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development is a regional center of excellence that advances the achievement of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malaysia and Southeast Asia, tackling the sustainability agenda through education, training, research and policy advisory. The Center has a focus on research and policy practice, delivering world-class programs to train students, practitioners and policy leaders on sustainable initiatives while working in collaboration with industry, government bodies, NGOs and universities worldwide, to develop solutions related to the SDGs. Launched in December 2016, the Center operates out of Sunway University under the supervision of Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, one of the world’s leading experts in sustainable development. The Center was borne out of a \$10 million gift from the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

About The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was set up in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society.

SDSN is guided by a Leadership Council, which brings together global sustainable development leaders from all regions and all sectors, including civil society, public, and private sectors. Much of SDSN’s work is led by National or Regional SDSNs, which mobilize knowledge institutions around the SDGs. Established in 2013, the SDSN Malaysia network aims to support the localization of SDGs and their implementation, develop long-term transformation pathways for sustainable development, promote education around Agenda 2030, and launch solution initiatives.

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