



Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute  
*Dedicated To Creating A Better Society*

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**OPEN DIALOGUE ON MALAYSIAN EDUCATION**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 15 February 2019** – The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) held an Open Dialogue on Malaysian Education themed “Bridging the Gaps Within: Empowering Education for the Future Generation” on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 at the Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa. The event brought together educators, members of civil society, private sector representatives and academics, to exchange views on education reform directly with Minister of Education, YB Dr Maszlee Malik and senior officials from the Ministry.

In his opening address, YB Dr Maszlee spelled out his vision for a holistic, value-driven education system to be implemented by the Pakatan Harapan government in Malaysia. Amongst the list of initiatives that he highlighted were:

1. Inculcating values in the curriculum
2. A shift from STEM to STREAM, including the Arts and Reading as well as an emphasis on the humanities.
3. Private Higher Education Roadmap to cover issues like regulations, governance, internationalization, and more.

Earlier in his welcoming remarks, ASLI Chairman Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah, AO welcomed the government’s efforts to reform the system. “In several statements, the government — including the Prime Minister and YB Minister — has acknowledged that education reform is no longer an option, but an urgent imperative.”

“It is encouraging to note this willingness to re-examine how we teach, what we teach and where we teach. It is my hope that we can restructure our education system such that our younger generation will be armed not just with knowledge and skills when they venture into the wider world.”

“It must also instil in them a love for life-long learning. And it should teach them to make their way through life with Integrity as their guide, Humility as their virtue, and the pursuit of Excellence as their choice.”

In the lively dialogue that followed, participants voiced their candid views on what they perceived to be the shortcomings in the education system. The Minister responded to these views and the questions from the floor with detailed explanations of the initiatives contained in the national education roadmap.

Minister Dr Maszlee displayed great courtesy and civility in handling the occasionally rambunctious dialogue and received several rounds of applause in response to some of his answers.

ASLI commends the Ministry’s policy commitments in delivering holistic, value-driven education; engaging the private sector in reforms intended for the education system and a dedication towards ensuring quality education for all. We reiterate our support to the Ministry and the government in their nation building efforts.

ASLI is an independent, not-for-profit think tank. Charges made to attend our events are for the purpose of event organization, including follow up events that are usually held FOC. We wish to clarify that no payments are made to public organizations, ministers or officials for our events.

For the full video of the Open Dialogue, please log on to ASLI youtube: <https://youtu.be/tpu-UYQiDrl>

**Issued by :**  
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