



MEDIA RELEASE

THE LAUNCH OF THE MALAYSIA SCHOLARS ON KOREA (MASK) NETWORK AND THE PANEL DISCUSSION ON SEARCHING FOR A MALAYSIA-REPUBLIC OF KOREA COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

5 December 2017, The Westin Kuala Lumpur



Front row from left: YBhg Dato' Ganeson Sivagurunathan, YBhg Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, His Excellency Dr Yu Hyun-seok, YBhg Dato' Steven CM Wong with members of the MASK Network at the launch

Kuala Lumpur, 5 December 2017 – The Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Malaysia are pleased to announce the establishment of the Malaysia Scholars on Korea (MASK) Network. The establishment of the MASK Network is pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two parties signed in November 2016 that aims to promote research activities, facilitate information and knowledge exchanges, and foster better understanding and cooperation between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Malaysia.

In his opening remarks, YBhg Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa expressed his optimism for the MASK Network to facilitate greater cooperation, information and knowledge exchanges and closer ties between scholars and policymakers of Malaysia and the ROK. His Excellency Dr Yu Hyun-seok, on behalf of the ROK government emphasised the importance of this network of scholars to synergise efforts on Korean-related studies. Above that, His Excellency Dr Yu hopes that the MASK Network will play an active role as the bridge of friendship and understanding between the ROK and Malaysia, and to that end, the ROK Embassy in Malaysia will continue to look for opportunities to support such efforts.

In his keynote address, YBhg Dato' Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Undersecretary for East Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, highlighted the many similarities between Malaysia and the ROK as they both play active roles in contributing and addressing global and regional challenges. Furthermore, there are complimentary roles and new opportunities for both countries to explore through a comprehensive strategic partnership. This includes the renewable energy sector, beauty and cosmetics, information communication technology (ICT), biotechnology, halal products and services, health tourism, and the Islamic finance sectors.

As it stands, members of the MASK Network comprise of scholars from renowned universities in Malaysia such as the University of Malaya, National University of Malaysia (UKM), the International Islamic University Malaysia, Monash University in Malaysia, and researchers from ISIS Malaysia. The background of these scholars and researchers range from expertise on, and interest in ROK foreign policy, North Korean issues, inter-Korean relations, Malaysia-ROK trade relations, Korean culture and the Korean language.

Through the MASK Network, members are given opportunities to share research outcomes through lectures, seminars, forums and conferences. Topics of exploration may encompass areas such as political, security, trade, investments, science and technology as well as cultural relations.

In conjunction with the launch of the MASK Network was a panel discussion on “Searching for a Malaysia-Republic of Korea Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”. The esteemed panel consisted of Dr Kim Hyung Jong, Professor in the Department of International Relations in Yonsei University in the Republic of Korea, Dr Hoo Chiew Ping, Senior Lecturer in the School of History, Politics and Strategic Studies at the National University of Malaysia, and Dr Tan Er-Win, Visiting Senior Lecturer in the Department of International and Strategic Studies at the University of Malaya.

The distinguished panellists’ discussion for, and against a bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership between Malaysia and the ROK was timely as relations are quickly approaching its sixth decade.



From left: Dr Tan Er-Win, Dr Hoo Chiew Ping, Dr Kim Hyung Jong and YBhg Dato’ Steven CM Wong

The day’s events culminated with the launch of the MASK Network by YBhg Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa together with His Excellency Dr Yu Hyun-seok whom provided the members of the MASK Network with their certificate of membership and a token of appreciation.

As of 5 December 2017, MASK Network members consist of:

1. Farlina Said
Analyst
Foreign Policy and Security Studies
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
2. Dr Geetha Govindasamy
Senior Lecturer

Department of East Asian Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Malaya

3. Harris Zainul
Researcher
Economics, Trade and Regional Integration
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
4. Dr Hoo Chiew Ping
Senior Lecturer
Strategic Studies and International Relations Programme
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
National University of Malaysia
5. Dr Kuik Cheng-Chwee
Associate Professor
Strategic Studies and International Relations Programme
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
National University of Malaysia
6. Dr Melissa Wong Yuet Fun
Assistant Lecturer and Coordinator for Diploma of Higher Education Studies
School of Arts and Social Science
Monash University in Malaysia
7. Tunku Dr Mohar Tunku Mohd Mokhtar
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences
International Islamic University Malaysia
8. Dr Md Nasrudin Md Akhir
Associate Professor
Department of East Asian Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Malaya
9. Dr Park Chang Kyoo
Senior Lecturer
Department of East Asian Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Malaya
10. Dr Roy Anthony Rogers
Head
Department of International and Strategic Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Malaya
11. Shahrman Lockman
Senior Analyst
Foreign Policy and Security Studies
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
12. Dr Tan Er-Win
Visiting Senior Lecturer
Department of International and Strategic Studies

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Malaya

13. Dr Tan Soo Kee
Senior Lecturer
Department of East Asian Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Malaya
14. Wong Yan Yee
Language Teacher
Department of Asian and European Languages
Faculty of Languages and Linguistics
University of Malaya

The Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) was established on 8 April 1983 as an autonomous, not-for-profit research organization. ISIS Malaysia has a diverse research focus which includes economics, foreign policy, security studies, nation-building, social policy, technology, innovation and environmental studies. It also undertakes research collaboration with national and international organizations in important areas such as national development and international affairs.

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