

Thailand-Malaysia Think Tank and Scholar Network (TMTT/ MTTT) Inaugural Seminar

The first seminar of the Thailand-Malaysia Think Tank and Scholar Network (TMTT/ MTTT) themed 'Socio-Economic Cooperation in the Border Areas between Thailand and Malaysia,' was held from September 13-14, 2012 at the Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel in Thailand.

Jointly organised by the Direk Jayanama Center (DJC), Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University (TU), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Thailand Research Fund (TRF) and ISIS Malaysia, the seminar, which is to be held yearly, will provide a platform for research cooperation between Thai and Malaysian academics. The outcome will provide research-based policy recommendations to enhance the long-standing friendly relations between the two countries. It will also address common challenges, such as that of the demarcation line, dual citizenship, and insurgency in Thailand's southern border provinces through joint research projects, and serve as a platform to explore additional potential cooperation.

The objectives of the project are firstly, to raise awareness of the socio-economic dimension of Thai-Malaysia relations, with a focus on border areas. Secondly, it is to provide the space for academic exchange among scholars, to enhance the body of knowledge and foster partnership between scholars and academic institutions in the two countries.

Various research collaboration projects were initiated between academics from both countries encompassing the following themes: economics, health, youth, tourism, education, and socio-culture with a focus on southern Thailand and northern Malaysia.

At the one day seminar, The Honorable Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Chairman of the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM), and former Prime Minister of Malaysia, delivered the keynote address titled 'From Fair to Flourishing: Thai-Malaysia Relations in the 21st Century and Beyond'. (The full text of Tun Abdullah Badawi's speech follows)



Group photo