

## **From Strength to Empowerment: The Next Generation of US-Malaysia Relations**

Kuala Lumpur, 22 May 2012. This report released by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC affirms the importance of the US-Malaysia bilateral relationship for the long term interests of both countries. It presents recommendations on moving those ties to a higher level in three main areas:

1. Political and security cooperation;
2. Trade and investment ties; and
3. People-to-people initiatives.

The report authors call for a 2012 visit to Malaysia by President Barack Obama along with a senior U.S. business delegation; regularised exchanges of members of the legislature and judiciary as well as of diplomats and policy specialists; strengthened military ties through enhanced integration, training, and exchange programmes for senior officers; the conclusion and implementation of a high-level Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement; and the establishment of a U.S.-Malaysia Foundation for Education, among other recommendations.

The report is the collaborative effort of a year-long study, "From Strength to Empowerment: The Next Generation of U.S.-Malaysia Relations" jointly undertaken by ISIS Malaysia and the Southeast Asia Program at CSIS. The report's recommendations were earlier formally presented to YAB Dato' Sri Najib Razak in November 2011 ahead of the prime minister's meetings in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Hawaii and the East Asia Summit in Bali.

The recommendations were developed through a series of highlevel meetings and consultations in Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, and Washington, D.C. involving top business executives, government officials, policy shapers, civil society leaders, and academics.

The report can be downloaded from the websites of either [ISIS Malaysia](#) or [CSIS](#), or ordered from CSIS in hard copy.