

ISIS FOCUS



• PP 5054/11/2012 (031098)

• Issue No. 9 • September 2012

The ISIS International Affairs Forum



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INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (ISIS) MALAYSIA
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ABOUT ISIS MALAYSIA

The Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia was established on 8 April 1983, in realization of a decision made by the Malaysian Government to set up an autonomous, not-for-profit research organization that would act as the nation's think-tank. ISIS Malaysia was envisioned to contribute towards sound public policy formulation and discourse.

The research mandate of ISIS therefore spans a wide area. It includes economics, foreign policy and security studies, social policy, and technology, innovation, environment and sustainability.

ISIS Malaysia today fosters dialogue and promotes the exchange of views and opinions at both national and international levels. It undertakes research in collaboration with national and international organizations, in important areas such as national development and international affairs.

ISIS Malaysia also engages actively in Track Two diplomacy, fostering high-level dialogues at national, bilateral and regional levels, through discussions with influential policymakers and thought leaders.

RESEARCH

Economics

Research in this area is generally aimed at promoting rapid and sustained economic growth and equitable development in the nation. We study specific (rather than generic) issues that concern the nation's competitiveness, productivity, growth and income. Areas of research include macroeconomic policy, trade and investment, banking and finance, industrial and infrastructure development and human capital and labour market development. The objective of all our research is to develop actionable policies and to spur institutional change.

Foreign Policy and Security Studies

The primary aim of this programme is to provide relevant policy analyses on matters pertaining to Malaysia's strategic interests as well as regional and international issues, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific Region. These include security studies, foreign policy, Southeast Asian politics and military affairs.

Social policy

Demographic and socio-cultural trends are changing Malaysian society and the social policy programme was established to respond to these developments. Research in this area is concerned with effective nation building, and fostering greater national unity. In particular, we look at issues involving the youth, women and underprivileged communities. In conducting its research, ISIS Malaysia networks with non-governmental organizations and civil society groups.

Technology, Innovation, Environment & Sustainability (TIES)

The TIES programme provides strategic foresight, collaborative research and policy advice to the public sector, businesses and policy audiences, on technology, innovation, environment and sustainable development. Its focus includes green growth as well as energy, water and food security. Towards this end, TIES has been active in organizing dialogues, forums, policy briefs and consultancies.

HIGHLIGHTS

ISIS Malaysia has, among others, researched and provided concrete policy recommendations for:

- Greater empowerment and revitalization of a national investment promotion agency;
- A strategic plan of action to capitalize on the rapid growth and development of a vibrant Southeast Asian emerging economy;
- A Master Plan to move the Malaysian economy towards knowledge-based sources of output growth;
- The conceptualization of a national vision statement;
- Effective management and right-sizing of the public sector; and
- Strengthening of ASEAN institutions and co-operation processes.

ISIS Malaysia has organized the highly regarded Asia-Pacific Roundtable, an annual conference of high-level security policymakers, implementers and thinkers, since 1986.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING

As a member of the Track Two community, ISIS Malaysia participates in the following networks:

- ASEAN-ISIS network of policy research institutes;
- Council for Security and Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (CSCAP);
- Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT); and
- Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC).

It is also a partner institute of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Editorial Team

Mahani Zainal Abidin
Steven Wong
Susan Teoh
Thangam K Ramnath

Design

Razak Ismail
Jefri Hambali

Photography

Jefri Hambali / Halil Musa

Published by

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

No. 1, Persiaran Sultan Salahuddin

P.O. Box 12424, 50778 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +603 2693 9366

Fax: +603 2691 5435

Email: info@isis.org.my

Website: www.isis.org.my

India's Look East Policy: From Economic Integration to Strategic Stakeholder in the Asia Pacific Region

IISIS Malaysia held an International Affairs Forum entitled 'India's Look East Policy: From Economic Integration to Strategic Stakeholder in the Asia Pacific Region,' on 18 July 2012. The speaker was Professor **Baladas Ghoshal**, Distinguished Fellow, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi, India. The Forum was introduced by **Dato' Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin**, CE, ISIS Malaysia, and moderated by **Dr Tang Siew Mun**, Director, Foreign Policy and Security Studies, ISIS Malaysia. ISIS Analyst **Zarina Zainuddin** reports.

Professor Baladas Ghoshal said that India's Look East Policy (LEP) started in 1992, when then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao started economic reforms, and began engagement with Southeast Asia. The LEP was not a new policy. It was merely a continuation of a policy that India had put in place since independence. Back then, Southeast Asia was an important component of India's foreign policy. India was also quite active in the international and domestic political development of the region. The nation played an important role in Indonesia's struggle for independence in terms of ideological support (anti colonialism, anti racism, etc) and at times, it also extended financial support.

The difference between the earlier 'LEP' and the current one, said Ghoshal, is that the former focused on bilateral relations while the latter focused on multilateral relations. Ghoshal highlighted India becoming Asean's full dialogue partner in 1995 as an example of the former's multilateral engagement. India continues to participate in Asean-initiated processes such as the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Forum (EAS).

The second difference between the earlier and later periods was that India's involvement in the region was mostly political, particularly in terms of ideology such as anti-colonialism, etc. Economic ties did exist but were very minimal. From 1992, the nature of engagement changed,



Baladas Ghoshal

turning more towards economics, followed by strategic interactions.

In 1991, the Indian economy was at the crossroads. Prime Minister Rao embarked upon economic reforms; he tried to push India away from the socialist economic system that it was practicing at the time and towards the global economic scene.

Why Southeast Asia? Prime Minister Rao's speech in 1994 in Singapore gave a clue — Southeast Asia could be a spring board for India's entry into the global market. Southeast Asia was already part of the global economy and its economies were quite open. Besides, some of its economies, such as Malaysia, Thailand, etc, were being referred to as the tiger economies; many of these countries are considered models of economic development for other Third World countries.

There is also a strategic content to India's relations with Southeast Asia, although it was not stated clearly at the time. The strategic content was Myanmar or Burma. In 1988, India finding the Junta, the ruling regime in Myanmar despicable, and deploring the actions taken by the regime in repressing its citizens and elections, etc, chose to break contact with the nation.

But by 1991-92, India discovered that non-engagement did not affect the regime's way of doing things. India, in essence implementing an extension of US policy, had not brought about any major change in Myanmar's military regime. By 1992, India discovered that China had entrenched itself both economically and strategically in Myanmar. India realized that despite Myanmar's despicable human rights record, it needed to engage and to do business with that nation.

Ghoshal characterized 1992 to 2003 as the 'first phase' of India's LEP, 2003 to 2010 as the second phase and 2010 to the present as the third.

The first phase involved India's mainly economic engagement with Asean, through dialogue partnership, annual meetings, and through the ARF. Outside of the United Nations, Asean was the only organization that India engaged with. India gained experience in strategic as well as economic engagement. It learned to share its thoughts with the leaders of Southeast Asia. During this period, India's engagement was fairly low-profile. Economically, India did not gain

much; there was a slight increase in trade. Strategically too, Ghoshal felt India was not much on the radar of Southeast Asia.

In 2003, India signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC). TAC is a precondition for membership in the East Asian Summit. India was getting closer to Southeast Asia because as Ghoshal put it, 'it almost became part of the club.' During this period, there was a shift from the political-economic to the strategic, and a number of strategic agreements were signed with members of Asean — Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Another shift was that India expanded its area of engagement from Southeast Asia to East Asia, specifically South Korea and Japan. Thus, India's LEP was no longer only about Southeast Asia but also East Asia.

There was also a shift in the concept of Asia. Previously, India was not considered part of Asia (Ghoshal thinks this is an American perception). Asia Pacific stopped at the border of India and Myanmar. In 2003, Asean began to accept India as part of Asia and Southeast Asia. Prime Minister Rao did not only consider India as part of Asia but also part of Asia Pacific. As such India, during this period, was also looking to extend its engagement further to cover the Western Pacific. The year 2003 was the turning point in India's Look East Policy.

Between 2003 and 2005, India became a member of the East Asian Summit. The Indian government began modern diplomacy in the region and started participating in military

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exercises with the US and Japan, among others. India expanded its ties beyond just Asean and begun to engage with other countries within the Asia Pacific region.

In 2005, India joined the EAS as one of the founding members. Initially, Asean was divided on India's entry (as well as that of others). Malaysia, South Korea and China opposed while Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Japan — strong allies of the US — pushed for the inclusion of India (and Australia and New Zealand). Ghoshal thinks that during this period, China's 'peaceful' rise as a powerhouse in the region made some Asean members a bit uneasy. India was thought of as a counterbalance to China's influence. Its rising power was noted globally. Its economic growth, technological advancements, and IT prowess, Ghoshal believes, influenced the thinking of some countries in the region and that led to the inclusion of India as a member of the EAS.

While India cannot join Asean due to geographic factors, it has become part of the group, and almost part of the region by joining EAS.

According to Ghoshal, in the phase between 2003 and 2010, another defining moment would be 2009, when India signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods (not services) with Asean. Initial talks on the FTA started in 2001, but India's domestic politics interfered — the southern states were against the FTA and the nature of India's coalition style government made it hard for the FTA to be pushed through. China seized the situation and used it as ground to reject more active participation by India in many of the forums in the region.

During the Asean Summit in Singapore in 2007, Japan and some other Southeast Asian countries suggested that India join in the Asean economic community but China vehemently opposed the suggestion, just as it opposed India's participation in the East Asian Summit in 2005. In

***India was thought of
as a counterbalance to
China's influence***

2007, there was another intense debate between China and countries such as Japan and Indonesia, on India's participation in the Asean economic community. China was able to argue that India's minimal economic interaction with the region did not justify its participation in the Asean economic community.

For years India was unable to sign the FTA with Asean due to internal political opposition. It was only in 2009 that the current Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who had begun to master domestic political moves was able to argue with his cabinet that the India-Asean Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was not about economics but about politics. Unless India signed the FTA, it would be left behind or left out of the region.

India signed the FTA in Bangkok in 2009, and interestingly, this restarted cooperation in the economic sphere between India and Southeast Asia. Ghoshal pointed out that the FTA is on goods and not on services and investment; in the trade of goods, Asean has the advantage over India. On the FTA on services and investment, in which India has the economic advantage, negotiations are still ongoing and this time, the laggard is Asean, but Ghoshal expects the matter to be resolved in a year's time. Regardless, he thinks that India should do more to further increase economic interaction, so as to be 'really' part of this region. And the signing of the FTA in services and investment would bring economic integration between India and Southeast Asia even closer.

The year 2010 brought about another shift in India's LEP. In March 2010, during the annual Delhi Dialogue aimed at fostering closer relations between India and Asean, the Thai Foreign Minister had asked why India was not playing a

The decision to increase engagement with Asean countries can also be seen as India's response to the development by China of its 'string of pearls'

bigger role in Southeast Asia. This is because even as India is increasing integration into the region in the economic, political and strategic spheres, India-China relations are always at the back of India's mind.

China is both the determinant and constraint in India's Look East Policy: determinant because relations between India and China are not easy — there are times when relations are good and times when they are not. Factors such as common borders, emerging power status and the rivalry that entails, as well as historical rivalry and conflict have all led to China acting as the determinant in India's interactions with the region. Constraint because India feels its interactions with Southeast Asian countries might be interpreted in China as anti-China. India has always been cautious about strategic interactions with the Southeast Asian region. So until about 2010, though countries like Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore were demanding that India play a bigger role in this region, India's role was very moderate.

The turning point came in 2010. China began to talk of its interest in the South China Sea and as claimed by some, referred to the area as China's core interest. It is a claim that China has denied. Regardless, Ghoshal said, he began to see commentaries in some countries in Southeast Asia registering concern over China's activities in the South China Sea and their potential destabilizing impact. Prior to this, China's peaceful rise, aided by its charm diplomacy, was seen as mostly positive by most countries in Southeast Asia.

The tension heightened when, in July 2010, US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton proclaimed that 'America has a stake in freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.' Ghoshal said this development opened a new chapter in the strategic relationship between the countries in the region. He thinks that at this point, India underwent a change in its regional perspective: it felt that it should engage strategically with some of the 'key countries' in Asean, one of which was Vietnam. Prior to the strengthening of relations, India and Vietnam had 'traditional relations', much like in the case with Indonesia.

The decision to increase engagement with Asean countries can also be seen as India's response to the development by China of its 'string of pearls.' By 2010, China had begun to develop relationships with some of India's neighbours. Most notable was China's development or building of ports around South Asia: Gwadar in Pakistan, the upgrading of Chittagong in Bangladesh, Hambantota in Sri Lanka, as well the previously mentioned cooperation with Myanmar.

From India's perspective, China's actions appeared to be aimed at encircling India. Whether this was intentional or not is immaterial. Ghoshal said, 'In international relations and politics, perceptions play a much more important role than reality.' Hence, in a tit-for-tat reaction, India increased cooperation with countries in Asean.

There was one controversial incident involving both nations in the South China Sea. India had engaged in oil exploration off the shores of Vietnam, in an area of overlapping claims by Vietnam and China, where for years there had not been a lot of activity; in 2010, Blocks 127 and 128 saw some activity. China threatened India, claiming the latter had encroached into Chinese territory and warned that this could lead to a deterioration of relations. In June 2012, India withdrew its oil exploration off Vietnam. The official explanation was that the oil potential of the blocks was not commercially viable. However,



Discussion time

said Ghoshal, 'certain developments' that took place subsequently gave one the idea that an 'understanding' had been arrived at with China.

Ghoshal described US-India relations during the Bush (Jr) era as 'glorious,' as evidenced by the various types of cooperation, including the resumption of nuclear trade with India, and cooperation in energy and satellite technology. However relations changed when President Obama took office. America wanted India to play a bigger role in the region, and for the first time, actually referred to India as a stabilizing factor in the South and Southeast Asia region. The president wanted India to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which potentially could limit India's nuclear programme. At the same time, he wanted to concentrate on building US-China relations.

However, despite the talk of a Sino-US Condominium G-2, tensions begun to creep into US-China relations. The US begun to look to India again, as highlighted by US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta's statement — 'India lynchpin US strategy in Asia.' China also changed its tune, with

the Chinese leadership proclaiming that Sino-Indian ties would constitute the most 'important bilateral partnership of the century.'

India found itself being courted by both the US and China. However, India had no interest in being the 'swing state' or in being closely aligned with either side. While India agreed on the concept of free navigation, it did not want the US to be too closely involved in the region. It felt that any future security architecture should be 'multilateral' in nature, and not a bilateral alliance system. As regards China, India wanted it to work on the lingering problems that had beset both countries, ranging from common borders, to trade, to the betterment of bilateral relations.

In conclusion, the picture of India that now emerges is that of a nation that is an active and important player in the region, said Ghoshal. India has two advantages: it has no historical baggage, and it has no territorial claims in the region. Hence, India can emerge as a factor for the region's peace and stability and its participation in regional arrangements is bound to be positive.

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

Fair to Flourishing: Thai-Malaysia Relations in the 21st Century and Beyond

*Socio-economic Cooperation in the Border Areas between Thailand and Malaysia **

*Speech by The Hon Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi,
Former Prime Minister of Malaysia, at the 1st Joint Seminar of the
Thailand-Malaysia Think Tank and Scholar Network (TMTTS/MTTTS)
on 13th September 2012 at the
Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel, Thailand*

It gives me great pleasure to speak to you at this 1st Joint Seminar of the Thailand-Malaysia Think Tank and Scholars Network. This is an opportunity and also an initiative. I would like to thank Professor Siriporn Wajjwalku and her staff at the Direk Jayanama Center of Thammasat University, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the Thailand Research Fund, and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia for having collaborated to organise it. I would particularly like to note the valuable role played by the Royal Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur for having mooted this initiative, and in seeing it move forward.

In my opinion, the formation of a joint scholars' network is long overdue. Malaysia and Thailand have developed critical relationships across a broad spectrum of human interactions, and I believe that your contributions will greatly deepen understanding and advance the agenda for mutual peace, security, prosperity and good relations between our two countries.

My talk this morning is entitled 'Fair to Flourishing: Thai-Malaysia Relations in the 21st Century and Beyond.' I believe that the relationship between our two countries can be described as more than fair, even bordering, in some respects, on excellent. But there is still so much potential, so much more that can be

** ISIS Malaysia reproduces the full text of the keynote address*



Abdullah Ahmad Badawi

achieved, that the best and flourishing days are yet ahead of us. Yes, there have been occasional hiccups like in any relationship. But the foundations of our relationship are sound. When I was Prime Minister, there were issues of concern between our countries. I found, however, that I could always express our concerns with Thai leaders in a frank and forthright manner. I think that this is symptomatic of a mature relationship. What we need to do now is to build on this foundation for the greater good of our peoples.

Our two countries share more than a common geographical border, the monsoon winds and, in the South, some common biological and cultural roots. We both have significant and

unique individual histories. But I would argue that our mutual influences may run much deeper. There is still so much that we do not know about each other. As we peel away the layers of our ignorance, we will comprehend better just how interconnected our history, politics, culture and socio-economic relations are. After all, modern Malaysia was greatly impacted by less than 200 years of British colonial rule. Thailand and Malaysia have been neighbours for far longer than that.

In the long distant past, the Siamese kingdom and the Northern States of Malaya may have had the periodic conflict. But the two countries in the modern era have never been even close to waging outright wars despite having demarcation differences and disputes as neighbouring countries will do.

We may not see eye-to-eye on some issues. What sets us apart is our ability to go past playing up disputes and seek to work out peaceful diplomatic solutions, compromises and building goodwill. For example, we saw good cooperation in the 1950s and 1960s when we faced a common enemy in the form of the communist insurgency. Malaysia was pleased to have been of some assistance to Thailand in the early days of the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. During my administration, the issue of food security became a global problem and we were very appreciative when the Thai government stepped in at short notice to help allay any fears of rice shortages. The late Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej was the person who gave me the assurance.

These examples speak to one fact: that although the majority of Thai and Malaysian people are different ethnically and culturally, although we do not even share a common language and mostly communicate through a third language, English, we are practical and peace-loving peoples. If we look at the broad span of histories of our countries, it is evident that we do not regard one another as threats but value co-existence and friendship.



Badawi greeting the participants

This is not to say that we will not stoutly defend our land and our sacred institutions when they are threatened. However, our worldviews and approaches are guided, I would like to think, by religious tolerance and the values of Buddhism and Islam. It leads us to see the limited usefulness of force and conflict, and the worth to pursue moderation and the golden mean. In this day and age, moderation, tolerance, patience and accommodation are seemingly scarce commodities. Thailand and Malaysia, I believe, can set a good example by demonstrating that it is possible to transcend problems and issues that other countries around the world have found intractable.

For example, in the South, the majority of the Muslim community demands development. They would like to see opportunities for quality education, employment, and human capital development. As citizens of Thailand, they too want to be recognized and to be respected, and to be able to participate in the economic development and progress of their area. If this situation can be addressed, I believe new development and prosperity can emerge.

Our two countries have benefited greatly from pragmatic approaches towards each other. We have now had longstanding economic, business and social ties. As I said earlier, in other parts of the world where countries have been at each other's throats, the relationship that

Malaysia and Thailand have would be described as 'great'. There is so much as yet unexplored and unexploited potential. The best and most exciting days are ahead of us. It depends on how we manage it. If we manage it well, it will bring advantages to us.

So where do we go from here? How do we proceed? We certainly need to build on the sound foundations of political and diplomatic capital that currently exist between the two countries. But as founding members of Asean and part of the greater Asia Pacific region, we also have strong mutual regional interests and we should endeavour to make our bilateral relationship one of the pillars of strength within Asean. Thus, we do not work in isolation but leverage our partnership so that it contributes to the realisation of the Asean 2015 community building efforts.

One key way to do so is the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT). Since its formation in 1993, this sub-regional cooperation initiative has expanded to encompass 70 million people within the geographic scope. This has expanded to 14 provinces in southern Thailand and includes ten Sumatran provinces and eight Peninsular Malaysia states. The IMT-GT, which I hope will now also include Myanmar, promises to be a significant growth and development driver for our countries. Another such effort is the pivotal role Thailand plays as the Asean-China coordinator. China is important to all of us in the region, indeed the whole world, and greater socio—economic linkages and connectivity will greatly benefit the other countries of Continental Southeast Asia.

In short, our mutual strength also lends strength to Asean's development and economic vision, efforts and cooperation. There should not be exclusivity solely to each other but mutual benefit to the other eight member countries. As the Thai government makes efforts to resolve its problems in the South, Malaysia stands ready and committed to assist in practical and constructive ways. Last week, when our two leaders met on the



From left: Steven Wong, Siripon Wajjwalku and Songsak Saichewa

sidelines of the APEC Meeting in Vladivostok, Prime Minister Dato' Seri Najib Abdul Razak assured Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra that Kuala Lumpur stood ready to cooperate with her government, and various points of agreement were reached.

Let me just say this: If, by mutual efforts and endeavours, the South can be turned into a region that is prosperous and peaceful, I believe that it will become a showcase example for the international community for peaceful resolution of a longstanding problem. There is potential for southern Thailand and the northern states of Peninsular Malaysia to be new and vibrant growth areas. Together we can create this prosperity.

Secondly, while continuing to deepen our economic and business linkages, we need to also broaden the basis for sound cooperation, especially into the social, educational and cultural spheres, emphasising people-to-people relations. On the economic and business fronts, there is much more that we can, and are doing, beyond manufacturing. The recent agreement between our two countries to study the feasibility of a large-scale rubber-based development on the Thai-Kedah border is an example of one such new initiative. I am led to understand that Malaysian companies are also keen to participate in the biogas sector in Thailand, which has huge potential. In the services area, the stock exchanges of Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore

have taken steps this year to expedite cross-listings of one another's companies.

In line with the vision to create an 'Area of Prosperity,' we need to create quality education opportunities for young people, develop human capital and provide employment opportunities to address issues of poverty, unemployment and development. This can be done through an exchange of scholars between countries, and encouraging student mobility, where university students spend at least one semester in a university of a neighbouring country. This will encourage movement of people, expanding of ideas and sharing of knowledge. It will also expand the minds of future leaders and encourage discourse, not just between universities, but between countries.

Thirdly, we need to deepen the nature of the relationship through careful research, leading to greater understanding, and to produce outputs of mutual benefit; something I believe is happening here today at this seminar. Developments from the macro and micro levels though intertwined, affect not just a country but also its neighbouring countries. Therefore, we need to recognise the potential and limits that we have and work towards widening and deepening dialogue.

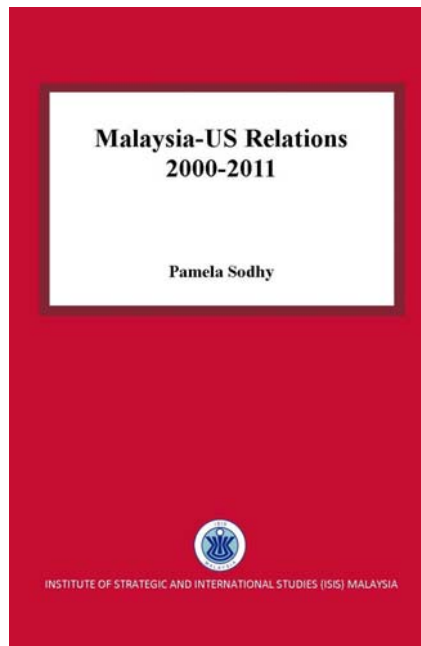
Furthermore, it is important that academic work and that of think tanks go beyond just presenting research and words on paper, to also be able to develop positive recommendations of policy actions within home countries and build cooperation with the rest of the world. Serving political leaders are somewhat constrained by the many underlying political considerations, but as a former Prime Minister, I think that I can say this. That is why it is important for academicians and policy analysts to act in a flexible and timely manner with the long term vision of enhancing the state of affairs.

It is my hope that this initiative goes beyond mere deliberations and leaves more than just an inheritance of a dusty set of conference papers on your office shelves. I wish all delegates a stimulating and fruitful seminar and I hope that over the coming days, you will build not just work networks but friendships that will see this initiative through for years to come. It is you who possess the knowledge and will to push the agenda forward towards a pathway of peace, prosperity and progress for both Malaysia and Thailand.

Thank you.



Badawi with the Malaysian participants



Malaysia-US Relations 2000-2011
By Pamela Sodhy
Kuala Lumpur: ISIS Malaysia, 2012
126 pages E-book

This monograph looks at the present relationship between Malaysia and the United States during a decade-long period, covering the main political, economic, and socio-cultural relations during the prime ministerships in Malaysia, of Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and Najib Tun Razak and the presidencies in the United States, of George Bush and Barack H Obama.

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Towards a Green Economy: In Search of Sustainable Energy Policies for the Future

Edited by Adnan A Hezri and Wilhelm Hofmeister

Published in Singapore by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and ISIS Malaysia

175 pages (2012) RM 40.00

ISBN 978-981-07-1799-5

[Available from ISIS Malaysia]

The transition to sustainable energy systems is still at an embryonic stage. As this energy transition involves hard choices politically, economically, and technologically, countries can benefit from a comparative lesson-drawing across geographical divides. In thirteen chapters, this book documents the vagaries of problem framing and policy responses by nine countries, all of which are guided by recurrent themes of energy transition, policy choices and green economy. The book's analytical scope goes well beyond the commonly addressed structural issue in energy policy to encompass innovation in processes, institutions and new policy instruments for sustainable energy systems. Chapters 3 to 4 demonstrate the struggles of major energy consumers such as United States, China, India and Brazil in switching to cleaner energy sources. Chapters 7 and 8 concentrate on the cases of Malaysia and Laos. These two Southeast Asian countries are currently at different stages of economic development but share the common trait of a rising energy demand and associated social issues. The last four chapters (9-12) of the book present innovative energy policies by pioneering states such as France, Germany and Australia. Evidently from all chapters, there is no one-size-fits-all policy. The subtitle of the book—in search of sustainable energy policies for the future — reflects the tentative nature of policy experiments undertaken so far.

NOTES



INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (ISIS) MALAYSIA
No. 1, Persiaran Sultan Salahuddin
PO Box 12424, 50778 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel : +603 2693 9366
Fax : +603 2691 5435
Email : info@isis.org.my
Website : www.isis.org.my

