

Myanmar Roundtable 2012





*Understanding the Changes,
Realising the Opportunities*

PROGRAMME

*9 July 2012
Doubletree by Hilton,
Kuala Lumpur*

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
No 1, Persiaran Sultan Salahuddin,
P.O. Box 12424, 50778 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: 603-26939366 Fax: 26915435
www.isis.org.my

 Institute-of-Strategic-and-International-Studies-ISIS-Malaysia
 ISIS_MY

Sponsored by



Organised by



ORGANISER



INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (ISIS) MALAYSIA

About Myanmar Roundtable 2012

The recent suspension of sanctions by the US, on top of similar earlier announcements by the EU and other countries that have imposed sanctions against Myanmar, have led to a common governmental advice to business in developed and developing countries alike to 'Invest in Myanmar and do it responsibly'. This has signalled a heightened interest in 'investing in Myanmar' in a variety of context and dimensions. From another perspective, the Asian Development Bank recently projected a 6% GDP growth for Myanmar in FY2012. Consequently, Myanmar is now on the radar screen of Governments and Businesses everywhere.

Leveraging on our extensive contacts in Myanmar, ISIS Malaysia is organising a Myanmar Roundtable to highlight recent political, economic and business developments in the 'Golden Land', touching on current trends and future directions as well as challenges and response by a select group of Myanmar speakers, comprising Advisors; senior staff of relevant ministries including the Director General of Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development; prominent and dynamic businessmen, complemented by a prominent Myanmar watcher. This line-up is probably the most distinguished ever assembled in Malaysia.

This, not to be missed, Roundtable will provide insights into recent developments on the political, economic and business fronts in Myanmar besides the expectations and challenges as well as focused and candid engagement with a cross section of the key actors in Myanmar.

The Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia's premier think-tank was established on April 8, 1983. As an autonomous and non-profit organisation, ISIS is engaged in objective and independent policy research. It also fosters dialogue and debate among the public sector, the private sector and academia. ISIS has been at the forefront of some of the most significant nation-building initiatives in Malaysia's history, such as contributing to the Vision 2020 concept and as the consultant to the Knowledge-Based Economy Master Plan initiative. The Institute has also played a role in fostering closer regional integration and international cooperation through forums such as the Asia-Pacific Roundtable, the East Asia Congress and the Network of East Asian Think-Tanks (NEAT). ISIS Malaysia's core areas of research include: Economics, Foreign Policy, Security Studies, Social Policy, Technology, Innovation, Environment and Sustainability.

SPONSORS



CIMB GROUP

CIMB Group is Malaysia's second largest financial services provider and one of ASEAN's leading universal banking groups. It offers consumer banking, investment banking, Islamic banking, asset management and insurance products and services. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, the Group is now present in eight out of 10 ASEAN nations (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam and Myanmar). Beyond ASEAN, the Group has market presence in China, Hong Kong, Bahrain, India, Sri Lanka, the US and UK. CIMB Group has the largest retail branch network in ASEAN of 1,115 branches as at 31 March 2012. CIMB Group's Investment Banking arm is also emerging as the largest Asia Pacific-based investment bank following its recently announced purchase of RBS' Asia Pacific Investment Banking and Cash Equities operations. CIMB Group operates its business through three main brand entities, CIMB Bank, CIMB Investment Bank and CIMB Islamic. CIMB Group is also the 97.9% shareholder of Bank CIMB Niaga in Indonesia, and 93.2% shareholder of CIMB Thai in Thailand. CIMB Group is listed on Bursa Malaysia via CIMB Group Holdings Berhad. It had a market capitalisation of approximately RM57.2 billion as at 31 March 2012. The Group has over 40,000 employees located in 16 countries.



KUALA LUMPUR KEPONG BERHAD

Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad (KLK) is listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad and has a market capitalisation of approximately RM24.2 billion at the end of 2011. Started as a plantation company more than 100 years ago, plantations (oil palm and rubber) still lead as KLK's core business activity. The Group has a plantation land bank of more than 252,000 hectares in Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah) and Indonesia (Belitung, Sumatra and Kalimantan). Since the 1990s, the Group has expanded downstream into resource-based manufacturing (oleochemicals, derivatives and specialty chemicals) and property development.



Myanmar Roundtable 2012

Understanding the Changes, Realising the Opportunities



08:30-09:00

REGISTRATION

Venue : Foyer, Ballroom A, Level 10

09:00-09:15

WELCOMING REMARKS

Venue : Ballroom A, Level 10

Dato' Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin

Chief Executive

ISIS Malaysia

09:15-10:45

SESSION 1

Myanmar : Opening its Links to the Region and the World

Moderator:

Dato' Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin

Chief Executive

ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

Dr Bridget Welsh

Associate Professor of Political Science

Singapore Management University

U Ye Min Aung

Secretary General

Myanmar Rice Industry Association (MRIA) / Central Executive Committee Member, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industries (UMFCCI)



Myanmar Roundtable 2012

Understanding the Changes, Realising the Opportunities



Mr Aung Naing Oo

Director General, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development (MNPED).

10:45-11:00 *Refreshments*
Venue : Foyer, Ballroom A, Level 10

11:00-12:30 **SESSION 2**
Unleashing Myanmar's Potential

Moderator:

Mr Steven Wong

Senior Director of Economics

ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

U Ko Ko Lay

Deputy Director

Directorate of Trade, Ministry of Commerce

Dr Tin Htut

Rector

Yezin Agricultural University

Myanmar

12:30-02:00 *Lunch*
Venue : Makan Kitchen, Level 11



Dr Larry Wong

Dr Larry Wong is currently Program Director, Technology, Innovation, Environment and Sustainability (TIES), at ISIS Malaysia. He is also Senior Advisor to the Myanmar Rice Industry Association (MRIA) and Associate Research Fellow of Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER). A development economist by training, his engagement continues to straddle both the public and private sectors increasingly involving public-private partnership initiatives. His key areas of expertise include developing and managing agri-food supply chains and trading networks; food security, agri-biotechnology; and sustainable development. Prior to rejoining ISIS in 2004, he was in the private sector for eight years, handling BERNAS' international business. Dr Wong has consulted for multinational corporations and SMEs, international organizations (UNDP, ESCAP, FAO, ADB, ADBI, IRRI, IFPRI and the World Bank) and governments. Dr Wong has a PhD in Economics from University of Kent-at-Canterbury, England and a Masters in Agricultural Economics and Business Management from University of New England, Australia.

Mr Than Htut



Than Htut is Director of International Business Relations at the Eden Group, one of the leading business organisations in Myanmar. As director of Eden Hotels and Resorts (EHR), an Eden Group subsidiary, he is responsible for managing hotels, residence (service apartment), floating golf driving range and restaurants as well as reshaping EHR's organisation practices. Prior to joining the Eden Group, he operated his own business school in Myanmar for more than a decade and used to work in the UK, including lecturing in business studies at the West London College. He has a BSc from the University of Yangon, an MSc in Educational Leadership from the University of Leicester, UK and an MA in Higher and Professional Education from the Institute of Education (IOE), University of London.

02:00-03:30

SESSION 3

Myanmar's Business and Investment Opportunities

Moderator:

Dr Larry Wong

Programme Director

Technology, Innovation, Environment & Sustainability (TIES)

ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

U Ye Min Aung

Secretary General

Myanmar Rice Industry Association (MRIA) / Central Executive

Committee Member, Union of Myanmar Federation of

Chambers of Commerce & Industries (UMFCCI)

U Aung Naing Oo

Director General

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA)

Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development

(MNPED)

U Than Htut

Director

Eden Group of Companies

Myanmar

03:30-04:00

Refreshments

Venue : Foyer, Ballroom A, Level 10



Myanmar Roundtable 2012

Understanding the Changes, Realising the Opportunities



04:00-05:30

SESSION 4 *Dialogue Session*

Moderator:

Dr Larry Wong

Programme Director

Technology, Innovation, Environment & Sustainability (TIES)

ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

Dr Bridget Welsh

U Ye Min Aung

U Ko Ko Lay

Dr Tin Htut

U Aung Naing Oo

U Than Htut

05:30-05:45

CLOSING REMARKS

Dato' Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin

Chief Executive

ISIS Malaysia

Mr Ko Ko Lay



Ko Ko Lay is Deputy Director of the Directorate of Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar. He has had experience in trading, trade promotion and trade negotiation activities. He has also served as Counsellor (WTO Affairs) at the Geneva Myanmar Mission, from 2002 to 2005. Currently he is in charge of the International Organization Branch of the International Trade Promotion Division under the Directorate of Trade, Ministry of Commerce. He has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Yangon and he also has a Masters in Business Administration from Yangon Institute of Economics. He has a Post Graduate Diploma in International Trade from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, India.

Dr Tin Htut



Dr Tin Htut is the Rector of Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar. Previously he was Director of the Rice Research Division, Department of Agricultural Research and Deputy Director, International Relations, Department of Agricultural Planning. He received IRRI's (International Rice Research Institute) Outstanding Alumni Award in Rice Research and Management at IRRI's 50th Anniversary. He has an M Sc from North Carolina State University, USA, and a PhD in Plant Breeding from the University of Philippines and International Rice Research Institute, Philippines.



Mr Ye Min Aung

Ye Min Aung is the Secretary-General of the Myanmar Rice Industry Association (MRIA), the only private association set up to help catalyze and enhance Myanmar's rice industry so as to restore it to its former status as a major exporter. He is an Executive Committee Member of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry (UMFCCI), a national level Federation representing the private business sectors of Myanmar, comprising nearly 60 affiliated sister associations. He is also the Director of Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) and Director of the AyeyarHinthar Group of Companies. He has an MA (Yangon University), and a Post-graduate Diploma in Development Studies (Yangon Institute of Economics).

ROLE PLAYERS



Mr Steven CM Wong

Steven CM Wong is the Senior Director of Economics of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. He has worked on national, regional and international economic issues for more than twenty years. His previous positions include senior executive positions in research, fund management and capital markets with several Malaysian financial institutions. He is a past Secretary-General of the Malaysian National Committee for Pacific Economic Co-operation and Malaysian Committee for Pacific Basic Economic Co-operation. He has also served on the secretariats of two ASEAN eminent persons groups. Steven has written more than 30 papers and articles. His work has been published, among others, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the East Asian Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, the Australian National University and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore. His interests cover economics, international relations, law and theology. He received his undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Dato' Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin



Dato' Dr Mahani obtained a Ph D (development economics) from the University of London in 1992 and was Professor in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Malaya until 2007. Her research interests are industrialisation and economic transformation, international trade, and regional integration. Dato' Dr Mahani was a Board Member of the Employees Provident Fund from 1998 to 2000, Deputy Chairman of the National Accreditation Board from 2003 to 2007 and a Council Member of the National Economic Advisory Council (NEAC) from 2009 to 2011. She is currently a Trustee of Yayasan 1Malaysia, a Commissioner of Land Public Transport Commission, Deputy President of the Malaysian Economic Association and Member of the International Steering Committee for Pacific Trade & Development (PAFTAD).

Dr Bridget Welsh



Dr Bridget Welsh is Associate Professor of Political Science at Singapore Management University. In 2004, she was a Henry R. Luce Southeast Asian Fellow at Australian National University and in 2007 she received a USIP fellowship. In 2009 she received the Max M Fisher Prize for teaching excellence at Johns Hopkins University –SAIS and in 2011 was awarded a Distinguished Teaching Award by SMU's School of Social Sciences. She has edited/written numerous books including, *Reflections: The Mahathir Years*, *Legacy of Engagement in Southeast Asia*, *Impressions of the Goh Chok Tong Years*, *Transformations: The Abdullah Badawi Years* (forthcoming 2012), *Democracy Takeoff? The B J Habibie Period* (forthcoming 2012), *Embracing Democracy: Political Attitudes in Malaysia* (forthcoming 2012) and *Does Democracy Matter: Regime Support in Southeast Asia* (forthcoming 2013). She has also authored a wide range of articles. She is a consultant for Freedom House and the United Nations.