

THE ISIS PRAXIS SEMINAR 2013

“Knowledge for Action in the Coming Year”

Organised by



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8 November 2012, Doubletree by Hilton, Kuala Lumpur

The Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia will be holding the ISIS Praxis Seminar 2013 on Thursday, 8 November 2012 at the Doubletree Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The tagline for the Seminar - 'Knowledge for Action in the Coming Year' – is apt as 2013 will be the most challenging yet promising year for the world and the Malaysian economy. The purpose of this seminar is to provide a strategic economic outlook by assessing the effectiveness of past and current public policies.

The target audience is captains of industry, corporate executives, academicians and relevant government officials who play an integral role in the decision-making process.

This seminar will provide information-rich analyses and views by subject matter experts for the incoming year.

Topics that will be discussed at this seminar are:

- How Slow Can We Grow?: World Economy in 2013
- Year of the “Big Squeeze”?: Malaysia in 2013
- Doing Business in Myanmar
- Malaysia’s New FTAs: How Businesses Benefit
- Political Outlook: What Now?

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Confirmed speakers:

- YB Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia
- Dato’ Noharuddin Nordin, Director General, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA)
- Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, Principal Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
- Prof Dato’ Dr Woo Wing Thye, Executive Director, Penang Institute, Malaysia
- Ms Susan Kahwati, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur
- Mr J Jayasiri, Senior Director of Multilateral Trade Policy and Negotiations, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysia
- Mr Aung Naing Oo, Director General, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Myanmar
- Dr David Fernandez, Managing Director, J.P. Morgan, Singapore
- Dr Tin Maung Maung Than, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore
- Assoc Prof Dr Andrew Aeria, Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)
- Mr Mangal Goswami, Deputy Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Singapore Regional Training Institute
- Mr Nurhisham Hussein, Economist, Malaysian Rating Corporation Bhd (MARC)
- Mr Gerald Ambrose, Managing Director, Aberdeen Asset Management Sdn Bhd
- Mr Ye Min Aung, Managing Director, Myanmar Agribusiness Public Company
- Mr Azrul Azwar Ahmad Tajudin, Chief Economist, Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd

Invited speakers:

- Ms Rita Sim, Fellow, The Centre for Strategic Engagement (CENSE), Malaysia

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PROGRAMME

0800-0900 Arrival & Registration

0900-0915 Opening Remarks by **Tan Sri Dr Sulaiman Mahbob, Board Member, ISIS Malaysia**

0915-1045 **Session 1: How Slow Can We Grow?: World Economy in 2013**

0915-1015 The financial vulnerabilities of economies have persisted since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. Economies continue to struggle against the forces of deflation and high employment rate. The latest growth numbers are decelerating not only in Europe but the US and China as well. At the same time, there is renewed tension on public spending, deficits and debt levels of several EU countries and its possible spread across the globe. Will Dr. Roubini's four elements of the 'perfect storm' (the clash of stalling growth in the US, debt troubles in Europe, a slowdown in emerging markets and military conflict in Iran) create worldwide turbulence in 2013? With a new government in some of the major economies, what concerted political and economic effort can be taken?

Moderator:

Tan Sri Dr Sulaiman Mahbob, Board Member, ISIS Malaysia

Panelists:

- Mr Mangal Goswami, Deputy Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Singapore Regional Training Institute
 - Prof Dato' Dr Woo Wing Thye, Executive Director, Penang Institute, Malaysia
 - Dr David Fernandez, Managing Director, JP Morgan, Singapore
-

1015-1045 Discussion

1045-1100 Coffee break

1100-1230 **Session 2: Year of the "Big Squeeze"?: Malaysia in 2013**

1100-1200 Malaysia has been struggling to reduce its budget deficits for over a decade due to higher growth of public spending over revenue. The public sector spending since 2009 has in fact been on an increasing trend. The federal government is expected to reduce public spending progressively by embarking on broadening its tax base through the Goods and Services Tax and rationalising subsidy. These fiscal consolidation measures are likely to be implemented after the 13th General Election. Public spending, however, is still important in order to spur growth and meet economic targets. As such, can public spending be reduced in 2013 and the private sector takes over thereby preventing a severe economic contraction? Would the on-going global economy continue to weigh on Malaysia's growth performance? What is the limit of the government's policy to handle another crisis?

Moderator:

Mr Steven Wong, Senior Director Economics, ISIS Malaysia

Panelists:

- Mr Nurhisham Hussein, Economist, Malaysian Rating Corporation Bhd (MARC)
 - Mr Azrul Azwar Ahmad Tajudin, Chief Economist, Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd
 - Mr Gerald Ambrose, Managing Director, Aberdeen Asset Management Sdn Bhd, Malaysia
-

1200-1230 Discussion

1230-1330 Lunch

1330-1500 **Session 3: Doing Business in Myanmar**

1330-1430 Myanmar has undertaken a series of political and economic reforms since April last year, including media censorship, currency exchange rates, taxation and foreign investment laws. Nonetheless, investors are still cautious about the supply of skilled labour and inconsistent public policy direction by the current civilian government. What do Malaysian businesses have to be aware of when first entering the Myanmar market? What are the relevant government policies and regulations to investors? What is the real cost of doing business in Myanmar?

Note: The organiser reserves the right to change the programme and speakers in the best interest of the seminar. Please log on to www.aep.com.my for updated list of speakers.

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PROGRAMME

Moderator:

Dr Larry Wong, Program Director, Technology, Innovation, Environment and Sustainability (TIES), ISIS Malaysia

Panelists:

- Mr Ye Min Aung, Secretary-General, Myanmar Rice Industry Association (MRIA)
- Mr Aung Naing Oo, Director General, Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Myanmar
- Dr Tin Maung Maung Than, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore

1430-1500 Discussion

1500-1630 **Session 4: Malaysia's New FTAs: How Businesses Benefit?**

1500-1600 Malaysia signed two FTAs with India in July 2011 and with Australia in May this year. In addition, Malaysia is currently negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership with ten other member countries. The purpose of this session is to understand the main provisions of the agreements, including the Dispute Settlement Mechanism and the Rules of Origin. The focus of discussion will be on services, intellectual properties, government procurement and other key sectors that will most likely to benefit the Malaysian business community.

Moderator:

Prof Tham Siew Yean, Professor, Institute of Malaysia & International Studies (IKMAS)

Panelists:

- Mr J Jayasiri, Senior Director of Multilateral Trade Policy and Negotiations, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysia
- Datuk Noharuddin Nordin, Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA)
- Ms Susan Kahwati, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Australian High Commission in Malaysia

1600-1630 Discussion

1630-1645 Coffee break

1645-1800 **Session 5: Political Outlook : What now?**

1645-1715 This session would examine the political situation in Malaysia's state of leadership, the Barisan Nasional and Pakatan Rakyat's their respective policies and manifestos. If the 13th General Election has been held, this session will analyse the election outcomes and the implications for the various political stakeholders. If the 13GE has yet to be held, the session will evaluate the prospects for both sides of the divide in forming the new federal and state governments.

Moderator:

Mr Steve Wong, Senior Director, ISIS Malaysia

Panelists:

- YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia
- Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, Principal Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA), The National University of Malaysia
- Ms Rita Sim, Fellow, The Centre for Strategic Engagement, Malaysia (CENSE) (TBC)*
- Mr Ibrahim Suffian, Programme Director, Merdeka Center, Malaysia
- Assoc Prof Dr Andrew Aeria, Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

1715-1800 Discussion

1800-1810 Closing Remarks & Adjournment

* To Be Confirmed

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Participant's Information

(1) Name (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms) : _____

Company: _____

Designation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Facsimile: _____ Email: _____

(2) Name (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms) : _____

Company: _____

Designation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Facsimile: _____ Email: _____

(3) Name (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms) : _____

Company: _____

Designation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Facsimile: _____ Email: _____

Contact Person's Details

Name (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms) : _____

Company: _____

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No 1 Jalan Kiara,
Mont' Kiara,
50480 Kuala Lumpur

Registration Fee

Before 8 October 2012 – RM988.00

After 8 October 2012 - RM1088.00

Group discount: Register 3 or more participants from the same organisation and receive a 10% discount

Venue

Date

8 November 2012

Venue

Doubletree by Hilton, Kuala Lumpur

How to Register

Online log on to www.aep.com.my
Offline complete the registration form and fax to: 03-6211 9003 or email : info@aep.com.my/
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Registration Information

Payment

All payment must be made in advance of the conference. Bank drafts or cheques should be crossed and made payable to: **Asia Executive Programs Sdn Bhd**

Registration Procedure

Please complete and fax the registration form to book a seat/seats to the Secretariat:-

a) **Asia Executive Programs Sdn Bhd**
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Kompleks 1 Mont' Kiara,
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b) Payment can also be deposited directly to:

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Term & Conditions

- Confirmation of registration will be issued once payment is received
- No registration will be processed without full payment
- For government participation, a local order or letter of approval must be presented before the conference
- Substitution or Cancellation
- Should you be unable to attend, you may nominate a substitute
- The organiser does not provide refunds for cancellations
- The organiser reserves the right to change the content of the programme without notice including substitution, alteration or cancellation of speakers and /or topics and /or the alternation of dates of the event
- The organiser reserves the right to amend any part of the published programme, agenda or speakers due to factors outside of its control.