KSI REVIEW

KINGSLEY STRATEGIC INSTITUTE

KSI Three Strategic Thrusts: Strategic advice, Curated Events and Executive Briefings

January 2019

Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, Founder and Patron of WCEF explaining the Chinese characters on the scroll to YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia after his keynote address.

TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE: ENHANCING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD

KSI co-managed World Chinese Economic Forum held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 9 - 10 November 2018

The Prime Minister was greeted by Tan Sri Michael Yeoh and Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew upon his arrival at the Forum.

2018 marks the 44th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia. Malaysia was the first ASEAN country to establish diplomatic relations with China, starting a new phase of cooperation between the two countries. Over the past 44 years, China-Malaysia relations have continued to grow and strengthen. China and Malaysia have become strategic partners with high-level mutual trust. Leaders of the two countries have always maintained the general direction of friendship while assessing the situation and complying with the trend. China-Malaysia friendship has always been based on equality and mutual trust between the two governments and people of both countries. Making this new energy and rich potential work for the wellbeing of the people in both countries is the current priority of both governments.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's Reform and Opening (gaigekaifang), initiated by Deng Xiaoping at the Third Plenum of the Eleventh Central Committee in 1978. These economic changes were so far-reaching that Deng described them as part of China's "second revolution." Since then, China has become an economic powerhouse. This year also marks the return of the World Chinese Economic Forum (WCEF) to Malaysia to celebrate the 44th Anniversary of Malaysia China diplomatic relations. WCEF is also a super connector and bridge for strengthening and building connectivity and business linkages between Southeast Asia, Europe and China.

While it brings together the Chinese diaspora that had played a part in China's move towards a higher valueadd and service-oriented economy, from the Taiwanese engineers who transmitted knowledge from Silicon Valley to China's budding infotech sector, to Singapore's role in bilateral projects such as the Guangzhou Knowledge City. It has also contributed to the rise of the new' diaspora, high-skilled and born in mainland China, who are at the forefront of China's transition to a knowledge intensive economy. These people are the face of China's new globalization, forging links with foreign economies that are more entwined than a simple export import relationship.

Dato Sri Dr Vijay Eswaran posing for a photo with YB Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, YB Lim Guan Eng and Tan Sri Michael Yeoh.

4 very distinguished gentlemen at the Gala Dinner, From L-R , H.E. Shaukat Aziz, Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Chairman, Organising Committee WCEF, YB Lim Guan Eng, Minister of Finance Malaysia and YB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, President, Pakatan Harapan & MP, Port Dickson.

Sponsors, Partners and Organising Committee holding up the red ribbon after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Prime Minster unveiling a scroll presented to him by the International Zheng He Association.

WCEF 2018 with theme, "Towards a Common Future: Enhancing New Opportunities in a Changing World" is indeed apt and timely. It is in line with the new diaspora, that we should blaze new trails, explore new ideas, motivate people and create new opportunities. ■

H.E Shaukat Aziz having a conversation with Tan Sri Barry Goh, Executive Chairman of Kingsley EduGroup.

Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik, H.E. Shaukat Aziz, Dato Sri Dr Vijay Eswaran and Mr Goh Peng Ooi are among the many distinguished guests at the Forum.

Mr Steve Howard, Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Dr Xiang Bing, Amb. Su Gee and Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew in a group photo.

Another group photo of Amb Su Gee, Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Mr Chean Chyuan Yong, Dr Yan Lijin and Mr Edmond Yeo.

Tan Sri Michael Yeoh with Mr Alexander Wan, Cr Philip Le Liu and Mr Max Say.

Standing upright for the national anthem at the Special Session with the Prime Minister. From L-R, Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, The Hon. CY Leung, YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew and Mr Cheah Chyuan Yong.

Tan Sri Michael Yeoh greeting YB Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim upon his arrival at the Gala Dinner. With them is Dr Yan Lijin.

Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik meeting YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the holding room.

A group photo of distinguished guests, speakers and organisers with H.E. Shaukat Aziz, The Hon CY Leung and YB Nga Kor Ming.

All the strategic and corporate partners together with the organising committee members posing for a group photo with The Hon. CY Leung and H.E. Shaukat Aziz, flanking the Prime Minister, YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Housing and Property Development Colloquium

2 October 2018
Palace of the Golden Horses, Seri Kembangan

Reimagining the Housing and Property Industry in the New Malaysia

Ms Au Foong Yee, Editor-in-Chief & Managing Director, The EDGE Property chairing the session on the Property Leaders Roundtable. On her left is Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, Executive Chairman, Country Heights Holdings, followed by Tan Sri Dato' Sri Barry Goh, Chairman, BGMC Group; Datuk Christopher Boyd, Executive Chairman, Savills (M) Sdn Bhd and Dato' Neoh Soo Keat, Managing Director, Trinity Group Sdn Bhd.

The Kingsley Strategic Institute (KSI Institute), a newly set-up independent private sector think-tank that began operations on 1 August 2018 organised its very first conference, the Housing and Property Development Colloquium with its theme, "Reimagining the Housing and Property Industry in the New Malaysia" on 2 October 2018 at the Palace of the Golden Horses, Seri Kembangan.

Speakers at the colloquium opined that to resolve the affordable housing availability problem, all stakeholders in the public and private sectors need to work together to offer multiple solutions. Another area of focus was on the usage of technology, for example, Industrialised Building System (IBS) could be a way to lower the cost of construction. Developers should embrace new technologies, not only for building affordable housing, but also to enhance their competitiveness in global market. "Building affordable homes shouldn't be something that drains developers' profit," said Dr Suraya Ismail, Khazanah Research Institute Director of Research.

Tan Sri Barry Goh, Chairman of KSI Institute is having a light moment with Deputy Minister of Housing & Local Government, together with Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Executive Vice Chairman, KSI Institute and Tan Sri Low Gay Teck, Managing Director, Land & General Berhad.

Building affordable homes shouldn't be something that drains developers' profit.

Dr Suraya Ismail
Khazanah Research Institute Director of Research

1Malaysia People's Housing (PR1MA) chief operating officer Datuk Aminuddin Abdul Manaf revealed that the company has difficulties in building more homes as obtaining land from state government is not easy. Besides this, obtaining end-financing is also another problem for homebuyers.

PNB Development Sdn Bhd CEO Mohd Salem Kailany agreed that concurred that the usage of new technologies such as IBS and solar powered system could be one way to bring down construction costs. However, he noted that to resolve the problem, all stakeholders need to contribute to make houses affordable. For instance, the authorities could help by reducing or waiving land premium or development charges, provide facilitation fund or provide land for affordable homes project. As for suppliers or vendor, they could play a part by reducing their charges to reduce the construction cost.

Other speakers at the Colloquium also agreed that the property sector is expected

Group photo of the KSI's Institute Directors, Sponsors, Senior Speakers with the Deputy Minister of Housing & Local Government.

Panel Speakers of the Property Sector Outlook Session. From left to right: Dato' Stewart LaBrooy, Executive Chairman, Area Management Sdn Bhd; Foo Gee Jen, Managing Director, CBRE|WTW; Kumar Tharmalingam, Senior Adviser, Area Management Sdn Bhd and Warrick Singh, Principal, Asian Land Realty

Panel Speakers of the Affordable Housing Session. From left to right: Jayaselan Navaratnam, Director-General, National Housing Department; Dato' Ar. Aminuddin bin Abdul Manaf, Chief Operating Officer, Perbadanan Pr1ma Malaysia; Ar. Mustapha Kamal Zulkarnain, Committee Member in the Housing & Urban Wellbeing, Malaysian Institute of Architects (the Moderator); Mohd Salem Kailany, Chief Executive Officer, PNB Development Sdn Bhd and Dr Suraya Ismail, Director of Research, Khazanah Research Institute

KSI' senior management (Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Dato' Jean Wong and Mr Max Say) and the owner fo the venue (Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew) together with Mr MC Teng posing for a photo with YBM Senator Dato' Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah ibni Raja Ahmad Baharuddin Shah, Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government.

to see vacant properties filling the market in 2019 as financing becomes stricter due to low property sales. As credit is not easily available in the current market and unless liquidity is injected into the market, it is not expected to see improvement until 2022.

AREA Management executive chairman Datuk Stewart LaBrooy believes e-commerce facilities such as warehouse, distribution hub and logistic centre is an untapped market that offers a lot of opportunities for the industry players in view of the growing e-commerce sector. He added that e-commerce facility is the most under-invested sector in the local property sector as he estimates that it only accounted for 1% or 2% in the proportion of development allocation by property developers in the industrial space.

The one-day conference was officiated by the Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah. In his keynote address, he added that property developers are behaving more and more like local councils and that this has given rise to the current form of townships that are not centralised and are dominated and led by private developers. This is a cause for concern. Another worrying trend is that developers are behaving more and more like the local council themselves, in having their own private security for substantial portions of residential and commercial areas as an example, and other provisions of services and infrastructure. Although the local governments retain power and control where their approval is needed to build, they have often failed to take a more proactive role. This could lead to abuses. ■

Mr Mohd Salem Kailany, CEO of PNB Development receiving a memento from the Deputy Housing Minister, YBM Senator Dato' Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah ibni Raja Ahmad Baharuddin Shah.

Malaysian Economic Summit 2018

16 October 2018
Royale Chulan Kuala Lumpur

Whither Economic Growth, Towards Sustainable Productivity

Mr Indranil Lahiri, President and CEO, Siemens Malaysia receiving a token of appreciation from YB Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Yusof, Minister of Entrepreneur Development, Malaysia, accompanied by Tan Sri Michael Yeoh.

The Ministry will focus, among others, on providing proper training and facilitation for entrepreneurs based on industry needs such as business advisory, loans and funding to stimulate the interest of potential and new entrepreneurs to establish their own start-ups.

KSI Institute organised the Malaysian Economic Summit 2018 on 16 October 2018, the second event for the newly setup KSI institute.

The summit was officiated by the Minister of Entrepreneur Development, YB Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Yusof In his keynote address, the minister informed that his ministry will be reviewing all the policies and initiatives regarding the development of entrepreneurs and SMEs with the intent to make it more holistic, integrated and targeted.

It is the Ministry's mission to widen and coordinate entrepreneurial activities to be more targeted, inclusive, encompassing all segments of society including the B40 and M40 groups. The Ministry will focus, among others, on providing proper training and facilitation for entrepreneurs based on industry needs such as business advisory, loans and funding to stimulate the interest of potential and new entrepreneurs to establish their own start-ups. At the same time, assistance will be extended to them to ensure growth and sustainability of their businesses. He said it is the mandate of the Ministry to provide support and facilitation to local entrepreneurs so that they may move forward and withstand the competition and challenges of the global market. ■

Mr Manokaran Mottain, Chief Economist, Alliance Bank Malaysia (in the middle) and Dr. Teo Wing Leong, Head of School of Economics, University of Nottingham Malaysia listening intently to Mr Nor Zahidi Alias, Associate Director of Research and Chief Economist, Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad speaking.

Ms Caroine Cheong, Executive Director, Research & Programs of Kingsley Strategic Institute greeting YB Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Yusof, Minister of Entrepreneur Development, Malaysia, upon his arrival at the Summit.

A group photo of the Guest of Honour, YB Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Yusof together with speakers and special guests.

Dr. Amjad Rabi, Social Security Adviser, Employees Provident Fund (EPF), making a point at his panel on "Improving the Labour Force –Participation of Women, Productivity & Wages". With him on his right is Ms Ivy Josiah, Secretary General, Society for the Promotion of Human Rights / EXCO member of the National Human Rights Society of Malaysia (HAKAM) and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shanthi Thambiah, Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya on his left.

A panel of distinguished and diverse speakers. From L-R: Dato' Dr. Paul Selva Raj, Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations (FOMCA); Tan Sri Dato' Mohd Sheriff Mohd Kassim, Past President, Malaysian Economic Association (MEA) & Former Secretary-General, Ministry of Finance; Mr Azlan Awang, Co-Founder & Researcher, Blindspot (A Social Economic Focus Group) and Dr. Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid, Chief Economist, Bank Islam Malaysia.

The summit discussed the following Panels

ONE

MALAYSIA'S CONUNDRUM
Malaysia's economy is on its way to achieve high-income status – priorities and challenges

TWO

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE & FISCAL PLANNING
Handling deficit and seeking an equilibrium between growth and productivity

THREE

MALAYSIAN HOUSEHOLD DEBTS:
Is it Sustainable?

FOUR

MID-TERM REVIEW
Revisions on the New Economic Policy (NEP) & the New Economic Model (NEM)

FIVE

IMPROVING THE LABOUR FORCE
Participation of Women, Productivity & Wages and the Special Keynote Session on "Empowering Entrepreneurs – Supporting Access and Inclusive Growth

Panellists from the panel on Malaysia's conundrum - Malaysia's economy is on its way to achieve high-income status – priorities and challenges, posing for a group photo after the session. From L-R: Prof. Dr. Rajah Rasiah, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya; Mr H K Yong, Adjunct Professor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Razak Faculty of Technology and Informatics / Trustee of WorldFish / Senior Adviser to ASEAN Advisory, Singapore / Adviser to CWEIC London (Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council), Prof. Dr. Sulochana Nair, Vice Chancellor, Binary University and Mr Alan Tan Chew Leong, Head of Research/ Chief Economist, Affin Hwang Investment Bank.

Panellists from the panel on Mid-Term Review – Revisions on the New Economic Policy (NEP) & the New Economic Model (NEM), in a group photo. From L-R Prof. Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, Principal Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA), UKM & Chairman, CSO-Alliance; YB Arthur Joseph Kurup, Member of Parliament for Pensiangan, Sabah; Tan Sri Yong Poh Kon, Chairman, Royal Selangor International; Fellow, Malaysian Institute of Management; and Member, National Economic Consultative Council (MAPEN I & II) and Dr. Hezri Adnan, Senior Director (Research), ISIS Malaysia.

The takeaway from the summit are as follows

1. The Malaysian government must continue to practice fiscal discipline and be clear of its policy objectives to strengthen market confidence.
2. Drastic cuts on expenditure in the government's effort to reduce government debt may run the risk of creating external shocks. Cost cutting on development expenditure needs to be carefully considered as it is needed for GDP growth. Instead, there should be more cuts on operational expenditure.
3. To bring about overall national development, there needs to be added focus on addressing inequality and poverty. Higher participation of women in the workforce will lead to greater national growth. This can be encouraged by enabling affordable access to childcare and elderly care, especially among low-income communities.
4. The introduction of new taxes has to be conducted with caution and more study is necessary to assess its overall impact to avoid adversely affecting market confidence.
5. High debt-to-GDP ratio needs to be addressed, perhaps through austerity measures to reenable higher growth, but this needs to the consideration of all policy options.
6. High levels of household debt is a major threat towards Malaysia's long-term growth prospects. Young Malaysians need to develop good spending and saving habits. The government must find ways to increase income and reduce cost of living, such as in the area of healthcare, child support, transport, and the provision of affordable housing.
7. Malaysia should rectify the ICERD and have stronger policy commitments towards the SDGs.
8. With the loss of revenue from GST and unreliable oil prices, new revenue sources need to be found.

International Conference On Sarawak & ASEAN

1 November 2018
Hilton Kuching, Sarawak

The International Conference on Sarawak and ASEAN is the first event the KSI Institute has organised in Sarawak and it had seen the participation of more than 250 participants from both the Federal and State government, business community from various industries, academia, civil society, and all whom are seeking to develop Sarawak into a leading player, not just within Malaysia, but indeed on the global stage.

The Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Abang Haji Openg in his keynote address highlighted the economic progress and development of Sarawak - a GDP growth rate of 4.7 percent in 2017, more than double the growth rate of 2.3 percent the year before. This makes Sarawak the third biggest economy, behind only Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, contributing to 9.7 percent of Malaysia's national GDP; a GDP per capita of MYR49,327, an increase from MYR44,000 in 2016. With this progress, Sarawak is on track of achieving its 2020 GDP growth target of 4.7 percent according to MIDF Research; has the lowest rate of inflation at 3 percent and an unemployment rate of 3 percent, an improvement from 3.3 percent in 2016. The poverty rate fallen from 0.9 percent in 2014 to 0.6 percent in 2017.

Businesses in Sarawak could expand by tapping into the new markets created by the government in the region. Director of the State Planning Unit in the Chief Minister's Department Buckland Bangik said what the government could do was to find ways to create new markets and generate growth for the business community.

Growing Together for Common Prosperity & Regional Wellbeing

Mr Indranil Lahiri, CEO & President of Siemens Malaysia and Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Executive Vice Chairman, KSI greeting the arrival of YAB Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg, Chief Minister of Sarawak.

Speakers, Strategic & Corporate Partners and Organisers posing for a group photo with the Guest of Honour, YAB Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg, Chief Minister of Sarawak.

Role Players for the session on Energy And Industrial Development – Twin Pillars Of Growth For Sarawak; What Next? in a group photo. From L-R: Mr Alexander Chin, Chief Financial Officer, Sarawak Energy Berhad, Ms Kristine Liew, CEO & Managing Director, MRS Management Sdn Bhd, Dr. Thomas S.K. Tang, Chief Executive Officer, PJ Sustainability Consulting Limited and Mr Steve Loo, Executive Vice President, Siemens Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

Tan Sri Michael Yeoh presenting a memento to YB See Chee How, Special Officer, Ministry of Works for the State) representing YB Tuan Baru Bian, Minister of Works at the closing ceremony of the Conference.

YB Dr. Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen, Member of Parliament, Bandar Kuching listening to Datuk Seri Azman Ujang, Chairman, Bernama speaking at the panel on The New Sarawak In A New Malaysia – What Lies Ahead?"

Mr Indranil Lahiri, CEO & President of Siemens Malaysia presenting a token to YAB Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg, Chief Minister of Sarawak after his walkabout at the Siemens exhibits. Looking on is Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Executive Vice Chairman, KSI.

The Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Abang Haji Openg in his keynote address highlighted the economic progress and development of Sarawak

A GDP growth rate of 4.7 percent in 2017, more than double the growth rate of 2.3 percent the year before. This makes Sarawak the third biggest economy, behind only Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, contributing to 9.7 percent of Malaysia's national GDP.

This conference played host to many distinguished speakers, including YB Dr. Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen, Member of Parliament, Bandar Kuching; Prof. Dr. James Chin, Director, Asia Institute, University of Tasmania; Dr. Arnold Puyok, Deputy Dean, (Research & Postgraduate), Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS); Datuk Seri Azman Ujang, Chairman, Bernama; Dato' Henry Goh, Co-Founder, Chief Operating Officer, MACRO KIOSK Group of Companies; Mr Indranil Lahiri, President & Chief Executive Officer, Siemens Malaysia; Dato' Ramesh Kodammal, Chairman, ASEAN India Business Council; Mr Alexander Chin,Chief Financial Officer, Sarawak Energy Berhad; Dr. Thomas S.K. Tang; Tan Sri Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot, Chairman, Sarawak Biodiversity Council; Datuk Dr. Abang Haji Abdul Rauf B. Abang. Haji Zen, Chairman, Housing Development Corporation, Sarawak; Ms Yong Li Na, Co-Chair, Sarawak CSO-SDG Alliance Pro-Tem Committee; Dr. Henry Chan, Conservation Director, WWF Malaysia; YB See Chee How, Special Officer, Ministry of Works for the State) representing YB Tuan Baru Bian, Minister of Works and others.

Sarawak has also launched the Sarawak Digital Economy Strategy includes plans to develop Sarawak's digital economy between now to 2022. At the moment, the digital economy only contributes 2.3 percent to the state's economy. This needs to be vastly improved if Sarawak is to catch the 4th Industrial Revolution train. To spearhead this initiative, the Sarawak Multimedia Authority, Sarawak Digital Economy Corp and Development Bank of Sarawak have been established, with RM2 billion allocated towards the development of the state's digital economy infrastructure. We have even launched our own - Sarawak Pay, which is hope will be widely used in Sarawak.

There are many other exciting initiatives in the pipeline all aimed towards the development of the state, too many for me to highlight in the short span of time. The state government has approved a total of MYR 7 billion worth of infrastructure and public utilities projects since last year and are taking steps in earnest to ensure that the process of implementation is expedited. ■

Mr Indranil Lahiri of Siemens Malaysia and Tan Sri Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot, Chairman, Sarawak Biodiversity Council listening with rapt attention to Dato' Henry Goh, Co-Founder, Chief Operating Officer, Macro Kiosk Berhad speaking.

NUCC Report Forum Summary

Participants and speakers gathering for a group photo at the end of the event to commemorate the successful conclusion of the first Roundtable organised by Kingsley Strategic Institute.

A distinguished panel of speakers at the Roundtable. From L-R, Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria (KITA-UKM); Dr Sharifah Munirah Alatas, Strategic Studies & International Relations Program, UKM; Datuk Kuthubul Zaman (PROHAM Chairman) and Dato' Lim Chee Wee (Former Bar Council Member).

The report was an effort by the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) which was completed in June 2015, but only released in November 2018 by the new government. The forum's discussion was centred on the 16 recommendations made by the NUCC.

Tan Sri Dato' Michael Yeoh hoped that this process can quickly move forward after several years of delay.

The KSI Institute and the Malaysian CSO-SDG Alliance organised a forum to discuss and review the National Unity Report. The report was an effort by the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) which was completed in June 2015, but only released in November 2018 by the new government. The forum's discussion was centred on the 16 recommendations made by the NUCC.

In his welcome speech Tan Sri Dato' Dr Michael Yeoh hoped that this process can quickly move forward after several years of delay. The forum itself was moderated by Prof Datuk Denison Jayasooria who started with a background introduction about the NUCC and its efforts leading to the creation of the blueprint.

Panel speakers then gave their views, beginning with Dr Madeline Berma who emphasised how Sabah and Sarawak are often given second priority in the overall national agenda and policy making process, leading to much dissatisfaction and can potentially be a source for disunity. Dato' Lim Chee Wee, former President of the Malaysian Bar Council, explained how three pieces of legislations; the Harmony and Reconciliation Bill, the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill, and the National Harmony and Reconciliation Commission Act are designed to not only replace the Sedition Act, but as a means to promote national unity through a sense of positive and negative obligation. The importance of mediation is crucial, stressed PROHAM Chairman Datuk Kuthubul Zaman, who called for more effective processes of community mediation. Dr Sharifah Munirah Alatas from the Leader in Strategy Program, UKM pointed out that development of democratic literacy and political maturity takes time and genuine reactions towards unity can only be brought about through education. This requires stronger collaboration between Department of Unity and the Ministry of Education. Dr Helen Ting, A senior fellow from IKMAS, UKM, stressed the need bridge major social cleavages between opposing national views which are ethno-centric and opposing views between East and West Malaysia.

Comments from participants ranged from emphasising equal opportunity to addressing opposing narratives and reconciling the sense of national identity. The institutionalisation of preferential treatments without basis which neglects those in need also prove to be a major dividing factor. Unsurprisingly, the role of education is crucial to bring about long-term unity and reconciliation. This ranges from historical accuracy, especially in relation to the interpretation of the Federal Constitution, to the selection and training of teachers whom need to have an open mind and be equipped to teach acceptance of culture and differences more effectively.

The spotlight was on the vernacular schools and special provision schools which is seen as a form of separation. Some participants suggested a move towards the Singapore model where students need to learn their mother tongue, while other participants pointed out that differences and diversity needs to be celebrated. There was consensus that Bahasa Malaysia (the Malay language) needs to be strengthened as a platform for unity, but at the same time, other languages and cultural heritages need to be preserved. ■

KSI and CSO-SDG Roundtable

KSI and CSO-SDG Alliance held Roundtable on the Federal Constitution and National Unity. Speakers included Dato Ambiga Sreenevasan, Prof Datuk Shad Faruqi and moderated by Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 December 2018.

Discussions found that the narrative was controlled by right wing parties whom exploited the unpreparedness of the government. There was insufficient education and awareness on ICERD not only among members of the public, but also amongst Pakatan Harapan's own politicians. The anti-ICERD rally was a reaction from the Malays who fear that their special rights will be removed, which is untrue as ICERD is for the rights of all people. The government should not have capitulated and should have shown confidence and courage in such times of adversity. It was noted that increasingly, any issue can be played up to involve a racial dimension, which is worrying. Ultimately, there are no incompatibilities between ICERD and Article 153 of the Federal Constitution as ICERD allows reservations for alternative action. The government should leverage from the support of civil society to advocate ICERD and engage with the public to counter narratives going against it. ■

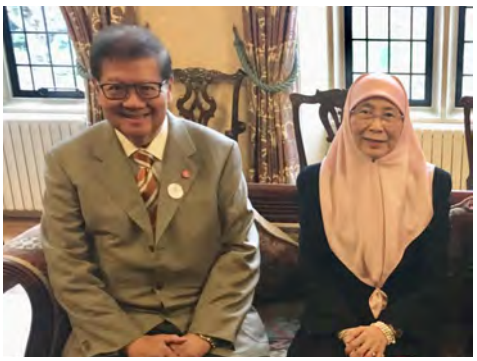
Tan Sri Michael Yeoh and Ms Caroline Cheong joined the CSO- SDG Alliance in meeting with the Speaker of Parliament Dato Mohd Ariff.

KSI Chairman Tan Sri Barry Goh and President Tan Sri Michael Yeoh calling on the Ambassador of China HE Bai Tian.

majeca.org

MAJECA (Malaysia-Japan Economic Association) is a bilateral association formed for the purpose of promoting a closer economic relationship between the private sectors of Malaysia and Japan through mutual discussions at an annual economic forum, and other related activities. ■

Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, President of KSI Institute, attended the MAJECA (Malaysia-Japan Economic Association) Business Forum in Tokyo, as Hon Secretary General of MAJECA during Malaysia Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir's visit to Japan on 6 November 2018.



The 4th World Muslim Leadership Forum

Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Secretary General of WMLF with the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail at the Lambeth Palace in London on 6 December 2018. ■

KSI's Upcoming Event

24 JANUARY 2019
Hotel Istana Kuala Lumpur

29 JANUARY 2019
Hotel Istana Kuala Lumpur

For further enquiries or registration, please email to **info@kasi.asia**

KSI's Services

- Policy Research and Studies
- Business Advisory and Investor Services
- High Level Conferences and Business Summits
- Forums and Roundtables
- CEO Peer Group Programmes

Principal Officers of Kingsley Strategic Institute

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tan Sri Barry Goh, Chairman
- Tan Sri Dato' Hj Abd Karim bi Shaikh Munisar, Deputy Chairman
- Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, President

ADVISERS

- Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, Executive Adviser
- Dato' Jean Wong, Business Development

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- Caroline Cheong, Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer
- Max Say, Executive Director & Chief Partnership Officer
- Voon Zhen Yi, Research Director
- Jessica Hap, Senior Event Manager & Senior PA to President
- Kamalaveni A/P Batumalay, Conference Admin Manager

KINGSLEY ADVISORY & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES SDN BHD[1256734-T]
(fka Kingsley Digital Solutions Sdn. Bhd.)
Lot 10.01 (West Wing), Level 10, Menara BRDB, 285, Jalan Maarof, Bukit Bandaraya, 59000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
E: newsletter@kasi.asia T: +6012 628 3319