



**PRAXIS 2023:
ADVANCING MALAYSIA'S STRATEGIC INTERESTS**

**CLOSING REMARKS BY PROFESSOR DR MOHD FAIZ
ABDULLAH
CHAIRMAN, INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES (ISIS) MALAYSIA**

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Excellencies, distinguished panellists and delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

1. We have now reached that part of the day where we wrap up our deliberations.
2. To begin, we are deeply grateful that two ministers were amenable to giving the keynote addresses at PRAXIS 2023.
3. In the morning, the conference was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri's keynote address, where she rightly emphasised the importance of establishing a professionalised care sector accessible to all Malaysians. This is an imperative of national importance as the people age and as the need for care increases.



4. In the afternoon, we heard from Yang Berhormat Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad. His keynote addressed the dichotomy between economic imperatives and that of our environment, biodiversity and planet. Moving forward, it is evident that a business-as-usual situation will not suffice, and changes must be made across the board.

Recap

5. Meanwhile, the four sessions we had throughout the day deliberated on four matters of strategic national importance – food security, the care economy, the semiconductor industry, and the need for a nature positive economy.
6. The first panel on food security addressed a pivotal issue: the food that we have on our tables. Then, the panel shared how we must be viewing food security through a multidimensional lens to account for its complexity. Further, the panel suggested how we should be moving away from the “just in time” towards a “just in case” mindset, elucidating the importance of self-reliance over trade dependence.
7. The conversation on the care economy was resumed in the second panel, where the panellists furthered the care agenda. In outlining the gravity of the situation we are in, the panellists highlighted the threefold challenge of an ageing population, declining fertility rates, and women continuing to shoulder the burden of care responsibilities.



8. Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires care to be looked at as a public good, and to ensure affordability, accessibility and quality. Moving forward will warrant a whole of economy approach alongside greater data openness, a mindset shift, and the professionalisation of care work. This includes the development of a well-defined care economy, and the extension of social protection coverage.
9. The third panel pivoted from the care economy to the semiconductor industry. To begin, the panel articulated the importance of semiconductors in daily life, enabling greater technology adoption to solve challenges in food security, care economy, and the environment.
10. In growing our semiconductor industry, the panel put forward the overarching need to maintain our talent, especially against brain drain or the gig economy. Meanwhile, regionalisation can shift the paradigm from regional competition to regional collaboration, allowing Southeast Asia to become a vertically integrated market.
11. In the fourth and final panel on the nature positive economy, I was delighted to take note of how we can best balance economic development with the preservation of nature and biodiversity.
12. To truly unlock potential here, the panel highlighted the importance of overcoming the federal-state jurisdictional divide. This should no longer be a barrier in our journey towards more sustainable development.



13. Beyond that, private sector innovation and capacity must also be harnessed. Investments into sustainable environmental projects, leveraging on carbon markets, and aligning market interests are all potential solutions that we must be considering.
14. Lastly, we must remember that conservation projects are not just about achieving environment and climate outcomes, but maximising co-benefits, value creation, and ensuring rights to local and indigenous communities.

Moving forward

15. At this juncture, let us not forget that these conversations will not end here. As I mentioned at the outset of this conference, my colleagues will be compiling the thoughts, analyses and suggestions shared over the course of today. This compilation will inform the policy briefs that we will be publishing in the upcoming months.
16. Rest assured that while these briefs will be delivered to the highest level of government, we will also be making them publicly available via our website.



Conclusion

17. As we bring the PRAXIS 2023 Conference to an end, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to both Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri and Tuan Nik Nazmi, and the speakers and moderators.

18. To our partners:
 - Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung;
 - Felda Global Ventures; and
 - The Asia Foundation...thank you once again.

19. Lastly, I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues at ISIS Malaysia who have worked tirelessly to ensure the successful organisation of today's conference.

Thank you.

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