



# PRA~~X~~IS 2024

Policies for a better tomorrow

13 - 14 August 2024 | Renaissance KL





## ISIS Malaysia

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The Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia is the country's premier think-tank, with a mandate to advance Malaysia's strategic interests. As an autonomous research organisation, we focus on foreign policy and security; economics and trade; social policy and nation-building; technology and cyber; and climate and energy.

We actively conduct Track-Two diplomacy, promoting the exchange of views and opinions at the national and international level. We also play a role in fostering closer regional integration and international cooperation through forums, such as Asia-Pacific Roundtable, and networks like ASEAN Institutes of Strategic & International Studies network, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and Network of East Asian Think-Tanks.

## PRAXIS

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PRAXIS is ISIS Malaysia's flagship public policy conference, designed to bridge ideas and to translate theory into practice. Since 2011, PRAXIS has convened policymakers, private sector, civil society and academia to engage in topics of national interests.

PRAXIS is unique – distinguishing itself by embedding and integrating a research process to deliver impact. This starts with pre-conference roundtables and stakeholder engagement, transitions to solution-oriented panels at the conference, and ends with the publication of policy briefs that incorporate the insights and knowledge gained. Through the PRAXIS process, we ensure that every session is informed by research and stakeholder input, while continuing to influence public policy, foster ongoing dialogue and inform the implementation of innovative solutions long after the conference.

PRAXIS offers two types of sessions:

- **Research:** embeds the research process into the conferencing model, with multistakeholder roundtables being convened in the lead up to the conference. These pre-conference roundtables scope the topic, identify key issues and locate potential ways forward. This forms the basis for the solution-oriented panels at the conference. After the conference, policy briefs are published and delivered to the desks of policymakers and relevant stakeholders.
- **Spotlight:** designed to kindle public engagement on emerging issues and evolving policy areas, setting the stage for future discussions.

## Theme

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This year's theme, **Policies for a better tomorrow**, encapsulates Malaysia's precarious position and the necessity for robust public policies that advance economic equity, social progress and sustainable development. Rapid technological advancement, shifting global trade dynamics, climate crisis and increasing demand for care amid an ageing population are among the varied challenges confronting the country. Nonetheless, precarity and progress can be two sides of the same coin. By translating research into actionable insight, platforming innovative thinking and fostering collaborative discourse, PRAXIS 2024 aims to collectively chart a course forward for Malaysia.

# Programme

## Day 1 – 13 August 2024

0800-0900	Registration
0900-0910	Welcoming remarks by <b>Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah</b> Chairman, ISIS Malaysia
0910-0915	Special message by <b>YAB Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim</b> Prime Minister of Malaysia
0915-1015	<b>Spotlight session 1</b> Positioning Malaysia's trade and economic priorities amid a shifting global landscape
1015-1030	Break
1030-1130	<b>Spotlight session 2</b> Advancing Malaysia's economic complexity to achieve NIMP 2030 goals
1130-1200	Keynote address by <b>YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz</b> Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry
1200-1345	Lunch
1345-1400	Keynote address by <b>YB Tuan Steven Sim Chee Keong</b> Minister of Human Resources
1400-1515	<b>Research session 1</b> Adapting Malaysia's future of work to generative artificial intelligence
1515-1545	Break
1545-1700	<b>Research session 2</b> Regulating social media platforms while protecting free speech

## Day 2 – 14 August 2024

0800-0915	Registration
0915-1030	<b>Research session 3</b> Diversifying technology options for Malaysia’s energy transition
1030-1100	Break
1100-1200	<b>Spotlight session 3</b> Exploring pathways towards human-wildlife coexistence in Malaysia
1200-1400	Lunch
1400-1515	<b>Research session 4</b> Integrating health and social care for Malaysia’s care economy
1515-1545	Break
1545-1645	<b>Spotlight session 4</b> Reviewing urban solutions to ageing in the city
1645-1700	Closing remarks by <b>Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah</b> Chairman, ISIS Malaysia



## **Keynote address**

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### **YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz**

Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry

YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Aziz is responsible for growing the country's manufacturing industry and trade, as well as attracting investments. Since his appointment in December 2022, he has consistently pledged to make Malaysia more pro-business, pro-investment and pro-trade. He served as Malaysia's finance minister between March 2020 and October 2022 where he led the curation and implementation of eight stimulus and aid packages in response to Covid-19. Prior to his ministerial appointments, Tengku Zafrul was in the banking and financial sector for more than 22 years, specialising in investment banking, sustainable finance, change management and regional policy execution. Just before joining the government, he was the Group CEO and executive director of CIMB Group Holdings Bhd.





## Keynote address

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**YB Tuan Steven Sim Chee Keong**  
Minister of Human Resources

YB Steven Sim is the Bukit Mertajam MP and was appointed to his current post in December 2023. He was a deputy finance minister and deputy youth and sports minister. Prior to his election as a member of parliament, Sim served as councillor in Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai, one of the largest municipal councils in the country. He also sits on the governing board of the Penang Institute, a leading public policy think-tank. He is the author of four books: *The Audacity to Think: An Invitation to Rethink Politics*; *Being Malaysia*; an anthology of Malay poems, *Dalam Salju Ada Bunga* (2018); and a contemporary sociopolitical critique of the Malay classic *Hikayat Hang Tuah*, *Hang Tuah: Adiwira Bangsa*. In 2012, he was named a Young Global Leader of the Geneva-based World Economic Forum.



## **Welcoming and closing remarks**

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### **Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah**

Chairman, ISIS Malaysia

Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah leads the institute's policy development and Track-Two diplomacy, including through the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC). He is also the Malaysian representative to the ASEAN Regional Forum Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF EEP) meeting and Co-Chair of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). His diverse career spans media, law enforcement, education, corporate law and public interest litigation, as well as strategic and international affairs advisory to federal and state governments. He is the founding dean of Selangor Business School (UNISEL) and the author of books on jurisprudence, public policy and strategic management.



## Research session 1: **Adapting Malaysia's future of work to generative artificial intelligence**

The advent of generative artificial intelligence (AI) like generative pre-trained transformer (GPT)-based models and other emerging AI technologies have reignited concerns about the future of work, particularly its potential to displace, augment or change jobs across industries. Generative AI technologies, unlike previous waves of automation that replaced physical and routine tasks, aim to automate higher-order cognitive tasks. This raises the possibility of a greater scope of job displacement than initially anticipated, affecting jobs across a wider range of sectors. There are further concerns that technological advancement will accelerate skill-biased technological change and further widen the gap between high-skilled and low-skilled workers in Malaysia. This session will explore the potential job and skill impacts of generative AI and other novel AI technologies on Malaysia's future workforce. How will the job landscape change in the coming years? What policy strategies can Malaysia adopt to mitigate the risks of job displacement while incentivising job creation in emerging AI-driven sectors? How can Malaysia adapt the education and skills training ecosystem and labour market policies to better prepare workers, firms and society for the risks and opportunities created by technological change?

**Moderator****Calvin Cheng**

Fellow

Institute of Strategic &amp; International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Calvin is a fellow in the Economics, Trade and Regional Integration programme. His research interests span issues in applied economics, centring on jobs, social protection, economic development and the design of social transfer programmes.

**Panellists****Alyssa Farha Jasmin**

Economist

World Bank Malaysia

Alyssa is part of the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, where she works on informal employment, skills and labour-market implications of ageing in Malaysia. She was a research associate at the Khazanah Research Institute.

**Dr Jasmine Begum**

Regional Director, Corporate, External &amp; Legal Affairs

Microsoft ASEAN

Dr Jasmine's role includes addressing issues at the intersection of technology, policy and society in the Global South. She has more than 30 years' expertise in legal, policy, regulatory, geostrategy and communications. Prior to Microsoft, She held leadership positions at Dell, United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary-General in New York. She was the first Malaysian appointed to the Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group by the UN secretary-general in December 2021. She is also an adviser to various digital economy agencies in the region.

**Mohd Khairi Man**

Deputy Secretary-General,

Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC)

Khairi has been a unionist for 25 years and is an innovation technician at Panasonic Manufacturing Malaysia. He has 33 years' experience in the manufacturing sector and has been involved in union committees at the factory level up to the national level. He was involved in policymaking at the International Labour Organisation convention in Bali and has been on the PERKESO panel as a workers' representative since 2017.

**Thomas Mathew**

Group CEO  
TalentCorp Group of Companies

Thomas has more than 30 years' experience in corporate management, business strategy and risk management. He began his career as a banker at several local commercial banks, from where he joined Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. He later joined MBf Holdings, initially as chief operating officer before being appointed president. He has also worked in Sri Lanka as group finance director at Ben Holdings.



## Research session 2:

# Regulating social media platforms while protecting free speech

Harmful online content continues to proliferate on social media platforms. Existing countermeasures, however, were either designed in a different era for different-use cases or inadequate to address the challenges at scale. For instance, certain legal provisions were drafted before the advent of modern platforms and are blunt tools that could suppress free speech rights. Meanwhile, emerging technologies, such as generative AI, threaten to lower the barriers to creating realistic manipulated information, enabling its production at scale. This exacerbates existing problems with harmful online content. Efforts have been made to address these issues, such as social media licensing, but their effectiveness remains to be seen. This session will explore how platform regulation should be structured, what international best practices to consider, and how these fit into Malaysia's socio-political context and balanced by free speech imperatives. The aim is to outline innovative strategies for protecting Malaysia's information environment.

## Moderator



### Harris Zainul

Deputy Director (Research)  
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Harris directs the institute's research to advance Malaysia's strategic interests. He works on the interplay between technology, human rights and democracy, with a focus on policy responses to mis- and disinformation and social media platform governance.

## Panellists



### Anuar Fariz Fadzil

Head of Public Policy  
TikTok Malaysia

Anuar is responsible for nurturing strong partnerships with the government, agencies and think-tanks to champion TikTok's positive impact in Malaysia.



### Gayathry Venkiteswaran

Assistant Professor  
School of Media, Languages and Cultures  
University of Nottingham Malaysia

Gayathry has more than 20 years' experience as a journalist, editor, media activist, researcher and media educator, working in Malaysia and Southeast Asia. She was the executive director of the Southeast Asian Press Alliance. Prior to that, she headed the Malaysian Centre for Independent Journalism. Her area of expertise and research includes freedom of expression, media freedom and right to information, media in Southeast Asia, media and politics, media reforms, digital rights, journalism as a profession, organising and mobilising for media rights and civic space.



### Mediha Mahmood

CEO  
Communications and Multimedia Content Forum (CMCF)

Mediha is a legal and regulatory professional with more than 20 years' experience in top legal firms and public-listed companies. She joined CMCF in February 2021 as executive director. Since taking up the leadership role, she has spearheaded its rebranding and led the revamp of the content code, drafted with the involvement of industry players, policymakers and the public. She recently led efforts with international online-curated content (OCC) service providers to publish the OCC Guidelines, designed as a supportive tool for all OCC service providers in Malaysia.



### Research session 3:

## **Diversifying technology options for Malaysia's energy transition**

Malaysia aspires to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as early as 2050, with the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) spearheading the decarbonisation of the energy sector. Despite the broad suite of initiatives announced and anticipated investments, fossil fuels are still expected to make up 77% of Malaysia's primary energy supply and 29% of electricity installed capacity in 2050, with gas as the dominant source. Natural carbon sinks, which are themselves threatened by deforestation and development, shoulder a heavy burden of absorbing the volume of unabated emissions required to turn net-zero goals into reality. Hence, Malaysia should look beyond the portfolio of electricity generation sources currently considered in NETR and assess the long-term viability of other options. This session seeks to explore the feasibility, benefits and risks of other technologies that could complement existing measures to further displace fossil fuels and cement greater degrees of decarbonisation.



## Moderator



### **Dhana Raj Markandu**

Senior Analyst  
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Dhana's research focuses on energy and decarbonisation. He has more than 20 years of technical and management experience in the electricity sector with a diverse mix of technologies, including fossil fuels, renewables and nuclear. During a recent sabbatical, he freelanced as a management trainer, STEM educator and independent energy analyst. Dhana is a professional engineer with BEM, HRDC-certified trainer and TEDx speaker.

## Panellists



### **YM Raja Dato' Dr Abdul Aziz Raja Adnan**

Lead Adviser  
MyPOWER Corporation

Raja Dato' Dr Abdul Aziz has more than 30 years' experience in the nuclear industry and his expertise includes nuclear security, safety, radioactive waste management and non-proliferation. As a former board member and director-general of the Atomic Energy Licensing Board, he ensured safe nuclear operations. He has held major roles at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, including director for nuclear security and special assistant to the director-general. He has frequently advised the government on nuclear issues.



### **Dr Afiza Idris**

Director  
Energy Division  
Ministry of Economy

Dr Afiza's portfolios include leading the formulation of national policies on energy, including the oil and gas sector, devising strategies and initiatives in the five-year Malaysia Plan for sustainable development of the energy sector, and promoting development of the oil and gas industry. She was the deputy director of the Environment and Natural Resources Economic Division, Economic Planning Unit, where she assisted in the formulation of policies and strategies, and allocation of development expenditure for the environment sector.



### **Ikmal Hisham Maharon**

Assistant Director  
Sectoral Planning Division  
Economic Planning Unit Sarawak

Ikmal is a chemical engineer with more than 25 years' experience in industry, strategy, regulatory management and policymaking. In his current role, he oversees energy, energy transition, new economy, the oil and gas industry and related areas. His current focus is to accelerate Sarawak's energy transition in line with Post-Covid-19 Development Strategy 2030, increase the state's GDP, create new high-paying employment and safeguard environmental sustainability in the energy sector.

**Datin Ir Ts Nor Ziha Zainol Abidin**

Head of Corporate Ventures & Development  
Strategy & Venture Division  
Tenaga Nasional Bhd

Datin Nor Ziha is a corporate development professional with a passion for driving growth and innovation. She is focused on expanding TNB's business portfolio and enhancing its technological capabilities. Her responsibilities include identifying and pursuing strategic partnerships and collaborations leading to new markets and value-creation opportunities. She is also actively promoting a culture of innovation within TNB, encouraging the exploration of cutting-edge technologies and business models that will position the company for sustainable growth in the evolving energy landscape.



## Research session 4: **Integrating health and social care for Malaysia's care economy**

Asia's rapidly ageing societies underscores the urgent necessity for social services to meet care needs over the long term. But a key barrier to effective delivery and organisation of social services is the dominant approach of treating health and social care as entirely separate policy domains in favour of a curative health approach that threatens to strain public health systems further. This stands in the way of adopting promotive and preventative measures that could be critical to meeting care needs. In Malaysia, latest developments outlined in the Health White Paper and impending legislation, such as the Senior Citizens' Bill, offer new opportunities to reform health and social care services to meet these gaps. This session takes stock of the aged care economy and best practices from across the region preparing for ageing nation status, while delving into systemic reforms surrounding the care economy, community-based care and long-term care insurance. In essence, it outlines the vision for an ideal endpoint: the seamless and equitable provision of services for the elderly.

**Moderator****Lee Min Hui**

Senior Analyst  
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Min Hui is a senior analyst in the Social Policy and National Integration programme. Her research interests centre around issues of social inclusivity, primarily gender equality, welfare, care economy, ageing, labour protections, urban poverty and planning.

**Panellists****Assoc Prof Angelique Chan**

Executive Director  
Centre for Ageing Research & Education  
Duke-NUS Medical School  
National University of Singapore

Assoc Prof Angelique's portfolio in ageing research contains projects that are multidisciplinary and focused on the following themes: social determinants of health, caregiving, long-term care, dementia and evaluation of programmes providing health and community social services to the older adult community. She has led several major projects on ageing in Singapore, including large-scale longitudinal national surveys, which have led to recommendations in policy research and public policymaking. Her work spans more than 150 publications. She is currently chair of the International Alliance of Research Universities Ageing, Longevity and Health Hub.

**Dr Khoo Chow Huat**

Managing Director  
Hospital & Healthcare Operations  
Sunway Healthcare Group

Dr Khoo has 28 years of strategic, operational and investment management experience, including 19 years in healthcare across Singapore, Malaysia and China. He oversees the development and coordination of hospitals and healthcare facilities, ensuring integrated health services. Prior to his current role, he was CEO, Healthcare at Perennial Holdings, managing the group's hospitals and eldercare services, and before that, general manager of Raffles Hospital Chongqing in China. He was previously deputy managing director of Sunway Group Healthcare Services and CEO of Sunway Medical Centre.



**Dr Matthew Dornan**

Senior Economist  
World Bank Malaysia

Dr Matthew is part of the World Bank’s Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice. He works on social protection, skills and labour market policy, and migration and labour mobility. His previous assignment was in Papua New Guinea and various Pacific Island countries, where he established and implemented projects supporting active labour market policies, TVET and skills development, international labour mobility and social-protection responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. He was a deputy director of the Development Policy Centre at the Australian National University.



**Dr Sheleaswani Inche Zainal Abidin**

Public Health Specialist  
Ministry of Health

Dr Sheleaswani was appointed as a specialist in the elderly health section in 2014. Her area of expertise is in family health. She is actively involved in policy planning and development, monitoring and analyses of healthcare programmes for older people, especially in primary health care service delivery. She is the author of several papers related to primary health care delivery and service assessment and performance for the older people.



**Spotlight session 1:**

**Positioning Malaysia’s trade and economic priorities amid a shifting global landscape**

As the world grapples with escalating geopolitical uncertainty, trade protectionism and shifting economic alliances, Malaysia, a highly open and trade-dependent economy, is at a crossroads. The changing global landscape presents risks and opportunities for Malaysia, especially as it gears up to assume the ASEAN chair in 2025. This session will explore how Malaysia could navigate these complex dynamics to bolster its trade and economic strategies, ensuring they serve both regional interests and domestic economic goals. How can Malaysia leverage on ASEAN leadership to enhance regional cooperation and align with the economic aspirations of a growing Global South? How can Malaysia make use of economic diplomacy to advance its domestic socio-economic objectives outlined in the Madani Economy Framework? How can public policy ensure that the benefits of economic openness are shared more evenly?

## Moderator



### Jaideep Singh

Analyst  
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Jaideep's research interests lie in industrial and trade policy. His public policy experience runs the gamut from national planning in Zanzibar, Tanzania, as an Overseas Development Institute (ODI) fellow to assisting in the formulation of Malaysia's New Industrial Master Plan 2030, as a special officer to the deputy investment, trade and industry minister.

## Panellists



### Arividya Arimuthu

Senior Fellow  
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Arividya specialises in WTO and EU laws and has more than 20 years' experience in trade negotiations. She was a senior director for strategic negotiations at MITI and chief negotiator for numerous high-stakes free trade agreement negotiations, including CPTPP, for which she led the ratification and implementation for Malaysia.



### Dr Lili Yan Ing

Lead Adviser  
Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

Dr Lili Yan is Secretary-General of the International Economic Association (IEA). She was a lead adviser to the Indonesian trade minister and senior adviser on trade and investment at the President's Office. During her tenure, Indonesia concluded RCEP, Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Indonesia-Korea CEPA and reactivated the Indonesia-EU CEPA. Among the books she co-edited are *G20 Indonesia: New Normal, New Technologies, New Financing, Robots and AI: A New Economic Era*, *The Indonesian Economy and Regional Integration and Non-Tariff Measures in ASEAN*.



### Rozieyanahayu Ab Rahman

Director  
Strategic Negotiations Division  
Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI)

Rozieyanahayu focuses on international trade agreements. She had previously served at the ASEAN-Japan Centre, where she developed programmes to foster trade, investment and tourism between ASEAN and Japan.



## Spotlight session 2:

# Advancing Malaysia's economic complexity to achieve NIMP 2030 goals

Economic complexity refers to a country's ability to produce a diverse range of sophisticated and technologically advanced products while measuring the depth of its knowledge creation and productive capabilities. Nations with high economic complexity tend to exhibit sustained economic growth, higher productivity and increased per capita incomes over the longer term. Malaysia has set ambitious targets to increase its economic complexity ranking under the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030. This strategy involves expanding advanced manufacturing capabilities, investment in higher quality education, and building a better innovation ecosystem. Achieving these goals, however, requires overcoming longstanding domestic policy challenges while navigating an increasingly challenging outlook for global supply chains. This session aims to explore Malaysia's efforts towards driving greater economic complexity. How are the current initiatives faring and what are the key obstacles to deepen economic complexity? How can we align the interests of public, private and academic institutions to develop a truly innovative and skill-driven economy capable of thriving in the global marketplace?



## Moderator



### Qarrem Kassim

Analyst  
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Qarrem's primary research interests include international trade, political and institutional economics, wages and productivity growth and the development of local MSMEs. His recent work focused on government strategic plans for MSME development, formalisation of informal entrepreneurs and various sector-specific government development plans. He was a consultant specialising in public sector economic advisory.

## Panellists



### Aedreena Reeza Alwi

Director and Head of NIMP secretariat  
Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI)

Aedreena has more than 20 years' experience in industrial policy development, bilateral, regional and multilateral trade negotiations as well as economic cooperation. In her present post, she oversees policy work for resource-based sectors, including iron and steel, oil and gas, chemical and petrochemicals, commodities, minerals, and pharmaceutical and medical devices. As head of the New Industrial Master Plan Delivery Management Unit, she monitors and tracks the implementation of NIMP 2030. She also headed the team responsible for formulating NIMP 2030.



### Jan Noether

Executive Director  
Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MGCC)

Jan worked for the German-based MNC Deutsche Bank in corporate banking and corporate finance in Stuttgart, Berlin, Mumbai and Ho Chi Minh City for 16 years before taking over a project to restructure a sizeable American furniture production facility in Vietnam. In 2006, he joined the global network of German Chambers Abroad and oversaw activities in Vietnam, China, Türkiye and Egypt. He assumed the present post in May. He is also the global spokesperson for the German Chambers Abroad (AHK) network, which spans more than 90 countries.



### Prof Dr VGR Chandran Govindaraju

Professor of Industrial Development  
Universiti Malaya

Prof Chandran was a principal analyst at the Malaysian Industry – Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), Prime Minister's Department. His research interests are mainly in innovation, technology development, trade and globalisation that relate to industrial development. His field research covers sectors like electrical and electronics, automotive, food, chemical, oil palm, machinery, iron and steel, ICT and renewable energy. In recent years, his research has expanded into investigating newly emerging enterprises and non-tariff measures, mainly regulatory and procedural requirements that serve as a barrier for firms to integrate into the global value chain.



### **Spotlight session 3:**

## **Exploring pathways towards human-wildlife coexistence in Malaysia**

As one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, Malaysia's biodiversity and wildlife are integral to its natural heritage and deeply embedded in its cultural, economic and national identities. The ongoing ecological and climate crisis, fuelled by an economic system that thrives on maximum extraction from the planet and people, has caused significant harm to the natural world. Intensifying competition for space has escalated human-wildlife conflicts and roadkill incidents, making many species vulnerable and pushing some, including iconic species, to the brink of extinction. For instance, there are fewer than 150 Malayan tigers remaining in the wild. Malaysia is at a critical juncture, forced to confront these issues before more species become extinct and further disrupt the balance of the ecosystem. This session will delve into Malaysia's management of human-wildlife conflict and overall approach to biodiversity conservation. Representatives from diverse backgrounds will discuss policy and regulatory measures, innovative practices, as well as society's role in forging a path towards a harmonious relationship between humans and wildlife.

## Moderator



### Ahmad Afandi

Fellow

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Afandi's interest lies in sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and natural resources management. He was an environmental consultant where he led several projects on strategic planning, policy preparation, land use planning and technical studies. He also served as an environmental sustainability thematic group lead for the Malaysian CSO-SDG Alliance.

## Panellists



### Dato' Sri Darwis Abdul Razak

CEO

Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL)

Dato' Sri Darwis has been overseeing the development of the East Coast Rail Link project since 2016. He has more than 25 years' experience in infrastructure project management, finance and banking. Prior to the current role, Darwis was chief financial officer for an infrastructure project with a budget of RM5 billion.



### Dr Khairul Naim Adham

Undersecretary

Biodiversity Management Section

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability

Dr Khairul assumed the current post in 2018. He also took on the position of national project director for the Global Environment Facility-funded 'Global wildlife programme Malaysia: building institutional and local capacities to reduce wildlife crime and enhance protection of iconic wildlife' in 2023. He has more than 20 years' experience as an administrative and diplomatic officer, having served the Ministry of Housing and Local Government; Ministry of Internal Security; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources; Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources; and Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Climate Change. He is a professional technologist in the field of green technology.



### Dr Mark Rayan Darmaraj

Country Director

Wildlife Conservation Society Malaysia Programme

Dr Mark joined Wildlife Conservation Society in January 2021 and has more than 20 years' experience in wildlife conservation. He was the first and thus far, the only Malaysian with a PhD on tiger ecology and is a member of the IUCN's SSC – Cat Specialist Group for Malaysia. He has published articles and journals on different species from large mammals to small carnivores and has garnered media attention as part of advocacy efforts to prioritise Malaysian wildlife conservation.

**Zara Phang**

Sustainable Economy Lead  
WWF-Malaysia

Zara has been with WWF-Malaysia for 10 years, providing content, research, analyses and insights into relevant issues to effectively communicate and support advocacy work on sustainable economy. Her current focus is on mainstreaming the economic value of the natural environment and the concept of Beyond GDP. She was the lead author on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Asia-Pacific. She was a freelance consultant on environmental policy and sustainable consumption and production projects in Malaysia with ISIS Malaysia and Economic Planning Unit.



## Spotlight session 4: **Reviewing urban solutions to ageing in the city**

As Malaysia nears ageing nation status, the need to mobilise planning policies to develop age-friendly urban infrastructure is paramount. With 79% of the population concentrated in urban areas, cities must respond to this challenge, especially amid a cultural preference for ageing-in-place. A key barrier to healthy and active ageing for elderly living in cities is the exclusionary policies which isolate the elderly from social participation and interaction with their surroundings. Age-friendly cities would not only support elderly wellbeing but also impact wider social agendas, such as better disability inclusion, opportunities for social mobility, and the creation of public spaces and social infrastructure. This session explores best practices in implementing age-friendly urban development policies and takes stock of the challenges, drawing inspiration from successful age-friendly cities across the country.

**Moderator****Chai Sen Tyng**

Senior Research Officer  
Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing

Sen Tyng joined the Institute of Gerontology in 2003. A mid-career researcher in social gerontology, he was part of a number of internationally and locally funded research projects or consultancies at the institute, with regular publications in journals, books and print media on ageing. He is a life member of the Gerontological Association of Malaysia (GEM) and is active in studies related to population and household dynamics, aged care and social protection for older people.

**Panellists****Dr Azmizam Abdul Rashid**

Deputy CEO  
Urbanice Malaysia

Dr Azmizam is the project coordinator for the EPU's SDG cities' road map and voluntary local review (VLR) reports for eight local authorities. His career at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government encompassed roles as director of knowledge management of Urbanice Malaysia, principal assistant director research and development PLANMalaysia and planning officer.

**Daniel Lim**

Director of Urban Solutions  
Think City

Daniel leads the placemaking practice in Think City. He has spent more than a decade pioneering projects to activate spaces through placemaking in Penang, Johor Bahru, Kuala Lumpur and India. He also advocates for social inclusion and community participation in culture-based urban-regeneration efforts. He oversees the Urban Solutions team that drives innovative solutions to complex urban challenges through multi-disciplinary, people-oriented and occasionally unconventional approaches. He is an associate member of Malaysia Institute of Planners and founding committee member of Placemaking Malaysia.

**Assoc Prof Dr Sumarni Ismail**

Department of Design and Architecture  
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

Dr Sumarni is the founder of the Architecture programme for Part 1 and Part II at the Faculty of Design and Architecture, UPM. She specialises in History of Islamic Architecture, History of Southeast Asia and Advance Studio. She has supervised postgraduate students in not only architecture but also socio-culture, arts, urban, sustainable design and Industrialised Building System (IBS). She worked as an architect and was responsible for the development of a new township at Jalan Meru, Klang. She has a wide range of experience ranging from designing to project management of high-rise and commercial buildings, housing and institutional building projects. She is a member of Concrete Society of Malaysia.

## Partners







# Notes





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