



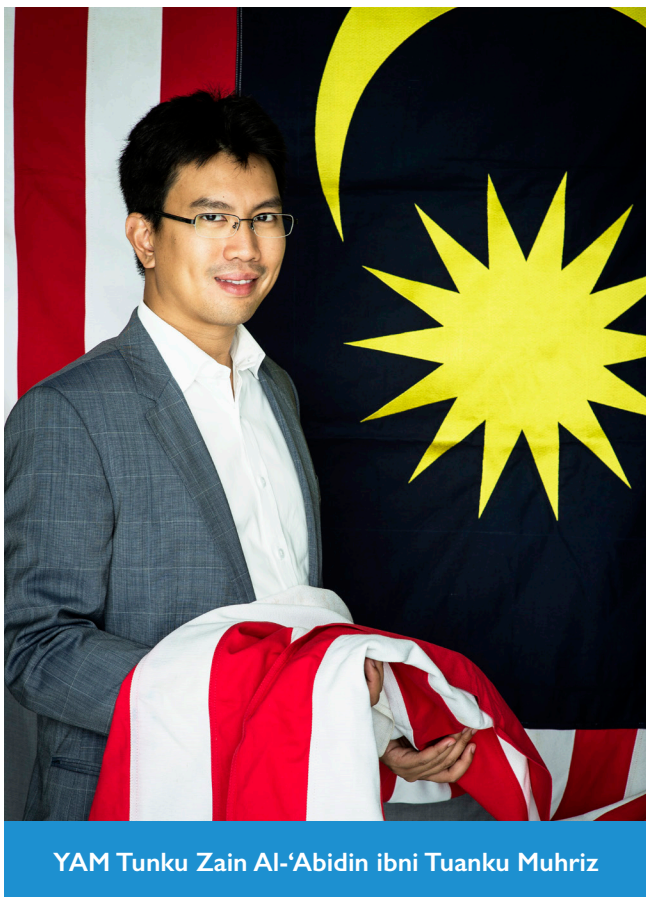
**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**  
Collaboration | Dynamism | Transparency





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YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz

## Message from Founding President

With Covid-19 finally subsiding in 2022, we - along with countless other organisations and companies up and down the country - were able to reset and regroup for a post-pandemic reality. We returned in earnest to focusing on the policy areas that matter for Malaysia's future – across our pillars of Democracy & Governance, Economics & Business, Public Finance, and Social Policy – including our work on Orang Asli and education, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) research, budget transparency (at federal and state level), public procurement reform, monitoring of Covid-19 expenditure, and digital trade.

**“Think tanks that believe in things - such as the principles of liberty and justice - must always engage with both the government and opposition of the day, and I'm pleased that my colleagues have contributed to an environment where enemies can become interlocutors, where disagreements can be civil, and where constructive criticism can lead to compromise. Much of this is enabled by institutional reforms that have created new platforms for discussion.”**

In this regard I'm particularly proud of our work as Secretariat of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Political Financing. Indeed, the existence of so many Parliamentary Select Committees and APPGs - and the considerable commitments from Members of Parliaments who sit on them - would itself have been quite unthinkable merely several years ago. So I hope that what happens inside these bodies will similarly lead to important - and permanent - changes that will improve our democracy.

Still, my everyday discussions with Malaysians suggests that any optimism is tempered by extreme caution. People are intensely worried about national unity, about corruption, and about the existence of a "deep state" that will never allow reforms to meaningfully take place. Interestingly, I have encountered the same sentiments by people who support opposite ends of the political spectrum. This is an unhealthy trend indeed, indicating a deep distrust of institutions which social media algorithms do not help to bridge.

That is why we need to increase transparency in how people are appointed to these institutions - and Government Linked Companies! - and to strengthen independent check and balances that scrutinise and expose wrongdoings. Malaysian civil society is of course prone to many biases and weaknesses as well, but that's why we encourage healthy competition and a free media to keep us in line too!

To repeat myself from last year, it is only with robust research and honest advocacy that research-based policymaking can triumph over the whims of personality-based politics and short-term populist sentiment, and I thank donors, sponsors and supporters who continue to share this belief.

**YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz**

Founding President, IDEAS



Tricia Yeoh, PhD

## Message from CEO

After two long years of lockdowns, Malaysia – along with the rest of the world – finally opened its international borders. 2022 was therefore a year of recovery and recuperation, and indeed we have seen the economy bouncing back, with some exceptions. I am proud that IDEAS has continued to adapt and respond according to what the nation most needs in each cycle, and we have remained productive and active throughout.

In 2022, our revenues **reduced by 5%** and we **received 1,556 media mentions worth RM 40.21 million in PR value**. We successfully completed a total of **13 projects**, published more than **6 policy papers and reports**, and **conducted more than 25 events**.

Together with the support of nine Members of Parliament and a Senator across the political divide, as well as the Dewan Rakyat Speaker; we birthed the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Political Financing which IDEAS was Secretariat for. Through the APPG, we tabled a Private Member's Bill on Political Financing, which was actively used to gain public, political and civil society support for reforms that are crucially needed to stem political corruption. We look forward to doing more this year with a newly-formed APPG and the new government's Political Financing law. Related to this is our updated Pantau Kuasa tracker of political appointments

into federal statutory bodies, which showed Ismail Sabri's government with the largest political appointments of the three latest administrations.

Our multi-year effort at promoting CPTPP ratification paid off, as the Malaysian government finally made the bold decision to ratify the multilateral agreement that will boost trade and set ourselves up for success as we work towards improved State-Owned Enterprises, public procurement, labour and environmental standards. We have since been appointed by MITI as its think tank partner reviewing the CPTPP. We also launched important policy papers covering the ASEAN Economic Community (through our annual ASEAN Prosperity Initiative project), digital trade, and supply chain bottlenecks during the pandemic.

A two-year project investigating the impact of COVID-19 on refugee children's access to education and healthcare also culminated in a report which was well-received. The refugee community in Malaysia continues to suffer the consequences of poorly-coordinated public policy. We also worked to improve breast cancer care policy in Malaysia, in which gaps are severely lacking.

Finally, we had a series of highly successful subnational workshops with civil society actors across the country. Specifically, we launched a Malaysia Open Budget Index, a unique, first-of-its-kind tool that captures transparency levels

of all state governments' national budgets. We were pleasantly surprised to see Terengganu topping the charts, and hope to see more states engaging in transparent budget practices.

IDEAS continues to work in partnership with other organisations, since public policy advocacy requires collaboration with multiple stakeholders. We continue to work closely with the Seed Community for a Professional Parliament, #RasuahBusters and others to make change happen. With GE15 at the end of 2022 resulting in a unity government, we look forward to political stability, the promise of institutional reform and an even more exciting year ahead.

As always, we could not have achieved this work without the continued support of our funders, supporters, government and civil society partners, and the private sector. As we anticipate a year on the uptick – barring unforeseen externalities – IDEAS looks forward to continue playing a crucial role in the nation's development in the areas of democracy and governance, public finance and socioeconomic policy. As an independent entity, we connect stakeholders to achieve policy reform collectively for a better Malaysia.

**“We wish you a fantastic 2023 as we work together for change.”**

**Tricia Yeoh, PhD,**  
Chief Executive, IDEAS

# Financial Overview and Outreach

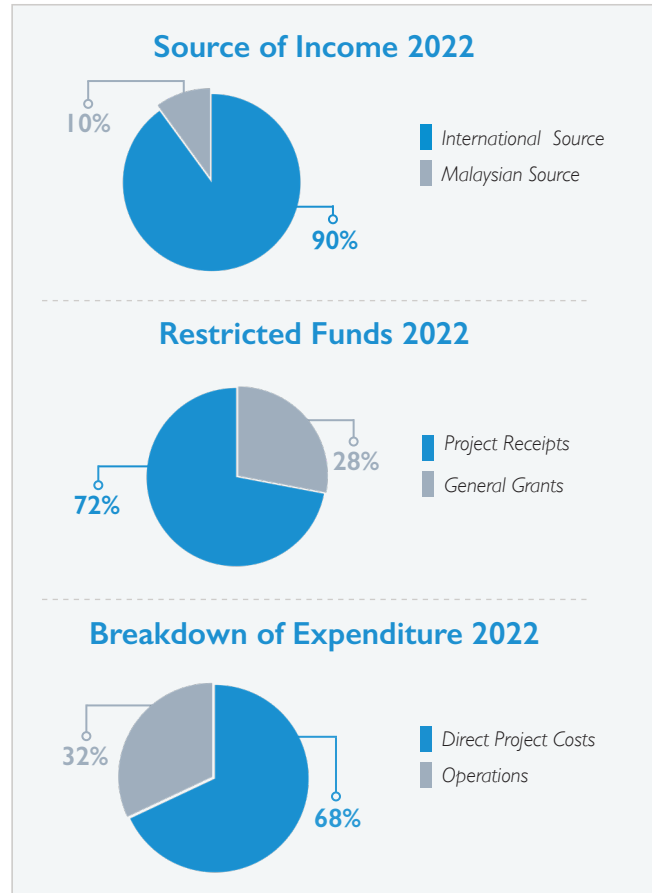


During this financial year (Oct 2021 – Sept 2022) **we raised RM 3,360,539**. From this, **RM 347,517 (10%)** was raised **from local sources**, while **RM 3,013,022 (90%)** was **from abroad**. **RM 2,424,770 (72%)** was funds restricted to specific projects, **leaving only RM 935,769 (28%)** for core operational costs and urgent initiatives.

Total expenditure for the financial year was RM 3,360,441. This comprised of direct expenses of RM 2,269,209 and total operating expenditures of RM 1,091,232. This leaves a net deficit of RM 6,341. At the end of the financial year, our total assets were RM 791,671 and total liabilities were RM 378,296.

The full audited financial report is available from our website (<https://www.ideas.org.my/our-funding/>).

Thank you to all our funders and sponsors who have supported us. This includes the Luminate Foundation Inc, European Union, Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF), Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), DAI GLOBAL LLC, British High Commission (BHC), National Endowment for Democracy (NED), United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef), World Bank Group and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO). We would also like to thank the more than 20 Malaysian companies and individuals who have supported us in 2022.

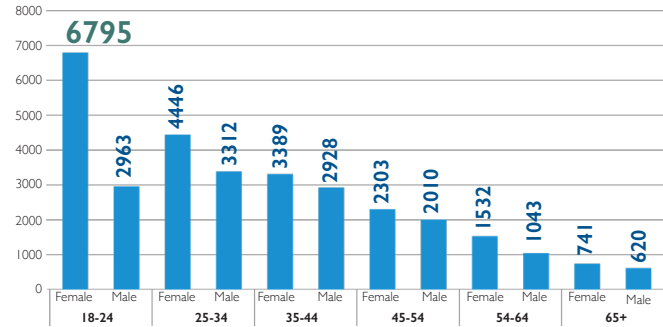


## IDEAS Website Visitor Based on Demographics

### by Month

Month	Age					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
January	873	631	416	284	164	116
February	608	508	360	260	140	92
March	812	681	470	312	174	101
April	703	565	390	278	174	74
May	798	604	481	311	186	102
June	879	619	483	319	193	125
July	722	655	582	384	208	108
August	626	626	527	330	200	92
September	616	534	448	279	181	105
October	799	671	513	361	212	119
<b>November</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>152</b>
December	1150	845	788	609	419	175

### by Gender



The highest categories of visitors to IDEAS' website was "Female aged 18-24".



**RM 40.21 million**

PR Value Generated

**3.66%** increase  
from 2021 (RM 38.8 million)



**1,556** Mentions/  
Appearances

**10.59%** increase  
from 2021 (1,407)



**2** Briefs + **2** Reports + **2** Handbooks  
**= 6** Total publications



**26**

conferences, forums,  
seminars, workshops  
and online events



## Outreach



**5,891**

Instagram followers

**12.70%** increase  
from 2021 (5,227)



**7,199**

LinkedIn followers

**53.89%** increase  
from 2021 (4,678)



**14,338**

Facebook followers

**10.02%** increase  
from 2021 (13,031)



**16,100** Twitter followers

**9.26%** increase  
from 2021 (14,736)



**13,409** Facebook likes

**5.22%** increase  
from 2021 (12,744)



**The IDEAS Team**

# About Us

The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) is a nonprofit research institute based in Malaysia dedicated to promoting solutions to public policy challenges.

Purpose

**To build a better Malaysia for all**

Vision:

**A Nation that upholds liberty and justice**

Mission:

**To conduct evidence-based public policy research to stimulate critical discourse**

Our work focuses on our three overarching missions – advancing a competitive economy, ensuring trust in institutions and promoting an inclusive Malaysia. We act as an intellectual centre creating space for cross partisan principles-centric and results-oriented dialogue.

We achieve this by:

- Publishing cutting-edge research work
- Initiating dialogues with government, lawmakers, businesses and civil society
- Providing thought leadership
- Facilitating networking between like-minded individuals
- Organising educational programmes

We are grateful to our donors and funders throughout 2022. None of the achievements would be possible without their support. If you would like to support us, please email Tricia Yeoh at [tricia@ideas.org.my](mailto:tricia@ideas.org.my)

# Board of Directors



YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin  
ibni Tuanku Muhriz



Tan Sri Datuk Dr Rebecca  
Fatima Sta Maria



Wan Mohd Firdaus  
Wan Mohd Fuaad



Christopher Leong



YM Datin Sri Lara Hussein



Dato' Dr R Thillainathan

# Senior Fellows



**Dr Carmelo Ferlito**  
(Economics & Housing)



**Prof Fatimah Mohamed Arshad**  
(Food Security)



**Assistant Prof Dr Renato Lima  
de Oliveira**  
(Energy)



**Dr Jayant Menon**  
(Trade & Regional Integration)



**Dr Lee Hwok Aun**  
(Development Economics)



**Prof Dr Fatimah Kari**  
(Poverty)

# Advisory Council



Tan Sri Mohamed Nazir bin  
Tun Abdul Razak



Datuk Dr Anis Yusal Yusoff

# Senior Management



Tricia Yeoh, PhD



Mazrina Arifin



Juita Mohamad, PhD



Sri Murniati Yusof



# The Research Team

From left

Low Zhen Ting, Kirjane Ngu, Muhammad Arieff Najmuddin Mohd Mohtar, Alissa Marianne Rode, Jazreen Harith Jefri, Julia Merican, Imran Shamsunahar, Aira Azhari, Halmie Azrie Abdul Halim

# Researchers

## Democracy and Governance Unit (DGU)

### Ensuring Trust in Institutions

Transparent and accountable governance is at the bedrock of every modern, mature and vibrant democracy. The Democracy and Governance Unit works with politicians and civil society at both the federal and state levels to raise awareness and support for the structures and systems that Malaysia needs to restore trust in our government and institutions.

## Economics and Business Unit (EBU)

### Advancing a Competitive Economy

As a small open economy, Malaysia's economic prosperity thrives on international trade and foreign investment. The Economics and Business Unit brings together multiple stakeholders, in driving policy work that benefits all parties and the larger economy. To benefit all players, a functioning and efficient market system is essential to a flourishing economy that supports healthy competition, the growth of the labour market and provides needed, targeted assistance to the vulnerable groups and households.

## Public Finance Unit (PFU)

### Building a transparent and accountable Malaysia

Sound fiscal management is the backbone of all policymaking. IDEAS continues its commitment to promoting public understanding of the way the *rakyat's* money should be used and accounted for. The Public Finance Unit advocates for good governance principles in fiscal management, procurement and state-owned entities.

## Social Policy Unit (SPU)

### Promoting an Inclusive Malaysia

Given the negative impacts of the pandemic, there is an urgency to understand the degree and the nature of these impacts on society and households. Therefore public policy needs to be developed to soften the negative impacts on these groups in the medium term, through evidence-based policy research. The work focus of the unit will be on how vulnerable households, youth and women in particular can effectively move forward as part of the recovery plan, post-pandemic.



Hartini Jaapar

# Human Resources

**The Human Resources Unit** is responsible for providing guidance and support on employee lifecycle including developing training opportunities. The unit oversees employee benefits, performance management, compensation and benefits including payroll, employee records, and enforces the company's policies and guidelines.



From left  
Amelia Ramli, Mohd Safrizal bin Sudin

# Administration

**The Administration Unit** is responsible for looking after office management including safety, supplies, and ensures smooth office operations.



# The Finance Team

From left  
Amal Aziz, Mazrina Arifin, Ahmad Bashier Muhammad Afifi

# Finance

**The Finance Unit** is responsible for accounting, compliance and reporting, treasury function and sustainability of the organisation. This includes preparation of management accounts and ensuring audits and other statutory requirements are complied with.

The finance unit manages projects' finance management, prepares and monitors cash flow, budgets and payroll. Liaisons with stakeholders ie auditors, funders are on a regular basis.

The finance unit works closely with the research unit, programme secretariat and external relations in preparing proposals and reporting to the funders.

The finance unit also plays a significant part in acquiring and maintaining the latest financial systems to improve efficiency.



# The External Relations Team

From left

Muhamad Zuhdi Farhan Suhaimi, Norhayati Murni Misran, Louis Denis, Jivinyaa Selvaraju

# External Relations

**The External Relations (ER) Unit** is responsible to plan and manage the events of IDEAS, such as conferences, forums, seminars as well as international and national visit programmes and meetings, held in-house and at other venues in and outside of Kuala Lumpur. The ER Unit collaborates with all research units within IDEAS to provide the best value towards IDEAS' policy advocacy work and strategises the dissemination of the delivery outputs. ER also manages the

media relations and communications strategies and maintains a database of government officials, industry leaders, academia, think tanks and business corporations in Malaysia and the region. Having organised the annual Liberalism Conference, IDEAS' Anniversary Dinner and Malaysia Outlook Conference, the ER Unit has been behind the success of IDEAS Malaysia's events and advocacy campaigns which align with our values, vision and mission.



# The Programme Secretariat Team

From left

Salsabila Abdul Manan, Amir Ridzuan Jamaludin, Faiz Zaidi

# Programme Secretariat

**The Programme Secretariat (PS) unit** is responsible for project administration and documentation. Additionally, the unit is also the focal point for the monitoring and evaluation of

projects being executed by IDEAS, ensuring effective delivery and that all projects achieve their expected impact.

# Overview and Achievements



# Democracy and Governance

## Leading the way in reforming political finance

In 2022, IDEAS strengthened our role in pushing for a Political Financing Act when we became the Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Political Financing in Malaysia. The APPG's membership consisted of nine MPs and one Senator from nine political parties across the political spectrum as well as 11 CSO partners. In July 2022, the APPG submitted a Private Member's Bill on Political Financing to Parliament, the first time such a Bill was ever drafted in Malaysia. To further raise awareness regarding the importance of transparency in political financing, we collaborated with the Malaysian Bar Council to organise a conference that discussed various aspects of political finance reform.

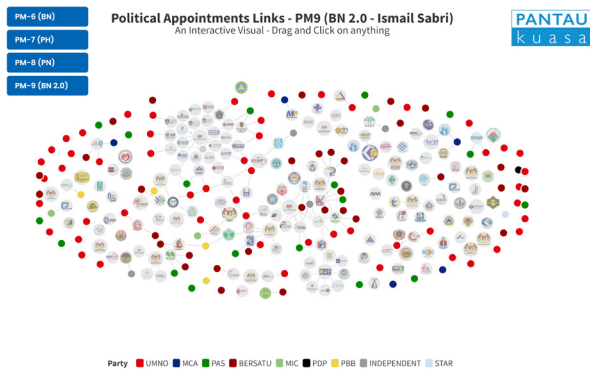
## Promoting national unity and inter-racial harmony

In 2022, we concluded our 2-year long project to promote national unity and inter-racial harmony in Malaysia. Together with our partners Imagined Malaysia and Merdeka Center, we launched the #TanpaPerkauman handbook and 2nd National Survey Towards ICERD and Ethnic Relations in Malaysia. The European Union Ambassador to Malaysia, His Excellency Michalis Rokas gave the opening remarks at the launch event, which was held on 18 March 2022.



## Monitoring political appointments to Government-Linked Companies (GLCs)

We continued our monitoring of political appointments to GLCs through the Pantau Kuasa website (<https://www.pantaukuasa.com/>). In October 2022, we released the political appointment data from the Ismail Sabri government, adding to the political appointments data from the previous three governments.



## Economics and Business

### Taking Stock of the AEC and its Progress

In 2022, the ASEAN Integration Report 2022 which is a research study that evaluates the various aspects of integration in the ASEAN Economic Community and the impact of COVID-19 on economic integration was published and launched. The publication brought together 14 authors and experts on ASEAN Integration from Malaysia and the region with input from a diverse range of stakeholders such as representatives from international organisations, businesses, academic institutions and think tanks within ASEAN. To raise public awareness on the challenges faced in developing the





ASEAN Economic Community from the youths' and experts' perspectives, two webinars were held, bringing together youths and policy makers from Malaysia, CLMV countries and other ASEAN countries as well.

### **Strengthening trade activities in the region and beyond**

Additionally, the team examined the factors behind the supply chain bottlenecks post-2020 in a policy paper titled, "Supply Chain Bottlenecks in Asia: Challenges and Possible Solutions", which was published in late 2022. The paper was published



by FNF and it explored the challenges faced by the supply chain in a post-pandemic setting, while it also explored the opportunities, and remedies to reconfigure the global supply and value chains within the RCEP countries and beyond. Interviews were conducted among experts within Malaysia and ASEAN countries to explore the causes and remedies of the supply chain issue.

### **The growth of a healthy and supported Digital Economy**

The team published and launched a policy paper titled, "Strengthening



the Digital Trade Ecosystem: The Next Frontier for Malaysia". The paper looks at how to strengthen Malaysia's trade ecosystem, with a focus on the digital taxation frameworks, cross-border data flows, and data protection and privacy. With regards to digital taxation, the paper found that despite the rapid growth of Malaysia's digital economy, it remains less taxed and regulated than other economic sectors. With regards to cybersecurity and data protection, several challenges were identified to creating a requisite culture of data protection. The project brought together experts and practitioners in the field of taxation, cybersecurity and

trade from the private sector as well as representatives from the government agencies in two roundtable discussions.



## Public Finance

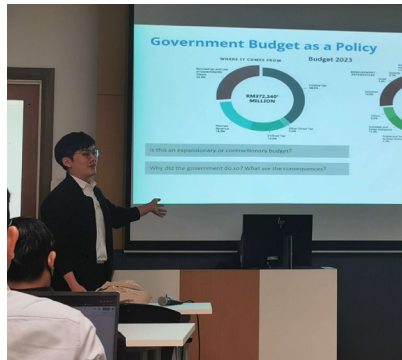
### Setting standards for greater accountability on government spending

IDEAS continues our work to promote transparency and public participation on fiscal management among the public. We participated in the international Open Budget Survey (OBS) by the International Budget Partnership, for which we have been research lead for Malaysia since 2015. We also engaged with the Ministry of Finance and National Audit Department to share



the OBS results and recommendations of the survey.

We have further expanded our work on budget transparency to state government budgets (the subnational level), where we trained subnational partners in civil society to assess budget transparency within their states. With their diligent research, we succeeded in publishing Malaysia Open Budget Index (MyOBI) scorecards for state governments in July 2022, and intend to run a second assessment for budget 2024. We also conducted workshops with our subnational budget transparency partners and with



the Association of Malaysian Economic Undergraduates (AMEU), to provide an understanding of the budget cycle and how to raise or investigate questions about the budget.

Subnational budget transparency is an ongoing IDEAS initiative to create greater demand for accountability at the state level. We encourage stakeholders or those interested in bringing our workshop outreach to their communities to get in touch.

### **Towards better governance in state-owned enterprises**

We undertook on-the-ground research for a project to identify key reforms for enhancing governance and monitoring in state-owned enterprises in Sarawak. As research partners to the World Bank, we reviewed the existing legal framework governing the SOEs and conducted a benchmarking exercise against the OECD Guidelines on the Governance of State-Owned Enterprises (2015 Edition). The results

will be presented to the Sarawak state government as part of their broader initiative of public financial management reforms.

Through the exercise, we have captured some areas of improvements that might be common across all SSBs in Malaysia. It provided us a foundational model for future assessments of State Statutory Bodies (SSBs) governance in other states.

### **Public Financial Management**

In the area of public financial

management, IDEAS works on promoting more transparent, accountable procurement and stronger fiscal rules for sustainability. We conducted 4 focus group discussions as part of consultations for the Ministry of Finance on the topics of social assistance, public procurement for bumiputera contractors, non-fiscal incentives, and the fiscal responsibility act.

On public infrastructure procurement, we embarked on a second phase of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Monitor (<https://www.brimonitor.org>)





[org/](#)) project, called “Making the BRI Monitor Matter.” This was an advocacy and social media campaign to attract more public interest in the issues and governance gaps related to various BRI projects in Malaysia. The project consisted of two site visits to project locations that were previously covered in our case studies: Melaka and Dungun, Terengganu. These were rewarding opportunities to connect with affected communities to understand local perspectives regarding two ongoing BRI projects and discuss how IDEAS can amplify their concerns through our platforms. The visits culminated in a series of op-eds and videos uploaded



on our social media. The aim was to highlight the potential damage of corrosive capital if good governance is not practised in the delivery of major infrastructure projects. Our role as an organisation that promotes evidence-based discourse was recognised and trusted during these on-ground discussions, and we were able to get an audience with MPs, community activists, academics, and private developers, as well as local residents from all walks of life. As IDEAS explores further projects at the subnational level, this was an exceptional demonstration of our ability to bridge and connect different communities in Malaysia.

## Social Policy

### Fostering a more inclusive education system for Orang Asli children

Following the launch of the policy report “Contextualising education policy to empower Orang Asli children”, IDEAS continued its advocacy efforts with the aim to bridge the gap between policy-making and implementation. IDEAS organised a roundtable discussion on the 28th of February 2022 to present the findings with various stakeholders such as the School Management Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia, Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA), 5 foundations, 13 non-governmental organisations, 4 academics and activists.

The roundtable discussion focused on the key issues and policy recommendations highlighted in the report, as well as on the implementation gaps with existing education policies



and programmes. IDEAS has also presented its findings with 9 divisions under the Ministry of Education to align on the issues and to discuss policy recommendations that can be further implemented or improved. In order to raise public awareness, IDEAS partnered with The Fourth Media to embark on the SekolahKita (<http://sekolahkita.my/>) campaign, which includes an interactive website on Orang Asli access to education as well as 3 mini documentary videos.

### Protecting refugee and asylum-seeking children's rights to education and healthcare

In 2022, IDEAS and UNICEF wrapped up the project under the Protecting Children Affected by Migration in Southeast, South and Central Asia theme that was co-funded by the European Union and UNICEF. We launched a policy report titled "Left Far Behind: The Impact of COVID-19 on Access to Education and Healthcare for



### Left Far Behind:

The Impact of COVID-19 on Access to Education and Healthcare for Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children in Peninsular Malaysia

Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children in Peninsular Malaysia". This report assesses the impacts of COVID-19 on refugee and asylum-seeking children's access to education and healthcare in Malaysia and identifies policy solutions from the legislative, financial, capacity building and partnership perspective.

In order to raise community awareness of these issues faced by refugee and asylum-seeking children, the findings of the policy report were summarised and presented as infographics and as an audiobook in Rohingya language in order to make information more accessible and inclusive. On the 27th of September, the policy report was launched at an online webinar followed by a panel discussion with Jaw Tu Hkwang (Refugee Advocate), Keane Shum (UNHCR), Sitti Najihah Binti Md Rusli (SUHAKAM) and Dr Siti Noraida Bt Mohamad Habibullah (Klinik Amal Muhajir). A total of 124 participants and 200 viewers attended the webinar.

### **Improving access and quality of breast cancer care**

In June 2022, IDEAS started a research and advocacy project on improving access and quality of breast cancer care in Malaysia. This project is supported by Novartis Corp (M) Sdn Bhd. During the research phase, IDEAS conducted a focus group discussion with breast



cancer patients and survivors in partnership with Pink Unity.

IDEAS also organised a roundtable discussion with representatives from the Ministry of Health Malaysia, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia, Pharmaceutical Association of Malaysia, Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Universiti Malaya, Breast Cancer Welfare Association, Majlis Kanser Nasional (MAKNA), ProtectHealth Corporation Sdn Bhd, Institut Kanser

Negara, Hospis Malaysia and National Cancer Society of Malaysia. The policy report titled "Breast Cancer Care in Malaysia: Access to Early Detection, Diagnosis and Optimal Treatment" will be launched in February 2023. This policy report evaluates the gaps in breast cancer care in terms of patients' access to early presentation, timely diagnosis and optimal treatment, and proposes policy recommendations to address these gaps.



# IDEAS in Action



# Flagship Events





## 2nd Malaysia Outlook Conference

Hosted by IDEAS Malaysia since 2021, the Malaysian Outlook Conference (MOC) has become a platform for policymakers, policy analysts, economists, civil society, academics, researchers, businesses, and experts to come together to engage in robust discussions on issues impacting on the nation and region, including economic issues, trade, human capital, political movement in Malaysia and socio-politics. Since then, MOC has expanded to encompass economic sustainability, socio-politics and societal development.



In 2022, the Malaysian Outlook Conference 2022 (MOC) took place on 9 March 2022 at the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) and was streamed online. The hybrid event was joined by nine esteemed speakers and research experts from various organisations - Dato' Dr Ooi Kee Beng, Dr Abdul Razak Ahmad, Dr Khairil Izamin Ahmad, Ibrahim Suffian, Thomas Fann, Qyira Yusri, Nurhisyam Hussein, Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Yusof Shaari, and Shakira Teh Sharifuddin. Diverse and timely topics were discussed throughout the whole conference. Thanks to the online setting, 191 attendees joined the conference including from the United States of America, New Zealand, Japan, Great Britain, Australia and China.



## 7th Liberalism Conference: In Search of Stability — Does Liberalism Provide an Answer?

The Liberalism Conference is an annual exercise to deliberate on the overall progress towards “A Malaysia that upholds the principles of liberty and justice”, as espoused by Malaysia’s founding father, Almarhum Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj. Hosted since 2015, Liberalism Conference has been the IDEAS flagship event to pursue philosophical thought in pursuing knowledge and searching for the truth.

IDEAS hosted its 7th Annual Liberalism Conference on the 24th of September 2022 at Pullman Hotel Kuala Lumpur City Centre. With the theme “In Search of Stability - Does Liberalism Provide an Answer?”; this conference was attended by 140 delegates out of 194 registered participants composed of the liberal thinkers, political figures, scholars, government officials, and other important delegates from various think tanks and universities alike.



The conference was graced by Mr Moritz Kleine-Brockhoff, Regional Head of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Southeast and East Asia. This year, the Liberalism Conference launched the Liberalism Survey, a report by Merdeka Centre. There was a total of 17 speakers discussing the issues - Tan Seng Keat, Sharaad Kuttan, Dr Tricia Yeoh, Ibrahim Suffian, Eddin Khoo, Melissa Idris, Dr Juita Mohamad, Dr Carmelo Ferlito, Datuk Wira Dr Rais Hussin Mohamed Ariff, Sri Murniati Yusuf, Dr Khairil Izamin Ahmad, Harris Zainul, Dr Ross Tapsell, Hezril Asyraaf Azmin, Aira Azhari, Nik Abdul Razak Nik Md Ridzuan, and Dr Abu Hafiz Salleh Hudin.

## 12th Anniversary and Fundraising Dinner

On 25 August 2022, the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) Malaysia marked its 12th Anniversary and Fundraising Dinner at the InterContinental Hotel Kuala Lumpur. With the theme of “Malaysia: Moving Forward Together”, it saw the attendance of 150 distinguished guests, including High Commissioners and Ambassadors, funders, corporate partners, business leaders and esteemed sponsors.





The event was graced by YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin, Founding President of IDEAS Malaysia and we had the privilege of having YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Former minister of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Malaysia as our Keynote Speaker. The event was ended with a positive and patriotic note with two poem recitals titled "Negaraku" and "Merdeka itu Bebas" by the renowned writer and a Malaysian National Laureate, Prof Dr Muhammad Haji Salleh.

This event is IDEAS Malaysia's yearly flagship celebration to raise the unlimited funds for our non-profit advocacy work. We raised approximately RMI00,000 from the sponsorship

and individual ticket sale's. The donations and contributions given by our funders and partners are how we can stay as a non-profit independent research institute that helps us continue providing cutting-edge research and pushing for policy change to build a better Malaysia for all.

We thank you to all of our sponsors and partners and we look forward to seeing all of you and welcoming new partners to be part of IDEAS' family next year.

#### Premium sponsors:



#### Gold sponsors:



#### Silver sponsors:





# IDEAS Culture Manifesto



# IDEAS Penang Retreat





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