



21 February 2016: Tun Musa giving his speech at IDEAS Anniversary Dinner

IDEAS 6th Anniversary and Asia Liberty Forum

In February 2016 IDEAS hosted the Asia Liberty Forum, a highly-anticipated annual regional conference where freedom movements from across Asia met to discuss challenges facing the region and how to advance market reforms. Over 250 delegates attended this three-day conference in Kuala Lumpur.

On the closing night we celebrated our 6th Anniversary and the 113th birthday of Almarhum Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Prime Minister. The anniversary dinner, graced by Almarhum Tunku's families and friends as well as leading industry and civil society figures, saw former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Musa Hitam delivering the keynote address.



21-23 February 2016: Asia Liberty Forum



25 February 2016: Guests at IDEAS Anniversary Dinner

Financial Review

This year our financial year was changed to just nine months from January to September 2016. We received grants and donations of total amount RM 2,312,632 with only RM 207,972 as unrestricted income, which means a large portion of our income was tied to specific projects.

This is a weakness as it limits our ability to tackle arising issues that are not part of a named project. Our total expenditure was RM 2,334,946, leaving a net deficit before taxation of RM 26,366. We had total assets of RM 1,050,181 and total liabilities of RM 882,426.

We are grateful for the support we have received from generous local and international donors. Due to this trust and mandate, we have been able to increase the quality and coverage of the work done at IDEAS.

Unfortunately, Malaysian bureaucracy is still preventing us from becoming a tax-exempt organisation.



The full audit report is available on our website.

About IDEAS

IDEAS is Malaysia's first think-tank dedicated to promoting market-based solutions to public policy challenges. We are an independent not-for-profit organisation. As a cross-partisan think tank, we work across the political spectrum. Our purpose is to advance market principles, and we are not bound by party politics, race or religion.

Our Vision

IDEAS shares the vision of Tunku Abdul Rahman, the first Prime Minister of Malaysia as stated in the Proclamation of Independence and Proclamation of Malaysia, that is to see "A Malaysia that upholds the principles of liberty and justice".

Our Mission

Our mission is to improve the level of understanding and acceptance of public policies based on the principles of rule of law, limited government, free markets and free individuals.

We achieve this mission through:

- Research
- Publication of reports and books
- Seminars, discussions and short courses
- Briefings for federal and state politicians and policy-makers from across the political divide
- Media engagements

IDEAS was officially launched on 8 February 2010, in conjunction with Almarhum Tunku Abdul Rahman's 107th birthday, by YBM Tengku Razaleigh Hamezah at Memorial Tunku Abdul Rahman Plaza, Kuala Lumpur, in an event graced by three generations of Almarhum Tunku's family members.

Our commitment to quality has received international recognition. On 2 September 2016, IDEAS was ranked as the 17th think tank to watch globally in a survey of more than 6,800 think tanks in 141 countries by the University of Pennsylvania's 2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report.

If you like the work that we do, please support us financially. Visit www.ideas.org.my to make a donation online or donate through:

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Mainstreaming Market Ideas

Message from Founding President and Founding CEO



Tunku Zain al-Abidin Tiansuk Muhriz

Two editions ago I observed that 2014 was "not the best year for our country", and in the last edition I wrote "It is depressing to have to begin this annual message on an even more negative note than last year." For this edition I say "dime".



Wan Saiful Wan Jan

We did many good things this year. But a lot more needs to be done because I still feel our country remains on the wrong, liberal, trajectory. Quite a few have suggested that the good work may be futile because there is no political will at the top level to make the hard but necessary changes. But despite those pessimistic views, we soldiered on. I hope we have made at least some positive impact on the country.

Domestically, 2016 on the whole continued on the same lamerable trajectory as last year in terms of the performance of many of our national institutions, further damaging the already low level of confidence citizens have in them - a need noted in international journalism and commentary, league tables of democracy and governance, and of course discussions at serious conferences as well as roadside food stalls.

Internationally, the only certainty is uncertainty. Brexit and the election of Donald Trump have already increased the scope and incentives for geopolitical shift, particularly in Southeast Asia, presenting further challenges in the way we are governed in Malaysia.

Regardless, IDEAS will continue to pursue its abiding mission to uphold the imperatives of freedom and liberty that were envisioned by the founders of our country. We will engage politicians on governance, bureaucrats on anti-corruption, young people with education, and all Malaysians on the spirit and words of our Federal Constitution.

Tunku Zain al-Abidin Tiansuk Muhriz
Founding President

Wan Saiful Wan Jan
Founding Chief Executive Officer

IDEAS
Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs
Annual Report 2016





NYAHKORUPSI is IDEAS' nationwide campaign to stamp out corruption in Malaysia, to create a consistently rule-based society and economy. The campaign aims to promote reforms of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the office of the Attorney General. This year we held a series of roundtable discussions and public forums in Sarawak, Penak and Johor, as well as online interviews.



65,344 Website hits
8,091 likes on Facebook
8,288 Twitter followers

Advancing a competitive economy

This year saw the establishment of IDEAS Exchange, an innovative platform hosted by IDEAS to engage multi-sectoral stakeholders on public policy and regulatory environment reform. The platform is driven by our desire to promote evidence-based solutions to the challenges faced by our country.

Objectives

- To advocate for public policy and regulatory reform in specific sectors.
- To encourage competition, consumer choice, and respect property rights and the rule of law.
- To raise awareness of the value of market-friendly ideas to policymakers.



Policy clusters

- Governance & Business
- Building a Knowledge Economy
- Healthcare
- Human Capital

Through IDEAS Exchange we work with government, the private sector, civil society, and academia to tackle pressing issues. We are unique in our ability to bring all the relevant stakeholders together for open and frank conversations. Not many others are able to host government policymakers and other stakeholders in the same room.

RM 38 million
PR* value generated and
602 mentions in the media

*The PR value is a monetary measurement assigned to respond for editorial.



Liberalism Conference

Our flagship event the Liberalism Conference was held on 24 September 2016 with the theme "Can Liberalism Save Malaysia?". This year the conference discussed whether or not a liberal solution could help solve Malaysia's challenges, ranging from the economy, to ethnic relations and politics. In typical IDEAS style, we specially invited speakers not just from the liberal circle, but also from those who are known to be against liberalism such as PERKASA and ISMA. Once again, we showed that we can and do bring people together, even when our views are known to differ, because we strongly believe that we must talk to each other to find commonalities if we really want to help Malaysia become a mature democracy.



20 October 2016: Auditor General Tan Sri Abdul Razak bin Yusoff speaking at our conference

Promoting National Unity

Working with the Department of National Unity and Integration at the Prime Minister's Department, we hosted the second cohort of IDEAS National Unity Youth Fellowship programme.

20 papers and 198 opinion articles published



14 June 2016: Minister Tan Sri Joseph Kariem at our national unity event

Championing market economy

More than 100 delegates attended our conference on "Access to Information: the way forward for accountable governance" in October, where Auditor General Tan Sri Abdul Razak bin Yusoff helped to make the point that we must improve transparency if we want to make markets function as intended in Malaysia. The conference complemented our 16 policy papers that provided more in-depth proposals on how to apply market principles in various areas of public policy. We also rode on Malaysia's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement to further campaign for economic liberalisation and have started some work to look into the Malaysia-EU FTA as well as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

1,120 attendees
75 talks delivered

48 conferences, forums, seminars and workshops

Tin youth leaders were selected from a competitive application process. We provided them with training and on-the-ground exposure to national unity and grassroots issues. We trained them on leadership and media skills, critical thinking and creative problem-solving so that they can be more effective in their own networks. This pool of young talents is our lasting contribution to shape the future leaders of the country.

We also took this message to top business leaders in the Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC), through a dialogue with their members. At the same time, we partnered with local groups to hold Liberalism Masterclasses for students from Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Kedah and Perlis. The Masterclasses covered subjects such as classical liberal philosophy, education and economic development.



30 April 2016: Our Youth Fellows at a community visit to Bendu Creek, Pahang



15 November 2016: IDEAS Council Member and former Secretary-General of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry Tan Sri Babak Sa'at speaking at our event

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