

CHANGING THE CLIMATE OF OPINION

MAINSTREAMING MARKET IDEAS



The Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), is a not for profit think tank registered in Malaysia as a company limited by guarantee with registration number 940689-WV.

IDEAS' vision is:

“A Malaysia that upholds the principles of liberty and justice.”

This is in line with the vision of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the first Prime Minister of Malaysia, as stated in the 1957 Proclamation of Independence.

To realise the vision of IDEAS, 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 individual liberty.”

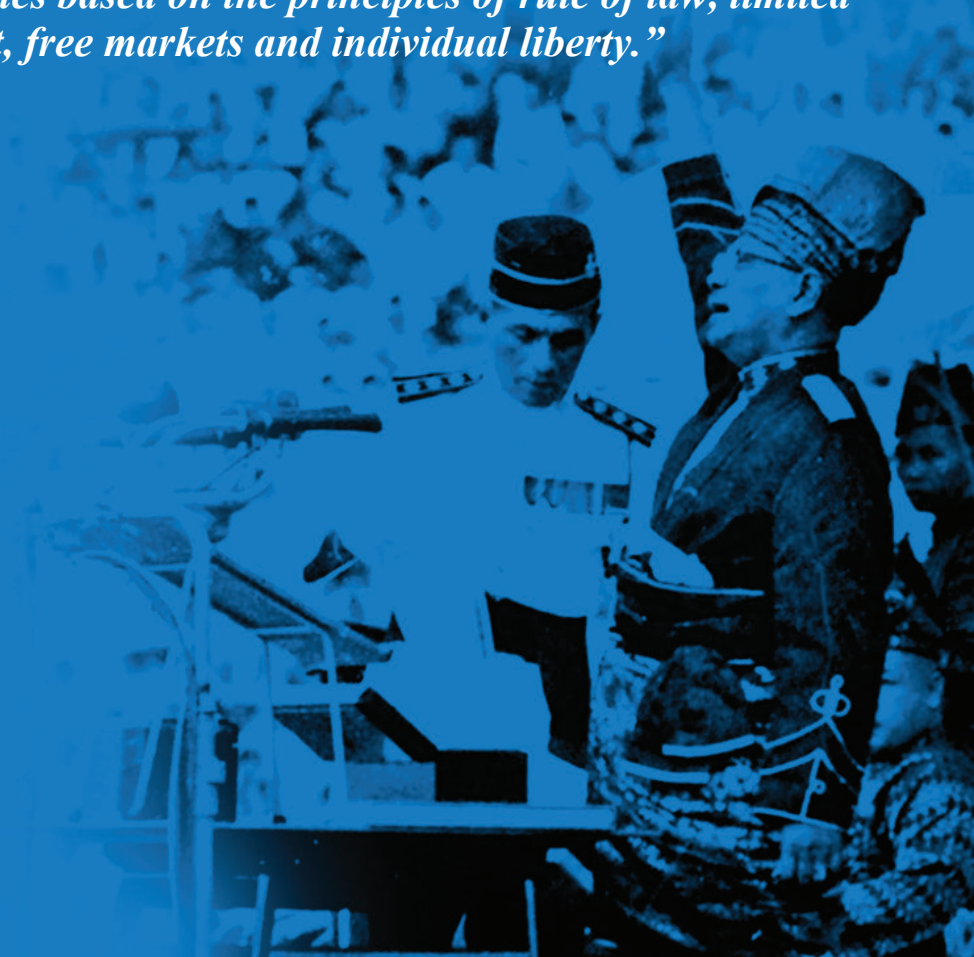


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CREATING A BETTER MALAYSIA TOGETHER

We all share the dream to see a prosperous and harmonious Malaysia. And we all need to work hard to realise that dream.

Over the past few years many have said that Malaysia has been on the wrong, illiberal, trajectory. Despite the desire to see the private sector becoming our engine of growth, our businesses today are still under pressure from unnecessary regulations and a less than ideal openness in the economy.

Corruption is still systemic. Our politics is increasingly becoming more divisive. Ethnic politics has seeped into not just politics, but also into social and economic policies. Conservatism and dogmatism are on the rise. And society, especially the younger generation, has started showing growing signs of apathy and cynicism especially when they feel that there is not much they can do to improve the situation.

But of course, it is not all doom and gloom. Despite these challenges some Malaysian businesses are growing by leaps and bounds, making their mark on the regional and international arena. Our successes in sports have brought the country together in ways that no politician ever could. More and more people have expressed their commitment to support the fight against corruption and the abuse of power. And liberal voices are gradually becoming louder and more organised too.

It is with that background that we continue our work at IDEAS. We believe that for Malaysia to prosper and grow as a nation, we must go back to our founding principles of liberty and justice as proclaimed by Bapa Malaysia Almarhum Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj. We have worked tirelessly to champion the Tunku's ideals and we want to do more in the coming years.



The greatest added value that we bring is our fierce independence. We work for our values and ideals, not for the agenda of companies or donors. We are not bound to any partisan agenda. We are committed solely to the principles of liberty and justice, and their application into public policy. With that independence, we can speak to, and work with stakeholders at many levels, from Ministers and politicians to policymakers, civil society leaders as well as the wider public.

Maintaining that independence is not easy and this is where we need your help.

This booklet provides a bird's eye view of our work. It captures what we have done, our achievements, and how we plan to build on those achievements in the quest to build a better future for our nation. Our work is completely dependent on the assistance and generosity of donors and funders.

As a small not-for-profit organisation, our resources and funding are limited. We have learnt to be as effective as we can within our financial limitations, and it is not uncommon to hear that IDEAS being described as "punching above its weight". We will of course continue this fiscal discipline, producing more impact with every ringgit and sen that you give us.

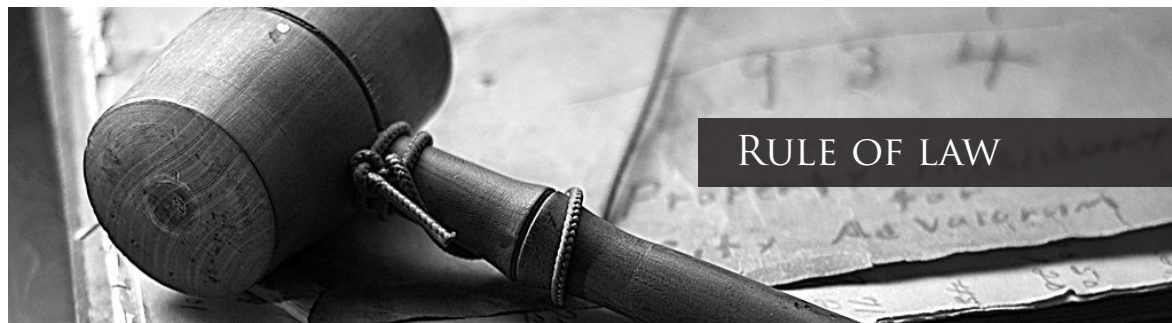
I hope you will find value in the work that we do. I appeal for your generosity to help us continue this work. We need all the financial support that we can get. Please consider making a donation to ensure Malaysia continues to be a nation built on the principles of liberty and justice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wan Saiful Wan Jan'.

Wan Saiful Wan Jan
Chief Executive

OUR BELIEFS

At IDEAS we are guided by the following principles:



RULE OF LAW



LIMITED
GOVERNMENT



FREE MARKETS



INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY
AND RESPONSIBILITY

WHAT WE DO

Our mission at IDEAS is to improve the level of understanding and acceptance of public policy based on the principles of rule of law, limited government, free markets and individual liberty. In order to fulfill our mission, IDEAS, on a cross-partisan basis:

- Initiates **dialogues** with governments, policy-makers, politicians from across the political divide, the private sector, and civil society in open forums and closed door discussions
- Provides **thought leadership** through active media engagements, in the forms of opinion articles, media interviews, and media statements
- Facilitates **networking** between like-minded individuals
- Publishes **cutting-edge research work** on public policy through relevant materials such as books, policy papers and articles
- Organises **educational programmes** on the creative power of free societies and the institutions which underpin them
- Creates **platforms** for people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds to advance the ideals of liberty, justice and market economy

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

- **Research drives our advocacy.** We are committed to market ideals and not bound by partisanship. We propose solutions based on evidence and research, not sentiment or populism.
- **We act as a critical friend** to the government and policymakers, providing them with constructive proposals through healthy yet critical engagements. We will point out what is right and what is wrong, and highlight our proposals - all aimed at helping policymakers reach the best solutions.
- **We bridge government, academia, private sector, and civil society,** providing a platform for all parties to engage healthily with each other. We build coalitions and minimise differences even with those who hold different views from our own. This approach has given us a convening capability that is unrivaled by any other organisation.

Our work is independent of vested interests and partisan influences. We act as an intellectual centre creating space for principles-centric and results-oriented dialogue.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



90

public talks in 2016



134,000

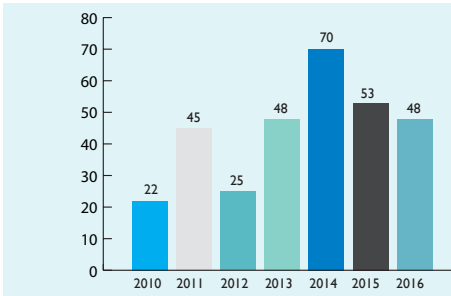
website visits worldwide



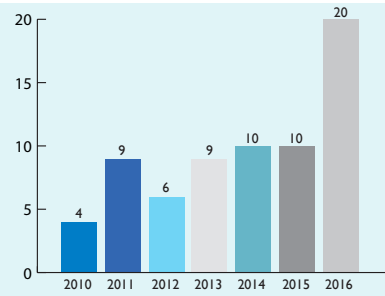
1,700

citations in international, regional and local media since 2015

Number of forums, seminars and workshops



Number of papers published



5TH

Best New Think Tank by the Global Go to Think Tank index in 2012



17TH

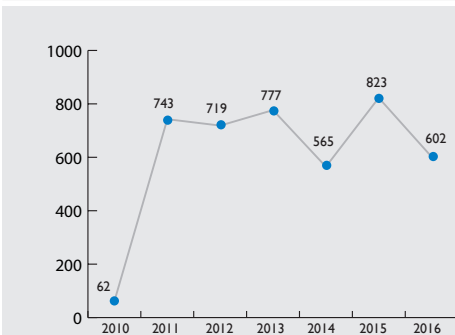
Think Tank to Watch in the 2015 Global Go to Think Tank index



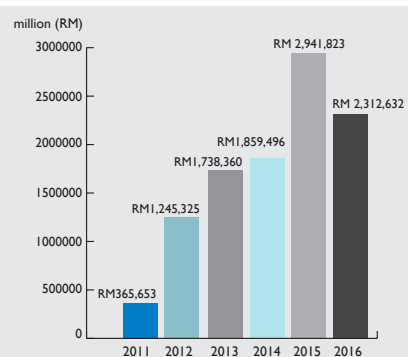
91000+++

combined followers

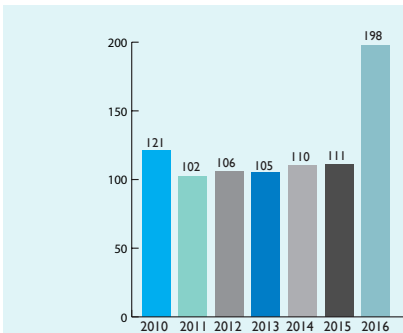
Number of mentions in media



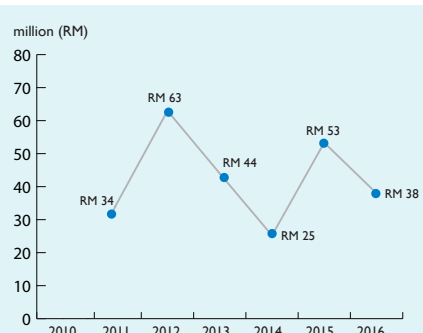
Total income



Number of opinion articles published



Public Relations Value



The Public Relations Value is the advertising cost equivalent to our unpaid-for editorials. Unpaid-for editorials have a generally higher monetary value than paid-for editorials, given that it is seen as a public endorsement by the publication or broadcast agency.

OUR WORK: ADVANCING A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

A functioning and efficient market system is essential to a flourishing economy and consumer choice. Malaysia's New Economic Model (NEM) envisions an environment where entrepreneurs and the private sector both big and small becomes the engine of our growth.

Since 2016 we have run **IDEAS Exchange** to:

- provide a platform for stakeholders from government, business, academia, and civil society to work together to reduce bureaucratic hurdles in the economy
- promote a market-friendly regulatory environment

Within the **IDEAS Exchange** umbrella, we conduct the following activities:

- production of policy papers
- targeted briefings to key policymakers
- roundtable discussions
- ongoing research activities
- continuous media and social media advocacy



2 December 2015:

Former Secretary-General of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry Tan Sri Rebecca Sta Maria speaking at a closed door discussion on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

IDEAS Exchange operates in *policy clusters*, always bringing a wide array of stakeholders into the room so that there can be frank and honest discussions between the relevant actors. The discussions are supplemented by robust research and comprehensive policy papers, enabling informed decisions to be made.

OUR WORK: ADVANCING A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

CLUSTER 1: GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS

We are part of the OECD-Asia Network on Corporate Governance of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) where we bring our thinking about SOEs to the international level. In Malaysia, we look into how our SOEs are governed, the linkages between politics and business in Malaysia, and ways to ensure SOE dominance in our economy does not impede the proper functioning of markets.



28 March 2015: Journalist Sharaad Kuttan moderating IDEAS first-ever Doha-style debate “TPPA: Is it good or bad for Malaysia?” with IDEAS Chair in Political Economy Dr. Razeen Sally and YB Charles Santiago.

OUR IMPACT

IDEAS rode on the Malaysian government’s work on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) to raise awareness about the importance of economic liberalisation.

In July 2016, Professor Dr. Edmund Terence Gomez gave a ground-breaking lecture titled “Who owns corporate Malaysia now?” discussing ownership and control of government-linked investment companies.

This is now driving an ongoing national discussion on SOEs.

The Malaysian Punjabi Moneylenders Association utilised an IDEAS paper titled “Market-Based Approach to Money-Lending in Malaysia” as a basis for their submission to the government expressing the need for reforms in that sector.



28 April 2016: Alan Kirupakaran, Special Officer to the Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department attending our workshop on procurement.



6 May 2015: US Trade Representative Michael Froman speaking at IDEAS event.

OUR WORK: ADVANCING A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

SELECTED COVERAGE



28 July 2016:
IDEAS Senior
Fellow Professor
Dr. Terence
Gomez on
Bloomberg
Malaysia.



**19 January
2016:**
Article written
by Wan Saiful
Wan Jan
published in The
Star.

OUR PEOPLE



Dr Razeen Sally

IDEAS former Chair in Political Economy and Governance, Dr. Razeen Sally is an international expert on global trade policy, Free Trade Agreements and Asia in the world economy. Dr. Razeen is currently Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore and is Chairman of the Institute of Policy Studies, the main economic-policy think tank in Sri Lanka.



Professor Dr. Edmund Terence Gomez

Senior Fellow

Professor Edmund Terence Gomez is Professor of Political Economy at the University of Malaya. He specialises in state-market relations and the linkages between politics, policies and capital development. He is leading IDEAS' study on Malaysia's Government Linked Investment Corporations (GLICs) in the context of ownership and control of the economy.

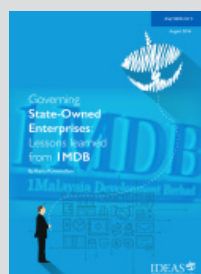


Dr. Carmelo Ferlito

Senior Fellow

Dr. Ferlito is the Commercial Director Southeast Asia at Petersime NV (Belgium) and Adjunct Professor at INTI International College Subang, where he teaches "History of Economic Thought" and "Microeconomic Theory and Policy" for the University of Wollongong Programme. His research is devoted to developing the Austrian School of Economics paradigm, with particular focus on business cycles and capital theory.

NOTABLE PAPERS



Governing State-Owned Enterprises: Lessons learned from IMDB

Rama Ramanathan (October 2016)

This paper lists key reasons why the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) investigated I Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB) and concludes with five recommendations for Parliament and regulatory agencies.



Malaysia's Public-Private Partnerships in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Alternatives to complete carve-out

David Seth Jones (June 2015)

In this paper, international procurement scholar Dr. David Jones made recommendations that serve as an alternative to the Malaysian Government's position to carve out Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in the negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

CLUSTER 2: BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

Developed economies rely heavily on knowledge and information as engines of economic growth and productivity. Malaysia too can benefit by recognising the importance of building a knowledge-based economy.

In this regard, intellectual property (IP) has become a significant contributor and is increasingly indispensable to the value of companies and economies worldwide. Malaysia can enjoy further growth if we have the necessary regulations to enable effective registration, monetisation and protection of legitimate IP rights.

Our work on IP aims at advocating for a regulatory environment that will enable consumers to be protected while ensuring companies big and small can use their IP



20 February 2016:

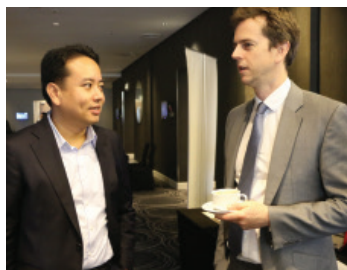
Attendees taking notes during a session on intellectual property rights at the Asia Liberty Forum.

effectively to fulfill consumer demands. We regularly conduct dialogues with the relevant ministries and government agencies, together with legal experts working on this topic, business associations and consumer groups.

OUR IMPACT

The profile and public awareness on intellectual property rights in Malaysia have been raised considerably in 2016 through efforts to highlight the infringement of trademarks in standardised packaging as well as the importance of medical patents in medical innovation under the TPPA.

Under our Southeast Asia Network for Development (SEANET) programme we have also promoted stronger IP regulations and enforcement in Singapore and Indonesia.



18 November 2016:

Fellow Philip Stevens speaking with Burhan Irwan Cheong from Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism at "Are Intellectual Property Rights under Siege in Malaysia?"



17 August 2016:

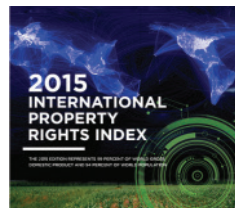
Participants at IDEAS conference on Intellectual Property Rights.

OUR WORK: ADVANCING A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

SELECTED COVERAGE



18 August 2016:
Nanyang Siang Pau's coverage of our conference on intellectual property and plain packaging.



IDEAS is part of the global team that produces the annual International Property Rights Index.



24 April 2016:
Dr. Helmy Haja Mydin's article in The Edge on intellectual property rights and its potential to improve public health in Asean.

OUR PEOPLE



Dr. Sufian Jusoh
Senior Fellow

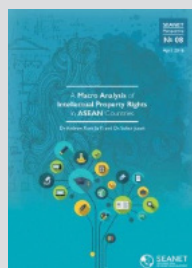
Sufian Jusoh is leading the Southeast Asia Network for Development (SEANET) programme under IDEAS. He is Deputy Director at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and a Distinguished Fellow at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, Malaysia. Sufian's expertise is in international trade, international investment and intellectual property management.

NOTABLE PAPERS



Fake medicines in Asia: The importance of brands to medicine quality
Philip Stevens (March 2013)

This paper discusses the concerted action needed at international and national levels to solve the threat of fake medicines in Asia, which constitutes 15-25% of the market in countries including India and Indonesia.



A Macro Analysis of Intellectual Property Rights in ASEAN Countries
Dr. Andrew Kam Jia Yi and Dr. Sufian Jusoh (April 2016)

This paper presents the state of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection in ASEAN using the Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) Index and ascertains why some countries have been more successful in safeguarding IPR compared with others.

CLUSTER 3: HEALTHCARE

Despite the fact that life expectancy is improving worldwide, there is an almost ten-year gap in life expectancy between people living in the poorest and richest areas. Improved access and affordability to the best possible healthcare often is determined by a good policy environment that is based on evidence and informed decision-making. We study how to enhance the roles played by the private sector in healthcare, be it in the form of improving access to new and old pharmaceutical products, or widening access to quality private healthcare facilities.

In this cluster, we hold closed door discussions and public forums with



25 November 2016:

A representative from the Ministry of Health at our roundtable on dengue.

policymakers, medical practitioners, industry and healthcare activists to create partnerships that will ultimately ensure that all people have access to better treatments and services.

OUR IMPACT

IDEAS has been part of national discussions regarding the introduction of the first dengue vaccines into Malaysia.

We continue to advocate for greater consistency in business regulations affecting the medical and pharmaceutical industry.



16 November 2015:

IDEAS Fellow Dr. Helmy being interviewed about vaping by NTV7.



13 January 2017:

Panelists at the Public Forum for "What can we do to fight dengue?" co-organised by IDEAS and Taman Tun Dr Ismail Residents Association.

OUR WORK: ADVANCING A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

SELECTED COVERAGE



27 August 2015:
Article by IDEAS
Fellow Dr. Helmy
Haja Mydin
published in the
New Straits Times.



26 September 2016:
Article by IDEAS Senior
Manager Azrul Mohd
Khalib published in the
Malay Mail.

OUR PEOPLE



Philip Stevens

Fellow

Philip Stevens is the Founder of the Geneva Network. He specialises in intellectual property rights and free trade agreements (FTAs) within the context of healthcare and has worked for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on IP and health issues as well as coordinated cooperation with the World Health Organization and World Trade Organization in these policy areas.



Dr. Helmy Haja Mydin

Fellow

Dr. Helmy is a consultant respiratory physician at Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur. A graduate of Newcastle University, he received his Certificate of Completion of Training from the Royal College of Physicians, UK for general and respiratory medicine.

NOTABLE PAPERS



Innovations in Preventing Vector Borne Diseases

Philip Stevens (October 2016)

This paper discusses new vector control techniques and technologies and vaccines to fight back against the rise of vector-borne diseases in Malaysia.



Are Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) bad for Health?

Sreekanth Venkatamaran (May 2016)

The paper argues that free trade agreements (FTAs) can have positive impacts on health outcomes in terms of infant mortality, life expectancy and deaths from non-communicable diseases.

CLUSTER 4: HUMAN CAPITAL

The quality of our education system continues to be debated. The government has responded with the carefully crafted blueprints covering primary and secondary as well as higher education. IDEAS has been involved in the various debates for many years, including by contributing to the formulation of government education policies.

We continue our work in this field, looking for ways to give more room for private providers to play their roles, and to increase the autonomy of government-funded institutions. We are driven by the belief that educational choice should not be monopolised by only those who can



8 December 2016:

Participants at a roundtable discussion on autonomy of higher education institutions.

pay, and professionals should be trusted to conduct education programmes in ways that they feel are most appropriate for the students, with less interference from bureaucrats.

OUR IMPACT

IDEAS provided key inputs in the Education Blueprint under the areas of decentralisation and school choice, particularly the Dual Language Programme which gives schools the choice to teach in either Malay or English. We have also pushed for improvements in Public Private Partnerships under the Education Sector which has now resulted in high level policy discussions involving the private sector.

First published in 2013, our policy paper “Malaysian education: What do the poor really want?” which outlines the findings from our nationwide education survey of households in the bottom 40 percent continues to be cited to this day.



5 November 2015:

Tan Jing Kuan, COO of Brighton Education speaking as a panelist at IDEAS Forum “Successes and Challenges in school Public Private Partnerships”.



12 October 2016:

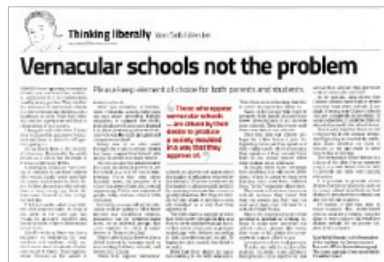
Wan Saiful Wan Jan speaking to participants at the Closed Door Roundtable Discussion “Autonomy and Accountability in Malaysian Higher Learning Institutions”.

OUR WORK: ADVANCING A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

SELECTED MEDIA



17 January 2016:
IDEAS study,
“Giving Voice to
the Poor” cited in
Sinar Harian.



17 January 2016:
Article by Wan
Saiful Wan Jan
published in The
Star.

OUR PEOPLE

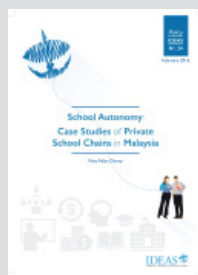


Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak

Chair in Higher Education

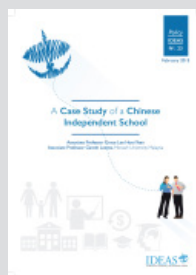
Dzulkifli Abdul Razak was awarded the 2017 Gilbert Medal for his long and distinguished track record of university leadership. He is Chair of the Board of Governance at the Islamic Science University in Malaysia (USIM) and is the 14th President of the International Association of Universities (IAU). He has authored several academic titles, and articles in journals and other media and even has a TEDx talk on Sejahtera. He was previously Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

NOTABLE PAPERS



School Autonomy: Case Studies of Private School Chains in Malaysia *Nina Adian Disney (February 2016)*

This paper takes a look at the notion of autonomy for schools. Two private schools were studied for their use of autonomy in the areas of curriculum, teaching methodology, staffing, finance and governance.



A Case Study of a Chinese Independent School *Assoc. Prof. Grace Lee HooiYean & Assoc. Prof. Gareth Leeves (February 2015)*

This paper presents the findings and observations of a case study conducted in a Chinese Independent School located in Klang Valley. It elaborates on the efficacy of the school in conducting teacher training to ensure their students' needs are met and raising funds to ensure sustainability of the school.

“

We desire to build a country of which we can be justly and truly proud, a country in which we can live and share our happiness in brotherhood, a country to which we can be truly loyal, in short, a new nation of Malaysia, a democracy of many races and creeds living in peace and harmony.

Tunku Abdul Rahman

”



OUR WORK: RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



20 October 2016:

Auditor General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang delivering the keynote speech at IDEAS Conference on the Open Government Partnership.

Trust in key Malaysian institutions continue to be challenged despite various attempts to improve. The need to rebuild integrity into our institutions is as important as ever. IDEAS has relentlessly worked in this field, building coalitions with like-minded organisations, and investing time and effort to educate the public about the importance of institutions with integrity.



26 September 2016:

IDEAS Chief Operating Officer Tricia Yeoh at a special briefing on the Open Government Partnership co-organised with the Selangor Speaker's Office.

OUR WORK: RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS

We champion the principles of open government, including advocating for Malaysia to sign up to the Open Government Partnership.

To improve trust in political institutions, we persuaded the government to reform political financing in Malaysia and many of our ideas are now incorporated in the official government reform proposals.

We are also part of the International Budget Partnership, an international network looking into using national budget analysis as a tool to improve governance



and reduce poverty, through which we study ways to improve Malaysia's budgetary processes.

OUR IMPACT

One of our biggest successes is in the area of public procurement. As a result of our ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Finance, details of directly negotiated contracts were finally published online for public access. We are still referred to as one of the external experts for issues related to procurement.

Our policy recommendations have also been included in political party manifestos including those on resource governance and the Open Government Partnership.



10 September 2015:
Panelists look on as YB Tony Pua talks about transparency in Malaysia's budget documents at the 2015 Open Budget Survey launch.

OUR WORK: RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

SELECTED COVERAGE



23 November 2015:
Our policy paper “The New Face of KWAN: Proposals to Improve Malaysia’s Natural Resource Fund” made the cover story in The Edge.



16 August 2015:
Wan Saiful Wan Jan being interviewed about IMDB by Al-Jazeera.

OUR PEOPLE



Sri Murniati

Fellow

Sri Murniati is currently pursuing a PhD in Anti-Corruption at the University of Nottingham under our scholarship. She was previously the Research Manager at IDEAS and completed her Masters in Ohio University as a Fulbright scholar. Sri specialises in governance-related issues ranging from government procurement, budget and fiscal transparency and governance of extractive industries.

NOTABLE PAPERS



How Can Malaysia's Budget Documents Be Improved? Sri Murniati (April 2016)

This paper provides detailed information on how the budget documents published by the Ministry of Finance can be improved. It also provides details on information needed to promote budget monitoring efforts.



Generating best value for taxpayers' money: How to improve transparency and accountability in Malaysia's public contracting system (July 2014)

This study makes recommendations to improve Malaysia's public contracting system. The recommendations are a result of research and dialogues carried out by IDEAS with key stakeholders from the Government over nine months between July 2013 to March 2014.

OUR WORK: RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The rule of law is an important facet of an open society. To ensure the rule of law, it is imperative that we have trusted enforcement agencies.

#NyahKorupsi is our nationwide campaign to stamp out corruption in Malaysia. The campaign's main aim is to promote reforms to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), improve relevant anti-corruption laws and reform the role of the Attorney General.

The Royal Malaysia Police is another important component of law enforcement. Despite their important role, they continue



31 August 2016:
Wan Saiful Wan Jan with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Joseph Kurup.

to be under-resourced and many criticisms have been hurled against them. We are studying how trust can be restored to this important body.



ABOUT #NYAHKORUPSI

Under the #NyahKorupsi campaign IDEAS has partnered with the Malaysian Bar Council, Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4), Citizens' Network for a Better Malaysia (CNBM) as well as Transparency International Malaysia.

The campaign takes a two-pronged approach by engaging members of the public as well as high level stakeholders. It has been launched in several states including Selangor, Sarawak, Pahang and Johor. In January 2017 IDEAS began its signature drive with a target of 10,000 signatures.



2 June 2016:
Participants at the "Roles and Responsibilities of the Attorney General and the Public Prosecutor: Time for a Separation?" roundtable discussion.



21 July 2016:
Participants holding #NyahKorupsi signs at the launch of the Nyahkorupsi campaign in Selangor.

OUR WORK: RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

SELECTED COVERAGE



26 August 2016:
Article by Assistant News Editor Boo Su-Lyn citing our policy paper on asset declarations.

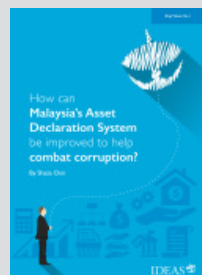


24 August 2016:
Wan Saiful Wan Jan's write-up published by Free Malaysia Today.



13 August 2016:
Tricia Yeoh speaking about the #NyahKorupsi Campaign on Astro Awani.

NOTABLE PAPERS



How can Malaysia's Asset Declaration System be improved to help combat corruption?
Shaza Onn
(May 2015)

This brief reviews Malaysia's current asset declaration practices and makes suggestions on how it can be improved based on global best practice.



Separating the Attorney-General and Public Prosecutor: Enhancing Rule of Law in Malaysia
Aira Azhari and Lim Wei Jiet
(December 2016)

The study makes a case for separating the Public Prosecutor's role from that of the Attorney General to ensure that conflicts of interest are minimised, efforts to combat corruption can be strengthened and the rule of law enhanced in Malaysia.

OUR WORK: RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society is a key institution in an open society, providing an independent third voice as well as offering many key services to help those in need. Not only does it help reduce the role of government in society, it also encourages individuals to take responsibility for what happens around them. Unfortunately, civil society's role is not fully appreciated in Malaysia and its nature not properly understood.

We are keen to see a flourishing civil society, and to see Malaysia foster a regulatory environment that will encourage voluntary giving to help civil society bloom. This requires healthy engagement



17 August 2015:
Cynthia Gabriel, Founding Director of the Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4), speaking at an IDEAS event.

with policymakers, informing them of the potential of civil society and working together to identify steps that can be taken to help volunteerism prosper.



15 December 2016:
Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed speaking at our meeting on foreign funding for civil society.



13 January 2017:
Foreign diplomats at IDEAS briefing on non-governmental organisation (NGO) funding.

OUR WORK: RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

SELECTED COVERAGE

Funding politics the right way

Recent reports by The Wall Street Journal alleging that US\$300 million was transferred to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank accounts only unveiled the fundamental problem at the heart of political patronage in Malaysia – the messy, disorganised way political parties and election campaigns are financed.

This also came on the back of an earlier report claiming that US\$10 million was donated by Genting Plantations to the Yayasan Rakyat Malaysia charity, money that was then used during the election campaign.

calls for transparency in political funding are not new. In 2010, Transparency International Malaysia (TI) published a report with recommendations, amongst which was the need for a political parties act to monitor parties' electoral spending and transparent publication of all donations to them.

Two years later in 2012, he himself announced that the government would soon regulate political financing where funds would be channelled into an official party account. These proposals have not seen the light of day.

In response to the unfolding crisis, GIAT (Governance, Integrity, Accountability and Transparency) – a new coalition that includes the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), TI, the Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4) and several other non-governmental organisations – in a statement last week called for the formalisation of an Asset Declaration Act. This is to ensure that political funds can be independently audited and publicly disclosed, and for the Election Commission to autonomously and independently regulate all political parties.



BY TRICIA YEOH

to operate, carry out their election campaigns, distribute funds to their grassroots personnel and perhaps more importantly, give donations themselves to the hundreds of constituents who come knocking at their door incessantly, from where then, political parties may ask, will they get their money if not from willing and well-oiled corporate donors?

The intricate nexus between corporations and political parties will likely always exist as long as there is a shortage of funds. Unless they enter politics as millionaires, it is likely that politicians eventually become susceptible to the generous donations of companies.

There is nothing essentially wrong with corporate funding since contributors may donate to political parties because they believe in their ideologies and belief systems, but companies have an incentive to do so – to obtain certain favours like contracts or licences or simply to establish access if they were to form the government. This leads to all sorts of potential corrupt deals between buyers and suppliers.

To solve this conundrum where parties need money to survive, what needs to happen simultaneously to the demand for transparent disclosure of political funding is perhaps an alternative source of financing for parties and campaigns.

In more advanced democracies, parties get their funds from various sources. Apart from the usual sources of income like membership fees and donations, state funding is an option in some countries. Germany practices state funding of parties, where the amount received is determined by the parties' performance in elections and the level of individual contributions obtained.

Of course, a criticism of state political funding is

makers' salaries or fund the basic expenses needed to run an office.

The UK practices this system, which provides an allowance to only oppose Parliament to help them with their travel costs. This is called "short" House of Commons and "ransom" House of Lords. Apart from this, it is also available to any party via Policy Grants to help parties develop their grants are professionally applied for by the Electoral Commission.

Both countries practice transparency of all funds received by their political quick search on the UK Electoral website reveals lists of donors' may by individuals and corporations, the tributed to each party and the cost of each transaction.

An overhaul of the political financing needed in this country, and prompt reforming the system, any coalition current one would face the same challenge their parties and election campaign slide into the mess the latter has.

In short, governance and oversight must be put in place to monitor how they receive and spend their money. As the government could consider a loan to especially opposition parties for its purposes. Members of Parliament should well and provided sufficient resource not forced to deal unreasonably from elsewhere.

The system of regulating political needs to be dealt with one and in the next general election.

13 July 2015:

Article by Tricia Yeoh published in the Edge.



1 August 2016:

Azrul Mohd Khalib being interviewed by Al-Jazeera about civil society and Malaysia's security laws.

COALITION ON GOVERNANCE, INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY



IDEAS is part of GIAT, a coalition dedicated to curbing and eradicating corruption in the country. The GIAT coalition is made up of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), Sinar Project, Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4) and Friends of Kota Damansara (FoKD).

OUR WORK: REVIVING THE TUNKU'S MALAYSIA



“

*... with God's blessing (Malaya) shall be forever a sovereign, democratic and independent State founded upon the principles of **liberty** and **justice** and ever seeking the welfare and happiness of its people and the maintenance of a just peace among all nations ...”*

Tunku Abdul Rahman

31 August 1957

When the Tunku declared our independence in 1957, and the founding of Malaysia in 1963, the country was brimming with idealism. We had a noble ambition. Today, we need to work to revive those ideals: to bring back the notion that Malaysia will forever be a nation that champions liberty and justice for all.

At IDEAS we do this through our work and writings as well as through our flagship events the Liberalism Conference and our Annual Dinner commemorating the Tunku.



16 September 2015:

Tan Sri Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, former Finance Minister of Malaysia, speaking at an IDEAS conference on national unity.



20 February 2016:

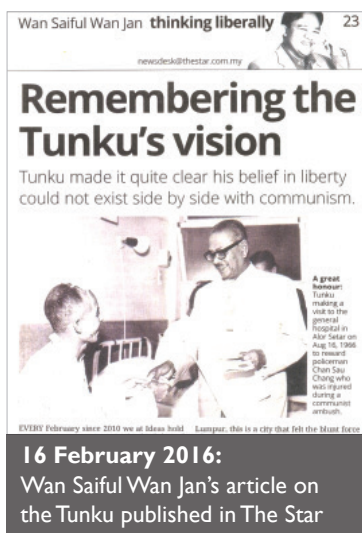
Tun Musa bin Hitam, former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, speaking at IDEAS Anniversary Dinner.

CHAMPIONING A LIBERAL APPROACH



4 September 2016: Speakers at the Liberalism Conference in 2016.

Our flagship event, The Liberalism Conference, is held every year to discuss the country's most contested issues and to debate whether a liberal approach can provide solutions to these problems. The conference is deliberately designed to be a platform for opinion leaders with differing views on liberalism to present their thoughts. We are one of the very few organisations in the country who has the ability to convene a diverse group of speakers for a healthy debate.



16 February 2016:
Wan Saiful Wan Jan's article on
the Tunku published in The Star

“
Young politicians fresh from schools and universities have great ideas as to how best this country should be governed and how the people should live, but experience has shown that the less we interfere with the way of life of the people, the better it is for us all.
”

Tunku Abdul Rahman,
9 May 1969

POSITIONING ETHNICITY AND RELIGION IN SOCIETY



14 March 2016:

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Ramon Navaratnam at a roundtable discussion on ethnic politics co-organised with the Kuala Lumpur Business Club.

Decades ago the Tunku said that “Let us always remember that unity is our fundamental strength as a people and as a nation”. Yet today we still struggle to find the most acceptable place for race and religion in our public policies. The issue crops up in almost all policy discussions, from education to the economy to even government procurement. Learning from our nation’s rich history, we at IDEAS are continuously studying the dynamics of ethnicity and religion in our society so that we may propose ways to guarantee peace and harmony whilst celebrating our differences.

“

Let this country be an example to the rest of the world of how the various people of different races, with different creeds can live as one people, at peace with one another for the good of all.

”

Tunku Abdul Rahman,

1 September 1958



7 December 2015:

South African Opposition Leader Mmusi Maimane at our public forum on Race Relations in South Africa.

OPENING DOORS FOR THE YOUTH

Our National Unity Youth Fellowship is a fully immersive programme aimed at developing youth leaders with a deeper understanding of ethnic relations in Malaysia and the ability to initiate change in the country.

Working together with the Malaysian government's Department of National Unity and Integration, the programme held in 2015 and 2016 offered a glimpse of the realities faced by different communities in Malaysia to 30 selected youth leaders. We provided these youths with training and on-the-ground exposure through a series of workshops and community visits over a period of four to nine months.

We also hold masterclasses and talks with young leaders and students to expose them to pertinent topics affecting the country. More than 4000 participants have benefitted from these activities, enabling them to critically examine topics like the liberal philosophy, the free market system, economic liberalisation, improving our education system, and the liberal way of life envisioned by the Rukun Negara.



“

We must each always think first of Malaysia, of the national need and least of ourselves ... Everyone must try to help and see that the people are one-minded, with loyalty and one aim, to make Malaysia – the land we love – a happy abode for all of us. If we all do this then we can guarantee liberty, security, prosperity and happiness for the future.

”

Tunku Abdul Rahman,
25 June 1970

FEATURED YOUTH FELLOW: CALVIN WOO



Calvin was from the first batch of the IDEAS National Unity Youth Fellowship programme. The youngest fellow at age 18, Calvin went on to become the first Malaysian to receive the Queen's Young Leaders Award from Her Majesty the Queen of England.

COMMEMORATING THE TUNKU



7 February 2015: The Tunku's two eldest children, Tunku Khadijah and Tunku Ahmad Nerang, cutting cake in commemoration of Almarhum Tunku Abdul Rahman's birthday.

We celebrate the Tunku's birthday on 8 February every year. Graced by generations of the Tunku's family and friends, we always feature a keynote speech in remembrance of the Tunku's vision and the founding principles of our country.

“

*My most cherished memory?
The sunshine on the morning of
Independence Day. It had been
raining, but the crowds packed
the place regardless, to hear me
declare our freedom, and then
sunshine broke through a cloud
ever so brilliantly.*

”

Tunku Abdul Rahman,
1979

OUR APPEAL: SUPPORT US

FINANCIAL NEEDS

Moving forward, we will continue our work towards advancing a competitive economy, restoring trust in institutions and reviving the Tunku's Malaysia. In order to deliver our plans, we will need a total of RM 2,965,000 per year as explained below:

FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR ADVANCING A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

Government and business	RM 370,000
Building a knowledge economy	RM 250,000
Healthcare	RM 300,000
Human capital	RM 275,000
Government engagement	RM 200,000
Total per annum	RM 1,395,000

FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR RESTORING TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Transparency and openness	RM 290,000
Strengthening law enforcement agencies	RM 285,000
Empowering civil society	RM 290,000
Total per annum	RM 865,000

FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR REVIVING THE TUNKU'S MALAYSIA

Championing a liberal approach	RM 85,000
Positioning ethnicity and religion in society	RM 200,000
Opening doors for the youth	RM 350,000
Commemorating the Tunku	RM 70,000
Total per annum	RM 705,000

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Raising **RM 2,965,000** per year is a tall order for a small organisation like us.

IDEAS is a lean operation which relies heavily on individual and corporate donations.

We are a leader in our fields of engagement with a strong track record of influencing policy and spearheading debate.

We believe in advocating for a better Malaysia by promoting good governance in government and by creating a more business friendly environment for economic growth.

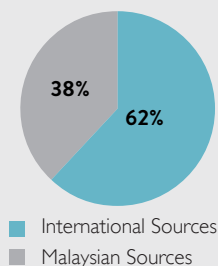
We promote these efforts on a cross-partisan basis, as we are passionate to see all sides championing the agenda.

Despite being a relatively young and small think tank, we engage on high-impact issues and hold high-profile events. Our national and international media reach unmatched by any other organisation.

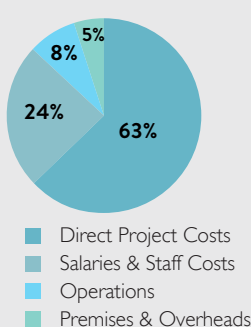
The influence and impact of our work can be seen in the ongoing national discourse and debates in Malaysia and the region.

To safeguard our independence and objectivity, we only accept financial assistance if we are assured that there are no strings attached.

Sources of income 2016



Breakdown of Expenditure 2016



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.

But it also means that we need your continuous support.

If you share our dream to see a better Malaysia, please support us financially.

HOW TO DONATE

BY CHEQUE

Please make your cheque payable to “IDEAS Berhad” and send to the address below.
Please let us know your address so we can write and thank you.

Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS)

F4 Taman Tunku
Bukit Tunku
50480 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA

BY BANK TRANSFER / STANDING INSTRUCTION

In order to do a bank transfer or set up a standing order, please provide your bank with the below details.

CIMB Bank Malaysia

Account Name: IDEAS Berhad
Account number: 800 136 7104
SWIFT Code: CIBBMYKL

BY ONLINE BANKING

Visit www.ideas.org.my to make an online donation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require additional information please contact supportus@ideas.org.my

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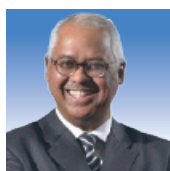
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