

THE COMPASS

 Jeffrey Cheah Institute
on Southeast Asia

 JEFFREY SACHS CENTER
on Sustainable Development
Sunway University, Malaysia

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- Biodiversity Loss & Conservation/Regeneration
- Disaster Risk Resilience
- Waste Management
- Rivers, Lakes and Estuarine Ecosystems
- Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy (FABLE) in Malaysia



GOVERNANCE

- Electoral Reform
- Political Economy
- Economic Shocks / Non-Economic Shocks



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- Social Protection System for Children
- Education Reform
- Jobs and Human Capital Development
- Local Authority and Community Action
- Urban Sustainability



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PROFESSOR WOO WING THYE

President, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia;
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, and so it challenges us constantly with “chicken-and-egg” dilemmas. A system-wide perspective helps us to see that simultaneous movements on many fronts are needed. Coordination is clearly desirable both for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, but there is no such comprehensive coordination mechanism in existence or being developed rapidly.

It is therefore gratifying to recognize that progress in sustainable development has been made since 2015 through largely uncoordinated self-initiated actions at the individual level, the community level, the state level, the national level, the regional level, and the global level. The overarching human spirit and the individual audacity of hope are what that have inspired and kept the Sustainable Development project going. The bad news is that current progress on sustainable development has not been fast enough to ensure that ecologicide (“The Sixth Extinction”) will be prevented.

JCI-JSC will seek to accelerate the pace of progress in sustainable development by supporting Southeast Asia to launch an ASEAN Green Deal in 2021. There will hence be two new thrusts in the work agenda of JCI- JSC in 2020. The first is to work with the national chapters of SDSN in each ASEAN state to convince the home country to support the ASEAN Green Deal as the key regional program for the next three decades. The objective is the establishment of an ASEAN Green Deal Coordination Unit under the ASEAN Secretariat. The second new thrust in our 2020 work program is to collaborate with SDSN members in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australasia to conduct research on how to bring about cost-effective deep carbonization of their economies in order to be carbon-neutral by 2050.

JCI-JSC will have its hiring priorities in 2020-2021, two SDSN-Asia Network Managers and two researchers on Deep Carbonization. The mission of the two SDSN-Asia Network Managers is to help create synergy among the myriad individual efforts by Asian-Australasian members to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the hope of initiating a virtuous cycle in sustainable development at the ASEAN regional level. The JCI-JSC Deep Decarbonization team will work to help de-fossilization of the Malaysian national energy system, and to help decarbonization in other aspects of daily life.



POLITICAL ISLAM MARCHES ON IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

JAMES CHIN

Director, Governance Studies

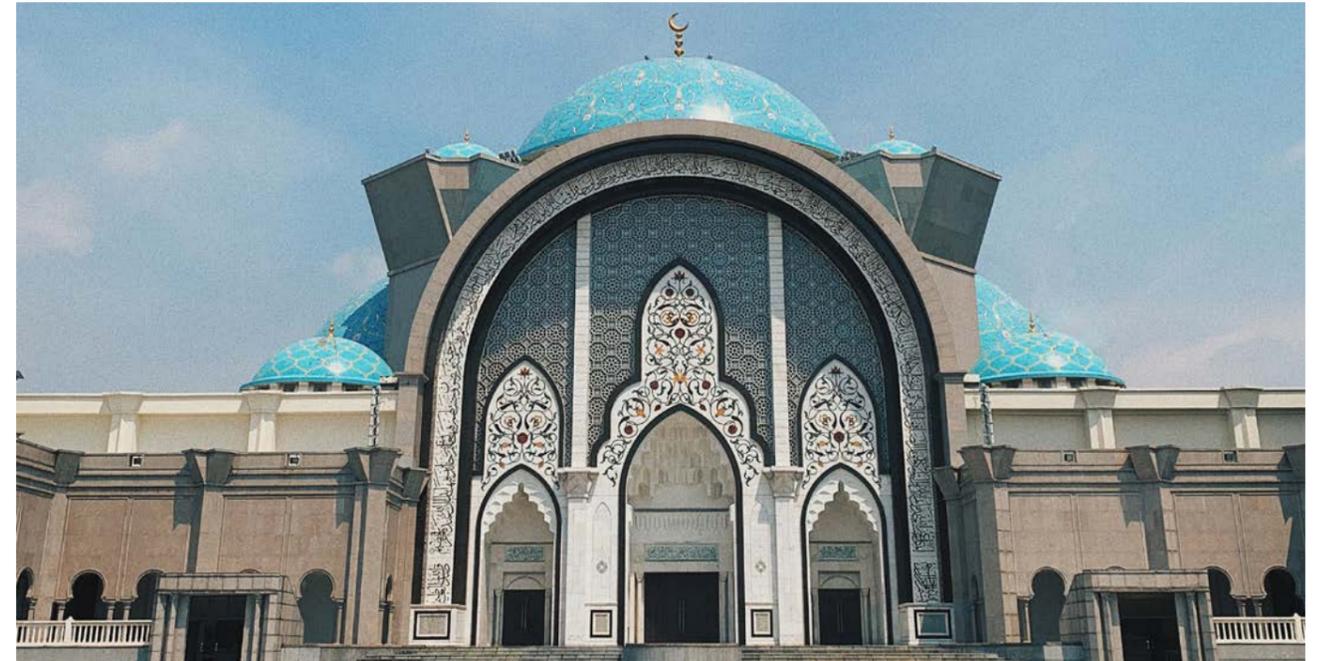
PRIOR TO THE Iranian revolution and the Afghan war, Islam in the Southeast Asian region was not considered a political force. Half a century later, most social scientists will tell you that Islam is a potent force in Malaysia and Indonesia. It is also a political force in Singapore, Southern Thailand and the Mindanao region in the Philippines.

In recent times, Political Islam showed its potency in last April's Indonesian presidential elections and in Malaysia's 2018 general elections. In the Indonesian case, incumbent Joko Widodo, better known as Jokowi, surprised his countrymen by selecting Muslim cleric Ma'ruf Amin as his running mate. This was a naked attempt at harvesting the Islamic vote. At the same time, General Prabowo Subianto, Jokowi's challenger, openly courted ring-wing Islamic groups and appeared to endorse their version of a more Islamic Indonesia. Earlier in 2017, Political Islam successfully caused the defeat of Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, better known as Ahok, in Jakarta's gubernatorial race. Ahok was accused of blasphemy, and later convicted of it.

In Malaysia, the two oldest Malay-Muslim parties; United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) and Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS), have been openly promoting more Islamisation since the 2018 polls. Those polls had seen the first regime change in Malaysian history when UMNO was defeated after holding power for six decades. UMNO used to anchor itself around Malay nationalism but after moving to the opposition bench, it has decided that the 'Islamic' vote is the best way for it to recapture power. Hence late last year, UMNO and PAS, previously UMNO's biggest political

challenger, came together in the spirit of "Muafakat Nasional" (national cooperation). Prior to the 2018 polls, no political analyst on Malaysia would have predicted such a collaboration between UMNO and PAS. Yet it happened. And if the current Pakatan Harapan (PH) government falls in the next general elections, there will be little doubt that UMNO/PAS will try to run a more conservative and overtly Islamic government.

One often forgets that Malaysia, unlike Indonesia, is not a secular state constitutionally. The framers of the Malaysian Constitution left Malaysia in an ambiguous position when they wrote that "Islam is the religion of the Federation; but other religions may be practised in peace and harmony in any part of the Federation.". The wording allows for the claim that Malaysia is an Islamic state, albeit those who claim that Malaysia is a secular state can point to the second half of the sentence to make their case. To be sure, this debate is becoming moot now that the Islamic establishment in Malaysia is in the final stage of bureaucratizing Islam and slowing changing the entire character of government. The situation in Indonesia is slightly better compared to Malaysia. The two largest Islamic NGOs, Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah (with a combined membership of more than 60 million), have both consistently said that they do not support changing Indonesia into a theocratic state. There are no similar organisations in Malaysia. In fact, the reverse is true. Many Malaysian Islamic NGOs are linked to political parties, especially UMNO and PAS. Because of this direct relationship, they can be easily manipulated by UMNO and PAS.



"POLITICAL ISLAM CONSTITUTES AN EXISTENTIAL CHALLENGE TO THE DIVERSE POLITICAL SYSTEMS IN THE REGION."

ISLAM AS IDENTITY MARKER

This does not mean that Indonesia is without problems. The most obvious one is Aceh Province which managed to convince Jakarta to grant it autonomy in Islamic matters. Aceh has already implemented its version of the sharia law and the central government does not appear to be willing to confront it, even if it goes against the central tenants of the Pancasila. What is happening in Aceh is seen by the Islamists in South Thailand and Mindanao as a 'working model' that they can import.

Political Islam in Malaysia can also become more potent because Islam is taking over as the identity marker of the Malay population. In the realm of identity politics, more Malaysian Malays are saying that their Islamic identity is more important than their ethnic identity. This is certainly not true in Indonesia.

For the hardcore Islamic groups who dream of an Islamic state in Malaysia and Indonesia, their beliefs were strengthened by the Sultan of Brunei's 2014 announcement that Brunei will be the first fully Islamic state in the region.

Political Islam constitutes an existential challenge to the diverse political systems in the region. Essentially it comes down to this; the Islamists will use the existing electoral systems (even if most of them are unfair or far from free by international standards) to capture power, before changing the constitution or political system into an Islamic one (at least on paper) in ways that will not allow it to revert back to its former state. In other words, once they are in power, there is likely to be no legal or constitutional way for the people to reverse the process short of a revolution. The second issue is that no matter what 'Islamic' state they adopt, it is a certainty that the non-Muslims will be completely disenfranchised. Worse, those Muslims who support a secular state will likely be suppressed by the powers of the state or worse.

Muslim politicians in the region appear to be impervious to the idea that Political Islam represents a danger to the diversity of the region. Most see Islam as a vote-getter; the elites are probably the most dangerous. They tend to live dual lives; i.e., they have homes and families in the West while back in the region, they are willing to flirt with Political Islam in order to stay in power.

What is the solution? The solution must come from the Islamic clerics and Muslim intelligentsia themselves. The secular Muslims are, by and large, being shouted down by the Islamists. At present none are willing to confront this issue.





POLITICAL SHIFTS AND RIFTS TO WATCH IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

WONG CHIN HUAT
Senior Fellow

FOR THE 2020s politically, Southeast Asia may observe three major shifts/rifts.

1 Indonesia moving its capital to East Kalimantan

By 2024, Indonesia's new capital will emerge between the cities of Balikpapan and Samarinda, on the province of East Kalimantan on Borneo, Asia's biggest island which Indonesia shares with Malaysia and Brunei. The new capital city is expected to accommodate 1.5 million of the 10 million now living in Jakarta, mostly government employees and their families. Besides traffic jam and air pollution, Jakarta is listed by World Economic Forum as one of the world's fastest sinking cities, because of rising sea levels and the over-extraction of groundwater.

Occupying 40,000 hectares, the new capital project will have huge ecological impacts—land clearing alone would release 48 million tons of carbon dioxide, about the same annual footprint of 9.3 million drivers. It will further threaten biodiversity in Borneo, now already undermined by oil palm plantations and bad agricultural practices.

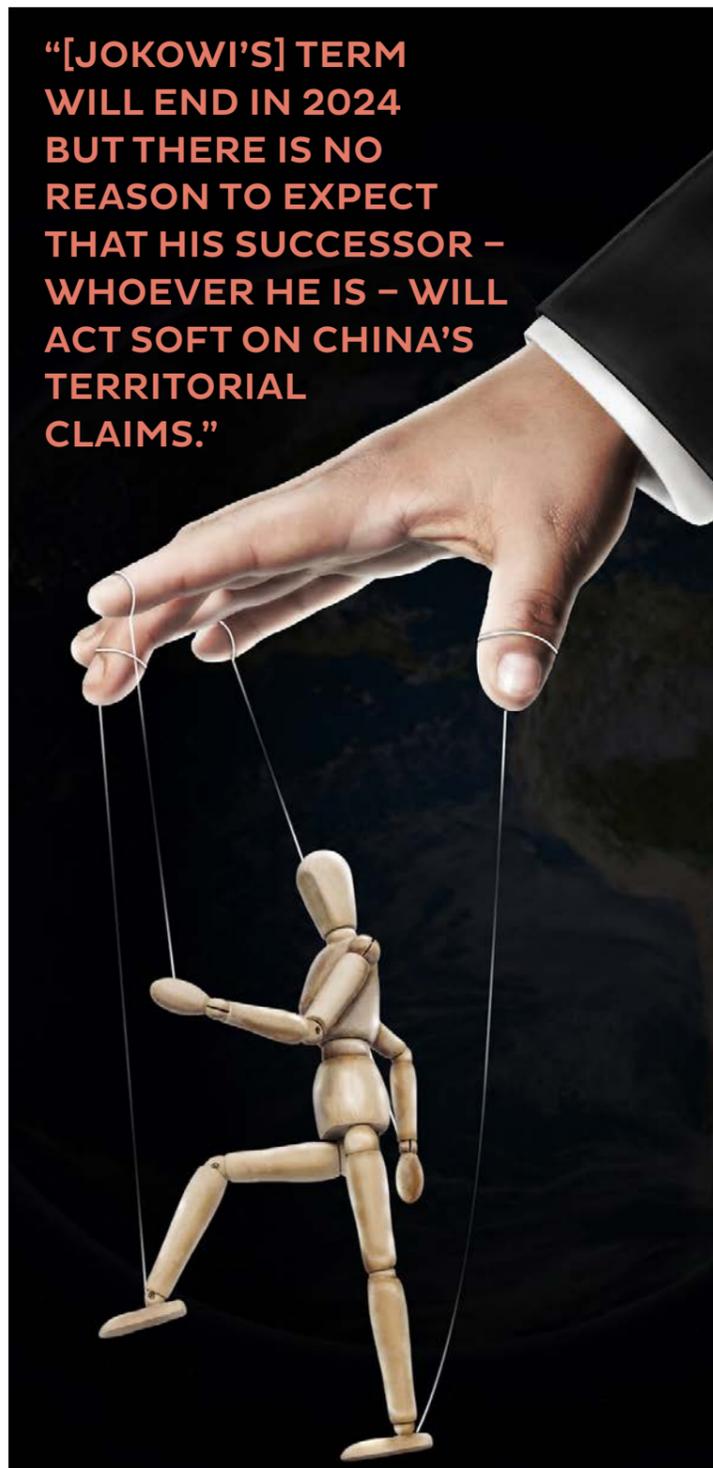
But the political shockwaves may go further. Internally, immigrants from Java and other islands will transform the demographic landscape of Borneo's east coast and beyond. Conflicts between migrants and natives had erupted before in the form of ethnic riots in Kalimantan, Sumatra and Maluku. Foreshadowing the challenge to come, an ethnic riot has already happened last October exactly at the site for the new capital.

Externally, Indonesia's new capital should become a centre of influence for the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak as well as the Philippines' Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Indonesia's political centre will have become nearer than Kuala Lumpur—by 880km for Kota Kinabalu and by 160km for Kuching, and it will be only 280km farther than Manila for Cotabatu. If East Kalimantan thrives with the new capital city, Malaysia and the Philippines will have to do more to keep their peripheral territories happy.

2 China continues to loom large

Unless the Coronavirus outbreak persists long enough to significantly hurt China's economic power and political stability, China will be the biggest player in the region, facing a fragmented Southeast Asia. Within the 10 ASEAN countries, Laos and Cambodia are clearly in China's camp. Condemned by the international community for its ethnic cleansing policy on the Rohingyas, Myanmar should be moving closer to Beijing, notwithstanding its distrust of China. The present trend is likely to continue for the decade for these three countries, unless major changes happen in Cambodia and Myanmar.

“[JOKOWI’S] TERM WILL END IN 2024 BUT THERE IS NO REASON TO EXPECT THAT HIS SUCCESSOR – WHOEVER HE IS – WILL ACT SOFT ON CHINA’S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS.”



In the South China Sea where China's strategic interests directly clash with some of its neighbours, Beijing's dominance may face some challenge. In the Philippines, former President Benigno Simeón Aquino III's assertive policy has been replaced by President Rodrigo Duterte's pragmatic embrace of China since 2016. Since Duterte's term will end in two years, his successors—to be elected in 2022 and 2028—may change tack. Vietnam, another strong contender to China's nine-dash-line claim, signaled last year its shift from hedging between China and America to moving more definitively into the latter's orbit.

More interestingly, attacked by his enemies for being “pro-China” in his first term, Indonesian President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) has taken a strong stand on China after his re-election. Shortly after a stand-off between Indonesian warships and China coast guard vessels, Jokowi visited Natuna Island, the archipelagic republic's northernmost territory and lying in the South China Sea, as a political statement. His term will end in 2024 but there is no reason to expect that his successor—whatever he is—will act soft on China's territorial claims. In comparison, due to stronger economic ties with China, Malaysia is much friendlier to Beijing, despite similar territorial disagreements over Chinese claims. This has persisted from Barisan Nasional days in the past to the Pakatan Rakyat period and is unlikely to change even new parties come into power.

Both Singapore and Thailand may have US military bases but they both also maintain friendly ties with China. Thailand is positive about the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while Singapore feels the pressure of competition from China's BRI in other countries.

Ultimately, Southeast Asian countries' leaning towards China and America may also rely greatly on the dependability of US foreign policy.

3 Potential electoral turnover in five countries

In the coming decade, the political system in six Southeast Asian countries will likely remain the same: multiparty democracy in Indonesia, the Philippines and Timor Leste; one-party state in Vietnam and Laos; and absolute monarchy in Brunei. While political leadership may change in some cases, that is not expected to drastically alter the respective countries' course.

The same may not be said for the remaining five: Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Singapore. Each will hold at least two elections (assuming no early dissolution) in the 2020s, and even if elections are somewhat rigged or manipulated, they provide opportunities for change to be introduced or advanced. Barring early elections, Malaysia will go to the polls in 2023 and 2028. Recent by-elections (some at the state level) show that the overt collaboration of UMNO and PAS has gained momentum. Infighting within Pakatan Harapan may trigger more realignment between parties and politicians, and if institutional reforms are aborted under a new government, Malaysia may slide back into electoral authoritarianism.

Likewise, Thailand will call two elections in 2023 and 2027 during the decade. In the neither free nor fair 2019 polls, General Prayut

Chan-O-Cha's Palang Prachat party unsurprisingly outdid the main pro-Thaksin opposition, Puey Thai. However, a new reformist party Future Forward (FF) emerged in third place, winning 17.65% of the votes. Last December, Future Forward's charismatic leader, businessman Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, organised Bangkok's largest demonstration to protest against the authorities' attempt to ban his party. Looking at its ability to mobilise, one should expect FF to be a key player in the 2023 and the 2027 elections.

Myanmar's national elections in the coming decade should fall on 2020 and 2025. Aung San Suu Kyi may not win a second term to govern the country as the State Counsel. Even if she makes the mark this year, she would be 79 in 2025, raising the likelihood that Myanmar may see a leadership change this coming decade. And if Aung San is defeated, there are doubts that the National League for Democracy (NLD) will survive. Should it not hold itself together, there is fear that military forces will be strengthened and be encouraged to roll back democracy.

Cambodia's long-reigning Prime Minister Hun Sen won 100% of seats, despite a proportional system, in a rigged parliamentary election in 2018. Should things remain the same, then he may just win the next two elections in 2023 and 2028 as easily as a walk in the park. At 67 today, Hun Seng's challenge is age. As Cambodia is ruled more like a family business than a party state, Hun Seng's sudden exit may cause the system to crash.

Singapore will have its elections in 2020 and 2025. PM Lee Hsien Long is expected to lead People's Action Party (PAP) into this year's campaign while his designated successor Heng Swee Keat will lead it in 2025. Lacking his predecessor's charisma, it may be an uphill task for Heng to deliver a comfortable majority if economic conditions deteriorate further.



SOUTHEAST ASIA NEEDS TO STOP BEING A FRONTLINE FOR GLOBAL CONFLICTS



OUI KEE BENG
Senior Fellow

THE TWO-YEAR-OLD trade war between the United States and China is in many ways a proxy conflict, the real issues not merely being about trade conditions but more being about the global strategic and ideological issues that have emerged in the wake of China's economic growth.

Temporary measures taken by companies to capitalise on, or to minimise the effects of the tariffs on their profit margins include strategic moves to third countries. Malaysia is a square on the board in this global game of chess, apparently more so for American players than for Chinese ones. For example, in the services sector alone, proposed US investment into Malaysia jumped to RM11.52bil in the first half of 2019 from just RM42.3mil during the same period the year before, while Chinese investments in Malaysia over the first nine months of 2019 were halved, compared to the same period the year before.

This huge movement of assets mirrors a deep reality in Southeast Asia as a whole. Ever since this strange region bounded by India, China, Australasia and the Pacific Ocean was drawn into world politics in the 16th century, it has been the venue for contestations among big powers in conflict at the global level. One could say that the region is unfortunate in that it often suffers accidental spillovers of such struggles; but in light of the region's continual involvement in externally-defined conflicts, it may be more accurate to consider Southeast Asia to be a persistent front for modern global battles.

To the extent the latter statement is correct, then a broader acceptance by the region's governments and peoples of that unhappy fact is necessary if the region is to act concertedly in managing the grim fate of being the arena for global conflicts.

Luckily, the trade war has so far not led to systemic dissonance in the region, unlike earlier periods when this culturally diverse and archipelagic territory endured violence and coercion at the heavy hand of external powers continuing conflicts begun elsewhere

SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR THE TAKING

I suppose the conquest of Malacca by the Portuguese in 1511 heralded with thunder and plunder the global age in the region. From that point on, the islands and coastlines in the Nusantara were for the taking by any able European seafaring nation disposed to do so.

The Dutch appeared at the end of the 16th Century, desperately seeking fortune-making spices from the so-called East Indies.

Meanwhile, the Spanish had sailed into Manila Bay from across the Pacific.

The British managed to start a minor garrison in Bencoolen around the same time. It was only after gaining Penang in 1786, after defeating Napoleonic France in the Indian Ocean and back in Europe, and after settling Singapore in 1819, that they could secure the route to China to their liking. The French got back into the fray only in the latter half of the 19th century, after their Second Republic's demise, with the occupation of Cambodia and then the rest of Indochina. They stretched their influence into northeastern and eastern Siam while the British stretched theirs over the rest of that kingdom.

In defeating the Spanish in 1898 over Cuba and in gaining possession of Spain's Eastern Pacific colonies, the Americans decided evangelically to "bear the White Man's burden"; and in taking over the Philippines, they evolved into a colonial power in their own right.

NEW PHASES IN GLOBAL CONFLICTS

By the turn of the 20th century, therefore, the political map in Southeast Asia seemed clearly drawn. Global powers had cut up each their piece of the colonial cake, dismantling much of the socioeconomic and political bindings of the archipelago. One could soundly consider the period before the First World War as the first modern phase in the region. Some territorial stability then prevailed until the coming of the Japanese, who decided early on 8 December 1941 to invade the whole region in retaliation against a western embargo on oil transport to their home islands.

The Japanese Occupation constituted a new phase in global intrusion into Southeast Asia. Its end, resulting so suddenly from the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, saw the region move into an era of colonial dismantlement within the larger defining context of the Cold War.

New nations arose, most of them through armed struggle, cutting the region into pro-western and pro-communism camps. In 1967, the nations in the former showed gumption and imagination enough to form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) after the left-leaning Soekarno regime fell. It was only after the end of the Cold War in 1991 that a period of consolidation and mending of relations between the two camps could start.

When the 21st Century began, ASEAN had ten members, all hopefully looking forward—not so much to a peaceful era of regional growth as to a time marked by greatly diminished interference from external powers.

This consolidation of an organisation representing the whole disparate region is an accomplishment seldom appreciated enough. But even as ASEAN tried to grow into the big boots so optimistically made for it, the emergence of a multipolar world with key poles to all sides returned Southeast Asia to being a contested region again. This time, it is the South China Sea—a mass of water bordered by at least six of ASEAN's members, plus China—that has become the arena that big powers use to proxy their fears of each other.



US Carrier Strike Groups still roam Pacific waters, while China builds up its own marine capability.

BREAKING ASEAN'S GEOPOLITICAL KARMA

Attempts in recent years at influencing proceedings in ASEAN summits by big powers, most notably China, have also become a great irritant for its member states. The region now figures centrally in strategical exercises formulated in the capitals of big powers—President Barack Obama wished to pivot to Southeast Asia and to create the now-defunct Trans Pacific Partnership, President Xi Jinping threw his Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank on the table, and President Donald Trump in turn promoted the notion of an Indo-Pacific and in 2018 began a tit-for-tat trade war with Beijing.

As the Malays have always so wisely professed, "When elephants contest, deer are trampled".

Given the present scenario of big power posturing, and given the history of Southeast Asia catching a cold whenever a big power

sneezes in a faraway capital, Southeast Asian nations, through ASEAN, are now in a better position than ever to pull together in order to act as an elephant in their own right and not as terrified deer trying to avoid elephantine feet.

To manage that, they need to recognise—and to make their people recognise—the nature of the geopolitical conditions they live under, and in learning from the historical travails their forefathers suffered, trumpet forth a united voice and take charge of their own fate.

The following decade is critical. ASEAN has to move beyond its foundational bindings. If it fails, the chance will probably not come again.

“EVEN AS ASEAN TRIED TO GROW INTO THE BIG BOOTS SO OPTIMISTICALLY MADE FOR IT, THE EMERGENCE OF A MULTIPOLAR WORLD WITH KEY POLES TO ALL SIDES RETURNED SOUTHEAST ASIA TO BEING A CONTESTED REGION AGAIN.”



BATTLING THE HAZE WHILE BLINKERED BY BOUNDARIES

GOH CHUN SHENG

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Satellite image of the haze event from NASA Earth Observatory, spectacularly caught on September 24, 2015. Link: <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/87204/el-nino-brought-drought-and-fire-to-indonesia>

I WAS TWELVE when, for the first time in my life, I was told to put on a white dust mask when stepping out of the house. There was a thick haze blanket shimmering across the whole of Penang, my hometown. The particle-laden air persisted for months, blocking sun rays and reducing on-ground visibility. It was 1997, and I learnt from the news that many parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei were also affected. The source of this grey air, I was told, were fires in Indonesia.

This was also a year when the region was experiencing drastic changes – both financially and politically. The biggest change would be the fall of Suharto's dictatorship in 1998, following the financial crisis that broke out the year before.

Since then the haze has come and gone in cycles of three to four years, hanging like a fog, as it were, over the people in these countries. It was only when I was in my early twenties that I started to read more about this recurrent event—thanks to the free time I had after completing my STPM. How ignorant I was, but none of my peers or family members had more clues about the matter than I did. That was also the first time I learnt that the haze is a combination of smoke, ash and dust resulted from

peat fires, not just simply forest or farm fires. The sources of the haze are largely found on two islands—Sumatra and Kalimantan (Borneo). Both have extensive areas of tropical peatland that had been degraded by the large-scale expansion of agricultural land, especially for oil palm planting.

Peat itself is an accumulation of dry dead organic matter that are inflammable, especially during long droughts, for example during the El Niño southern oscillation. The reason for the fires was, however, reduced to a set of clichés for public consumption in Malaysia and probably Singapore as well: the fire was set by the uneducated, irresponsible farmers in Indonesia who used fire to clear forest land for farming.

When I finally visited Central Kalimantan in 2014, I was twenty-eight and a PhD candidate at Utrecht University. Central Kalimantan is one of the most affected areas that generate massive haze during the long, severe drought (see Figure). I was lucky enough to pass the most serious period of haze in October, as I arrived in November. Together with a local Dayak guide (later a good friend) and a motorbike, we rode across the province, into the deep forests, plantations, and gold mining sites on large

rivers and small streams. In these few months, I met a wide range of people, including indigenous people, migrants from other islands, urban settlers, local officials, entrepreneurs, activists as well as plantation workers. It was an eye-opening trip to me, a city boy from Malaysia. When analysing the data collected, I was struggling to put all the pictures together—there is no simple way of framing the fire events in the context of on-ground socio-economic dynamics. While many uncontrolled fires were made unintentionally (a carelessly discarded cigarette butt can create a relatively large fire on a village scale during the drought seasons), there were also reports about massive fire made on purpose to clear a large area of land. The worst cases were those set on peatland.

BORDERLESS POLLUTION

It is true that the haze pollution in Southeast Asia is transboundary in nature—not only through the atmosphere but also through investment and trade. Especially, many oil palm companies operating in these fire-prone areas are owned by Malaysians and Singaporeans. The recurrence of haze has affected the regions in all aspects: health, economy, social instability etc. In monetary terms, the Asian Development Bank has estimated the haze in 1997-1998 has led to over US\$9.0 billion of business loss. The damage was likely doubled or more for the incident in 2015-2016. Despite the existence of the ASEAN platform with multilateral Ministerial meetings, initiatives and agreements, such as the Regional Haze Action Plan (1997) and the Haze agreement (2002), even with the latter finally ratified by Indonesia in 2014, the absence of an institutionalised, integrated environmental regime results in little progress on haze mitigation. The recent finger-pointing and buck-passing between the ministers of Malaysia and Indonesia, which were widely reported by newspapers in the region, clearly reflect the poor understanding and alignment between the neighbours over the haze issue. Especially for Malaysia, the big oil palm firms that operate in Indonesia allegedly of triggering peat fire have close patronage relationships with the government—some of them are in fact government-linked companies.

Probably, the fundamental reason for the slow progress of haze mitigation is the lack of a regional perspective by individual countries in appreciating shared ecology and recognising common vulnerability beyond artificial boundaries. A strong regional mentality beyond borders and keen political will in improving coordination among governments and stakeholders on multiple scales are necessary for tackling the economics of haze. Apparently, these are still largely missing. In fact, the Malaysian and Singaporean public, including the highly educated groups, generally lack a factual understanding of the cause and

nature of haze episodes in Indonesia. This is just a reflection of the reality that people in the region generally know very little about their neighbour countries. Sad to say, lack of understanding outside one's own territories also exist within Malaysia itself – it is not rare that many Malaysians from the Peninsular have little understanding about their peers across the South China Sea in Borneo, i.e. Sabah and Sarawak, let alone Indonesia.

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, Aristotle said. While I enjoyed travel freely in Europe while I lived there, I couldn't stop thinking about doing so in Southeast Asia some days. Perhaps it is time to undo the disengagement of Malaysians with our neighbours, starting with our education. Personally, I would encourage my children to learn more about Southeast Asia in all aspects, from human to environment.

Although this is not my main reason, perhaps to justify further, there are plenty of economic opportunities for young Malaysians in this rapidly developing, emerging region. Why not look around before we look east, look west and look north?

“THE RECENT FINGERPOINTING AND BUCK-PASSING BETWEEN THE MINISTERS OF MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA... CLEARLY REFLECT THE POOR UNDERSTANDING AND ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE NEIGHBOURS OVER THE HAZE ISSUE.”

FASHIONING SETTLEMENTS FOR THE PERMANENT REFUGEES OF CLIMATE CHANGE



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NEWS OF Indonesia's decision to move its capital from crowded, sinking Jakarta to a new location in Borneo has been widely interpreted as being partially driven by the need to adapt to (or escape from) rising sea levels. The description of the new capital site as a "highland overseeing a bay" fits into the narrative of an administrative decision to build New Jakarta on a port-friendly coast high enough above the current waterline for it to enjoy an elevation buffer.

Given the current global climate change trajectory, we can expect sea levels to rise between 1 to 1.5 meters on average within the next 80 years. While this change will be gradual, most smaller settlements will be abandoned to the rising seas. Millions are expected to be forced out from their homes, including from the major ASEAN capitals of Jakarta, Bangkok and Manila.

In addition, ASEAN states should not discount the impact of sea level rise in nearby, extremely vulnerable Indian Ocean nations such as the Maldives and Bangladesh. The IPCC estimates that a 1.5m rise in sea levels by 2100 will create around 18 million climate refugees and a loss of one fifth of Bangladesh's southern landmass. Assuming a conservative estimate of 10 percent of those displaced becoming external refugees and an estimate of half of these moving towards ASEAN and Australia, we would be dealing with an estimated 900,000 refugees. For the Maldives, with a total population of roughly 400,000, entire inhabited islands may vanish with just 1m of sea level rise.

One crucial difference between the coming sea level-driven refugee crisis and any previous refugee situation is the definitive nature of the former. Barring miraculous advances in geoengineering technologies, it is certain that refugees from inundated coastal regions will not be able to return to their former homes.

In addition, given the global nature of sea level rise, all coastal nations will in some form or other be dealing with their own local predicaments, thereby shrinking the global pool of available

resources for refugee resettlement. Internally displaced citizens of a nation will therefore be expected to integrate swiftly into the rest of the national population. This should be well within the capabilities of the various ASEAN nations. Foreign refugees however are a completely different matter. Most ASEAN members, including Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, are not signatories of the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, and therefore do not recognise the concept of refugees as defined by the UN.

THE CASE OF MALAYSIA

As such, using Malaysia as an example, a large influx of foreign climate refugees would challenge and stress the current patchwork situation where illegal refugees are forced into cities such as Kuala Lumpur. This system is unsustainable, and will collapse completely should a large influx of foreign refugees (100,000 or so) occur within a short period of time.

As part of a plan to pre-empt such an outcome, serious consideration should be given to the planning of "New Cities", primarily to house foreign refugees for the medium to long term. Unlike so-called refugee camps, these "New Cities" should be designed to operate as a self-contained city with basic amenities and infrastructure, most ideally staffed by skilled members of the refugee community, but with overall governance and security remaining in the hands of the host state.

An important issue which needs to be paid attention to here is that the establishing of these "New Cities" should not be mistaken with the formation of "refugee ghettos" in metropolitan and urban centres. Unlike refugee ghettos in which contact with the outer world is physically and legally minimised, resulting in the complete isolation of the refugees from public life, these "New Cities" should be conceived as intermediate zones in which integration programs will be introduced with the aim that these cities will eventually form integrated functional townships within the host state.

Malaysia in particular has had uniquely historical, albeit less intensive, experience of such planned settlements which were initially heavily secured but eventually fully integrated into Malaysian society. During the Communist Emergency, one major social engineering component of the Briggs Plan was the construction and settlement of 450 "new villages" which were designed to house primarily ethnic Chinese from scattered rural villages to cut off supplies to Communist guerrillas operating out of Malaysia's rainforests.

A vast majority of the 500,000 primarily ethnic Chinese never returned to their original settlements, even after the Emergency ended, but instead formed the nucleus of new townships. The model may serve as a good example for future internal resettlements of local coastal areas in ASEAN, with the obvious need for less security.

Another example from outside the ASEAN region would be the case of the Palestinian Diaspora. The different social trajectories and degrees of integration of the Palestinian community into the various host Arab states provide us with a good case study of the different models that could be implemented.

THE PALESTINIAN CASES

Unlike Palestinian resettlement in Western countries where selected Palestinians were given full citizen rights and legal privileges and were expected to integrate fully into their host society, Palestinian refugees in Arab states are still mainly organised in "temporary" settlements, with the long-term belief that they will eventually return to Palestine.

The major Palestinian refugee camps that still exist today outside of Occupied Palestine are in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Of these three nations, the Palestinians in Lebanon are generally considered to be the least integrated, with the largest camp in Lebanon, Ain al-Hilweh, being outside the effective control of the national government. In fact, the Lebanese government recently constructed a concrete security wall around this camp to contain its inhabitants.

In contrast, the Palestinian camp cities of Syria were considered model camps prior to the civil war there. Yarmouk Camp, the largest in Syria located just outside Damascus, eventually became

a functional district of Damascus, almost indistinguishable from any other part of the capital with fully integrated infrastructure and freedom of movement for its inhabitants. This high level of socioeconomic integration saw Palestinian refugees being given Syrian citizenship at high rates while those who retained refugee status enjoyed legal rights close to those of an average Syrian citizen.

In the Jordanian system, most Palestinian refugees who entered Jordan prior to 1988 were naturalised. In Jordan, the percentage of Palestinian refugees still living in refugee camps as compared to the overall Palestinian refugee population in the host country is the lowest of the three mentioned Arab states, indicating the highest level of social integration. As such, Jordan could be said to have chosen the path of quick integration and to have succeeded in limiting the number and size of refugee camp populations. However, recent events involving the stripping of nationality from Palestine-origin Jordanian citizens have shown that the relatively open attitude towards Palestinians seems to have shifted.

ASEAN nations can draw lessons from the various systems mentioned above. The Palestinian crisis is unique in that nearly all those who still regard themselves as refugees were born outside the former homeland of the community, and as such have never actually lived on the land that they have the right and the expectation to return to. The climate crisis can be expected to eventually create similarly positioned populations of permanent refugees throughout the world.

As such, we would like to recommend the charting of a middle ground with regard to these future refugees. We should not replicate the concept of temporary tent cities tragically seen in so many places from Bangladesh to Kenya, but rather specific long-term settlements with pre-determined governance mandates and basic physical infrastructures. We should also put to rest the concept of seemingly short-term incarceration of refugees to await deportation as carried out in the US, Australia, and Italy, given the recent UN ruling that climate change refugees cannot legally be sent home to their drowning countries. This should be a wake-up call to Malaysia and the rest of ASEAN that systems need to be put in place soon to cope sustainably with the eventual arrival of desperate communities on their sinking shores.





TIME FOR A UNIVERSAL CHILD GRANT IN MALAYSIA

DEREK KOK QI REN
Research Associate



PHOTO: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

IN MALAYSIA, the proportion of children in absolute poverty and in low-income households is higher than that of working-age adults or elderly persons—a trend that has been observed since 2009. As of 2014, the absolute poverty rate among Malaysian children stands at 1.7 percent—nearly three times higher than the 0.6 percent average across all age groups.

Malaysia is set to be an ageing nation by 2030. As such, Malaysia needs every child in the country to reach their full potential, unencumbered by the vicious effects of poverty.

However, Malaysia's social safety net for children is woefully lacking. The Department of Social Welfare's current per capita financial assistance for children of RM253 per month is the lowest since 2013. Eligible households from the bottom 40 percent of households (B40) receive an additional RM120 per child under the now-rebranded Bantuan Rakyat 1 Malaysia (BR1M) programme. However, a 2018 study found that 34 percent of households in low cost flats did not receive support from BR1M while only 4 percent received support from the Department of Social Welfare despite being eligible.

This is where a universal child grant can make a difference. Universal child grants are regular cash transfers given to every child in the country to assist parents with childrearing costs, regardless of family income.

Evidence of universal child grants from around the world documents improvements in multiple indicators such as health, nutrition, education, living standards and even women empowerment. Research also shows that investments during early childhood are one of the most cost-effective ways to

alleviate poverty and reduce inequality.

The fungibility of cash means that it is inherently flexible, unlike vouchers and in-kind assistance. With cash, families themselves can choose which needs to prioritise. This is especially pertinent as the financial costs of childrearing can fluctuate with time. There is often vocal opposition against giving cash on the basis that it discourages work and leads to abuse, but these misconceptions have been extensively disproved.

WHY SHOULD THIS AID BE GIVEN TO ALL CHILDREN, INSTEAD OF ONLY POOR FAMILIES?

Evidence increasingly shows that poverty-targeting methods can miss large numbers of its intended beneficiaries. A 2019 study showed that the most effectively targeted scheme incorrectly excluded 44% of its intended coverage. In contrast, universal schemes had almost zero exclusion errors. If the poorest beneficiaries are left out due to high exclusion errors, this would defeat the very purpose of targeting in the first place—which is to ensure that those who are most in need receive aid.

Targeting also does not account for income fluctuations. Being 'poor' is not a permanent category as household finances can be affected by sudden economic shocks at any time. A universal approach would ensure that children from near or newly poor families are included.

Crucially, targeting can be stigmatising. Negative connotations surrounding welfare recipients can even worsen poverty by discouraging the take up of welfare assistance.

A universal programme would also be more efficient cost-wise. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), universal schemes have the lowest average administration cost at 2.5 percent of total programme costs, compared to the 11 percent average for targeted schemes. With a universal approach, more money can directly go towards the children.

Implementing a universal child grant in Malaysia is not a fiscal issue, but a reflection of political will. Using 2017 figures, a RM200 monthly payment to all children below five years of age would only cost 0.45 percent of Malaysia's GDP, well below the ILO's recommendation of 1.4 percent of GDP for low-income countries. As of 2017, our spending on social protection was the lowest of all ASEAN countries for which data were available. Thailand has recently expanded their Child Support Grant to include eligible children under six while Myanmar is widening its universal programme to cover more states.

Malaysia is in danger of falling behind our neighbours. A universal child grant represents an opportunity for us to change this and to invest in our future generations.

THE INAUGURAL ASEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2019



FOUR YEARS AGO, governments responded to current global challenges by uniting behind a truly forward-looking yet urgent plan and adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to create shared prosperity and a sustainable planet that would continue to be liveable for all into the future.

On 18 November 2019, the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (JSC) in collaboration with the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Malaysia Chapter (SDSN-Malaysia) held the ASEAN Sustainable Development Summit (ASD2019), drawing the participation of ministers and senior public officials from almost all ASEAN countries in discussions and plans to address issues of inequality, inclusivity, and the fostering of sustainable ecosystems in the pursuit of development.

Three plenary sessions and four parallel tracks collectively addressed the following themes:

- Contemporary Challenges Facing ASEAN's Sustainable Development;

- Innovation, Technology, and New Development Paradigms;
- Bold Reform for Dynamic, Sustainable Development;
- Environment and Responsible Corporate Action;
- Education, Health, and People's Wellbeing;
- Addressing the Imperatives posed by Urbanisation, and;
- Addressing Inequality and Ensuring Inclusive Growth.

The summit demonstrated that much more has to be done to move beyond the present status quo through the development of concrete directions or strategies. Although one could say that there is no sustainable development without development, unreflective and poorly-designed development would only ensure that we are further away than ever from meeting the SDGs. The Summit brought to the fore many ingenious responses and efforts by ASEAN countries that show many are on their unique paths towards finding a form of development that would ensure the well-being of its peoples, rather than replicating the developmental strategies of others that provide for short-term profit at the expense of long-term wellbeing.



- ▲ Steven Sim as Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports pays a visit to JCI and JSC offices.
- ◀ The JCI and JSC team at the end of 2019.
- ▼ JSC collaborates with ASLI to make the ASEAN Sustainable Development Summit 2019 a success.



- ▲ JCI and JSC routinely welcome delegations from foreign universities, and introduce them to the contours of the region.
- ▶ JCI and JSC had a staff retreat at Terra Tree House, a farm homestay in Cameron Highlands which practices biodynamic farming.
- ▼ JSC staff plays the 2030s SDG game, where players simulated countries pursuing their own economic, social, and sustainability goals.



▶ New Staff in 2019: Maswirda Morad, Masters Programme Executive



▲ New Staff in 2019: Prof Agamutu Pariatamby, Sustainable Waste Management Expert

▶ New Staff in 2019: Danesh Prakash Chacko, GIS Mapping and Surveying Analyst



◀ New Staff in 2019: Professor Wong Chin Huat, Electoral Systems Reform Expert

▼ New Staff in 2019: Dr Goh Chun Sheng, Land use and Bio-Economy Scientist



- ◀ JCI brings together key thinkers such as Prof Zhai Kun, Zhou Yi Cheng, Prof Joseph Liow, and Liew Chin Tong to discuss how Asian states should react to a new multi-polar state system.
- ▼ Prof Wong Chin Huat dialogues with Prof Ben Reilly (University of Western Australia) discussing whether the electoral systems impact racism in politics.

- ▶ Dr Mala Raghavan (University of Tasmania) speaks on how trade interdependencies affects the dissemination of economic shocks.
- ▼ Dr Pauline Leong (Sunway University) launches her book, "Politics in the New Media Age: Implications on the Political Communication Process", with Prof James Chin and Shannon Teoh as discussants.



- ▲ Dr Clarissa Lee, Research Fellow, addresses different forms of internet political trolling triggered by pre- and post-GE14 events in her JCI Forum.
- ◀ JSC consults widely with local stakeholders on how to make Sunway City more inclusive and sustainable for all.
- ▼ Derek Kok, Research Associate, presents his findings on child stunting to the World Bank in Malaysia.



- ◀ Jeffrey Square is available for use by our postgraduate students to work and relax, and can be used for events.
- ▶ The Master in Public Policy is a new programme offered by JCI to train the next generation of civil servants and public policy experts.
- ▼ Clarissa Lee, Research Fellow, pioneers a board game to demonstrate how speculative design and creativity can be utilised in policy-making.



WHERE THIS PROGRAMME COULD TAKE YOU

With the skills accumulated in this programme, graduates will be equipped to address the policy challenges of rapidly-changing socioeconomic dimensions in the region.

The programme's multidisciplinary emphasis on knowledge, analytic skills and management is highly transferable across sectors, issues and regions.

Graduates are able to work throughout the world in key roles in the public, private or non-profit sectors.

01 LAUNCH OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE OF JOURNAL OF CURRENT SOUTHEAST ASIA AFFAIRS



28 JANUARY: Minister of Foreign Affairs Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah (Minister of Foreign Affairs) officiated the launch of the *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs Special Issue on the 2018 Malaysian General Election (GE14)*. Professor James Chin (Director, Governance Studies, JCI), as co-editor, and Dr Muhamad

Nadzri Mohamed Noor (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia) as contributor, discussed their contributions to the journal, while Minister Saifuddin added commentary by reflecting on the Pakatan Harapan campaign for GE14.

Professor James Chin highlighted that the Malaysia Agreement 1963 is a key driver of political consideration for East Malaysians, arguing that West Malaysians underestimate the local political factors in Borneo. Dr Nadzri presented three key factors causing the electoral change in government: (1) Mahathir, and his party, PPBM, joining the opposition; (2) exploitation of 1MDB and corruption issues as talking points, and; (3) social media being instrumental in a 'Whatsapp election'. Minister Saifuddin interestingly noted the role of electoral delineations during GE14: mixed seats encouraged politicians to adopt pluralist agendas, but unfortunately, these seats were under-represented.

02 BEYOND 2020: FRESH VIEWS, NEW VISIONS



19 AUGUST: With the ups and downs of the new government in Malaysia, we often question if all this political drama is merely old wine in new bottles. JCI and The Centre invited three young politicians to give their views on whether the new "Shared

Prosperity Vision" is enough, or if they can re-invigorate Malaysia's sense of national purpose?

Over two hundred Sunwayians and guests witnessed YB Khairy Jamaluddin (MP-Rembau) speak about having 'moon-shot' goals: Malaysians must 'think big' and ambitiously on all aspects of socioeconomic development. YB Nurul Izzah Anwar (MP-Permatang Pauh), on the other hand, had passionate dreams of zero poverty in Malaysia by 2030, food sufficiency with minimal wastage and sustainable practices, as well as the reintegration of prisoners and drug addicts into society. Finally, YB Liew Chin Tong (MP-Kluang) noted the larger international context has changed for the 21st century but still economic hardship is felt equally; so he advocated the creation of jobs through investment in technology, education and entrepreneurship as top priority.

03 HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM SERIES



IN ORDER TO keep the conversation going on continually improving Malaysian universities, Prof Tan Sri Ghauth Jasmon (Senior Fellow, JCI) hosted 3 JCI Higher Education Forums on 11 April, 8 July and 26 November respectively.

In these three events, Prof Ghauth spoke on "Current Financial Survivability

Challenges in Malaysian Higher Educational Institutions"; "The Rise of Malaysian Private Universities in Quality and World Ranking"; and "Endowment: The Only Way Forward for University Survival". Guest speakers include Tay Kay Luan (Vice-Chancellor, International University of Malaya-Wales) who spoke on "Changing the Mindsets of Private Universities", and Datuk Dr Azarai Idris (Vice-Chancellor, Genovasi University College), who spoke on "Adapting University Education to the Needs of the Fourth Industrial Revolution".



Video recordings of selected past events can be found on our Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/JeffreyCheahInst>

04 THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY AND MONETARY POLICY, IN AND OUT OF THE CRISIS



28 MARCH: Dr Tuomas Välimäki (Board member, The Bank of Finland) spoke on the European Central Bank (ECB) and the state of the European economy amidst global financial uncertainty.

Dr Välimäki emphasised that despite the foundational mandate of the ECB to keep European inflation as close to 2% as possible, it has been hovering at around 1% for the past decade, suggesting a contradiction in the way economic growth translates to wage and price levels. This may be caused by the population of working adults declining drastically across the developed world, as well as declining labour productivity. On the global trade situation, Dr Välimäki highlighted that despite the Brexit issue dogging the global economy throughout 2018, some positive signs for global trade have emerged. The EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement came into effect in February 2019, and a renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the US, Mexico and Canada appears to be in the pipeline. Nevertheless, the US-China trade war casts a long shadow on the global trading system.

05 GROWTH AND JOB CREATION FOR OUR YOUTH



6 NOVEMBER: Although youth represent only 19% of our population, they make up 56.4% of all unemployed persons in Malaysia. Responding to the urgency of the issue, JCI collaborated with Research for Social Advancement (REFSA) to bring together policymakers, academics, legislators, youth representatives and other key stakeholders in a high-level, closed-door roundtable discuss the issues related to youth employment in the Malaysian economy.

YB Liew Chin Tong (chairman, REFSA) Professor Shandre Thangavelu (Deputy Director, JCI), YB Kulasegaran (Minister of Human Resources) and YB Syed Saddiq (Minister of Youth and Sports), were present and gave comments; their discussion with key stakeholders in the issue of youth employment will hopefully reach key decision-makers in government, in order to effect a better future for young Malaysian workers. JCI and REFSA have issued a joint policy brief summarising the points raised in the roundtable.

06 YOUTH DEFENCE SUMMIT 2020



7 DECEMBER: As a consequence of 30 years of peace since the end of the Communist Insurgency, the Malaysian public at large has developed a serious disconnect with the Malaysian Armed Forces. In collaboration with Undi18 and YB Liew Chin Tong's office, the Youth Defence Summit was held in Sunway University for 60 civilian youths and 22 military officers to interact in discussion, breakout groups focusing on specific areas in defence, and through a military simulation game.

In the morning, Y Bhg Jeneral Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Haji Affendi bin Buang, (Chief of Air Force Malaysia) introduced the challenges of defending Malaysia in a keynote lecture; after that, participants split into four breakout groups focussing on various defence matters. After lunch, participants roleplayed as various stakeholders in national defence for a custom-designed military simulation game called "Operation Lynchpin". Finally, the event concluded with a dialogue between Liew Chin Tong (Deputy Minister of Defence) and Ms Farlina Said (Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia).

JCI and JSC holds public-oriented events on a regular basis. To get notified of our events, sign up to our emailing list at: <http://jci.edu.my/newsletter/>



01 COLLABORATING WITH UNICEF ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES



27-28 APRIL: JSC conducted a two-day training on Children's Rights and Business Principles at Sunway University. These global modules were done within the Sunway University Master in Sustainable Development Management programme's Corporate

Sustainability Strategies Course. Iris Soh (Corporate Partnership Officer, UNICEF), shared key child rights international frameworks and standards, such as the Children's Rights and Business Principles and the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business; Dr Ooi Pei Boon (Lecturer, School of Healthcare and Medical Sciences, Sunway University) discussed how businesses impacted children; Dr Nagiah Ramasamy covered topics of children as stakeholders, and analysis of impacts on children, and; Prof Leong Choon Heng (Deputy Director, JSC) discussed case studies which integrated child rights into business processes, and covered reporting frameworks. On top of the case study discussions, Amirah Majid (Outreach and Education Executive, JSC) engaged the participants in an experiential learning activity called "The Power Walk", designed to illustrate the power disparity between various stakeholder groups.

02 OUTREACH TO ROTARY CLUB OF BUKIT KIARA SUNRISE



20 APRIL: JSC hosted the Rotary Club of Bukit Kiara Sunrise as we were approached to expand its members' understanding of sustainability and their role in leading the way to become a "green" club. To facilitate this, Prof Leong Choon Heng (Deputy

Director, JSC), shared concepts of planetary boundaries, and used this understanding to scaffold a subsequent workshop on single use plastic habits. Each member of the audience participated in a self-reflection exercise on their personal single-use plastic consumption habits.

This undertaking spurred lively discussion around the challenges to fully eliminate single-use plastic consumption habits. Participants exchanged strategies and solutions which included alternatives to plastic products and changing shopping habits to avoid unnecessary utilisation of plastic containers and bags. JSC also shared its sustainable events practices, gave a tour of the campus, and discussed the effectiveness of its initiatives for responsible single-use plastic consumption.

03 CUSTOMISED TRAINING ON SDGS FOR DAIKEN IN SARAWAK



7-8 OCTOBER: Prof Leong Choon Heng and Amirah Majid (JSC) conducted two one-day customised training sessions on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for managerial staff at Daiken Sarawak Sdn Bhd and Daiken Miri Sdn Bhd, as requested by their parent company, Daiken Corporation. The programme covered the SDGs on the national and global level, scientific concerns related to climate change, and relevant

SDG programmes such as Malaysia's Voluntary National Report and the SDG Dashboard.

We explored the responses of corporations to the SDGs by providing practical steps and approaches they could take in their sustainability journey. Participants brainstormed possible actions in their organisations. Beyond corporate social responsibility, we discussed leadership, organisation buy-ins, reporting and communication of the SDGs to various stakeholders, and explored potential meaningful partnerships with stakeholders such as charities, civil society and social enterprises.



Read the 2019 Report of the Fable Consortium, "Pathways to Sustainable Land-Use and Food Systems" at <https://www.foodandlandusecoalition.org/fable/>

04 ENTRENCHING BIODIVERSITY THROUGH THE 'KENYIR FOR LIFE' PROJECT



THE KENYIR watershed in the state of Terengganu is rich in biodiversity, harbouring at least 43 mammal species and more than 290 bird species, and serves important ecosystem services such as the provision of drinking water, flood mitigation, erosion

control, and the sustenance of fisheries resources. In 2017, the Terengganu State Park Enactment created Terengganu's first State Park, covering an area of 30,000 hectares. However, another 70,000 hectares remains open to logging.

The Kenyir for Life project, under Assoc. Prof Dr Gopalasamy Reuben Clements (Research Fellow, JSC), looks to developing several 'green' financing schemes for the state to generate revenue to finance sustainable, long-term forest management and protection strategies within the existing state park area. With viable financing, the state can gazette and protect the entire consolidated Kenyir watershed 'for life'.

05 SPECULATIVE DESIGN AND ART SCIENCE APPROACHES TO CREATING PUBLIC POLICY



PROTOPOLICYASIA is a research project looking to address issues in ageing societies and disability by introducing a novel approach of "Speculative Design" to both policy-makers and civil society. Speculative Design aims at imagining disruptive technological designs that might enable better futures for the people directly affected by them, and provoking a paradigm shift in the way we think about the world today.

Dr Clarissa Lee (Research Fellow, JSC) was heavily involved in seven ProtoPolicy workshops and three design clinics, held between April 2019 and January 2020. These workshops developed the conceptual prototypes of a "Travel Navigator" for senior citizens, and a "Forced Language Medical Implant" for the deaf.

Additionally, Dr Lee also leads an "A-S/S-A Art-Science Approaches to Knowledge Generation in Sustainable Futures" project. This project dovetails with the ProtoPolicy Asia project in the development of a speculative design-themed role-playing game and a board game respectively. Under this project, Clarissa conducted two more public-oriented workshops, and it culminates in a nineday residency at the Nanyang Technological University Centre for Contemporary Art as an IdeasCity Resident Fellow.

06 JSC CONTRIBUTES TO THE FABLE CONSORTIUM'S FIRST REPORT



THE FOOD, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy Pathways (FABLE) Consortium is a massive, groundbreaking multi-national project attempting to develop the modelling infrastructure to produce long-term pathways towards sustainable food and land-use systems. It aims to generate integrated strategies to tackle synergies and trade-offs between

agriculture, water, biodiversity, healthy diets, and greenhouse gas emissions. The Malaysian team has been hosted by JSC since 2018. The team works closely with national and local stakeholders in Malaysia to provide spatially explicit data to the project, explore and co-design mid-century national pathways to meet the FABLE goals, and analyse national and state policy options. This resulted in the Consortium's first report in July 2019, presenting initial pathways to sustainability for 18 countries. The team is currently expanding efforts into spatially explicit modelling as well as preparing for the next report for 2020. Past and present members of the team include Jasmin Irisha Jim Ilham, Andrew Fan, Low Wai Sern, Goh Chun Sheng, Jeremy Lim, Chen Jit Ern and Danesh Prakash Chacko.

If your organisation is interested in customised executive training programs and/or workshops on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)/ sustainable development, please send email to jsc@sunway.edu.my and amiraha@sunway.edu.my



HOST AND SECRETARIAT FOR SDSN MALAYSIA



JSC staff and students representing SDSN Malaysia at the ICSD in New York in September 2019.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Solutions Network (SDSN) was launched in 2012, under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General and the leadership of Professor Jeffrey Sachs. SDSN mobilises scientific and technological expertise to generate solutions for sustainable development. To date, it has over 1,200 members organised in 33 National and Regional Networks.

On 9 December 2016, borne of a partnership between the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) and SDSN, the Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development (JSC) was established at Sunway University as the SDSN's Southeast Asian Centre of Excellence on education, research, training, and policy advisory. It is one of five regional centres of excellence around the world. Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah, founding trustee of JCF, is also Chair of SDSN Malaysia and a member of the SDSN Global Leadership Council. JSC is the host and secretariat for SDSN Malaysia.

Participation in the SDSN is open to universities, research institutes, civil society organisations, science-oriented foundations, and other institutions that have deep expertise in one or more areas related to sustainable development, and who commit a substantial amount of their own technical and research work towards finding and/or implementing solutions to SDG-related challenges.

MEMBERSHIP OF SDSN IS FREE AND ENABLES INSTITUTIONS TO:

- Gain global exposure;
- Collaborate with other members of a global network for teaching, research and support on sustainable development projects; and,
- Leverage SDG Academy - a massive open online course platform.

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS FORUM

On 25th September 2019, SDSN held its inaugural Global Solutions Forum (GSF) in New York City, alongside the annual United

Nations General Assembly, to showcase the best solutions from SDSN chapters around the world. SDSN Malaysia, represented by Sunway University, was among ten networks selected to present its solution: Partnership for Sustainable Urban Development – The Sunway City Model.

Sunway City is a living lab that is intended to become a model of inclusive green urban development that is scalable across other urban areas that are struggling to deal with their own land-use vis-à-vis growing populations. Seeking to turn challenges into opportunities, Sunway City, developed on barren ex-mining land and in partnership with the local authorities and the community, is a realisation of a vision of liveability based on Sustainable Development.

Innovative alternatives to traditional practices are evident in features such as overhead covered walkways; an elevated electric bus rapid transit (BRT) line; solar panels over walkways and buildings; green landscapes; a dedicated water-harvesting and treatment plant; and amenities that support thriving communities such as education, healthcare and leisure.

SDSN Malaysia plans to organise and host a National Solutions Forum in 2020, this time featuring the best solution from among its member institutions.

The Sunway City Model was presented to Global Solutions Forum in Sept 2019 in New York. See the video here <https://sdsn.org.my/2019/09/25/sdsn-malaysia-at-the-global-solutions-forum/>



ON TRACK FOR THE FIRST GRADUATING MSDM BATCH

PROFESSOR LEONG CHOON HENG,
Deputy Director and Convenor of the Master, in Sustainable Development Management Programme, Jeffrey Sachs Center

THE FIRST COHORT of the Master in Sustainable Development Management (MSDM) programme started classes in January 2019 and is proceeding well. Together with a second intake in August, the total student enrolment for the first year was 76. Students took eight courses in 2019—seven core and an elective—to acquire fundamental understanding of the management of sustainable development practices. Following this, students will take courses on thematic areas. To prepare for their research projects, students took Research Methods in the second semester. By the end of the third semester, all students started work on their projects with supervisors that they have chosen. As programme director, I am looking forward to the graduation of the first cohort later this year: I have utmost confidence that they will make striking contributions towards the SDGs in Malaysia and beyond.

The Master in Sustainable Development is open for intake twice a year. The closing dates for applications in 2020 are 25 July and 12 December (TBC). For more information, please see <http://jeffreysachs.center/graduate-study/>

MSDM SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESSES:



MAE OOI

My team and I were selected as one of the 10 global sustainable solution-makers at the United Nations Solutions Summit in New York City this year for our innovative composting technology which has, to date, converted 4.7 million kg of food waste into compost. It's one step closer to closing the loop for a truly circular solution in diverting food waste away from landfills and to farms as a soil enhancer.



MURALI RAM

In my work with Think City, an urban regeneration think tank, I work on local solutions to support vulnerable communities by identifying gaps, interdependencies, and risks. 2019 saw free migrant health screenings, self-defence classes for women, and individualised support for people sleeping in the rough by linking them with local businesses. These interventions aim to increase a sense of belonging and safety in the inner KL city, and are co-produced with the local community.



OH YING YING

My company manufactures eco-friendly, biodegradable plastic bags using novel d2w® technology from the UK. Since 2015, we supported the annual International Coastal Clean-up event which has picked up 37,000 kg of coastal rubbish. I'm glad that our bags were used in two-thirds of the clean-up locations!



DARREN CHEAR

As part of the Sunway Malls team, we drove sustainability by working with One Academy to deliver immersive experiences to mall-goers. Installations highlighted urban poverty, environmentally-friendly behaviours, gender inequality, and light pollution. As a result, we received the honour of making it as a finalist at the United Nations' SDG Action Campaign's Global Festival of Action in Germany.



ANTHONY TAN

After my resignation from my position as Executive Director of environmental NGO, CEDTEM, I have now rebranded myself as a freelance sustainability consultant. As a result, my long-time relationship with PJ City Council (MBPJ) changed. I currently work with them on two projects: the first on calculating the reduction of GHG emissions from transportation and electricity; the second on reducing plastic pollution in oceans.

2019'S JEFFREY CHEAH TRAVEL GRANT SCHOLARS

Designed to further academic exchanges between Malaysia/Southeast Asia and the United States, the Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants are available to students and staff at Sunway Education Group and Harvard University.

The Travel Grants programme is coordinated by the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia (JCI) and a call for applications is conducted twice a year.

OUTBOUND SCHOLARS



DR NUR AIN SHAHRIER

Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics and Finance, Sunway University

"The Impact of Monetary and Fiscal Policies on Poverty Incidence using Financial CGE: Case Evidence of Asean-3"

The most profound moment for my travel grant experience was on arrival I was showed a poster that I was giving a public lecture at Harvard Asia Center! All I had intended was to present a paper. Furthermore, I had meetings with Professor Kenneth Rogoff, a former Chief Economist at IMF, Professor Dwight Perkins, Tan Sri Lin See-Yan and Professor Gregory Mankiw, which cultivated insightful discussion on a range of topics impacting my research.



ASSOC. PROF. DR CHANDRAJIT LAHIRI

Associate Professor, School of Science and Technology, Sunway University

"Exploring the Potential of Genome Instability for Oesophageal Cancer Drug Resistance Targets"

I had been working on a side effect-free method for identifying cancer drug target proteins so that therapeutic drugs for cancer become viable. The travel grant allowed me to work with a group of wet lab scientists and researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and The Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System. In particular, Dr. Masood Shammis of DFCI was very enthusiastic at my presentation and invited me to collaborate further in the future.



DR YAP KIAN MENG

Associate Professor and Head, Research Centre for Human-Machine Collaboration, School of Science and Technology, Sunway University

"Haptic and Robotic Projects at Harvard Birobotics Laboratory"

My work focuses on distributed haptics, haptics and odour sensory system, IoT, human machine collaboration, odour tracking and sense of touch for disability. During my grant travel period, I was able to meet 11 experts and professors in the region, building potential collaborations for Sunway University's HOME Lab & HUMAC Research Centre. I have been able to further my research ideas in the area of architectural application.



SHA HONGXI

Master candidate, School of Science and Technology, Sunway University

"Association of Methotrexate Pathway Gene Polymorphisms with Methotrexate Efficacy and Toxicity in Malaysian Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis"

At the time of my research project completion, an in-depth biostatistical analysis was mandatory, but there were no biostatistical experts in either Sunway University or Sunway Medical Centre. Through the travel grant, I obtained a research attachment with the Broad Institute, Harvard University. Through my five weeks there, I have completed the statistical analysis of the data obtained from the rheumatoid arthritis patients, and gained hands-on knowledge in the interpretation of statistical data.



KONG XIN YING, PHD CANDIDATE

PhD candidate, School of Engineering, Monash University Malaysia

Exploiting Inexhaustible Solar Energy for Conversion of Carbon Dioxide into Renewable Hydrocarbon Fuels: Towards Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia"

My research focuses on design and development of advanced semiconductor photocatalysts for conversion of carbon dioxide into renewable hydrocarbon fuels. Through the travel grant, I was exposed to cutting-edge projects in Harvard and MIT, and received advice from industry leaders such as the Director of Energy Democracy Initiative, a Senior Advisor to President Obama, and the Vice-President of Photo Diagnostic Systems.

INBOUND SCHOLARS



DR GENEVIEVE CLUTARIO

Assistant Professor of History and of History and Literature, Harvard University

"Beauty Regimes: Modern Imperialism, the Philippines and the Gendered Labour of Appearance"

My research explores and investigates how US colonial and dominant Filipino nationalist projects used fashion, beauty regimens, and public spectacles to police Filipino women's bodies, while these same arenas were used by Filipino women used to negotiate their own definitions of modernity, citizenship, and nation. We cannot understand the relationship between colonial projects and anti-colonial nation-building without examining how liminal subjects, like Filipino women, actively shaped colonial and nationalist ventures.



PETER DZIEDZIC

PhD Candidate in the Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University

"al-Fansuri's and al-Sumatrani's Commentaries on the Lawā'ih: Studying the Production and Reception of Important Persian Literature in Southeast Asia"

The *Lawā'ih* (Shafts of Light) and its commentaries are an important, global work of Persian Sufi literature, and not only were they popular in China and India, but flourished in Southeast Asia. Understanding the reception history of this text here may reveal continuities and discontinuities with commentaries written elsewhere in Asia, further developing our understanding of early modern intra-Asian literary and intellectual networks.



JUAN-DAVIDE GRISALES

Landscape Architecture Candidate, Harvard Graduate School of Design

"Mapping Identity in Decolonized Archipelagos: Socioecological Strategies to Territorialize Fragmented Landscapes"

Indonesia and the Philippines consist of over 17,000 and 7,000 islands respectively. Given that both countries' territorial configurations form part of their colonial legacy, one wonders how these archipelagic nations remained integrated over time. My research explores certain areas within both countries to highlight the hidden layers through which a common identity is constructed despite the different multicultural dynamics and notions of regionalism.

The Travel Grant is processed twice a year in April and September. For more details, see: <https://jci.edu.my/jeffrey-cheah-travel-grants/>



JCI-JSC EVENTS 2019

19-
21

JANUARY 2019

ASFRC Meeting: Rising Debt and the Next Financial Crisis

Closed Door Meeting and Press Conference

The Asian Shadow Financial Regulatory Committee (ASFRC) members.

23

JANUARY 2019

The National Security Framework for ASEAN in a Multi-Polar World

JCI Forum

SPEAKERS: **Professor Zhai Kun**, Professor, School of International Studies, Peking University; **Jou Yi-Cheng**, Founder, Sedai Group; **YB Liew Chin Tong**, Deputy Defence Minister, Malaysia; **Professor Joseph Liow**, Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University

MODERATOR: **Professor Woo Wing Thye**, President, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University

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JANUARY 2019

#1: The 2018 Malaysian General Election: The Return of Mahathir and the Exit of UMNO

#2: Launch of the Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs Special Issue on the 2018 Malaysian General Election

JCI Forum & Journal Launch

SPEAKERS: **Dato' Saifuddin bin Abdullah**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia; **Muhamad Nadzri Bin Mohamed Noor**, Lecturer, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; **Professor James Chin**, Senior Fellow, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University

MODERATOR: **Norman Goh**, Malaysiakini

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MARCH 2019

Empowering Civil Society Leaders for Sustainable Development

Community Workshop (in collaboration with myPJ)

FACILITATORS: **Dr Thomas Thornborrow**, Director of Partnership Development, Lancaster University; **Professor Leong Choon Heng**, Deputy Director, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University

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MARCH 2019

The European Economy and Monetary Policy In and Out of the Crisis

JCI Forum

SPEAKERS: **Dr Tuomas Välimäki**, Member of the Board, Bank of Finland

MODERATOR: **Professor Woo Wing Thye**, President, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University

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MARCH 2019

Asian Economic Panel meeting

Closed Door Meeting and Paper Presentations

11

APRIL 2019

TOPIC #1: Current Financial Survivability Challenges in Malaysian Higher Educational Institutions

TOPIC #2: Adapting University Education to the Needs of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

JCI Higher Education Forum

SPEAKERS: **Professor Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon**, Senior Fellow, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University; **Datuk Dr Azaraz Idris**, Vice Chancellor, Genovasi University College

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APRIL 2019

Rotary Club Plastic & Sustainability Workshop

Community workshop

27-
28

APRIL 2019

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Training on Children's Rights in Business

Training workshop (in collaboration with UNICEF)

SPEAKERS: **Iris Soh**, UNICEF trainer and Corporate Partnership (CSR) officer; **Dr Ooi Pei Boon**, School of Healthcare and Medical Sciences, Sunway University; **Dr Nagiah Ramasamy**, former Associate Professor, Sunway University; **Professor Leong Choon Heng**, Deputy Director, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University

14-
15

MAY 2019

WORKSHOP #1: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth WORKSHOP #2: Land Regeneration and Smart Infrastructure WORKSHOP #3: Social Inclusion

Global Solutions Forum (GSF) Workshop

FACILITATORS: **Professor Leong Choon Heng**, Deputy Director, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University; **Professor Shandre Thangavelu**, Vice President, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University; **Jacqueline Yin Teng Wong**, Assistant Manager - Sustainable Development, Sunway Property

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MAY 2019

Executive Training for Sustainability Awareness and Corporate Sustainability Reporting

Executive Training

Conducted for APM Automotive

27

MAY 2019

Beauty Regimens: Disciplining Filipina Labor in Colonial Schools and Prisons

Public lecture (JCI Scholar Sharing Session)

SPEAKER: **Dr Genevieve Clutario**, Assistant Professor of History and History and Literature, Harvard University

29

MAY 2019

Can Electoral Systems Encourage Politics of Moderation?

CI Forum

SPEAKER: **Professor Wong Chin Huat**, Senior Fellow, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University; **Professor Ben Reilly**, Professor, The University of Western Australia

MODERATOR: **Dr Lyana Khairuddin**

10

JUNE 2019

The Belt and Road Initiative: Myths and Misconceptions of China's Motives and Involvement

JCI Forum

SPEAKER: **Associate Professor Lynette Ong**, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto

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JUNE 2019

Socio-Ecological Strategies and Urban Design Practices in the Tropics

Public lecture (JCI Scholar Sharing Session)

SPEAKER: **Juan David Grisales**, Harvard Graduate School of Design

28

JUNE 2019

Climate Change and Unique Challenges to Pacific Island Countries

Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speakers Series (JCDSS)

SPEAKER: **HE The Honourable Baron Waqa**, President of the Republic of Nauru

8

JULY 2019

TOPIC #1: Changing Mind-set of Private Universities: The Case of the International University of Malaya-Wales (IUMW) TOPIC #2: The Rise of Malaysian Private Universities in Quality and World Ranking: Implications and Impact

JCI Higher Education forum

SPEAKERS: **Tan Kay Luan**, Vice Chancellor, International University of Malaya-Wales; **Professor Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon**, Senior Fellow, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University

10

JULY 2019

Workshop on How to Develop and Pitch a Policy Proposal and Public Policy Competition

Workshop & Competition (in collaboration with Student Life, part of the Sunway Student Exchange Programme)

Facilitated by **Andrew Fan**, Research Analyst, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University

6

AUGUST 2019

The National Security Framework for ASEAN in a Multi-Polar World

JCI Forum

SPEAKERS: **Zhai Kun**, Professor, School of International Studies, Peking University; **Jou Yi-Cheng**, Founder, Sedai Group; **YB Liew Cwhin Tong**, Deputy Defence Minister, Malaysia; **Joseph Liow**, Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University

MODERATOR: **Professor Woo Wing Thye**, President, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University

6 AUGUST 2019	ORGANISATIONS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) <i>Workshop</i> Conducted for students from Victoria University
8 AUGUST 2019	Consultative Workshop Follow Up Session - Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth <i>GSF Workshop</i>
9 AUGUST 2019	The Dragon Amongst Tigers: China and Cross Border Trade Shocks in Asia <i>JCI Forum</i> SPEAKER: Dr Mala Raghavan , Lecturer of Economics, Tasmanian School of Business and Economics University of Tasmania, Australia
19 AUGUST 2019	BEYOND 2020: Fresh Views, New Visions <i>JCI Forum (in collaboration with The Centre)</i> SPEAKERS: YB Liew Chin Tong , Deputy Defence Minister, Malaysia; Nurul Izzah Anwar , Member of Parliament for Permatang Pauh; Khairy Jamaluddin , Member of Parliament for Rembau
26 AUGUST 2019	Leadership Sustainability Initiative <i>Workshop & Sharing Session</i> Conducted for students from Lancaster University as part of the Leadership, Sustainability, and Innovation Programme, led by LU faculty.
7-8 OCTOBER 2019	Customised Training on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) <i>Executive Training</i> Conducted for Daiken Sarawak
6 NOVEMBER 2019	Growth and Job Creation for Our Youth <i>Closed Door Roundtable Discussion (in collaboration with REFSA)</i> SPEAKER: YB Syed Saddiq , Minister of Youth and Sports; YB M. Kulasegaran , Minister of Human Resources; YB Liew Chin Tong , Deputy Minister of Defence and Chairman, REFSA; E Hun Tan , Executive Director, REFSA; Professor Shandre Thangavelu , Deputy President, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University
18 NOVEMBER 2019	ASEAN Sustainability Summit 2019 <i>Conference (in collaboration with ASLI)</i> KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Tan Sri Dato' Seri Jeffrey Cheah, AO , Chancellor, Sunway University; Founder and Chairman, Sunway Group of companies. PLENARY, PANEL SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS: Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs , Chair, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University; Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the SDGs Professor Woo Wing Thye , President, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University YB Hajah Zuraida binti Kamaruddin , Minister of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia HE Kao Kim Hourn , Minister Delegate attached to the Prime Minister, Cambodia HE General (Ret) Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan , Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs, Republic of Indonesia HE Thongpann Savanphet , Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR HE Kim Rithy , Vice Governor, Kandal Province, Cambodia YB Steven Sim , Deputy Minister of Youth & Sports, Malaysia YBhg Tan Sri Ranjit Ajit Singh , Member of the Leadership Council, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Malaysia Christine Gould , Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Thought for Food Wander Meijer , Director, Asia Pacific, GlobeScan Dr Chen Jit Ern , Research Fellow, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University Professor Mahendhiran Sanggaran Nair , Chief Executive Officer, Monash Malaysia R&D Marcela Suazo , UNFPA Representative for Malaysia Stephen Barrett , Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF Malaysia Professor Maria Socorro Gochoco-Bautista , Professor of Economics, University of the Philippines School of Economics

	Chandrika Bahadur , President, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Association and Director, SDG Academy Professor Stephen Hall , Dean, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Sunway University Raja Taufik Azad Ahmad Suhaimi , Vice President, Quality Living Iskandar Regional Development Authority, Johor Dinesh Naidu , Deputy Director, Centre for Livable Cities, Ministry of National Development, Singapore YDH TPr Noraini binti Roslan , President, Subang Jaya Municipal Council Dr Saowaruj Rattanakhomfu , Senior Research Fellow, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) Professor Shandre Thangavelu , Vice President, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University Professor Shigeyuki Abe , Professor of Political & Economic Coexistence, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University Professor Wong Chin Huat , Professor, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University Professor Leong Choon Heng , Deputy Director, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University Dr Dang Thi Thu Hoai , Director, Department of Sectoral Development Policies, Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), Vietnam Professor Yeah Kim Leng , Senior Fellow, Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development, Sunway University YB Puan Yeo Bee Yin , Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change YB Puan Teresa Kok , Minister of Primary Industries Malaysia
26 NOVEMBER 2019	Endowment: The Only Way Forward for University Survival <i>JCI Higher Education Forum</i> Professor Tan Sri Dr Ghauth Jasmon , Senior Fellow, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University
4 DECEMBER 2019	Social Media and New Politics in Malaysia <i>JCI Forum & Book Launch (in collaboration with School of Arts, Sunway University)</i> SPEAKERS: Dr Pauline Leong , Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication, School of Arts, Sunway University; Shannon Teoh , Malaysia Bureau Chief, The Straits Times; Professor James Chin , Director of Governance Studies, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University MODERATOR: Professor Bradley Freeman , Professor & Head, Department of Communication, School of Arts, Sunway University
7 DECEMBER 2019	Youth Defence Summit 2019 <i>Conference (in collaboration with UNDI18 and supported by the office of the Deputy Defence Minister, Malaysia)</i> SPEAKERS: Bhg Jeneral Tan Sri Dato' Seri Panglima Haji Affendi bin Buang , Chief of Air Force, Malaysia; YB Liew Chin Tong , Deputy Defence Minister, Malaysia; Ms Farlina Said , Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia; Qyira Yusri , Director and Co-Founder, Undi18
10 DECEMBER 2019	Malaysian Trolls: Internet-based Political Trolling as the New Normal in Malaysian Politics <i>(JCI Forum)</i> SPEAKER: Dr Clarissa Lee Ai Ling , Research Fellow, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University

STAFF PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2019 Highlights

WOO WING THYE

(President, JCI; Director, JSC)

PUBLICATIONS

- With Tao, Liu and Xiaosong, Wang, 'The Road to Currency Internationalization: Global Perspectives and Chinese Experience', *Emerging Markets Review*, 38 (2019): 73-101.
- 'China's Soft Budget Constraint on the Demand-Side Undermines Its Supply-Side Structural Reforms', *China Economic Review*, 57 (2019).
- With Sachs, Jeffrey, Yoshino, Naoyuki, and Taghizadeh-Hesary, Farhad, 'Importance of Green Finance for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Energy Security', *Handbook of Green Finance: Energy Security and Sustainable Development*, (Tokyo: Springer, 2019).

PRESENTATIONS

- 'Global observers react to the B&R Forum', *The Point with Liu Xin*, China Global Television Network, 27 April 2019.

PRESENTATIONS

- With Narjoko, Dionisius and Urata, Shujiro, 'FTA Utilisation and Impact of Regional Trade Agreements on Trade of ASEAN and Australia: AANZFTA', *JCI-JSC Working Paper*, 2 July 2019.
- 'Feasibility Study on the Free Trade Agreement between The Kingdom of Cambodia and The Eurasian Economic Union', ERIA Research Project Report 2018, 16, (Jakarta, 2019).
- 'Singapore Chronicles: Trade and Investment', (Singapore: Singapore Press Holdings: 2019).
- With Kimura, Fukunari and Anbumozhi, V., 'Supply Chain Resilience: Reducing Vulnerability to Economic Shocks, Financial Crisis and Natural Disasters', (U.K: Springer, 2020).
- With Kimura, Fukunari, Findlay, Christopher and Chen, Lurong, 'Introduction: Services Supply Chain - The Impact on Trade and Development in East Asian Countries', *Journal of Southeast Asian Economies*, 36.2 (2019), 141-152.
- Global Supply Chain in Singapore's Services Sector: Retail Value Chain and Productivity Improvements', *Journal of Southeast Asian Economies*, 36.2 (2019), 244-255.

PRESENTATIONS

- 'Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development Sustainable Outreach with Rotary Club of Bukit Kiara Sunrise'. 20 April 2019.
- 'Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development Training on Children's Rights and Business Principles: A collaboration with UNICEF'. 27-28 April 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- 'Sabah and Sarawak in the 14th General Election 2018 (GE14): Local Factors and State Nationalism', *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, 2019.
- 'The 1963 Malaysia Agreement (MA63): Sabah And Sarawak and the Politics of Historical Grievances' in *Minorities Matter: Malaysian Politics and People* (Singapore: ISEAS- Yusuf Ishak Institute), 75-92.
- 'GE14 In East Malaysia: MA63 and Marching to a Different Drum', *Southeast Asian Affairs 2019* (Singapore: ISEAS Publishing), 211-222.
- "New" Malaysia: Four Key Challenges in the Near Term', Lowy Institute, 14 March 2019.

PRESENTATIONS

- 'East Malaysia's Rising Role in Malaysian Politics and National Unity', RSIS Seminar, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 28 Nov 2019.
- 'Sabah & Sarawak: Historical Grievances and the Future of the Malaysian Federation', Keynote address at the 21st Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia (MASSA) Symposium, Monash University, 26-27 September 2019, Monash University.

PUBLICATIONS

- With Mohamed Ariff (eds.), '*Malaysia's Taxation System: Contemporary Practices, Issues and Future Direction*' (Malaysia: Sunway University Press, 2020).
- With Tin Fah, Chuang, A *Cross-Country Comparison Of Taxation Systems in Yeah Kim Leng* (eds.). 'Malaysia's Taxation System: Contemporary Practices, Issues And Future Direction' (Malaysia: Sunway University Press, 2020).
- 'Economic Dynamics and The GE-14 Surprise: Statistics, Realities, Sentiments' In *The Defeat Of Barisan Nasional: Missed Signs Or Late Surge?* Edited By Francis E. Hutchinson and Lee Hwok

PROF SHANDRE THANGAVELU

(Vice-President, JCI; Senior Fellow, JSC)

PROF LEONG CHOON HENG

(Director, Education and Social Progress Programme, JCI; Deputy Director, JSC)

PROF JAMES CHIN

(Director, Governance Studies Programme, JCI)

PROF YEAH KIM LENG

(Director, Economic Studies Programme, JCI)

Aun (eds.), *The Defeat Of Barisan Nasional: Missed Signs or Late Surge?* (Singapore: Iseas-Yusuf Ishak Institute and SIRD, 2019).

PRESENTATIONS

- 'Insight to 2020 Budget', Inter Chamber Networking & After Work Session, MBLBC, 15 Nov 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- "Doing good to make money", The Star, 1 February 2019.
- "Little things also need to be done to draw in tourists", The Star, 7 August 2019.

PRESENTATIONS

- With Hamid, Fauziah S. and Bhatti, Mehran S. (eds.), *Sustainable Waste Management Challenges in Developing Countries*, (Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2020).
- With Hamid, Fauziah, Harith, S., Lalung, J. and Hassan, Auwulu, 'Technical Report: Abundance and Distribution of Marine Debris on Selected Beaches of Marine Park Islands', *Department of Fisheries Malaysia*, 48 (2019).
- With Bhatti, Mehran S., 'Sustainable Solid Waste Management: Global and Asian Perspective' in Rajeev Pratap Singh, Vishal Prasad, and Barkha Vaish (eds.), *Recent Advances and Global Challenges in Waste Management*, (Taylor and Francis Group/CRC Press, 2019).
- With Bhatti, Mehran S., 'Circular Economy in Malaysia', in Sadhan K Ghosh (ed.), *Circular Economy: Global Perspective*, (Springer Nature Publishers, 2020), 241-268.

PRESENTATIONS

- 'E-waste Management and Resource Recovery Potential in Asia and the Pacific', ISEE2019, Plenary Speaker, 19 - 22 May 2019.
- 'Plastics and Microplastics: A Global Perspective', Intl. Young Scientists Symposium on Waste Management and Disposal Technology, 7-11 July 2019.
- 'Marine Debris: Issues, Challenges and Initiatives', Asia-Pacific Symposium on Energy Utilization of Municipal Solid Waste for a Sustainable Development of City, 13 - 16 Nov 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- With Barbrook, Adrian, C., Cui, Guoxin, J. Howe, C. and Aranda, Manuel, 'The Genetic Intractability of Symbiodinium Microadriaticum to Standard Algal Transformation Methods', *PLOS One*, 14.2 (2019).
- With Nimmo, Isabel C., Brabrook, Adrian C., Lassadi, Imen, Geisler, Katrin, Smith, Alison G., Aranda, Manuel, Parton, Saul, Waller, Ross F., Nisbet, Ellen R. and Howe, Christopher J., 'Genetic Transformation of the Dinoflagellate Chloroplast', *eLife*, 8 (2019).
- With Rädicker, N., Pogoreutz, C., Marcela, H., Manuel, A. and Voolstra, Christian R., 'Nutrient Stress Arrests Tentacle Growth in the Coral Model Aiptasia', *Symbiosis*, 78.1 (2019), 61-64.
- With Cui, Guoxin, Aranda, M., Wang, X., and Liew, Y.J., 'Recent Expansion of Heat-activated Retrotransposons in the Coral Symbiont Symbiodinium Microadriaticum', *The ISME Journal*, 12.2 (2018), 639-643.

PRESENTATIONS

- 'Heat-activated retrotransposons in the algal symbiont of corals, Symbiodinium microadriaticum', 27th FAOBMB & 44th MSBMB Conference, IUBMB Special Symposia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, MSBMB, 19 - 22 Aug 2019.
- 'The Environment and Responsible Corporate Action', ASEAN Sustainable Development Summit, ASLI & JSC, 18 Nov 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- With Tseklevs, E., Darby, A., Johan, J., Ismail, Siti H. and Yong, Min H., *The Little Book of Speculative Design for Policy-Makers in Malaysia*, 1 December 2019.
- 'What Science Fiction Can Demonstrate About Novelty in the Context of Discovery and Scientific Creativity', *Foundations of Science*, 24.4 (2019), 705-725.
- With Kerr, Eric T., 'Trolls Maintained: Baiting Technological Infrastructures of Informational Justice', *Information, Communication & Society*, 28 May 2019.
- Tseklevs, E., Yong, Min H., Giga, S., Hwang, Jung S. and Lau, Sian L., 'Rethinking How Healthcare is Conceptualised and Delivered Through Speculative Design in the UK and Malaysia: A Comparative Study', *The Design Journal*, 22.1 (2019), 429 - 444.

ANDREW FAN CHIAH HOWE

(Research Analyst)

PROF AGAMUTU PARIATAMBY

(Senior Fellow)

DR CHEN JIT ERN

(Senior Fellow)

DR CLARISSA LEE AI LING

(Senior Fellow)

PRESENTATIONS

- Curated and moderated the panel 'Leonardo's Experiments: Southeast Asian Perspectives in Designing Art-Science' at the Leonardologies Event in conjunction with the Leonardo Opera Omnia Exhibition at the Malaysian National Art Gallery, 14 August 2019.
- 'Theories, Archives, and Fieldsites: the case of STS in Southeast Asia', Invited Speaker and co-Convener for the Society of the History of Technology workshop on "Technology and Postcoloniality: Historical and Social Studies of Technology in Post-Colonial Countries", Center for Culture and Frontier Studies, Malang and Pasuruan, Indonesia, 25-26 January 2019.

OTHERS

- Creative Director for 'Provocations: Speculative Design Animation Video', and 'Future Cones: Speculative Design Animation Video'.
- Creative Director for 'Futuro: Role-Playing Game for Design-Thinking Workshop Ice-breaker'.

PUBLICATIONS

- 'Winning Elections by Rigging Borders? Barisan Nasional's Brazen, and Failed, Attempt', chapter in Francis E Hutchinson and Lee Hwok Aun (eds.), *The Defeat of Barisan Nasional: Missed Signs or Late Surge?*, (Singapore: ISEAS, 2019).
- 'Mapping out elections for victory', in Kean Wong (ed.), *Rebirth: Reformasi, Resistance, And Hope In New Malaysia*, (Petaling Jaya: Gerabudaya, 2020).

PUBLICATIONS

- 'Stunting in Malaysia: Costs, Causes and Courses for Action', *JCI-JSC Working Paper*, 6 May 2019.

PRESENTATIONS

- 'Stunting in Malaysia: Costs, Causes and Courses for Action', Development Research Seminar Series, World Bank Group Global Knowledge and Research Hub, 30 May 2019.
- 'Free For All: The Case For A Universal School Meal Programme', Policy Discourse Series, Razak School of Government, 24 Oct 2019.
- 'Stunting in Malaysia: Costs, Causes and Courses for Action', Public Health Programme Continuing Medical Education Series, Ministry of Health Malaysia, 22 August 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- 'Transforming exploitative land-based economy: The case of Borneo', *Environmental Development*, 33 (2020).
- With Aikawa, T., Yamagata, Y. and Osamu, S., 'Rethinking Sustainable Rural Development with Bioenergy in Japan: Decentralised Systems Supported by Local Forestry Biomass', *Sustainability Science* (2019).
- With Junginger, M. and Koppejan, J., 'Sustainable Bioenergy Deployment in East and South East Asia: Notes on Recent Trends', *Sustainability Science* (2019).
- With Lee, JSH. 'Transforming exploitative land-based economy to reduce terrestrial carbon stock loss: The case of Kalimantan', in Djalante R et al. (eds.), *Climate Change Research, Policy and Actions in Indonesia*, (Tokyo: Springer, 2020).

PUBLICATIONS

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