

IN PERSON WITH...  
NATIONAL UNITY  
OF MALAYSIA 2030

P5

DISAPPEARANCE OF  
MH370: WHAT IT MEANS  
FOR MALAYSIA IN THE  
FUTURE

P18

DRIVERS OF  
MALAYSIA'S UNITY

P21

WEAVING THREAD:  
YOUTH AS A GLOBAL  
CITIZEN

P26

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Malaysian Industry-Government Group  
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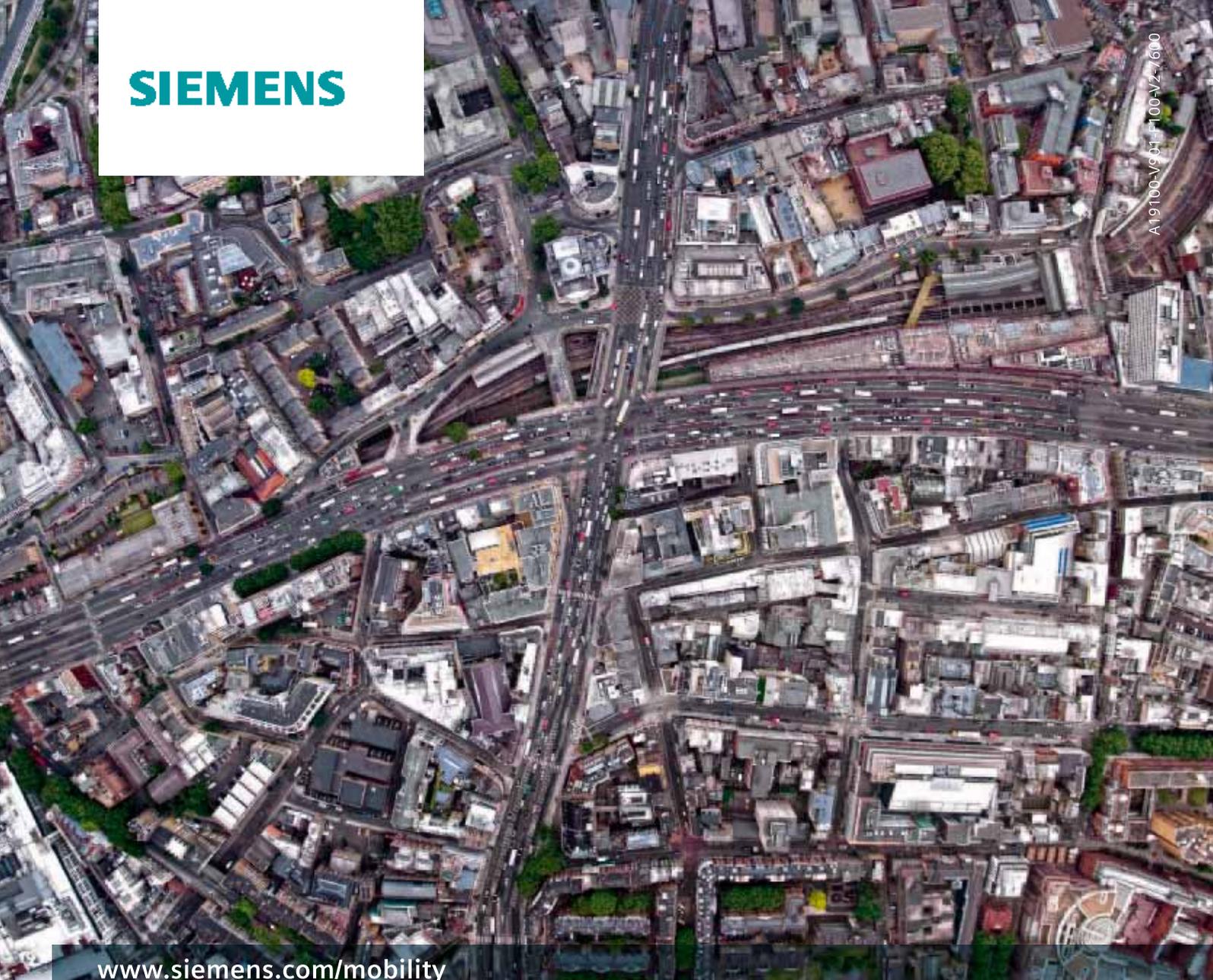
# myForesight®

MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL FORESIGHT MAGAZINE

02/2014



# National Unity *of* Malaysia 2030



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<b>2</b>	Initial Thoughts	<b>30</b>	Unity & Youth
<b>5</b>	National Unity of Malaysia 2030	<b>35</b>	Taint not this harmonious land!
<b>16</b>	Disappearance of MH370: What it means for Malaysia in the Future	<b>36</b>	Crowdsource: When Share and Share Alike
<b>21</b>	Drivers of Malaysia's Unity	<b>40</b>	Reading in the mobile era
<b>24</b>	Our Journey Towards Unity	<b>41</b>	Science for Communication, Communication for Science
<b>26</b>	Weaving thread: Youth as a Global Citizen	<b>43</b>	myForesight® BookClub
<b>28</b>	Letters From the Future	<b>44</b>	Happenings

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myForesight® is a pioneering national level initiative dedicated to the prospecting of technology for business through the field of Foresight. It provides a common Malaysian based platform for the Government, Industry and Academia to share experiences, insights and expertise on the strategic futures issues, both at the local and global levels.

Its key components to its mission are intelligence, research, competency and community. myForesight® raison d'être is to accomplish the following:

1. Shaping Malaysia's future possibilities;
2. Promoting and mainstreaming of foresighting in national, sectoral and corporate planning;
3. Identification of key technologies to support sectoral development;
4. Identification of key and potential industries from technology perspective.

## editor's note

# Initial Thoughts



by **RUSHDI ABDUL RAHIM**  
rushdi@might.org.my

Greetings & Salutations,

It is my pleasure to bring you the latest edition of myForesight® magazine, our second one this year. If this is not your first exposure to us, you would have realized that for each particular edition we would have a thematic focus develop as a cover story as well as supplemental article. Therefore, when we set out to provide content focus for this particular edition, we want the theme to be future of national unity in Malaysia. Understanding the delicateness of the subject matter, we set out identifying related stakeholders that will provide the baseline content for the topic.

Therefore since the turn of the year, we have been engaging numerous youth groups; representing various interests to gauge their interest in talking about this subject. The initial intent was to bring these people together to create scenarios on Malaysia's national unity. So we set about meeting them individually and the initial reaction to the subject matter was encouraging and many people were willing to voice their opinion and talk to us. Each of these individuals or groups provides us with their insights and opinions on what future of unity would be for Malaysia. Encourage by these development, we started to plan on having the group sessions. We wanted to create our very own Mount Fleur Scenarios moment.

This is where we start facing challenges. Amongst them are; though these people are willing to talk to us, they are unwilling to talk to another group of people for a variety of reasons. Then there are those who are willing to talk but under the condition of anonymity. A scenario session could not be organized under such conditions! But yet we were not disheartened, we tried to organize a session with the coalition of the willing. Understanding the pitfalls and challenges associated with it, we went ahead with the session.

However, even when we were able to organize a scenario session - we were confronted with the white elephant in the room; there are more factors and drivers that divide us rather than unite us. Rough waters ahead it seems, where it takes more effort to unite us than break us evidently. The session though isolated is not a waste. It provides myForesight® insights and the psyche of what drives a particular group on the issues of national unity.

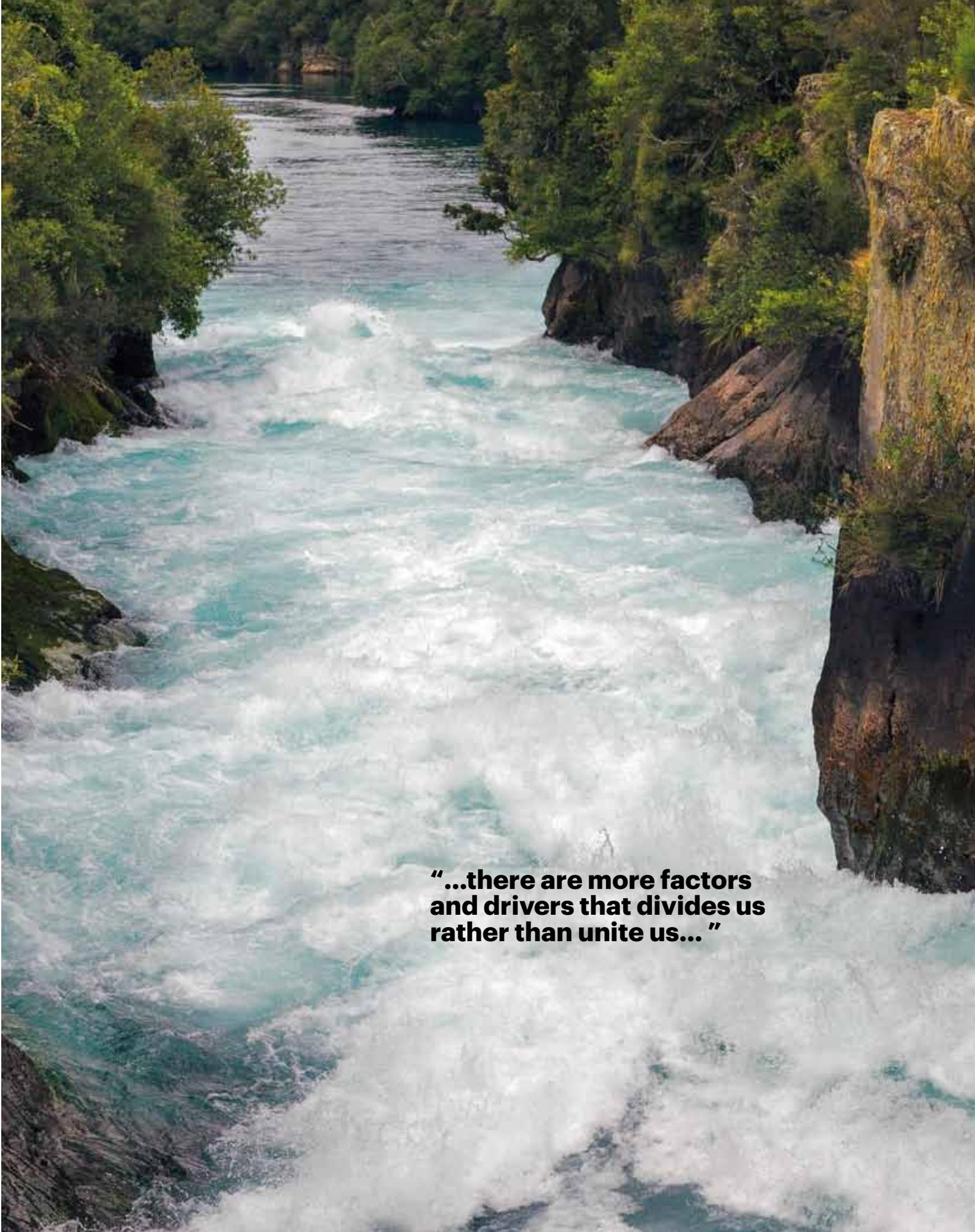
Viewpoints from personalities such as Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah and Mr. Tan Yew Sing who are both members of the Malaysia's National Unity Consultative Council are presented here. Certainly a compelling read and we also seeks a differing perspective in the form of a session with Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd. Nor Wan Daud.

Challenges confronted by the country in the future especially the youth and not limited to national unity. Our take on these challenges were presented during the National Youth Day Celebration in Putrajaya International Convention Center. The piece on these challenges are also presented here in this myForesight® edition and is supplemented by various fact sheets and articles.

By the time you are reading this, we would be at the of celebrating the coming of Syawal. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the all our readers "Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Fitri" & Happy Holidays.

As usual, we hope you find this magazine beneficial and thought provoking.

We expect you to have your opinion on certain matters. We want to hear them if you are willing to share. We welcome your feedback and contributions.



**“ ...there are more factors  
and drivers that divides us  
rather than unite us... ”**

# CONGRATULATIONS



## **YBHG. PROF. TAN SRI ZAKRI ABDUL HAMID**

Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia / Joint Chairman MIGHT,  
on the 'Panglima Setia Mahkota (P.S.M)' award conferred by  
His Royal Highness Yang Di Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah  
in conjunction with his birthday celebration on June 7th, 2014

The graphic features a central white diamond shape with a thick border of red, white, blue, and yellow stripes. Inside the diamond, a large, stylized figure of a person is formed by a dense arrangement of smaller human icons. A small black box with white text is positioned above the main title.

IN PERSON WITH...

# National Unity of Malaysia 2030

in person with

# UNITY AND NATION BUILDING



## Colours of Malaysia

We rightly pride ourselves as a true multiracial and multi-religious nation where the population lives harmoniously and peacefully led by a strong and stable democratic Muslim dominated government reflecting the long political and cultural history of this nation. Non-Malay religious, linguistic and cultural rights are not just allowed but visible and prominent. The Chinese in particular dominates the economic and technological sectors. All the major religions (Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism) and two of the largest races (Chinese and Indians) of the world are found in Malaysia.

But, whether we want to admit it or not, we have to accept that Malaysian Nation Building is hampered by a certain degree of increasing disunity amongst her citizens. And the disunity is caused by the different understanding and expectations of certain fundamental matters such as religion, language, race, ethics and morality, politics



**Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd. Nor  
Wan Daud**

Director of the Centre for Advanced Studies  
on Islam, Science, and Civilisation (CASIS),  
UTM

**In a multiracial and multi-religious nation, the understanding of each other's religion, culture and tradition is the basic element of unity.**

and governance, development and justice. This is due to the lack of consistent and authoritative exposition on many key terms and concepts.

The superficial understanding of various major religions and cultures in this country has caused confusion and created frictions amongst some segments of different races in Malaysia. The nation's higher education system has not successfully promoted the role of National language to bridge the intellectual, cultural and historical diversity between various races, religious and ethnic groups. We somehow forget that proper communication and good command of a common language is crucial in addressing important matters such as religion, race, ethics and morality, politics and governance, development and justice.

## Religion, Culture, Tradition and Education

In a multiracial and multi-religious nation, the understanding of national history

and of each other's religion, culture and tradition are the basic elements of unity. Ignorance or superficial understanding leads to misconception and intolerance thus creating doubts and mistrust that are divisive and destabilizing.

Being once ruled by western powers for many centuries and now opened to globalization exposed us to the western worldview and way of life. We tend to uncritically accept their values and institutions although some are detrimental to our worldview and society. Much of our educational system is influenced by the West, especially at the higher levels, where the emphasis is mostly on professional training as well as industry and market driven. Very little attention is given to ethical development, social consciousness, and national unity particularly in the private learning institution. Most popular excuse given to reject attempts to teach and inculcate such matters is that ethics is mostly a personal matter, while social consciousness and national unity are least related to professional abilities. It must be argued that ethical failure of a person, especially in higher positions of societal trust and responsibility will certainly produce grave social and national damages. Professional expertise alone without a deep ethical, and social consciousness will not only contribute to personal and group/racial selfishness but also to national disunity.

While we should continue to improve on the proper professional training and industrial relations but we should not neglect the ethical, social and national agenda in the context of globalization which is based mostly from a Western, secular and capitalistic perspective.

This is important because, if the Western conception of development, governance, social well-being and personal success are pursued without proper understanding of our Eastern and largely Muslim history and worldview, our society will not know how to properly appreciate local realities, achievements and challenges. Demands for social, political and economic changes may not be really suitable to local and national needs, abilities and values. Such idealistic and non-relevant attitude and subsequent actions will be negative than positive. Recent examples of this can be seen in Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt and other Middle East countries where their solution is more disruptive than constructive.

The basic problem with our higher education system is that we are training people as a workforce for a modern technology-intensive economy. The purpose of higher education must refocus on virtuous, ethical and socially responsible human development as an important educational agenda; and not only on fulfilling our economic needs. It should include a proper, and comparative understanding of our historical challenges, achievements, and problems and a more meaningful appreciation of national unity as a whole.

### Medium of Communication

Malaysia's racial, religious, socio-cultural and economic diversity is compounded by the fact that the national language has not been effectively mastered among all the segments of the 30 million population. Unity in linguistic usage can play an important role in unifying the various racial, religious and socio-economic groups especially in this age of globalization.

### The superficial understanding of various major religions and cultures in this country has caused confusion and created frictions

The continuous existence of Chinese and Tamil vernacular schools at the primary levels delayed the proficiency in national language and integration. This is made more difficult when more private international English language schools are becoming more popular especially among the high-income non-Muslims, and private religious schools among Malay Muslims. The national schools seem to be not the most attractive option for an increasing segment of Malaysians. Allegations that it is too Malay and too religious is not quite true because some Malay parents choose to send their children to formal religious schools which is more Malay and more religious. Furthermore the Malay-centric nature national schools merely reflect the historical and cultural reality of this nation. Unwillingness of non Malays to send their children to Malay schools may reflect an unwillingness to integrate with that reality which is unnatural and not helping to achieve greater national harmony and unity.

Even though there are no vernacular secondary schools to continue the language and racial separation started at the primary level, yet the highly exam oriented culture of our secondary school system, although in national language, deprives our youth to develop better sense of inter-racial and inter-religious understanding at this crucial stage of their personal development. On top of that, the mono racial and religious character of Islamic schools, primary and secondary, understandably does not present much opportunity for inter racial and inter-



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religious contacts. The largely Malay, and government boarding schools intended to help rural Malays for better educational facilities have a very small percentage of non Malay, and non Muslim student population. Efforts must be properly planned and carried out so that students in Islamic schools have more formal and informal experience with non Muslims, and larger percentage of non Malays and non Muslims are included in the non religious secondary boarding schools.

If the conception of development, governance, social well-being and personal success are based entirely on the idealized understanding of western concepts, the society will not know how to interpret local realities and requirement positively and fairly.

Another area of concern is the higher educational level where the language of instruction has gradually shifted to English, especially in the private higher educational institutions with an increasingly large number of students. More and more of our educated citizens are becoming less proficient in the national language. Inability to communicate in standard national language, especially when articulating issues of great importance pertaining to their dreams, their fears, their understanding of history, expectation of their future, has forced large number of our educated citizens and professionals to speak in broken national language or broken English. Neither their English nor their national language is good enough for effective higher order communication.

We are in a linguistically dilemma. Recognizing the global importance of English language, we cannot and should not make it eclipse the fundamentally important role of national language, especially in our multi-racial and multi-religious context. The majority of Malays, Chinese, Indians, Kadazans, Ibans, Dayaks, and other indigenous groups do not have working knowledge of English. In fact we should also exert more comprehensive efforts to encourage the mastery of other foreign languages such as Mandarin, Arabic, French, German and Japanese. Yet, our national identity, our unity and our contribution to the cultural richness and diversity of the world is rooted in the national language.

Assuming we use English more extensively, then the society will be burdened with

**We cannot push for total usage of English as not everyone is capable to use Standard English. At the same time, we cannot push for total usage of Malay for there are people who pride themselves with their knowledge of English.**

Anglo-Saxon Western meaning of key cultural and ethical terms and concepts which neither the Malays (who are Muslims), nor the Chinese (who are largely Confucians, and Buddhists, and a minority Christians), Indians (mostly Hindus and Muslims) would really understand and accept. People would be burdened with concepts from non-Asian understanding. The largely Christian people of Sabah and Sarawak are mostly tribal and commonly speak in their tribal dialects and the national language. The case is different in the usage of Malay language. It will be truer historically and culturally and will convey understanding that is more Asian. When the Malay language was accepted as the national language, it not only represents a historical and cultural continuity with our past of one thousand years. Beside Arabic, it also has a large number of Sanskrit words even in religious subjects, and Chinese words in mostly culinary aspects. Such major elements are naturally not found in the English language.

Since British colonial period, many English and even vernacular educated Malays did not have linguistic access to their own great spiritual, intellectual and cultural achievement of the Malay past written in Jawi Malay. Independence did not help much in this area. Hence many Malaysians especially the non Malays have little understanding and appreciation of the

spiritual, intellectual and cultural strengths of this nation prior to the coming of Western colonialists through whose jaundiced eyes they see the Malay past. This causes wrong perception among the non-Malays about the Malays – that Malays are lazy and corrupted – which has become ingrained to this very day. This attitude which is based largely on colonial mythologization of our national character and history creates a deep seated mental barrier to national unity. How can immigrant communities really want to learn and appreciate the language and culture of the dominant majority that they don't respect except as a purely pragmatic existential necessity?

Thus the proper understanding and usage of Malay language which is connected to its cultural and historical heritage is important for all, and should be critically taught at our schools and especially at the institutions of higher learning.

At the lower education level, the nation is split because of the nature of vernacular education system. We can still retain the current vernacular structure as an indication of our educational uniqueness as there is nowhere else in the world exist a parallel stream of education at the primary school level. However, these vernacular schools should be geographically and administratively separated from the national schools. This calls for the restructuring of our national school system in the sense that it incorporates the vernacular school linguistic medium.

All students should go to national primary schools say from morning till 11am which teach only in the national language. After an hour of recess, from 12 noon till 3pm the classes in the vernacular language would start. For Malay students this period would be for Islamic and related subjects. All these are carried out in the same locality.

In another aspect, the student population of the full boarding schools must include 30 percent of other races. This is important as only selected good Malay students are paced at the boarding schools and, at the moment, these students have very minimal formal engagement with pupils of other races during their secondary education. Allowing pupils of other races to be placed in boarding schools would enable them to grow together and develop friendship with the Malay community.

The introduction of the National Service

Training Program – Program Latihan Khidmat Negara (PLKN) – after form 5 as a national integration program seems to be too late at the current situation. The youth needs to be exposed to such programs at an earlier age, throughout their secondary school years or, perhaps during school holidays when they are in non-examination years.

### Leaders of Tomorrow

At the moment, the public understanding and appreciation in leadership is entirely limited to political and administrative leaders, and they are not aware of most leaders in other fields like business, religion, philosophy, education, sciences, medicine, art and architecture. The mass media do not give sufficient exposure to their proper role in the development of this nation. The country needs to know leaders in all fields. These leaders need to be exposed regularly in mainstream media so as to be visible. They need to have the attributes of being moderate, intelligent and knowledgeable and their critical and professional insights are valuable to strengthen greater trust in our system. However, this falls back to our current education system that is lacking in promoting and articulating these attributes.

In developed countries, experts in various disciplines are respected and are consulted in issues of public interest. Likewise, in Malaysia, leadership in various disciplines such as economics, culture, knowledge, science and religion that are free from political partisanship should be recognized by the population. This is important should the political leadership weakens, society would be able to refer to these non-political actors as sources of reference to help provide greater stability.

Race/tribe/ethnicity/religion as the most basic of human social category after the family and will never disappear. Race/religion based politics and leadership in the country will continue to be an important factor in Malaysia and in all countries. The main issues are wisdom, justice, moderation, and socio-political stability and harmony in the pursuit of the well being and happiness of the largest number. To me the current model of power sharing based on historical character of this nation has been proven beneficial for all. The Malays and the other Bumiputras do not gain everything; the non-Malays and non Bumis do maintain their relative autonomy and their participation in the government. The

annual list of most wealthy individuals in the country, considered from the point of racial/ethnic composition, is a small but definitive proof that the current power sharing does not deprive the socio-economic progress and prosperity of anyone racial/ethnic group in Malaysia.

The suggestion to delete “race” or “religion” columns in official documents to promote National unity is very superficial as if its recognition is a cause of disunity. In fact, we must recognize and respect each other by knowing each other’s religious and racial identities, and well as other personal attributes (marriage, profession, height and even eye color, etc). Again the key challenge is justice which involves knowing, respecting and tolerating real differences.

The core ethical values of all religions must be reflected in our cultural discourses and education. Personalities of other religion, culture and civilization should be highlighted and common ethical values must be made the binding elements of our society. However, inter-religious marriage should not be encouraged as it may create deep-seated confusion on the most fundamental matters. Religious differences must always be respected.

### Political Structure and Governance

A ruling party must be given an adequate mandate to form a strong government. Weak governments, even if they may be good, will not have enough confidence and support to carry out the necessary task of implementing needed policies.

**Personalities of other religion, culture and civilization should be highlighted and common values must be shared among the society.**

There are pros and cons in the current development of an unofficial two-party system in Malaysian politics. Whichever party wins an election, the winner should be strong enough to confidently do it work, otherwise it will cause incessant politicking and power-struggle that may hamper meaningful and lasting development.

To me, when we talk about majority we should not be limiting it to political majority only. We should also consider economic majority. Defining majority and minority from political perspective skews the real power. The Jews in America are a political minority but no one says that they are minority in other influential sectors. Such as the finance and media. In the world today, whoever controls the economic majority will indirectly control the political powers. In Malaysia, even though the Chinese are political minority, they enjoy economic majority. The Malays and other Bumiputras enjoy political majority, but experience economic minority. The Indians are minority in both. There are attempts by certain quarters to play the issue that as political minorities are being oppressed while, in actual fact, they really dominate in the economic sector.

The duty of achieving national unity and integrity which will prolong our harmony and increase our social well being should not be carried out only by public institutions including the more enhanced usage of national language. Fragile unity that will lead to social political instability will affect everyone including the private sector. There is need for the private sector to be more open for multiracial and multiculturalism, not merely as a support for government policy but also for their very own long term success. There are also a lot of rooms for improvement in multiracial/multicultural employment in the private sector including the multinational companies in the country.

### The East Malaysian Experience

As I said earlier, the whole country has achieved a commendable state of unity despite its almost balanced diversity and many challenges. By a balanced diversity, I mean no one racial group forms the largest majority of more than 60 percent. To look at Sabah and/or Sarawak alone as a model of unity is not quite accurate. The East Malaysian unity is a good example of tribe-based unity where major world religions are still quite recent among the dominant tribes. Furthermore, relative to West Malaysian,

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the communities are largely rural and quite separated from one another. The West Malaysian unity is based on a much longer exposure to, and practice of globally and regionally influential religion (Islam), and a major language (Malay language) which have successfully and peacefully unified the various linguistic and ethnic sub-groups in Southern Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, Southern Philippines, Brunei, Sabah and Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia and Indonesia for a thousand years. It is a unity that is both urban and connected to other regional communities.

### What can we learn from other countries?

There is a lot we can learn from other countries on unity, not only in contemporary times but also historically. However we have to be selective and carefully analyze each one of them to suit or situation. It is not that simple. Even technologies require a great deal of adjustments in order to suit local environmental and cultural conditions. For example our neighbor, Indonesia, stressed the usage of Bahasa Indonesia as the national language among the citizen.

**A strong government, even if it has its usual flaws, is better than a weak government.**

**Our current model that has been in operation for more than 55 years is working much better compared to most other multicultural and multireligious nations.**

So do countries such as Thailand and the Philippines that are proud with their national languages. But vernacular schools do not exist in those countries. They and all other countries do not give vernacular freedom of education to their citizens as we do here.

Our current model that has been in operation for more than 55 years is working much better compared to most other multicultural and multireligious nations. Since the 1969 tragedy, we do not face any major deadly racial/religious riots. For this we need a strong government. A strong government, even if it has its usual flaws, is better than a weak government. A weak government would not be able to do good even if its intention is good and would be too weak to stop evil/injustices/oppressions.

Media and ICT play a vital role in shaping the future of our social-political landscape. If not properly regulated and controlled, they can bring about negative impact to the country. We have seen examples of this negative developments throughout the world, especially in the Middle East countries where instability and volatility sparked from the movement of uncontrolled social media.

There should be a platform for young leaders of various races and religions, from the ages of 35 onwards to gain broad range of profound knowledge like what is being done by Aspen Institute in the US and the Cranlana Program in Australia where powerful ideas of great philosophers from various philosophical and religious traditions such as Aristotle, Plato and Confucius are discussed. We must also include materials from our own serious thinkers. These seminars/discussions should be led by experts. This allows young leaders to expand their thinking about nation building based on history and philosophy, and subsequently will give better ideas on things. In Malaysia, the books should include local heritage like the works of Raja Ali Haji and Sheikh Nuruddin al-Raniri. Our current education system which focusing on professional training is too limited in a more comprehensive and humane nation building. We have to learn from the examples of some of the developed countries where the education system matches very well with the cultural and historical aspect of the country in order to produce future leaders that have wider and deeper cultural knowledge and historical philosophical understanding.

# NEW REALITIES AND NATIONAL UNITY



**Dato Saifuddin Abdullah**

Council Member, National Unity Consultative Council and Chief Executive Officer, Global Moderation Foundation.

The concept of new realities and new social consciousness of the society is the take-off point on the future of national unity in Malaysia. The important factors underlying new realities are the influence of international or universal ideas, advent of information and communication technology, new media and the emergence of a third phase democracy.

The new social consciousness movement, which is interconnected to the new realities, has caused the emergence of the new middle ground. This new middle ground is portrayed as being less partisan, independent, represented by young students, professionals, civil society, academicians, technocrats and activists. They are connected with each other and share the content of social media. The combination of these gives birth to a new thinking. In order for Malaysian to move forward in this issue, we need to have

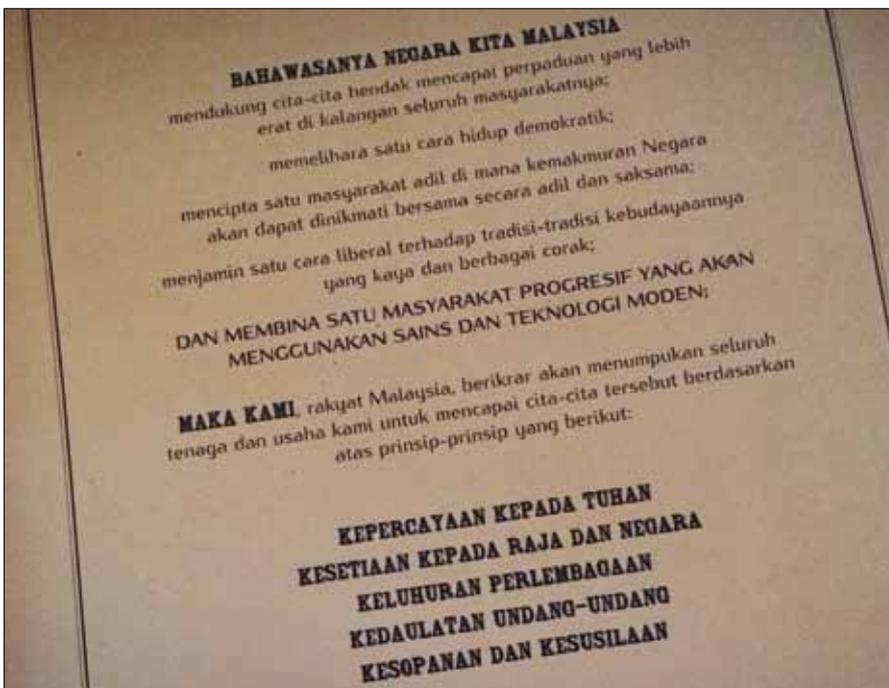
constant dynamism and stabilization. To achieve these, we need to teach the younger generation the history, the preamble of our country's constitution. The meaning that lies beneath it and not just the weekly pledge during the school assemblies or what is stated behind students' exercise books.

In the new reality, ICT and social media are not only being used as a communication medium but also to share information. It is known as the Information Sharing Technology (IST) although the term is yet to be used as a recognized or accepted terminology. In the old reality, it is known as alternative media but in the new reality, it is known as the new norms. This is main stream. Amongst the society, there are some who have totally migrated from the old to the new realities. Some are still in moving towards and backwards between the new and old realities.

**The Rukun Negara is not being thoroughly deliberated. For example, the preamble is being left out whereas the spirit of the Rukun Negara is in the preamble.**

Malaysia is also facing the new social consciousness that is happening universally when people starts to voice out their values on specific issues. One example is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) issue that has been discussed extensively in the social media in Malaysia. On the positive note, the discussions have moved society towards God conscious - LGBT is rejected as being un-Islamic. (LGBT is also being rejected by other religions in Malaysia).

The new social consciousness resulted in the emergence of new social movement. Such movement is based on an extensive



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usage of ICT and social media where people communicate and share information and values without having to be 'engaged' in or with any formal organization. This new social movement is emerged from FB and Twitters followers. That was how Bersih 2.0 and Comango came into being, through the new social movement that uses social media platform which need not be registered because it is formed under the realm of the new reality.

Another aspect that we need to realize is that we are now on the third phase of democracy where it is not limited only to the ballot boxes and traditional democratic institution like the parliament and election, but by deliberation and participation. This is why the Prime Minister stressed on the importance of engagement and consultation and he is moving fast into the new reality.

As a result of the new realities, Malaysians are becoming more educated, inculcated and critical in expressing their opinions. In addition, the migration of the population from rural to urban areas has resulted in the rapid development and growth of the middle class society. The convergence of these elements has resulted in a new thinking amongst the society and the emergence of a new kind of middle ground. If we take the electorate as the benchmark, the 'middle ground' group comprises about 30% of the population.

This 'middle ground' group is not something that emerges suddenly as it has existed since the early days. Political researchers always use the term 'on the fence voters', but I am using the term 'middle ground voters' as they are mostly academia, professionals, technocrats and entrepreneurs. The difference between the old middle ground and the new middle ground is the existence of ICT. Those days, people did not know each other and communication amongst them were very limited. Today, in the new realities, people are connected to the extent that they are able to share information, opinions and ideas.

I would like to borrow and share the thought with Prof. Wan Mohd. Nor of Advanced Studies on Islam, Science, and Civilisation (CASIS), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), that states: Malaysia needs to have both dynamism and stabilization (equilibrium) in order to move forward. Stabilization is the idealism – Rukun Negara, Constitution, values in religion and history – that forms the roots of the country.

We cannot be disconnected from these. And dynamism that includes this stabilization must exist to strengthen national unity and identity. This is where the gap exists. For example, the gap is between academic performance and creative thinking. The other gap is in the things that are supposed to be our strength, but turns out to be a weakness. One good example is in the differences in religion and ethnics. We should be able to reconcile all these but somehow, along the way, we lost it. We do not know why, but I suspect there are a lot of leadership issues here where there are difficulties in deliberating the matter.



**We are facing a shortage of constitution law experts in the country**

We in National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC) are seriously looking into this. The premise of NUCC in unity is that we have done very well for the past 50 years given the social fabric that we have, and we have reached to the level of social cohesion. However, we have yet to reach the level of unity that every citizen dreams of – the perfect unity. We have yet to reach the 'perfect unity' because there are contradictions, and we in NUCC have identified nine areas of contradiction as of today, namely: ethnicity, religion, social class, education, language, inter-generational gap, gender, geographical spatial, politics and governance. Leadership falls under politics and governance as far as NUCC is concern. The two factors that dominate discussions are race and religion.

### Founding Documents

Malaysia needs to seriously think about citizens' education when it comes to revisiting the founding documents. I would like to stress that most of us fail to understand constitutions, not only of the

country's, but of organizations', political parties', etc. Even our politicians are facing difficulty in determining the difference of their political ideologies if they are given the constitution of their own and of their rivals'.

We must admit that we do not educate our society to understand the details of our founding principles. Discussion with my colleagues from the US reveals that our counterparts are capable to provide in detail the pillars of their constitution and they seem able to digest well their founding documents. The debates in their house of representative are based on

their constitution. For example, when Mr. Obama suggested a tighter control of fire arms, the debate was on the framework of the constitution. Not many of our leaders are capable to debate about issues in the parliament based on our constitution.

We are also facing a shortage of constitution law experts in the country that can provide views and opinions to the masses. The social contract is being spoken by the public but not being discussed in depth, resulting in multiple interpretations. We need to have a consensus and collective interpretation that can be used as an authoritative reference. It is impossible to have a conclusive interpretation that everyone in the society can accept, but the founding speeches of the late YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Tan Siew Sin and Tun V.T Sambanthan should be the basis for reference. Unfortunately, they are not promoted and deliberated, and almost never being quoted, even in the parliament.

As for the new social consciousness, the deliberation by the society seems to be

superficial. This is perhaps the reason why certain quarters start raising sensitive questions such as where is the social contract. Again I would like to reiterate that Prof. Wan Mohd Nor's concept of dynamics and stabilization is of utmost importance. The Rukun Negara is not being thoroughly deliberated. For example, the preamble is being left out whereas the spirit of the Rukun Negara is in the preamble.

### Models of Other Countries

South Africa has two fundamental aspects that we can learn from. One is its leadership. Nelson Mandela, upon his freedom and became the President, had shown a resolute leadership and boldness in what he believed on the reconciliation between the blacks and the whites. He had the strength and firmness to face those in the country and also in African National Congress (ANC) itself. In fact there were a few veto decisions.

Secondly, in South Africa, they optimized everything that is available. One good example is sport. South Africa is a country where the majority of its people are black and the minorities are white. The minority plays rugby, whereas only a small number of the majority plays the game. What Mandela did was to get the whites to share the game with blacks until it became a national game. This example is a good for us to emulate. If South Africa has rugby as the activity that unites the people, then I would suggest we take basketball as the unity agent. I have a reason for this as the same concept can be emulated between the majority Malay and the minority Chinese. The Chinese plays basketball and only a few Bumiputra play the game. There is similarity between the whites in South Africa and the Chinese in Malaysia, they hold the economy.

Of course we can consider other games too. Sepak takraw, for example, is predominantly played by the Malays, but is being played by those from other communities too. We can have an interchange on this. But I still think basketball is the best because if more Malays were to play basketball, the Chinese will be motivated to accept and share.

### East Malaysia's Diversity

My experience through a series of dialogues in Sabah and Sarawak reveals that many decisions made in Putrajaya are made without an in depth understanding about our Sabah and Sarawak counterparts. The Sarawakians and Sabahans feel that their

Malaysia understanding is much more advanced than us. Divisive issue such as kalimah Allah is a non-issue over there and, to them, it only emerges in West Malaysia.

However, when we take Sabah and Sarawak into perspective, we need to be very cautious as there are some practices and activities that need better understanding. One example that I wish to highlight is the multi-religion family members. Should we celebrate that as unity in diversity? Are we sure that the society is having a good understanding of religion? Or are they able to live together because of their ignorance about their respective religion? We have to be very cautious. Every aspect should be carefully and thoroughly examined as all it need is a small spark and we may have a religious confrontation in our hand.

### Plausible Scenario for Malaysia on Unity

I am optimistic in the creation of a good society, subject to a few issues that need to be addressed. If we look at the nine challenges of Vision 2020, we will find a few challenges that are hard to fulfil unless they are being fully addressed. For example, matured democracy, will we be able to meet it within these six to seven years?

Innovation society is still beyond our reach, but I am optimistic that a good society is achievable if we can immediately overcome issues such as race and religion which, actually, should be our strength. I am really hoping that we can settle the kalimah Allah issue and we also must make progress in the migration from race based policies towards need based policies. Migration takes time, but we need to make some progress. How? I think we should re-launch the New Economic Model that emphasizes inclusiveness in our mission towards a high income nation.

### Role of Global Moderation Foundation (GMF)

The idea of GMF was mooted by the Prime Minister in 2010. It is very well received because the concept of *wasatiyyiah* or moderations is something that is relevant in today's globalized world. Nevertheless, it is a bit hard to promote the concept because it comes under our foreign policy and people would like to see how it is being actualized. The management of GMF tried our level best on this and now we have decided on a few approaches in our foreign policy. The

latest approach is soft power. The days of military power, economic power, political power is over. Now it is about soft power. In the world of multilateralism, soft power has more potential compared to unilateralism.

GMF is not a government agency, but we work very closely with Wisma Putra as our realm is 'public diplomacy' or 'people to people diplomacy'. We are using soft power as the platform and moderation as the content. We have decided on five initiatives to make moderation as the content and to actualize it in public diplomacy. They are digital diplomacy, non-traditional security threat, social cohesion and inclusive development, democracy and governance, and engagement with some domestic issues such as national unity, human rights and interfaith dialogue.

**It is impossible to have a conclusive interpretation that everyone in the society can accept, but the founding speeches of the late YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Tan Siew Sin and Tun V.T Sambanthan should be the basis for reference.**

in person with



# UNITY AND THE NATIONAL IDENTITY



**Tan Yew Sing**

Council Member, National Unity  
Consultative Council and Founder &  
President of Inti International College.

Malaysia is a blessed country with a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious population that has become her strength and most valuable asset. From a global economic perspective, all the emerging economy markets such as India, China and Indonesia are well represented by the three major races in the country that share the same origin or root of cultures and languages. Malaysia has positioned herself at a very strategic position, but it is unfortunate when it comes to the national unity as it has been far neglected. The spirit of the founding documents and history of nation is not being referred by the society, especially among the younger generation. At this juncture, such situation could be considered as the moment of “make or break” where

the country’s global competitiveness may be affected by the disunity and a polarized citizen. Therefore, there is a need to create a national identity that portrays the country as a ‘united nation’ where there is a perfect unity between people of various races/ ethnics, religions and cultures.

## **National Identity**

National identity is the ability of a nation to identify one common vision that can be expressed by different religions, races and languages because the global outlook and trend suggest that the more diversify the population of a nation the stronger it will be. However, the nation needs to acknowledge that racialism is the mother of all evil. That is why it is important for the leaders of the country identify themselves firstly as Malaysian, then follow by his race background. Every leader must remember that: ‘You are a Malaysian and you owe your living to the country, the country that nurtures you’.

There are quarters of the citizen that seems to be unpatriotic due to their misconceived belief about the unfair treatments of various races that are embedded in various government policies. This is a bad

development for the country. The situation was different in those days when Malaysian students studying overseas thought that it was important to return home to the country and serve the nation. The concept of *tanahair* needs to be imparted among the younger generation of the country.

The founding documents of the country, although there are different interpretations about them, are still important and relevant as it was through them that the different races came together. The challenge now is how to translate those documents into workable policies that will enhance unity.

The founding fathers of Malaysia have shown extraordinary leadership qualities in terms of uplifting the capabilities of the Malays as well as those from other races by identifying and utilizing their strengths without practicing favoritism. History has proven that their leadership has given many benefits to the Rakyat through the establishment of entities such as FELDA, RISDA, FELCRA, FAMA and many more that has allowed the country to grow economically.

### **Current Political Scenarios and Governance**

The current scenario of having a two party system is a good development of the local political landscape. This is a proof that the democracy practiced in the country is moving towards maturity that will subsequently encourage more check and balance. The past years election cycle has allowed maturity in terms of political structure of the country. However, globalization and media have changed, and how society adapts to these changes will shape the future of the political landscape of the country.

The scenario that Malaysia is facing may be parallel to the analogy as the pain of a mother giving birth to a child. The pain experienced by her will be temporary, but the joy of bringing a life into the world is beyond description. However, there is a need for leaders from the two major political coalitions to further communicate and discuss with each other.

In context of race relation, the Chinese and Indians in Malaysia have more common interest with the Malays compared to those people in China or India. Therefore, the issues highlighted and discussed by and between the two political coalitions should be that of common interest. Issues that are

**Language was never an issue as Bahasa Melayu has always been the medium of communication amongst the rakyat of this country, and it is the lingua franca of the region.**

sensitive should be avoided until a better understanding by all parties is achieved.

### **Language and Culture**

Malaysian needs to be united by having one language, which is Bahasa Malaysia, as the national language. It was never an issue as Bahasa Malaysia has always been the medium of communication amongst the *rakyat* of this country, and it is the lingua franca of the region. Knowing one's mother tongue and, at the same time, capable to interact in multiple languages gives advantage for citizen to understand and appreciate each other.

Language should not be an issue in the effort to unite the nation. It is an only issue that is being cooked-up by certain irresponsible quarters. There must be a sincere approach in promoting the national language between the government and the private sector.

The mastery of Bahasa Malaysia has never been a hindrance to racial or ethnical cultures. We have seen many Chinese and Indians who are very fluent in Bahasa Malaysia but still master their own mother tongues and practice their own religions and cultures. Malaysians have been known to respect, share and enjoy each other's cultural heritage and practices.

### **Economic Development**

Urbanization resulted in increased urban population. This, together with the general growth of population, has expanded the society economic activity. However, urbanization and growth of population has its downside too – creating problems such as unemployment, housing, health and crime. These problems could be condoned if enough economic activities are created for the people.

In India, there are small banks that help the poor to enhance their economic activity, but in Malaysia the banking sector is moving

towards developing mega banks that do not favour helping of the needy, especially those in small business activities. There is a need to re-examine the whole economic policy of the country. The New Economic Model proposed by the government requires further crystallization in terms of implementation and execution. The selection of people that are capable to execute the model is a critical factor that will determine its success.

### **Ideological**

Malaysia is fortunate that it has no serious ideological differences. All political leaders in the country practice a common ideology. The only factor that hurts the society as a whole is language and religion. The country needs to manage these two areas by giving space for people to study, understand and respect the constitution. The government should provide guidelines on the principles of our founding fathers and the positions of Islam and Malay Rulers in the constitution.

### **National Unity**

Perhaps we can learn from our brothers and sisters in Sabah and Sarawak about unity. Most of the people there avoid talking about differences in race and religion. They build their unity by talking about common identity of the people.

Unity is actually one of the major hindrances for Malaysia to drive forward and achieve the status of a fully developed nation by 2020. The other is human resource mobility. They are inter-related. Unsolved unity issue such as racial relations hinders our human capital from returning and serving the country.

To address the problem of racialism the government machinery should be strengthened by providing more resources and funding, apart from having an act to govern race relations. Addressing racialism is almost as important as fighting corruption. If corruption may affect the cost of doing business in the country, apart from other socio-economy implication; racialism may shake the foundation of the country.

All is not over and the future of unity is not bleak. History has proven people of all races have lived together in peace and harmony in this country. That is our national identity. But racial problems and differences will never cease to exist. We should always be alert and wise to handle and condone them.

# Disappearance of MH370

What it means for Malaysia in the future?



by  
DR AZHARI KARIM

On 8 March 2014 flight MH370 belonging to Malaysia Airlines disappeared from radar tracking. A multinational search and rescue effort led Malaysia to locate the missing plane and its crew and passengers has been drawing blanks. Making sense of this saga is only possible by recourse to the method of causal-layered analysis from Futures Thinking and constructing alternative scenarios for the future from this experience for the benefit of future generations.

Following international practice Malaysia, who owns the plane – flight MH 370 – that went missing on 8 March 2014 with 239 crew and passengers from different countries on board, was given the lead in manning the whole operation assisted by the relevant countries in the respective ‘quadrant zones’ declared in the exercise to locate the MH 370. It was amazing how, within a short time span, so many different airborne and maritime assets could be deployed by more than twenty-six countries and equipped with sophisticated search and rescue technology never before seen, ready to assist Malaysia.

Unique in this operation, which has lasted longer than ever expected, the first ever mounted to search for a missing plane, is the fact that more than half of the passengers on board MH 370 were citizens of the People’s Republic of China but still Malaysia managed, throughout this unfortunate period, to put its ‘heart and soul’ for the benefits of all the passengers. Throughout this ordeal the members of their next of kin were regarded as the members of one ‘family’. The country also took the decision to place the matter of finding the plane and its passengers even beyond ‘its national security’ by sharing sensitive information and data with the assisting countries who had volunteered all that they have got in the name of friendship and humanity.

### Making sense of the future

Those who studied the future like Sohail Inayatullah (2004), Richard Slaughter (1996), Marie Conway (2012) and Tom Graves (2012) included, would have narrated the story of MH370 in terms of four different levels: (1) the litany, the story as narrated in the reporting style of the newspapers in a language that is easily understood by everyone; (2) the systemic or the social-causal, all the facts related to the story presented in their chronological order; (3) the worldview, the facts that are relevant and assembled into the main story; and (4) the myth or metaphor, placing the whole meaning of the narrative in its proper context by reference to cultural and emotional factors embedded within the story.

In the Future Studies jargon, this whole process is known as the causal-layered analysis (CLA). Through the CLA the right questions of the future in regard to a situation can be asked and new alternatives and possibilities of understanding that



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future can be made for the benefit of future generations.

CLA could be defined as a ‘futures studies’ methodology to enable one to look for deeper meanings in an issue (Conway, 2012). It was developed by Inayatullah (2004) from a base founded by Richard Slaughter in the 1990s and who also drew attention to the fact of a transformative dimension in the whole exercise (Inayatullah, 2009). In this context the CLA has relevance to one studying the advent of policy changes on an issue of concern. This was also observed by Brian Bishop in his study on the relationship between the CLA and the multi-layered analysis approach favoured by psychologist (Bishop 2013). Finally as stated by Barber (2010), in the process of a causal-layered analysis, the issue was deconstructed and

in the outcome, the reconstruction, the alternative futures were created.

### Application of CLA Methodology

CLA explored the various levels of understanding on the issue. Using the four levels of analysis provided for in the CLA, the following aspects of the situation were presented and discussed:

#### **1** **The Litany level**

Looking at the news first, we were informed that flight MH 370 had gone missing without a trace in the area of the South China Sea. International efforts to search and rescue, led by Malaysia, were soon underway. Later, from radar sightings, it was informed that the plane had made an ‘air turn-back’ in the direction of the West coast of Malaysia. Meanwhile it was also confirmed that two of the passengers were travelling on ‘stolen passports’. There were several leads that were taken up by the ‘Investigation Team’ to corroborate and confirm all the information and other leads obtained from friendly countries helping out in the operation. The team had also decided to arrange for as many of the family members of the passengers to be gathered together in the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) to facilitate briefings and other operational matters.

Three weeks into the search operation the whole exercise had to be expanded to include the Southern part of the Indian

Ocean where some items believed to have come from the missing plane were sighted. More 'live' sightings have been reported off the coast of Perth, Australia where the whole search has been zeroed in. The Investigation team has decided to deploy more submersible vehicles to try and locate the plane's 'black-box'.

## 2

### The Systemic or Social-Causal Level

Let us now look at the facts next. On the basis of what were presented at the many and regular Press Conferences held on the matter of MH 370, the following were the pertinent and relevant facts: a plane belonging to Malaysia Airlines had gone missing on its flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing; essential communication links on board the plane had been disabled; it was believed that the plane had made a 'turn-back' and was en route to an unknown destination piloted by someone who seemed to know where the plane would be destined. Not discounting all other possibilities, it was widely informed that after more than fourteen days of the 'Operation Search and Rescue', debris of what was thought to be the pieces from MH 370 were sighted off the coast of Western Australia, about 2500 kilometres from Perth.

## 3

### The Worldview Level

As to the relevancy of the facts mentioned above, it could safely be determined that whoever has been directing the activities in the cockpit of the fateful flight MH 370 knew what was needed to be done and reckoned it could be achieved. The plane has been declared fit before take-off and, manufacture-wise, it was one of the best flying-machine ever built in the class of a Boeing 777. But fate had intervened. At the time of writing more than thirty days had lapsed since day one of the disappearance of the plane on 8 March. This is, in essence, the fact that made up the big picture or the worldview.

## 4

### The Myth or Metaphor Level

In trying to conclude this analysis by way of stating a deeper meaning to the story of the missing flight MH 370, we can say that one aspect that requires attention is that of the relationship between humans and machines. First, as humans we have to be fully aware of our limitations in understanding that the machines we have perfected to serve our needs can also fail us

in the hour of our needs. It is to be expected therefore, that Flight MH 370 while it has been built to last a lifetime, our human weakness here is that we have chosen to assume that everything is all right with the plane. Whoever has taken it over had miscalculated the chances.

Second, we have on our part overlooked the signs that something like this could happen in Malaysia. There were indications that preceding the event of the disappearance of the plane there were things that have not looked right. The national air carrier, Malaysia Airlines, has been going through a bad patch both financially and performance-wise. Taking on from this experience Malaysia should start thinking about responding to the related aspect of entry of migrants into the country which could very well end up in a similar 'tragedy'. Malaysia has been in the news lately as the country in South East Asia that continues to be a hub for human trafficking and a haven for illegal migrants. Besides looking at the security angle concerning these two issues, we have to bear in mind that these could well become significant problems for the country as well in the future.

### Connect Scenario to CLA Levels

The next exercise would involve connecting possible scenario/scenarios to the different levels of the CLA. This is done to isolate the causes that have contributed to the situation and to discover alternative ways of looking at the situation. It must be noted that, in the absence of verifiable facts on the whole situation, it is also possible to begin by looking at the root cause of the situation concerning the grief of the affected ones and

the specific problem of values that divide this ability to accept grief on the part of Chinese and Malaysian citizens. In the first scenario we are visualizing the process of coming to terms with the grief. The second scenario suggests an alternative way to look at the issue, how to begin to learn to be human again.

## SCENARIO ONE

### Acceptance of grief and sharing friendship together

From day one of the search efforts for the missing flight MH 370 Malaysia, who is the owner of the plane and China, who has the most number of passengers on board have established a close and productive working relationship between them, joined by other countries from different parts of the globe with their experts, expertise and machinery to help locate the missing plane.

As confirmation of the fate of their loved ones is eagerly awaited, the Chinese citizens must not allow their negative feelings and emotions to take hold. Instead as Confucius, the 'Great Teacher' would have it, they need to come to terms with their grief and accept the basic reality of the possible loss of our loved ones. Only in this sense can they ever hope to endure the anxiety, pain and sorrow that follow.

On the part of the Malaysian citizens, it must be recognized that the display of grief has never been the same everywhere. Cultural differences will always emerge to in the showing of people's bereavement. Understanding these differences will certainly assist the situation.



In the same instance, it is equally important to underline the need to continue to live for the future with all that we have been able to achieve in building the friendship and trust, particularly between the two countries – Malaysia and China.

The close rapport and sharing together extended by the officials and people in the need of the hour in the following weeks have always been to try and focus on the pertinent issues and to sift all the pieces of information to seek for the truth.

Finally, it must be remembered that in grief only the words of encouragement and confidence can move us further in our joint endeavour for peace and reconciliation in our future relations together.

## SCENARIO TWO Learning to be human again

### What is MH 370 to us?

Now that the search for MAS flight MH 370 together with its crew and passengers has gone for months and still there are no traces of either yet to be found, many are asking how much longer it will take before the whole operation is called off. It is important for the authorities to remember that there is a divinity which shapes our ends (Hamlet, Act 5 Scene 2), as quoted from Shakespeare. This is sufficient to inform us at one level that Man proposes and God disposes.

In real life, however, this distinction if it is so understood will negate all aspects of the 'thinking' person and therefore makes Man void of knowledge and creative impulse. In this situation where can we consequently put Man in the hierarchy of God's creation? What function does he fulfil in this world and the Hereafter? Are Man equip with the necessary faculties and skills to survive on Earth? Does education play a role in the progress of Man?

Reflecting upon these questions and relating them to the whole incident reveal to us the magnitude of the problems facing humanity today, especially in drawing lines of limitations as sanctioned by ethics and religions as to what Humanity is capable of achieving either for good or evil and how acquiring knowledge, especially science, can make us wiser and makes one a believer of God.

For the last several weeks, the whole world has been on stage as the drama of the SAR of MH 370 was enacted in front of our very eyes.

For the authorities in charge of the SAR operation, it is fine for them to put on show all the latest creation in technology that science could muster. Here is what we can expect in peacetime for the world to see: the splendid machines that can do anything at will. At war, however, these will turn to become vicious instruments that can pit humanity against one another. How can all these serve to illuminate the problem in hand? Still MH 370 remained undetected.

Information is the essence in such a complex exercise. Many have access to very sophisticated technology that was never revealed before, even to allies. But alas, it was perceived that the efficacy of such high-tech instruments has never been tested before. The incident afforded

### **It is important to underline the need to continue to live for the future with all that we have been able to achieve in building the friendship and trust particularly between the two countries, Malaysia and China.**

the tech-owners to obtain a real-life result from the ability to use them in the SAR operation which had its areas extended in scope and distance. From the South China Sea the SAR was expanded to include areas of the Andaman Sea and also parts of the Indian Ocean. It seemed the expansion of the search areas was ordered in response to newer information received from reliable data sources. But no MH 370 was found.

But MH 370 is none of all these to us, especially the people who are around. What they had wanted was a swift exercise to find out the remains of the plane and for the authorities to decide, in the event this will not be possible under the circumstances that have been made clear to them, to categorically call off the SAR and turn to the more human aspects of needs, mental and spiritual support, compensations and claims, and offering a decent burial for all the victims.

As fellow human beings, these are the very minimum that we can extend by way of assistance to the families and friends of the victims. They wished they had been allowed to take part in some of the scenes stated above.

For us herein lies the significance of the purpose of this life and the rationale for us to learn how to be human again. It is by trying to come to terms with Nature and put our lives in the hands of God the Almighty and his creation in science, technology and innovation.

### Deciding on Range of Solutions

Finally in a CLA exercise it is possible to come up with a range of solutions from quick-fixes to take care of the Litany problems, to policy-oriented solutions in the social-causal level, and to changing the mind-sets for the worldview level and, finally for the myth and metaphor level to finish with a set of imagery-based solutions.

### Conclusion

The possibilities and versatilities of using the CLA methodology in trying to make some sense of the incident involving the missing plane MH 370 and its crew and passengers has been highlighted. While the deconstruction of the salient points of the issue has proven valuable in clarifying the causes and problems related to the issue, the work of reconstruction leaves much to be desired in that the facts of the issue have still not been made public knowledge to everyone. This renders the analysis incomplete and calling for needs to fill up the gaps in information. Hence, the scenarios offered have not been deep enough in scope and focus.

In all probability, a full CLA exercise for the issue at hand is nevertheless an intellectually satisfying one. A full and finished product is therefore in the pipeline.

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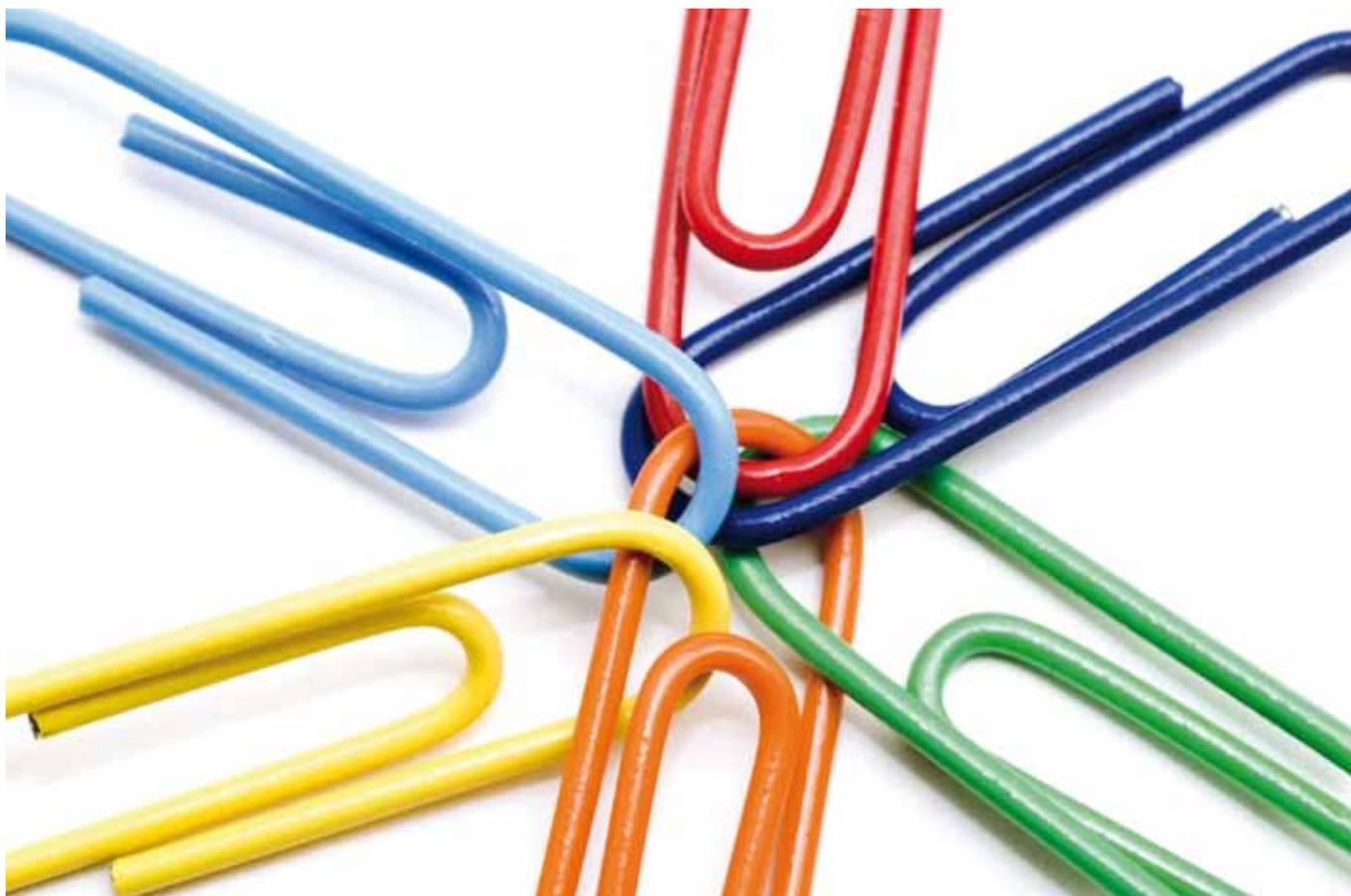


**THOUGHTS AND  
PRAYERS FOR  
THOSE ON BOARD  
#MH370  
&  
#MH17**

# Drivers of Malaysia's Unity



by  
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The challenge to build a scenario of future unity in Malaysia is to develop a set of drivers that would determine and drive the nation towards unity and reconciliation. In the effort to create these drivers two well-known unity initiatives – the Mont Fluer Unity Conference in South Africa and Columbia 1996/1997 Conference – were examined and analyzed.

The Mont Fluer Conference involved a broad mix of South African's political, business and civil society leaders from both sides of the divide to discuss what was happening, what could happen and what could be done for the unity of the nation. The Columbian experience is slightly different as, apart from the political, business and civil society leaders, it brought warring factions to the

conference table. Both these conferences produced exemplary results in building the unity in their respective countries.

However the appreciation of these drivers in Malaysian context would be somewhat different. Whilst the differences in South Africa involved the blacks and whites, and in Columbia was more of political affiliations, Malaysia has to deal with multiracial, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-religious society. Fortunately, unity and reconciliation amongst Malaysians has never escalated to the crisis point faced by other nations. However, lately the cracks are visible and some unpleasant noises are heard. These cracks and noises, if left unchecked, may lead to bigger problems in national unity.

MyForesight®, through multiple engagements with various stakeholders, has managed to identify issues and trends that may be the drivers for national unity in Malaysia. However, these drivers, apart from becoming the converging factors that bring the people together, could also be the cause for people to drift further apart.

## **Unity and Reconciliation**

Unity and reconciliation are interrelated. Whilst unity means being in agreement and working together or being joined together to form a unit, reconciliation is the process of making different ideas, facts, etc. to exist together without being opposed to each other. Unity and reconciliation is only achievable through absolute honesty amongst all parties that are involved.

## viewpoints

In a multiracial, multi-cultural, multi-religious and multilingual society as in Malaysia, it is of utmost important that the close-knitted relationship amongst its people is maintained and preserved, but also need to be developed and strengthened.

Diversity is the strength of the nation. This has been emphasized by our founding fathers when they formulated the Federal Constitution. Writers, scholars, researchers and analyzers of or national unity from both side of the political divide has invariably agreed that understanding of the constitution and Rukun Negara is one of the drivers towards national unity.

The Federal Constitution is the document that provides the most basic foundation and idealism of the country. Understanding of this founding document is quintessential in paving the way towards nation building.

Mohd. Hilmi Ramli, chairman of a youth think-tank known as Himpunan Keilmuan Muslim (HAKIM), insisted that the most important thing in shaping Malaysia's future is by having an understanding of the founding document – the Federal Constitution. There is an urgent need for the society, particularly the younger generation, to be educated on the history of the nation as well as the founding documents. Discussions on nation building should be within this boundary and framework.

Aminuddin Yahya, Deputy President of Ikatan Muslimin Malaysia (ISMA), states

that the unity of the nation is dependent on the unity of the Malay-Muslims as they form the majority. The current scenario of disunity and misunderstanding is a direct effect of the society failing to fathom the historic formation of the nation, as well as having different understandings and interpretations of the Federal Constitution as the founding document.

**The Federal Constitution is the document that provides the most basic foundation and idealism of the country. Understanding of this founding document is quintessential in paving the way towards nation building.**

### Political Structure

Political parties are an essential part of democracy. They act as mediators by which citizens campaign for public office, express their interests and needs, and define aspirations for the society. However, when public confidence in political parties is compromised, the entire democratic process may suffer. In all sustainable democracies, the party system must be entrenched in the society.

When a political framework functions properly, political parties are able to develop

common ideas among a significant group of people and present these ideas on a national level. The ideas that are brought forth will be consolidated by the leaders of the political parties. It is the parties that choose their leaders however; it is the citizens that choose which party to support.

Citizens may be divided over interests, leaders, or policies. This is where political parties attempt to bridge the differences by presenting ideas that help the society to unite. Political parties play an intermediary role that links institutions of governments to various societal groups. They can rally support towards these groups to improve public welfare and to conform towards public's interests.

### Leadership

Inspiring leadership with the capacity and dignity to convene conflicting and estranged communities is prerequisite in nation building. Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, in his speech during the launch of Global Peace Convention 2013, stated that what Malaysia needed most are ethnic bridge builders that are able to neutralize the politics of hatred, racial polarization and racial exclusiveness which seems to currently be on the rise. The emphasis is on the roles of ethnic bridge builders to comprehend that any racial divide is essential to improve ethnic relations in Malaysia.

Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, Deputy Speaker of Selangor State Assembles, stressed that race, being an important part of one's identity, must be put aside in politics. This would pave the way for a meritocracy system with multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and multi religion to be put in place.

### Lingua Franca

Language has always been the "faithful mirror of the society". It reflects the true nature of the society. By studying the language of any society, knowledge that includes the culture, beliefs, and every other sociolinguistic information in regards to the society can be obtained.

Malay – The national language of Malaysia – represents its national identity and can be reflected upon as a symbol of the nation. The Malay language, as a national language, bridges the gap between the multi-cultural citizens of Malaysia. It is through the usage of the Malay language that Malaysians are able to communicate with ease and understand each other without much misrepresentation of ideas and expressions.



*Negaraku  
Tanah tumpahnya darahku  
Rakyat hidup  
bersatu dan maju*

*Rahmat bahagia  
Tuhan kurniakan  
Raja kita  
selamat bertakhta*

*Rahmat bahagia  
Tuhan kurniakan  
Raja kita  
selamat bertakhta*



### Culture

Culture and value is not only a unique part of a nation's identity, but an invaluable one as well. Culture has a unifying quality that pulls people together, giving them binding commonalities and collective characteristics. In countries where people lack common culture, there are always racial or ethnic frictions with some resulting in serious and fatal incidents.

Malaysia is lucky that to date multiracial society understands, respects, accepts and even shares the diversity of their multi-cultures. In fact, it is the diversity in cultures that unite the people of this nation.

### National Identity

There was and still is a question on the national identity of Malaysia. This raised the question what is our national identity. Scholars have different views, but the common ground has always been the common language (national language), national culture, political structure and stability, national unity and the education system.

Malaysia has it all – Malay as the national language that has always been the medium of communication that unites the nation; an understanding and respect of various cultures by the people; and political stability although some may point to the fact that most of our political parties are race-centric.

Malaysia seems to have a very positive national identity which could be further enhanced with better unity and reconciliation.

**Providing education to the people is an essential step towards maturing them. Moreover, access to education promotes positive attitudes that enable progress.**

### Education

Education shapes the future of tomorrow while sustaining the competitive environment of today. Education enhances the development of values and also defines the level of development for individuals, groups, and the society itself. Providing education to the people is an essential step towards maturing them. Moreover, access to education promotes positive attitudes that enable progress. However, unequal access to education would chain a domino effect in which, unequal opportunities and uneven development can be clearly seen which may undermine the stability and development of the nation.

Education serves as a vehicle for national integration. Albeit, the question remains as to whether the education system has been thoroughly exploited in promoting national unity and integration, or has it undermine integration. Wan Saiful Wan Jan, Chief Executive Officer of Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) suggests that it is important for the market force to determine the future of Malaysia. He added that although education has a

role to play in determining the future of Malaysia, the current federated system and multiple education system; private schools, vernacular schools and Islamic education may hamper such effort.

### Social Media

The growth of social media has engulfed millions of people with the opportunity to post and share contents on a massive scale. Making use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter will enable people all over the world to be connected and updated. In this era of globalization, social media has become an essential tool, a networking method and social interactions between individuals, business conglomerates, and governments.

Social media also acts as a voice of the people that reaches the officials and governments as well network it to others worldwide. In the Middle East, social media has been used to influence and rally people on social causes and political campaigns. This has caused for a forum of debate, and interactions between governments and their communities.

Social Media has been identified as a key driver to unity, the question is; do Malaysia recognized and fully optimizes this potential?

In conclusion, these are a few of the drivers for our national unity that have been identified, it must always be remembered that these drivers, apart from becoming the converging factors that brings the people together, it could also be the cause for Malaysia to drift further apart.

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3. Influence and Passivity in Social Media, Daniel M. Romero, Wojciech Galua, Sitaram Asur, Benardo A. Huberman.
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# Our Journey Towards Unity

**“Our future depends on how well many different kinds of people can live and work together”**

**“Anybody who has any love for this country and wishes to make it his home must give his complete and absolute loyalty”**

**“Every one of us must respect each other’s rights and feelings, be tolerant of each other’s religions, customs and habits”**

**“We must dedicate ourselves to leave behind for our children a united, prosperous and strong nation “**



**Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra**  
1963-1970  
Father of Independence



**Tun Hussein Onn**  
1976-1981  
Father of Unity

- The Federal Constitution of Malaya was established
- The Federation of Malaya gained its independence on 31st August 1957
- Reid Commission
- National Language Act 63-67

- Department of National Unity and Integration was established on 1st July 1969
- National Operation Council (MAGERAN) was established. It was an emergency administrative body which attempted to restore law and order in Malaysia after the May 13 incident in 1969

**13th May 1969 Tragedy**

- Introduction of Malayan Union
- The First Malay Congress
- Establishment of UMNO

- First Malayan General Election
- Alliance Party (UMNO, MCA and MIC) 51 out of 52 seats contested.

1946    1948    1955    1956    1957    1963    1969    1970    1971

The establishment of the Federation of Malaya

- Razak Report introduced to reform the education system in Malaya.
- Named after the then Education Minister, Tun Abdul Razak

Malaysia was formed on 16th September 1963 (It marked the joining together of Malaya, North Borneo, Sarawak and Singapore to form Malaysia)

- Rukun Negara was introduced on 31 August 1970 as a way to foster unity among Malaysians
- National Culture Policy 1970

Malaysia New Economic Policy  
Malaysia New Economic Policy was established (introduced aftermath of May 13)

**“You young people must try to do things together, things that will strengthen the unity, the goodwill and understanding of our people”**



**Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein Al-Haj**  
1970-1976  
Father of Development

**“The future of our country depends on one important thing, that is on the unity of our people of various races”**

**“Be united, for indeed the winner does not take all and the loser does not lose all”**

**“Every leader has his own style. I do not know what style the people see in me, but I have made it a point that whatever I do is to fulfill the people’s aspiration”**

**“In all our efforts to achieve national unity, there must be commitment and sincerity”**



**Datuk Seri Najib Razak**  
2009-Present  
Father of Transformation

“By the year 2020, Malaysia can be a united nation, with a confident Malaysian society, infused by strong moral and ethical values, living in a society that is democratic, liberal and tolerant, caring, economically just and equitable, progressive and prosperous, and in full possession of an economy that is competitive, dynamic, robust and resilient.”

**Vision 2020**

**National Service Training Programme (PLKN)**

To move the country forward, the government has crafted a framework comprising four pillars to drive change. The New Economic Model (NEM) to be achieved through an Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) constitutes a key pillar which will propel Malaysia to being an advanced nation with inclusiveness and sustainability in line with the goals set forth in Vision 2020. The ETP will be driven by eight Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRIs) which will form the basis of the relevant policy measures.

- NUCC (National Unity Consultative Council) was established.
- Chairman, Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman

**1976      1981      1991      2003      2004      2009      2010      2013**

**Under Tun Hussein Onn’s premiership**  
- Permodalan Nasional Bhd established  
- Rukun Tetangga launched

The objectives of PLKN:  
- To develop and enhance the spirit of patriotism amongst youths  
- To encourage national integration and racial unity  
- To build character through imparting core moral values  
- To instil a spirit of volunteerism  
- To develop a young generation that is resilient, healthy and confident.

- New Economic Model was established 30 March 2010
- 1 Malaysia Concept introduced in 16th September 2010

The 1Malaysia formula is conceptualised for implementation in two main aspects. The first is through the assimilation of the Principles of Unity, while the second aspect is the assimilation of Aspirational Values.

**“We would be foolish to forget that national unity is the most fundamental, the most basic of our objective”**



**Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad**  
1981-2003  
Father of Modernization



**Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi**  
2003-2009  
Father of Human Capital Development

**“The harmony between the various communities and religions in Malaysia is not an optional luxury, it is necessity”**

SOURCE:  
1. KONTRAK SOSIAL PERLEMBAGAAN PERSEKUTUAN 1957 (MOHD RIZAL YAAKOP & SHAMRAHAYU A. AZIZ)  
2. THE BAR MALAYSIA WRITE UP ON TUN HUSSEIN ONN- MONDAY 30TH JULY 2007  
3. NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALAYSIA

## insights

# Weaving Thread: Youth as a Global Citizen



by  
**MOHAMED MALIKI  
MOHAMED RAPIEE**  
President of Malaysian Youth  
Council (MBM)



The youths of Malaysia have a critical role to play in the country's effort to achieve the status as a fully developed nation by the year 2020. Malaysia's development plan, known as Vision 2020, aims to develop all aspects of the country including national unity, social cohesion, economy, social justice, political stability and system of government, quality of life, social and spiritual values, and national pride and confidence.

Malaysia has total population of 28 million people and 12.8 million of them are youths. Meanwhile, over 87% of the population in the world is under 25 years old.

Recognising and realising the diversity of ethnic, cultural, religious, gender,

political and socio-economic of Malaysian young people have enabled them to contribute positively to the formulation implementation and evaluation of actions for development strategies and plans through their creativity and capability for innovation. Therefore, youth participation in development at the community, local, national, and regional level is indeed vital in facing the unprecedented challenges of the nation.

Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) has been advocating and strengthening the internationalisation of Malaysian youth as one of our sustainable approach in empowering and promoting direct youth involvement in building a civil society.

Youth has a vital role as a global citizen, to tend and cultivate global movement towards better livelihood.

Our current focuses towards this approach are the ASEAN Community 2015, Post-2015 Development Agenda, Sustainable Development and Smart Partnership.

### **The ASEAN chairmanship 2015**

Though the challenges are quite common to the region, Malaysia had other different challenges in the coming ASEAN Community 2015.

Malaysia will assume the ASEAN Chairmanship for a year in 2015. In his speech on the subject at the 10th ASEAN

**Recognising and realising the diversity of ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, political and socio-economic of Malaysian young people have enabled them to contribute positively to the formulation implementation and evaluation of actions for development strategies and plans through their creativity and capability for innovation.**



Leadership, Dato Sri Anifah Haji Aman, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, used the term ‘historic responsibility’ as the weight that Malaysia has to shoulder in 2015.

The new post-2015 vision and action plans are amongst the responsibilities that Malaysia has to formulate during the chairmanship of 2015. Among others, we will need to ensure that the action plan contained in the ‘Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009-2015)’ is implemented in the fullest possible measure. The success of this action plan is in ‘establishing the ASEAN Community’. Most important of all, along with other ASEAN members, we must ensure that this ASEAN Community have the collective vision of our founding fathers’ is felt and appreciated by all of our peoples.

As a national umbrella body to 39 other national level youth organisations, MYC is aware of the changing needs of grass-root movements. To respond to those needs, the council has to be efficiently responsive and aware of the global changing game rules. MYC has mapped out several initiatives to cultivate awareness and knowledge on the implementation of ASEAN Community 2015 amongst youths. There will be pre-conference for ASEAN Youth Forum 2015, Roundtable Discussions all over Malaysia, Mental Health Programmes, ASEAN Youth Forum 2015, ASEAN Youth Skill Exposure and ASEAN Day Celebration.

#### **Post-2015 Development Agenda**

For Post-2015 Development Agenda, a

number of the important issues related closely to the underpinning principles most widely mentioned across all regions have been identified. The common themes and foundations that need to be tackled are as follows:

- 1) Inclusive Youth Led-Development
- 2) Poverty Eradication and Food and Nutrition Security
- 3) Realizing Equal Access to Quality Education
- 4) Promoting Healthy Lives and Access to quality Health care
- 5) Full Employment and Entrepreneurship
- 6) Empowering Marginalised Youth emphasising the Most at Risk Young People
- 7) Realising Peace, Reconciliation and Ending Violence
- 8) Achieving Good Governance and Accountability
- 9) Youth Rights
- 10) Inclusive Youth Participation

Since April 2014, MYC has cooperated with the United Nations’ Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth to work on the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda initiative. As

the crowdsourcing initiative, opinions and views are being collected and documented through <https://crowdsourcing.itu.int/> in developing concrete targets on development. The result of this public consultation is reflected in the Global Call on Youth, which has been presented during the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on June 2nd and 3rd, 2014.

The Global Partnership would enable us to create a network of local grassroots organisations that encourages necessary actions and establishes monitoring of indicators for youth development in the period after 2015.

#### **Sustainable Development**

One of the initiatives taken to chart the pathways of youth involvement in sustainable development is ‘Your Action Project Competition’ that was organised recently with the aim of promoting the role of youth as social architect. Apart from that, MYC organises various workshops and activities on Global Citizenship and Youth Exchange programmes to foster engagement of young people in social development.

It is apparent that active involvement and continuous support from every level of society in realising international agenda and global movement is important. At the same time we, as society members, need to understand the balance of values shared globally as well as values retained locally as that would enable us to distinguish Malaysian youth from others.

# LETTERS FROM THE FUTURE

Letters from the future is a creative way to picture the desired future portrayed by the youth from Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM). It was initiated by ForesightClub with the aim to put Foresight and futures thinking in the mainstream.

► Its 2030, and I'm glad to be living in the country where the people is very united.



The unity of Malaysia citizen is strengthened by Malaysian's government that promotes national unity through campaigns like open house and advertisements. Open house is an activity that is usually held during major festivals in the country when the people visit each other's at their homes. The government even organizes national-level open houses for the major festivals.

The core elements of the national unity are the attitude of acceptance among races and people that cultivates the sense of belonging together. Advertisements through the electronic and printed media are one of the best ways in promoting unity. People can virtually be united among races because of slogans on unity that they hear in radio, watch on television and read in newspapers and magazines.

The unity of Malaysian is further strengthened by the strong economic environment. With latest economic policy being established by the government, problem of economic functions being identified along the lines of ethnicity and the problem of poverty, the country has been elevated to the status of a 'rich nation'. Most importantly, all quarters of society has come to an agreement that in order for the country to remain strong and united, certain sacrifices have to be made to help the underperforming groups. Distribution of wealth is done in a manner that no one benefits at the expense of another.

Oh... I am proud to be a Malaysian.

CHONG HAN CHIA

► I am grateful to be born in this era which makes me one of those who create the history of being a country with colourful people. Many of the other countries could not understand the meaning of UNITY through colours, especially when it comes to the different colours of their skin.



Because of the colours of different views and perspectives,  
We RESPECT each other.

Because of the colour of different contribution in each field,  
We APPRECIATE each other.

Because of the colours of different culture,  
We LOVE each other more for bringing such a wonderful nation.

Malaysia is blessed in the unity of colours.

HNG LI HUA



► Greetings from the Futopia.



This is an era where human and technology are inseparably connected. Human lives progresses in line with the vast growth of futuristic technology. There were people who doubted the ability of Malaysia to achieve its vision 2020, a great idea from the legendary Tun Mahathir. Now we are 10 years beyond that, and Malaysia is widely recognized, respected and admired throughout the world.

Malaysia had nearly repeated the event of May 13, 1969 during the 13th general election. Fortunately, now citizens are more broad-minded when it comes to political affairs. They understand and appreciate the importance of unity and solidarity despite having different political views and agendas. The concept 'Community Our Family' that was introduced after we attained Vision 2020 played an important



role to unify the nation as it had inspired the people to respect, help and love each other.

Malaysia has become economically strong. No more beggars on the street, no more borrowing money from the loan sharks, zero rate of snatch thefts and robberies. Everyone lives in a peaceful and blissful environment.

History shapes us to be what we are today from our past experiences. We have made it. We have created a better Malaysia.

I managed to reach this level. What about you?

Yours sincerely,

MOHAMAD NAZRIN BIN HADIAN

► Dear Fellow Malaysian of 2014,

In some ways, this may sound weird to you; but please believe me, I am writing this from the future. This letter will hopefully help you to decide whether the future is good enough for you, or you may want to change it.

Well, first let me tell you this. I still live in Pasir Mas, Kelantan. A peaceful place, but everything here has developed and changed so much since the last time you visited, almost 20 years ago.

Now let me tell you about our beloved country. Malaysia has become one of the famous nations in the world. Not just because of the rapid development, but also for technologies and cultures, as well as unity among the people. Basically, computers are part of our daily life. Do not doubt me about it. Even my 3-year-old nephew knows how to use the computer. High-capacity chips at birth had been introduced to enable you identify others at most public place and allow you to speak with people on a telepathic basis. Social websites and networks are normal and common interaction to us as we have high capacity chips which help us to communicate in telepathic basis.

Sounds amazing, right? Perhaps this is what unites all of us today.

Our racial composition has not change much since the day we gained independence in 1957. Malay, Chinese and Indian are still the main racial components of our population, particularly in

Peninsular Malaysia. The difference is that now the unity is much stronger. We discuss, argue and share all our problems and plans together. This has made Malaysia the envy of other countries.

What do you think? Is the future good for you?

Think deeply and, if you have time, get in touch with me. Till then, bye.

Your friend from the future,  
MOHD KASHFI BIN KAMARUDIN



► Dear friends of yesteryears,

Unity in Malaysia has already been achieved. Everyone is living in peace and harmony.

There is no more racial segregations. People of different races and religions live together in perfect harmony.

I know it's hard for you to believe me as there were dissatisfactions, doubts and distrust as late as 2014. How we could achieve so much after just sixteen years, you may ask.

I am able to think of only two reasons: Economic restructure and a common medium of communication.

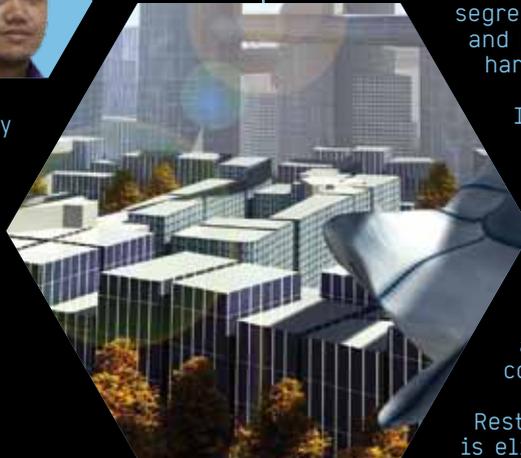
Restructuring the economy, that is eliminating the economic gaps between the races, cured the ills of dissatisfaction, doubts and distrust between the races as there is no more racial divisions by economic activities and careers. The existing equal opportunities promote and enable people of all races to be involved in business and career of their choice.

The acceptance of Bahasa Melayu as the common medium of communication and the respect given as the national language, and the encouragement given the study and practice of other languages such as Chinese and Tamil enable and expedite dissemination of information. Now most Malaysians are multi-lingual. The national language is used in all official communication while other languages, including Malay and English, are liberally used by the population.

I wish all of you are here to enjoy our achievement.

Yours,

MOHAMMAD ISHAHRUL AMIRUL BIN SHAI F



# UNITY AND YOUTH

**“In managing our plurality , we have decided on integration as opposed to assimilation. Malaysians accept their diversity. We do not merely tolerate each other but we also embrace and celebrate....”**

PRIME MINISTER, DATO' SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK



## THE RUKUN NEGARA



Belief in God  
Loyalty to King and Country  
Upholding the Constitution  
Sovereignty of the Law, and  
Good Behaviour and Morality

- Officially introduced on 31 August 1970
- Government's effort to unite the multi-races in Malaysia
- Teach Rukun Negara to students to appreciate and understand the philosophy and principles of the Rukun Negara

## NATIONAL UNITY CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL



Launched on **25 November 2013**, by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak

**29**  
Members

NUCC Chairman:  
**Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman**

**THE IDEA IS TO HAVE A MUCH MORE CONTROLLED-ENVIRONMENT - AS THE NUCC WILL DISCUSS ISSUES OF ETHNICITY, CONSTITUTION, RELIGION AND OTHER POLICIES.** - PRIME MINISTER NAJIB TUN RAZAK

## THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMME (NSTP)

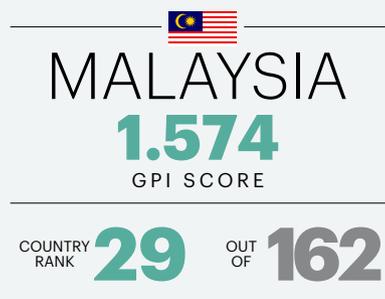


### OBJECTIVE

- To develop and enhance the spirit of patriotism amongst youths
- To encourage national integration and racial unity
- To build character through imparting core moral values
- To instil a spirit of volunteerism
- To develop a young generation that is resilient, healthy and confident.

SOURCE : NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING DEPARTMENT  
OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT, MOD

**THE GLOBAL PEACE INDEX (GPI)** is the world's leading measure of national peacefulness. Now in its seventh year, it ranks 162 nations according to their 'absence of violence'.



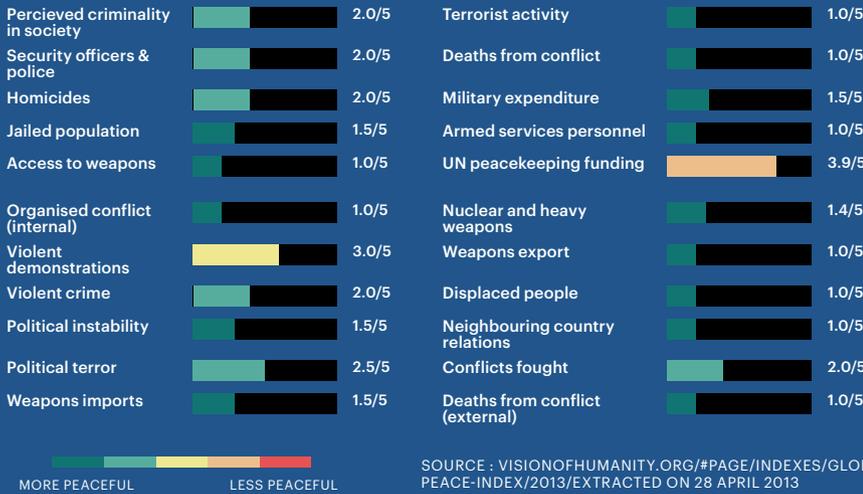
### Combined Major Factors



*A nation is at its best when unified. The purpose of Global Peace Index is to rank nations according to their level of peace. For country like Malaysia, it is vital to maintain peace and unity as it can prove how diversity could be united and harnessed for national building.*

### GPI INDICATORS

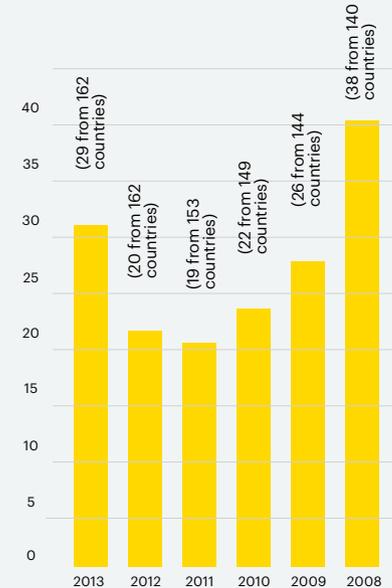
Malaysia Global Peace Index are based on these factors:



SOURCE : VISIONOFHUMANITY.ORG/#PAGE/INDEXES/GLOBAL-PEACE-INDEX/2013/EXTRACTED ON 28 APRIL 2013

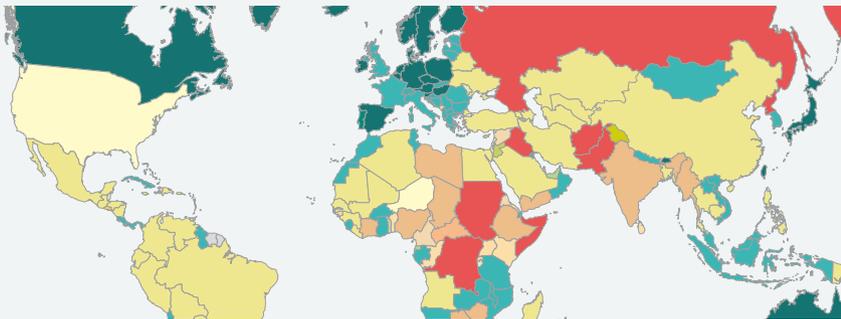
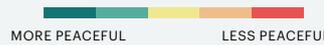
### MALAYSIA GLOBAL PEACE INDEX (GPI) FROM 2008-2013

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX (GPI)



SOURCE : VISIONOFHUMANITY.ORG/#PAGE/INDEXES/GLOBAL-PEACE-INDEX/2013/EXTRACTED ON 28 APRIL 2013

### GLOBAL PEACE INDEX – SPECIFY FACTOR



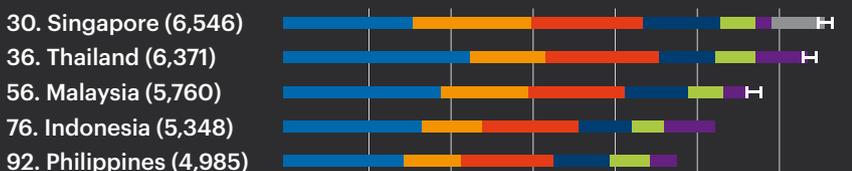
SOURCE : VISIONOFHUMANITY.ORG/#PAGE/INDEXES/GLOBAL-PEACE-INDEX/2013/EXTRACTED ON 28 APRIL 2014

- Perceived Criminality in society
- Security officers & police
- Homicides
- Jailed population
- Access to weapons
- Organised conflict (internal)
- Violent demonstration
- Violent crime
- Political instability
- Political terror
- Weapons imports
- Terrorist activity
- Deaths from conflict (internal)
- Military expenditure
- Armed services personnel
- UN peacekeeping funding
- Nuclear and heavy weapons
- Displaced people
- Neighbouring country relations
- Conflicts fought
- Death from conflict (external)

**It is important to foster unity among Malaysian youth. Since youth constitute the largest cohort to enter the transition to adulthood. They are the future of the nation. Youth are powerful, energetic young people from all races whose strength as leaders is core or every county in a changing world.**



### WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2013



- Base country (1,977) + residual
- Explained by: health life expectancy
- Explained by: perceptions of corruption
- Explained by: GDP per capita
- Explained by: freedom to make life choices
- Explained by: social suport
- Explained by: generosity

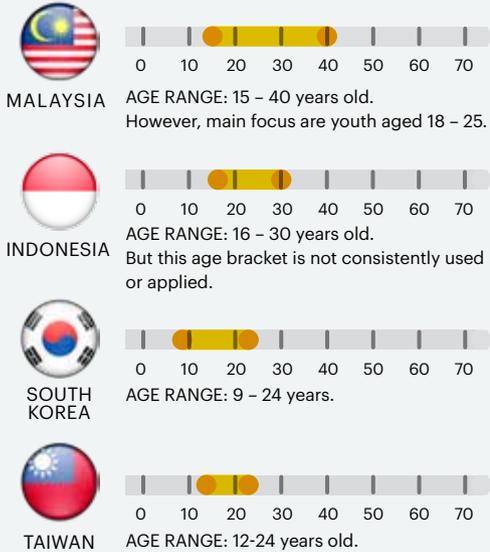
HTTP://UNSDSN.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2014/02/WORLDPHAPPINESSREPORT2013\_ONLINE.PDF

# UNITY AND YOUTH

**“By the year 2015, there will be three billion people under the age of 25. They are the future...they are also the now”**

JAMES D WOLFENSOHN- FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK (2003)

## YOUTH DEFINITION BY COUNTRY



SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/](http://www.youthpolicy.org/)

**YOUNG PEOPLE CONSTITUTE MORE THAN 60 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AND THEIR WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND ITS MEMBER STATES.**



## THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX (YDI)

measures the status of 15-29 year-olds in 170 countries according to five key domains: Education, Health and Well-being, Employment, Civic Participation and Political Participation. YDI scores range from 0-1, 0 being the lowest youth development and 1 the highest.

### Australia

Ranked 1 out of 170



### Japan

Ranked 9 out of 170



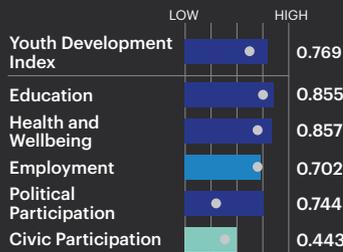
### South Korea

Ranked 3 out of 170



### United Kingdom

Ranked 15 out of 170



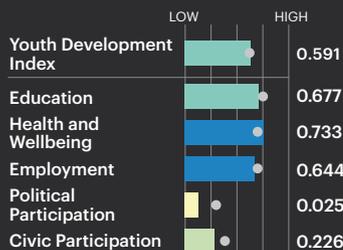
### Malaysia

Ranked 52 out of 170



### Indonesia

Ranked 3 out of 170



### Thailand

Ranked 9 out of 170



[HTTP://WWW.YOUTHDEVELOPMENTINDEX.ORG/VIEWS/INDEX.PHP#OVER](http://www.youthdevelopmentindex.org/views/index.php#over)

## EDUCATION \$\$\$



### MALAYSIA

In the 2014 budget speech, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Najib Razak committed

MYR **239 million**  
(\$USD 740 million)  
TO **YOUTH AND SPORTS.**



According to the World Bank, Malaysia spent 21.30% of its government expenditure and 5.13% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.



### INDONESIA

According to the Jakarta Post (March 2012), the budget for the **MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS IN 2012** was

IDR **1.8 trillion**  
(\$USD 153.6 million)



According to the World Bank, Indonesia spent **15.18% of its government expenditure** and **2.77% of its GDP on education provision in 2011.**



### SOUTH KOREA

According to the World Bank, South Korea spent **15.77% of its government expenditure on education provision in 2008**, and **5.05% of its GDP in 2009.**

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



The unemployment rate amounted to **3.2 per cent in February 2014**, fell 0.1 percentage point as compared to 3.3 per cent in the previous month.



Meanwhile, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained no difference with the actual figure of **3.2 per cent**



This was due to the decline of unemployed persons by **11,300 persons** to **446,400 persons.**



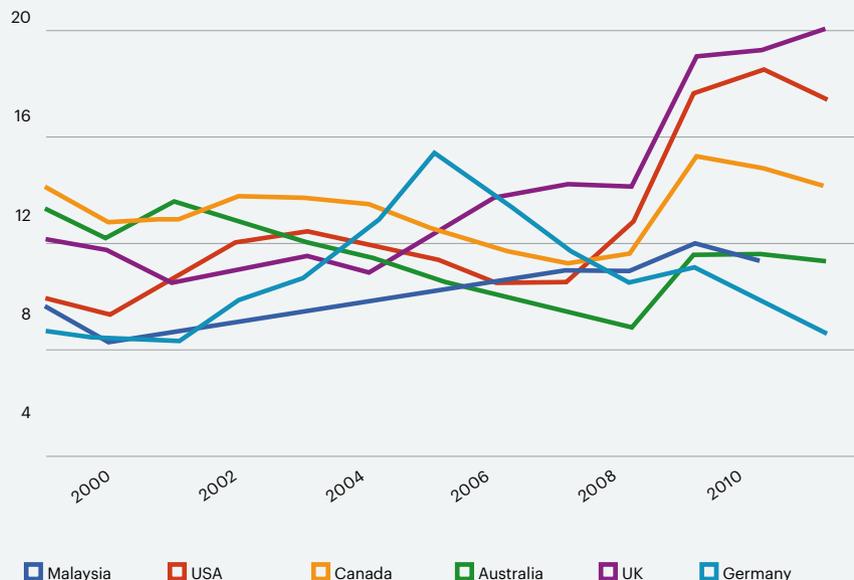
Year on year comparison indicated that the unemployment rate was comparatively higher by **0.2 percentage point from 3.0 per cent in February 2013.**

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF STATISTIC MALAYSIA/  
EXTRACTED 28 APRIL 2014

### WORLD BANK DEFINITION:

*Youth unemployment refers to the share of the labor force ages **15-24** without work but available for and seeking employment. Definitions of labor force and unemployment differ by country.*

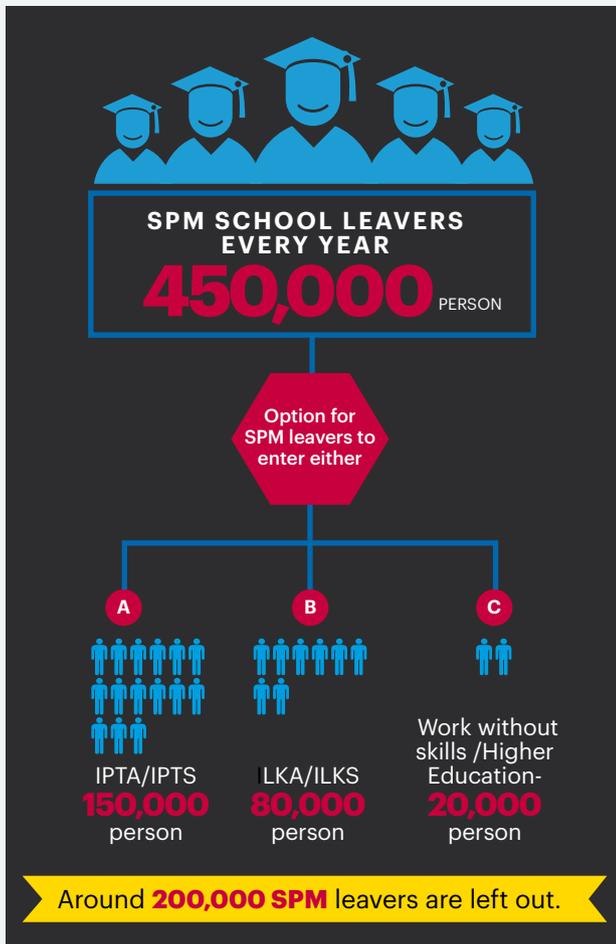
MALAYSIA YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT:  
COMPARE TO OTHER COUNTRIES (FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS)



SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.THEGLOBALECONOMY.COM/MALAYSIA/YOUTH\_UNEMPLOYMENT/

# UNITY AND YOUTH

## TALENTS & SKILLS



Malaysia's lack of skilled workers is the country's biggest impediment in attracting German investors.



We do not need unemployable academics but employable skilled workers.

DR. GUNTER GRUBER  
(GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA)

## THE SCENARIO TODAY



THE GOVERNMENT TARGET BY 2020:  
**3.3 Million** opportunity for skilled workers

### STATISTICS 2013

Current Skilled certificate holder are **1.2 million** which **84% are from Level 1 & Level 2 (Since 1973)**



To achieve the target we need to train **200,000** workers annually



**UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY 80,000 SKILLED WORKERS TRAINED ANNUALLY.**

### SUPPLY FOR SKILLED WORKERS



AVERAGE OF **80,000** SKM GRADUATE EVERY YEAR



SEMI SKILLED WORKER (LEVEL 1 & LEVEL 2): **75%-60,000** GRADUATES



SKILLED WORKERS (LEVEL 3, 4 AND 5): **25%-20,000** GRADUATES

### LACK OF SOFT SKILLS, SUCH AS:

- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- MANAGEMENT SKILLS
- INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

### DEMAND OF SKILLED WORKERS

NATIONAL: TO CREATE **3.3 MILLION** JOB OPPORTUNITY BY YEAR 2020 (ETP)

ESTIMATION: TO PRODUCE **200,000** SKILLED WORKERS ANNUALLY UNTIL 2020.

LACK OF SKILLED WORKERS IN SOME INDUSTRIES SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION, AGRO-BASED, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

## viewpoints

# Taint not this harmonious land!



by  
**NADIA SULLIVAN**  
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If one walks down the streets in any city or town in Malaysia, one will meet people of various races doing various activities together or beside each other without acknowledging their differences in race or religion. Look around, and one will definitely find a mosque, a Chinese temple, an Indian temple or a church situated somewhere, more than one if you are in the bigger towns or cities. Listen to them, and one will notice the difference – the Malays will speak in Malay, the Chinese in Hokkien or Cantonese and the Indians in Tamil if they are amongst themselves. But once they communicate with someone from different race, they will speak in Malay and sometimes in English. All these prove that Malaysians of all races and religions can live harmoniously and peacefully together, and the Bahasa Melayu or Malay Language is the inter-racial communication in the country.

No doubt one will find a bit of segmentations if one travels further from the towns and cities where there are Malay villages, Chinese towns and Indians in estates' housings. But these are remnants of the colonial era when the British practiced 'divide and rule' to govern our country. Even then, today you will see Chinese and Indian shops in Malay villages, Indian shops and Malay workers in Chinese new villages, and Malay and Chinese families living amongst the Indians in estates and plantations. The segmentations are not as clear as during the colonial era.

But one cannot deny that racial problems and differences will never cease to exist. As the saying goes: 'Only dead men are contented', racial problems and differences occur because of discontentment or dissatisfaction amongst the masses. Of late, racial sentiment surfaces more than before because there are 'minor' leaders who fan it in their efforts to be champions of their racial cause, mostly for personal gains. They forget that even siblings unjustifiably quarrel and claim that they are not treated fairly or equally by their parents, what more a nation of millions divided by different races and religions. This is one of the

reasons why the prime minister introduced '1Malaysia', to promote 'oneness' amongst the population of the country.

Probably the best example of '1Malaysia' is the state of Sabah. The Chief Minister of the state rightly claimed that Sabah is the showcase of 1Malaysia spirit, and this was acknowledged by the Prime Minister himself. Sabah is endowed with a heterogeneous population where its people are as diverse in their cultural background. There are the Kadazan, Dusun, Bajau, Murut, Rungus, Bugis, Suluk people and the list goes on up to more than 50 ethnic groups and not less than 80 sub-groups with close to 100 dialects, but they live together peacefully as one. Even before the slogan of 1Malaysia was introduced, this unity concept has already been rooted in every Sabahan.

Sabah is multi-religious too, and the Sabahans respect each other's religion and celebrate all religions' festival together. Annual festivities, like Hari Raya, Deepavali, Christmas, and the Chinese New Year, are respectable occasions for all races to cultivate generosity, peace and unity. Another unique festival that is celebrated in Sabah is the Pesta Kaamatan. It is Sabah's very own, joyous and lively rice harvest festival.

Pesta Kaamatan is a yearly festival celebrated in May normally held at the KDCA - Kadazan Dusun Cultural Association complex. The event begins with the symbolic paddy harvesting and officiated by the Yang Dipertua Negeri Sabah. Visitors of all races and religions are entertained to cultural dances of the various ethnic communities in Sabah. The highlight of the festival is the beauty queen or the Sabahan call it 'Unduk Ngadau', a beauty contest which attracts participants from all over the state. Open houses are also held to spark gathering and reunion among friends and family.

Every ethnic group in Sabah has its own language, so Sabahans speak in 50 different languages apart from Malay, which is the

national and official language, and English. It would be a privilege if one could learn and converse in their mother tongue. There are some Malays and Kadazans who go to Chinese elementary school, and are able to speak more than three different languages.

Interracial marriages are also common among Sabahans. Recently, a Muslim lady whose father was a prominent figure in the state wrote that she had just attended her Chinese father in law's funeral in a church where other Muslim relatives were also present. In Sabah it is also not unusual to find other people who are of different religion attending "Majlis tahlil" a religious prayer for their Muslim friends or relatives. It is this religious tolerance and acceptances that have kept the strength of unity in Sabah.

Unity in Sabah is not a subject that is being taught in the classroom. Telling your children about togetherness between societies also does not occur in parenting module. It is a process of acknowledging and experiencing life that makes people understand uniformity among others.

Markedly, many alleged that any smear in the peace and harmony of Sabah is due to the existence of illegal immigrants. Not only have they taken up spaces in the state by building more and more squatters, their presence have also been associated with increased of crime rates in the state. They are everywhere and we cannot deny their existence. Hence, sometimes it is a burdensome and scary because undeniably some of them could be under the influence of drugs.

The 2013 Lahad Datu standoff has taught us to be more cautious of the illegal immigrants and not to take security and sovereignty of the state for granted even in times of peace. At the same time the intrusion has ignited the patriotic fervour to fellow Malaysians. The incident has also further strengthened the ties among the Sabahans.

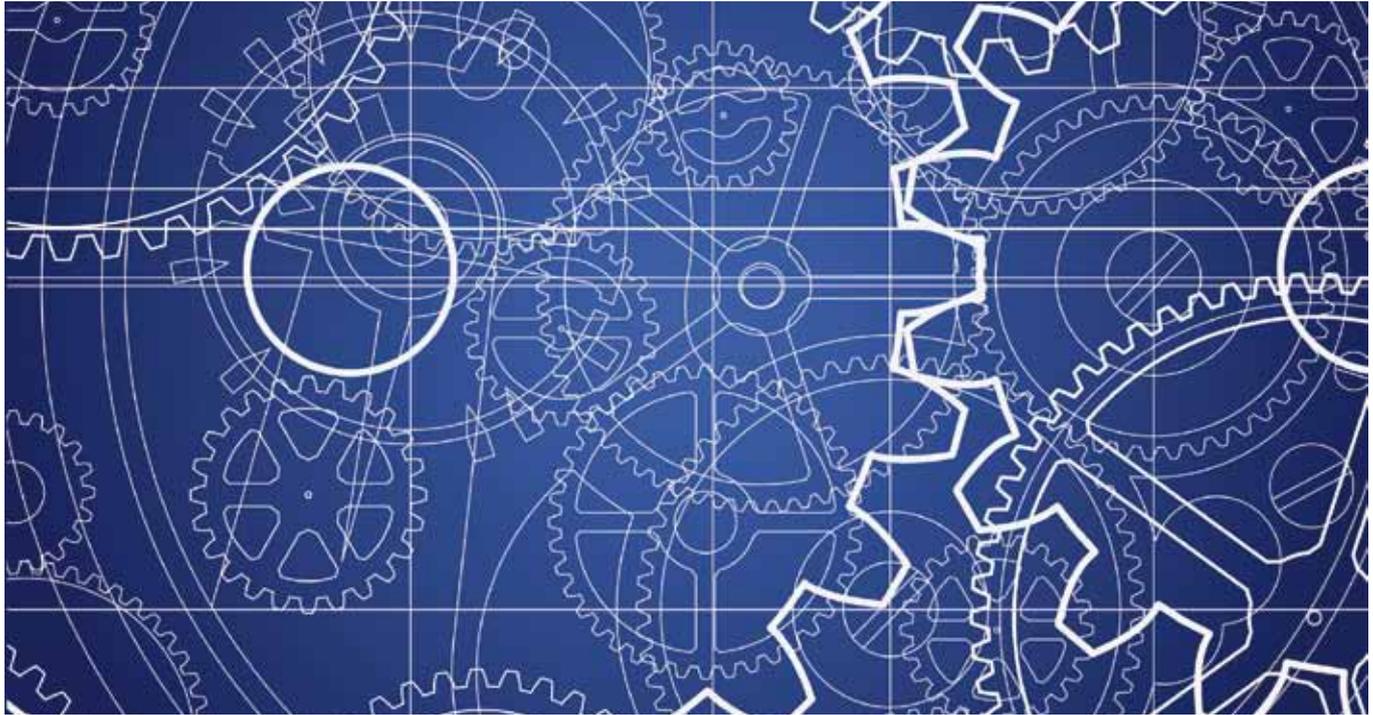
Unity is strength, and the strength of Sabah lies in the unity of her people.

viewpoints

# Crowdsource: When Share and Share Alike



by  
**MOHD HASAN MOHD SAAID**  
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## Introduction – What is Crowdsourcing?

There is a growing interest in ‘engaging the crowd’ to identify or develop innovative solutions to public problems. This trend has been inspired by similar efforts in the commercial world to design innovative consumer products or solve complex scientific problems, ranging from custom-designed T-shirts to mapping genetic DNA strands.

Crowdsourcing is the process of getting work or funding, usually online, from a crowd of people. The term is a combination of the words ‘crowd’ and ‘outsourcing’. The idea is to take work and outsource it to a crowd of workers as in mass collaboration as mass collaborations have been successful in various business and social activities.

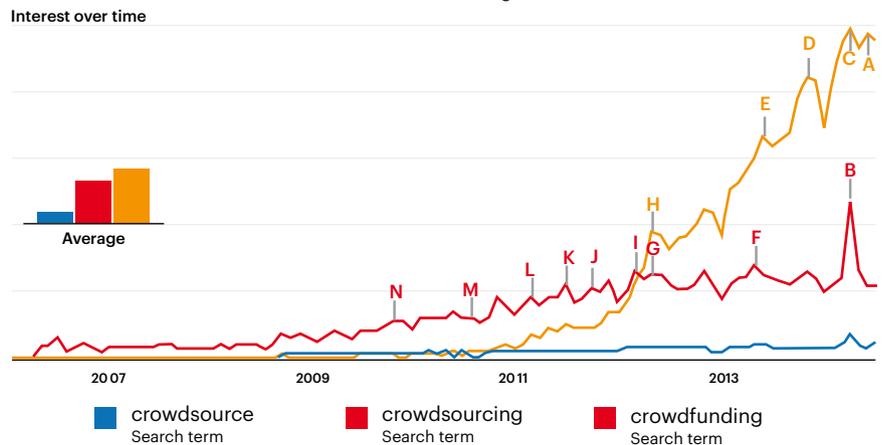
Scientists have found ways to use the power of many sets of eyes and ears. A study in US found that volunteer counters who examined NASA lunar images did just as well in identifying individual craters as scientists with five to 50 years

of experience. Stuart Robbins of the University of Colorado who led the study said it provides ‘evidence that we can use the power of crowdsourcing to gather more reliable data from the moon than we ever thought was possible before.’

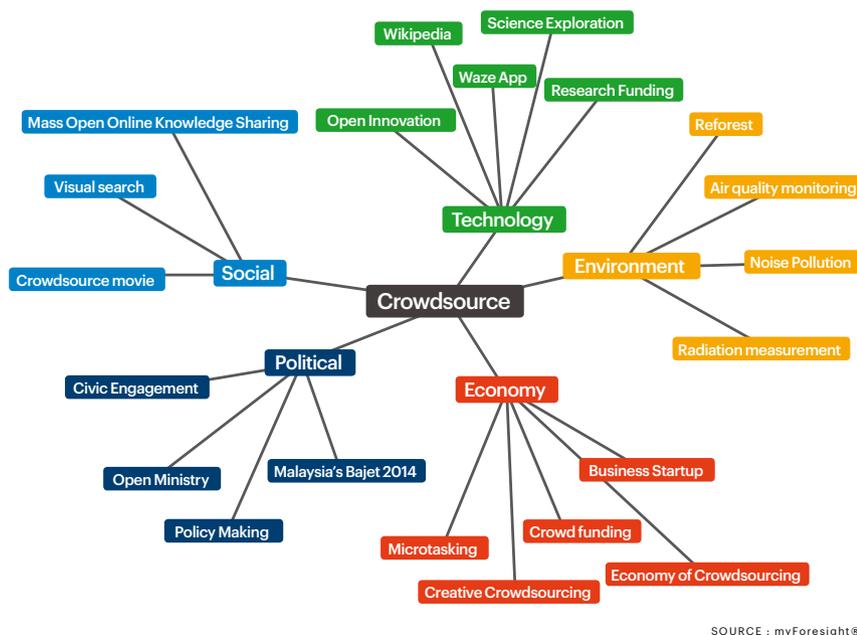
## Key Drivers :

- **Accelerated pace of IT change.** The installed base of the Internet of Things is estimated to reach approximately 212 billion in 2020. This will include 30 billion “connected (autonomous) things” that same year.<sup>1</sup>

Google Trends for term Crowdsourcing, Crowdsourcing and Crowdfunding show increased of interest over the time.



SOURCE : GOOGLE TRENDS & MYFORESIGHT®



#### • Maturation of crowdsourcing platforms.

The use of social technologies as a tool for business and public collaboration and is a well-established and maturing trend.

#### • Strong influence resulted from early adopters.

Some of the biggest market disrupters, such as Facebook, Waze app and crowdsourcing platform like Kickstarter are currently using crowdsourcing services to solve most of their problems, and everyone is taking notice.

#### • Mobility.

The ubiquity and growing power of mobile devices make them increasingly useful for crowdsourced science. As of 2014, global mobile-phone penetration stands at 117 phones per 100 people enabling the culture of mobility.

#### • Desire to contribute.

Many participants in one study were found to be largely motivated by the desire to contribute to the advancement of science while others driven by civic engagement.

### SOCIAL

#### Visual Search

Visual search is defined as using a visual input, instead of textual inputs, as a search query when using web or mobile-based search engines. Visual search technologies allow users to submit queries, typically via photo software like images of objects, signs, locations, or people and they receive detailed, relevant information in response, in both image and text formats. Complex to build, populate and maintain, visual search has been in development for years, but recently has become more prominent

(thanks to the rise of smartphones with cameras!). While only a handful of technology companies and institutions have successfully deployed visual search commercially, the outlines of its future promise are becoming clearer.

For example, using the crowd to interpret satellite imagery has been used in the case of missing flight MH370. The satellite images gathered would then be made available for free to the public on a website called Tomnod, and the public participates by analysing high-resolution images for any sign of the missing plane. DigitalGlobe would use a computer algorithm to assist the in-house satellite imaging experts to follow up on leads based on the users tagging pattern.<sup>2</sup> Three million people have joined an effort led by a satellite operator to locate the missing Malaysia Airline's plane, which may be the largest crowdsourcing project of its kind.<sup>3</sup>

It is not an exciting work, but digital crowdsourcing initiatives like this one have yielded results. After a small plane went down in the Idaho wilderness in January, in the wake of the Haiyan supertyphoon, more than 400,000 tags on images helped identify 38,000 damaged buildings; and in the case of the Oklahoma Tornado in 2013, 101,000 damaged homes were identified through digital crowdsourcing.

#### Mass Open Online Knowledge Sharing

Besides Wikipedia, Khan Academy, a non-profit organisation that provides free

educational content online uses volunteers to share their knowledge by teaching online and translate the website into different languages to provide localization services.

#### Crowdsourcing Movie

It is a unique experiment in social filmmaking by engaging world's online community. In the case of film 'Life in a Day' the director of 'State of Play' and 'The Last King of Scotland', Kevin Macdonald, used crowdsourcing to select from 80,000 clips submitted to YouTube showing the life in a single day, July 24, 2010.<sup>4</sup>

'Life in a Day' followed two previous crowdsourcing projects by the Google-owned video sharing website. The YouTube 'Symphony Orchestra' gathered works of classical musicians and 'Guggenheim' created a tie-up with artist from around the world.

### TECHNOLOGY

#### Open Innovation

Open innovation allows people from all aspects of business such as investors, designers, inventors, and marketers to collaborate into a functional profit making reality. This is done either through a dedicated web platform to gain outside perspective, or used with only internal employees. Open innovation may bring together people from different parts of the world and different sectors of business to work together on a project. It is effectively a collection of different fields and levels of expertise that would not otherwise be available to any budding entrepreneur. It also elevates previously considered uninvolved parties, such as investors, to roll up their sleeves and impart their knowledge, essentially becoming more than just a cash cow.

#### Wikipedia

One famous example of crowdsourcing is Wikipedia. Instead of creating an encyclopaedia on their own by hiring writers and editors, Wikipedia gives the crowd the ability to create the information on their own. The result is the most comprehensive encyclopaedia this world has ever seen.

#### Waze App

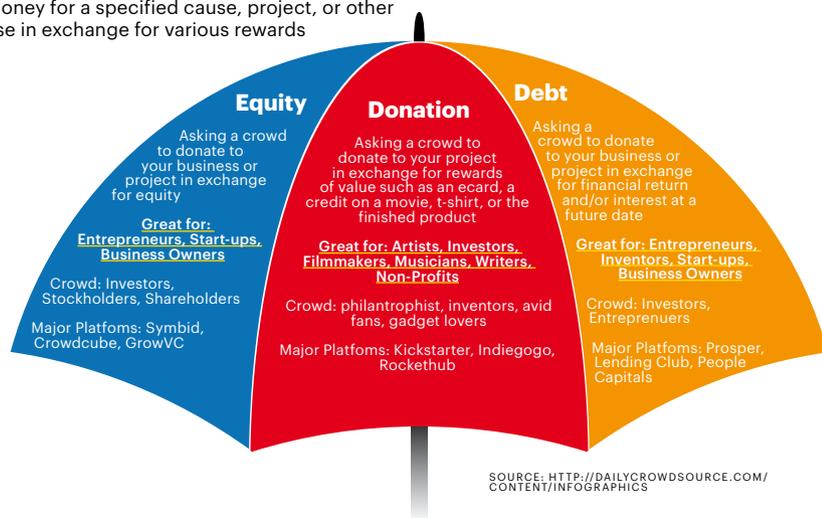
As our smartphones have become smarter, an app called Waze works like a navigation system that relies on user-generated information to help drivers avoid traffic problem includes traffic density, construction, alternative routes and even

## viewpoints

### Umbrella of Crowdfunding

#### Crowdfunding:

Asking a crowd to donate a defined amount of money for a specified cause, project, or other use in exchange for various rewards



speed-trap notifications from other drivers using the app.

#### Research Funding

As research budgets tighten at universities and federal financing agencies, a new crop of Web-savvy scientists is hoping the wisdom and generosity of the crowds will come to the rescue. While non-profit science organisations and medical research centres commonly seek donations from the public, Dr. Calkins, an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., and his partner, Dr. Gee, may have been the first professional scientists to use a generic 'crowdfunding' website to underwrite basic research.<sup>5</sup>

#### Science Exploration

Research scientists are using crowdfunding platforms to raise money for basic research. For example uBiome, which is a basic science project that seeks to better understand the human microbiome, have raised over \$350,000 on Indiegogo.<sup>6</sup>

### ECONOMY

#### Business Startup

Crowdsourcing for business start-up. If bank is not an option, peer-to-peer investment could offer an attractive avenue for would-be entrepreneurs looking to bring a new idea to the market.

#### Creative Crowdsourcing

The extraordinary explosion of online video

### Crowdsourcing tools will increasingly allow citizens to interact more directly with their governments, either through governments or citizen-created systems intended to influence government policy or decision-making.

has spawned a market in crowdsourced video creation. Producers (amateur or professional) can post their needs to a site like Wooshii or Userfarm, where a talent pool of animators, designers, and other content creators respond by submitting their sketches. For example, if one is looking for a logo design, one can tell a crowd of designers what one wants, how much one is willing to pay, and one's deadline. Many interested designers will create finished designs and one can choose and keep whichever one likes.

Crowdsourcing creates healthy competition, thus increases quality and decreases the price.

#### Microtasking

Micro tasking in crowdsourcing involves breaking work up into tiny tasks and sending the work to a crowd of people. If someone has 1,000 photos on his website that need captions, one can ask 1,000 individuals to each add a caption to a photo. Break up the work and decide the payment

for each completed task (typically .01¢ – .10¢ per task).

With micro tasking, one can expect to see results within minutes. It normally involves tasks such as scanning images, proofreading, database correction and transcribing audio files. Work is done faster, cheaper, and usually with less errors (when validation systems are in place).

#### Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding involves asking a crowd of people to donate money for a project. For example, to raise RM10,000 to pay for studio time to record a new CD, crowdfunding can help you raise that money. To do that a crowdfunding platform is needed. The required or targeted amount, deadline, and any reward or profit-sharing offered to donors has to be clearly stated.

Kickstarter, one of the biggest crowdsourcing platforms internationally, has brokered investment pledges exceeding US\$1 billion since it was founded five years ago.

#### Economy of Crowdsourcing

The Digital Malaysia programme is developing and implementing a number of crowdsourcing projects such as 'Asian e-fulfillment hub' and 'on-demand, customised online education'. The projects provide crowdsourcing platforms for micro-task jobs to the 'bottom 40 percent of the community'.<sup>1</sup> The main goal of the micro-sourcing projects is to provide supplementary income opportunities to those in the lower income category by connecting businesses with untapped talents across the underprivileged community.

Given that so much collaboration happens through digital channels, there is the potential for almost limitless collaboration with everyone else who is connected to the internet regardless of whether they are employee or not.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Reforestation

Reforest Patagonia campaign incorporates social media, GPS technology, and the power of crowdfunding to compel people to get involved with the reforestation effort. The first level of participation is simple. By donating US\$4, Reforest Patagonia will plant a native-species tree (species: lenga, ñirre, and coigüe) in your name. Donors also receive an official certificate of its authenticity with the tree's exact GPS

coordinates, allowing for the tree to be seen via Google Maps from anywhere in the world.

### Air Quality Monitoring

Systems are being developed to crowdsource air-pollution monitoring to networks of volunteers. Data collected and aggregated through tools such as AirCasting or the Air Quality Egg could help state regulators and advocacy groups be alerted to emissions issues as they happen, so that preventive action could be taken before air pollution becomes a serious problem.

### Noise Pollution

Australian engineers have developed techniques for using people's mobile phones to map the level of noise in a given area.

### Radiation Measurement

Since the Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan, volunteers have collected more than 10 million data points about radiation levels using inexpensive Geiger counters, which the Safecast project has used to create high-resolution maps.

## POLITICAL

### Civic Engagement

Governments are experimenting with crowdsourcing to engage more with citizens. At the same time, citizens themselves are increasingly taking advantage of crowdsourcing tools to boost civic engagements and influence the governments.

Crowdsourcing can provide advantages for both national and local governance. However, the model has its drawbacks such as the propensity for crowdsourcing participants could be from the overpassionate groups rather than the majority of people or most knowledgeable ones.

The move towards crowdsourced government is part of an overarching shift of power from closed, professional networks to new and expanded knowledge networks enabled by the internet and mobile networks. Crowdsourcing tools will increasingly allow citizens to interact more directly with their governments, either through governments or citizen-created systems intended to influence government policy or decision-making.

### Malaysia's Budget 2014

A country's national budget determines how the state spends the money in its coffers. Since this has a big effect on the public, it

makes sense for them to at least express their thoughts on how the money should be used. That is exactly what the Malaysian government is asking with its #Bajet2014 campaign. The government set up a website for users to share thoughts on how to use the money in a beneficial manner. The website was operated for a pre-determined. After the end of the period, the Finance Ministry of Malaysia would sort through the comments and consider the ones that could actually be implemented.

### Policy Making

Crowdsourcing is also used to assist the government to formulate policies. The Future Melbourne wiki, for example, invited Australians to actively contribute to and edit the city's 10-year plan.

Governments, especially at local levels, could leave the design of smaller, narrowly focused initiatives to an engaged constituency through wikis. On the national levels, groups with knowledge about specific issues could join this wiki projects to improve policymaking.

### Open Ministry

Finland allows legislation to be created by the citizens by linking the accounts on the Open Ministry project to their bank accounts or cell phones. If 50,000 people participate and sign a piece of proposed legislation on the Open Ministry project, within six months it will be sent to Parliament.

Iceland has had similar success with Better Reykjavik, an open platform for the city's denizens to create and share ideas on how to improve the nation's capital.

## BOTTOM LINE

Crowdsourcing's biggest benefit is the possibility to receive better quality results as more people offer their best ideas, skills and support. Crowdsourcing allows the selection of the 'best' from a sea of 'best entries', as opposed to receiving the 'best entry' from a single provider. Results could be delivered much faster compared to the traditional methods as crowdsourcing is a form of freelancing where time, apart from price, becomes part of the competition. A finished video could be delivered within a month, a finished design or idea within a week, and microtasks appear within minutes.

Clear instructions are essential in crowdsourcing. One could potentially be

searching through thousands of possible ideas, which could be painstaking or even complicated, if the instructions are not clearly understood. Quality could be difficult to judge if proper expectations are not clearly stated.

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# Reading in the Mobile Era

Large numbers of people in developing countries read books and stories on inexpensive mobile phones

SOURCE: WWW.UNESCO.ORG/EDUCATION

## BOOKS ARE SCARCE



### Library per population ratio

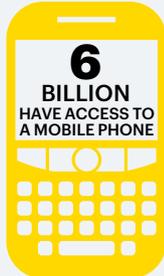
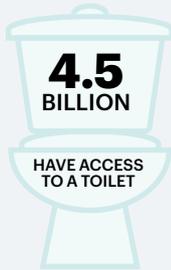


1 : 15,000

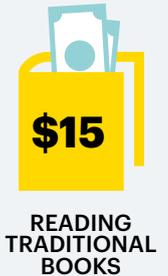


1 : 1,350,000

## BUT MOBILE PHONES ARE EVERYWHERE



## MOBILE READING IS AFFORDABLE



## WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT MOBILE READING



33 minutes per month

Three times more men read on mobiles in developing countries

207 minutes per month

But women read six times more per month than men



## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?



## happenings



Panelist of the session Big Dog, Dr Yusuf, Kamarul Baharin and Dato' Wong Sai Wan (left); Science in Communication - Everyone were attentively listening to the engagement dialogue



## Science for Communication, Communication for Science

MIGHT successfully concluded its 19th Annual General Meeting on a high note about mainstreaming science for the industry and the people (Rakyat), as well as the governance of science, technology and innovation (STI) through the Science to Action (S2A) initiative which was launched by the Prime Minister in November 2013.

### Science for Communication, Communication for Science

Realising the need for an effective science communications to promote and increase the Rakyat's interests in understanding STI, MIGHT held a panel discussion on the topic with local experts in the field of broadcast, printed and digital media. The interactive session explored issues on how best to approach and develop science coverage in the media.

Mr. Kamarul Bahrin Haron, Executive Editor, Editorial Operations, ASTRO Awani who was one of the panelists said: "For

science to be commercialize or be in the limelight, scientists and/or technopreneurs must have something unique or niche that they can offer to the public. They also should have several initiatives such as new invention or discovery to elevate the nation's science scene."

### MIGHT FULFILLED RESPONSIBILITY

As an agency responsible for developing Malaysia's high technology industries and communicating it to the public, MIGHT highlighted the completion of a number of key efforts in 2013, namely the Green Technology Foresight 2030; the Biomass Action Plan 2020: Nurturing SMEs; the Biomass Economic Benchmarking Report; and the Solar Industry Report 2012/2013. 2013 had also witnessed the launch of the Malaysia Cleantech Accelerator and Competition Program, a joint collaboration between MIGHT, UNIDO and Cleantech USA. Identified as Emerging Technologies in MIGHT, these are multi-stakeholders

initiatives in line with Malaysia's commitment to conditionally reduce its carbon dioxide emission to 40% by the year 2020, compared to 2005 levels announced at COP15 in Copenhagen 2009.

In strengthening the local aerospace industry, MIGHT has undertaken the initiative to conduct a series of Performance Based Contracting Workshops and introduce the National Aerospace and Defence Contractors Accreditation Program (NADCAP) to increase their competitiveness at the global level.

In the effort for technology nurturing, MIGHT Technology Nurturing (MTN) signed Heads of Agreement (HOA) with Japan-based Asian Energy Investments Pte Ltd. (AIE) to create a fund management company; Putra Eco Ventures Inc. during the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC) meeting in September 2013. The objective of the fund



**To date, only 37 per cent of students in schools throughout the country have elected to enter the science stream, a figure which is far below the government's target of achieving the Technical Science and Literature Policy with a 60:40 ratio.**

which is far below the government's target of achieving the Technical Science and Literature Policy with a 60:40 ratio."

Also present were the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, Prof. Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid; ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology (AAET) President Datuk Hong Lee Pee; Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) President, Prof Datuk Chuah Hean Teik; and National Science Centre Director Assoc Prof Dr Irmawati Ramli.



Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh visiting one of the booth (top); Kids trying out a robot demo

Dr. Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, the President and CEO of MIGHT expressed his confidence about the continuous success of the program. He said, "MIGHT, as a public-private consultative platform that champions the involvement of industries in building Malaysia's future, is upbeat about the success of this partnership with KLESF '14 that has attracted the support and involvement of key industry players like UEM Bhd, Muhibbah Engineering Sdn Bhd, MSC Malaysia, Cytron Technologies, Pizza Hut, TM, Phisontech and Corpacer Malaysia Sdn Bhd, just to name a few. MIGHT believes that KLESF will attract more support and involvement of key industry players in the future."

"The number of visitors at the KESF is a sign that science and technology are admired by a large number of people. Perhaps, instead of organising it annually, this fair should be carried out in every state of Malaysia." said Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

The successful fair held at the National Science Centre received an overwhelming response and it proved that KLESF can be one of the platforms to nurture and cultivate STEM education. Among the activities organized at the fair are 'Science Hands-on Demos and Experiments', 'Mathematics and Mental Literacy' and 'School Mentorship Programme' led by UTAR lecturers, Industry Science, Technology & Engineering Exhibition.

is investment in efficient and renewable energy assets and businesses in South East Asia.

### **Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education**

The first Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF) 2014 was held last April as one of the activities to increase science and technology awareness amongst the people. The three days event which attracted approximately 40,000 visitors complemented the Government's Science to Action (S2A) initiative which requires Science and Technology to play a key role in steering a balanced socio-economic development for Malaysia.

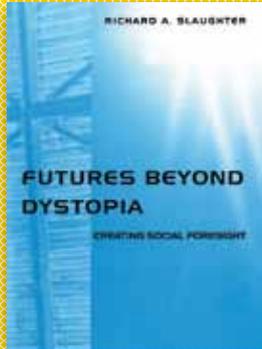
STEM education is one of the important components of the 'Science for Well-Being' pillar of S2A and KLESF provided a suitable platform to engage students in various activities.

The main objective of KLESF was to enhance students' interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This was achieved when students from more than 153 schools attended and participated in various activities that enable them to interact directly and continuously with engineers and scientists, particularly through mentoring programs.

KLESF was launched by the Second Education Minister, Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh. In his speech, he said, "The need to drive interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education among school children is critical in building up future talents to drive the nation's progress and development using the science, technology and innovation platform.

"To date, only 37 per cent of students in schools throughout the country have elected to enter the science stream, a figure

# myForesight® BookClub



## **FUTURES BEYOND DYSTOPIA:** CREATING SOCIAL FORESIGHT

**Author:** Richard A. Slaughter  
**Publisher:** Routledge  
 ISBN-10: 0415302706  
 ISBN-13: 978-0415302708

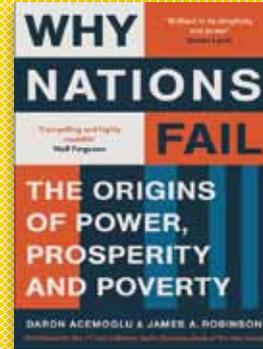
How can dystopian futures help provide the motivation to change the ways we operate day to day?

Futures Beyond Dystopia takes the view that the dominant trends in the world suggest a long-term decline into unliveable Dystopian futures. The human prospect is therefore very challenging, yet the perception of dangers and dysfunctions is the first step towards dealing with them. The motivation to avoid future dangers is matched by the human need to create plans and move forward. These twin motivations can be very powerful and help to stimulate the fields of Futures Studies and Applied Foresight.

This analysis of current Futures practice is split into six sections:

- The Case Against Hegemony
- Expanding and Deepening a Futures Frame
- Futures Studies and the Integral Agenda
- Social Learning through Applied Foresight
- Strategies and Outlooks
- The Dialectic of Foresight and Experience.

This fascinating book will stimulate anyone involved in Futures work around the world and will challenge practitioners and others to re-examine many of their assumptions, methodologies and practices.



## **WHY NATIONS FAIL:** THE ORIGINS OF POWER, PROSPERITY AND POVERTY

**Author:** James A. Robinson, Daron Acemoglu  
**Publisher:** Gower  
 ISBN-10: 1846684307  
 ISBN-13: 978-1846684302

Shortlisted for the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award 2012.

Why are some nations more prosperous than others? Why Nations Fail sets out to answer this question, with a compelling and elegantly argued new theory: that it is not down to climate, geography or culture, but because of institutions. Drawing on an extraordinary range of contemporary and historical examples, from ancient Rome through the Tudors to modern-day China, leading academics Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson show that to invest and prosper, people need to know that if they work hard, they can make money and actually keep it - and this means sound institutions that allow virtuous circles of innovation, expansion and peace.

Based on fifteen years of research, and answering the competing arguments of authors ranging from Max Weber to Jeffrey Sachs and Jared Diamond, Acemoglu and Robinson step boldly into the territory of Francis Fukuyama and Ian Morris. They blend economics, politics, history and current affairs to provide a new, powerful and persuasive way of understanding wealth and poverty.

## happenings



### “Framing the FUTURE today”

THURSDAY, 03 APRIL 2014

Futures thinking and strategy transformation is becoming the most talked about topic amongst the civil servants in Public Service Department (JPA) Malaysia. Emphases on future thinking ability and skill were put forth as a significant competency in line with the Government transformation plan. Hence, an exclusive Futures Thinking Session with Professor Sohail Inayatullah, an astounding academician and prolific writer on Future studies were organized by the Public Service Department (JPA) at Dewan Sri Baiduri, National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) yesterday, 3 April 2014. The session was attended by around 60 senior government officials from various Ministries. The talk was to enlighten them on futures thinking and strategy transformation. A breakout session was also held with the key strategic question of “Do Malaysia need a Center for Strategic Futures (CSF)?” This talk is an initiative under the Strategic outlook and policy directions of the Malaysian Public Services towards 2020, a collaboration program between MIGHT and JPA.

### FORESIGHTCLUB 2014

WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2014

A two-days-course was held with students of Department of Technology and Management, from the Faculty of Technology Management and Business on the Foresight methodology. The programme was a continuation of the collaboration between myForesight® and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) in promoting and mainstreaming Foresight among the youths and preparing future-minded students.

Those attending the course are the second batch of students who will be adopting Foresight methodology and tools in their Bachelor Degree's Project I&II (PSM), as part of the requirements in their bachelor degree final dissertation. Talks and activities were organized to assist them to fully understand the methodology and concept, and to test their understanding of foresight terminologies



as well as to stimulate their creativity that would influence their thinking and action.

At the end of the session, volunteers were given the chance to read what was supposed to be their ‘letters from the future’ on the topic national unity topic. Some of the letters creatively and optimistically describes Malaysia in 2030, associating it with technology lifestyle. Most of the participants were able to analytically foresee the future of national unity based on the past and present situations.

### National Youth Convention 2014: “Malaysian Youth Internationalisation”

THURSDAY, 15 MAY 2014



## MIGHTy KIDZ CLUB DAY

FRIDAY, 06 JUNE 2014

We are proud to announce that the very first MIGHTy KIDZ CLUB DAY was held on 6th June. With the participations of little MIGHTians, we hope that this a-day-event will be continuously held on every long school holidays.

MIGHTY KIDZ CLUB is an extension of Foresight Club initiatives and activities. It is a joint collaboration between myForesight®, Club MIGHT and Group of Corporate Services of MIGHT. The initiative aimed to mainstream Foresight and inculcate Futures thinking skills amongst the young generation. It is also expected to be a platform for MIGHT's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in creating brighter futures for the youth whilst developing the future leaders. John F. Kennedy once said "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." Thus, a

Malay proverb: '*melentur buluh biarlah dari rebungnya*' which literally means a bamboo should be bent when it's still young is very applicable here.

Among activities organized for the kids are drawing and colouring contest, built from scratch, using recycled items, letters from the future and pop quizzes with the theme: 'The Transportation of the Future' to explore the creativity of the young. It is also to delve into their world of imagination of the future.

This event encourages young kids to think out of the box, to build their skills and confidence level. Apart from filling up their holiday with useful and fun activities they learnt new things and, most importantly, they get to meet new friends. We pray and hope that one day these kids will grow and inspire to become great people and leaders of the country.

Interested to be with us? Join us on the next MIGHTY KIDZ CLUB DAY in September!



The National Youth Convention 2014, is a yearly event organised by Majlis Belia Malaysia (MBM) aimed to gather youth all over Malaysia to voice their concerns regarding youth wellbeing. The convention serves as a platform to discuss on the position of youth within the global context, entitled "Malaysian Youth Internationalisation". It was held on the 15th of May 2014 at Putrajaya Convention Centre (PICC), launched by YAB Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and attended by more than 800 youth nationwide.

Three presenters were invited to share their insights and analysis on youths' issues. The first topic was on "Facing Reality in 2020" by Professor Madya Dr. Haslinda Abdullah, from Institute Pengajian Sains Social (IPSAS), Universiti Putra Malaysia, followed by Tuan Hj. Ahmad Azam Ab Rahman, Secretary General of Union NGOs of the Islamic World (UNIW), who spoke on the spirit of volunteerism and how our youths should position themselves globally. The third speaker was Rushdi Abdul Rahim, Director of Malaysian Foresight Institute (myForesight®), who touched on Mega Trends and Global Challenges of Youth post-2015.

Demographic change, resource security and sustainability, climate change, health and

technology are among megatrends that are affecting the youths, directly or indirectly. Strengthening the knowledge and training in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is strongly highlighted as the solution for the youths to play important roles in addressing and mitigating these megatrends.

The challenge posted to all youth out there is, either the Youth shape or being shaped by the future?

There are nearly 13.37 million youths in 2013, a large number for a developing country like Malaysia. Currently, approximately more than 200,000 youths are considered 'missing' from the nation's development radar. There are various efforts by the Government to ensure youths are given equal opportunities to further develop their skills either in vocational schools or entrepreneurship. This is important since the government aims to have 120,000 skilled workers every year. The country aims to have 50% of its youth skilled and trained by the year 2020. A more holistic and balanced approach with guidance from all parties, especially parents and teachers, is emphasized in moulding the youth and the future.

## Youth & Futures - Youth Policy Revisited

TUESDAY, 10 JUNE 2014

The Ministry of Youth and Sports are in the midst of drafting the Dasar Belia Malaysia (DBM). Rushdi Abdul Rahim, Senior Vice President (S2A & Foresight), MIGHT was invited to share inputs and findings on Foresight Youth Engagement to support the study. The findings were collected from various outreach programs during myForesight® engagement with the youth nationwide. An introductory briefing on Science to Action (S2A) initiatives and its relevancy to the youth were also presented. The briefing was attended by important panel of expert, academician and senior Government officials from Ministry of Youth & Sports.

# PLAYING A ROLE IN THE GROWTH OF NATIONS



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## GLOBAL NETWORK

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>ASIA REGION</b>  | <b>MIDDLE EAST &amp; AFRICA REGION</b>                    | <b>EUROPE REGION</b>   | <b>NORTH AMERICA REGION</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malaysia</li> <li>• Singapore</li> <li>• Cambodia</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qatar</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denmark</li> <li>• Germany</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USA</li> <li>• Germany</li> </ul> |

## SCOPE OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

### CONSTRUCTION

- Infrastructure Works
- Marine and Port Construction
- Building & Airport Construction
- Onshore and Offshore Pipelines
- Petrochemical Tank Farms
- Steel Fabrication
- Integrated Transport Information System Provider

### CRANE

- Onshore & Offshore Crane
- Wharf / Multi Purpose Crane
- Tower Crane
- Crawler Crane
- Winches

### SHIPYARD

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- Ship Repair
- Ship Conversion
- Ship Supplies
- Offshore Structures

### CONCESSION

- Airport
- Road Maintenance



LNG Regasification Project, Malacca



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مركز الدراسات العليا في الإسلام والعلوم والحضارة

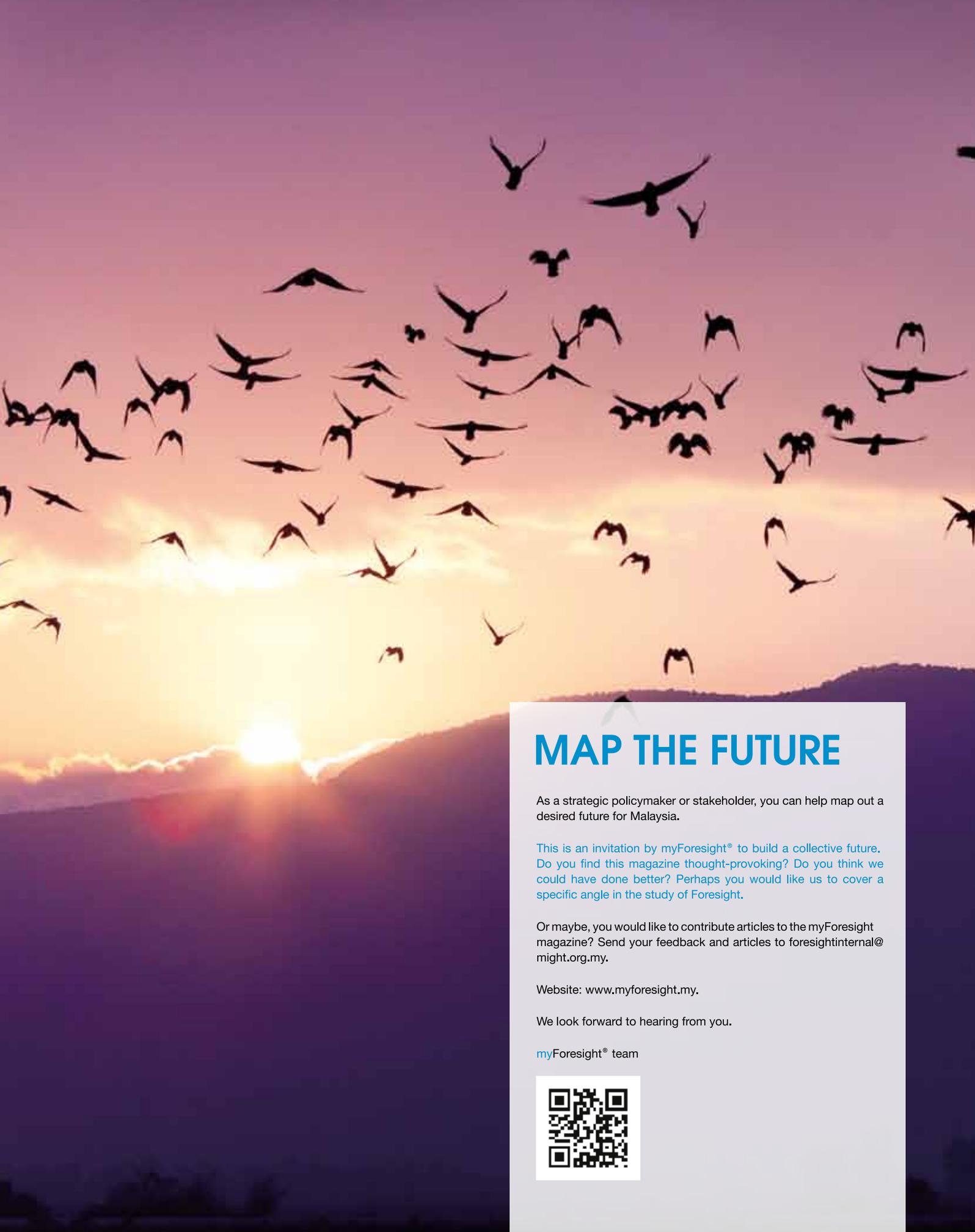


For more information, please contact:  
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## MAP THE FUTURE

As a strategic policymaker or stakeholder, you can help map out a desired future for Malaysia.

This is an invitation by myForesight® to build a collective future. Do you find this magazine thought-provoking? Do you think we could have done better? Perhaps you would like us to cover a specific angle in the study of Foresight.

Or maybe, you would like to contribute articles to the myForesight magazine? Send your feedback and articles to [foresightinternal@might.org.my](mailto:foresightinternal@might.org.my).

Website: [www.myforesight.my](http://www.myforesight.my).

We look forward to hearing from you.

myForesight® team

