

ISI INTERNATIONAL
STRATEGY
INSTITUTE

MALAYSIA
TAX

POLICY FORUM

"Strengthening Malaysia's Fiscal Future"

9 January 2020 | The Everly, Putrajaya

Corporate Partners:



Associate Partner:






OVERVIEW

Tax is a crucial instrument for public management and the bloodline for any government to function effectively and provide public services and infrastructure for the wellbeing of its citizens. In some countries, tax can be as high as 40%, but it's public and welfare services are so extensive, that its citizens end up spending less of their disposable income on public necessities. Whereas in some countries tax is very low to encourage spending and spur economic growth, leaving only a small role for the government to play in the lives of its constituents. Yet in many countries, tax evasion is commonplace, and tax havens remain a contentious issue that persist up to this very day. Some cultures, especially in Asia allow for tax amnesty to at least recover loss revenue, yet countries in the West, particularly the OECD countries reject it outright.

In Malaysia, tax has been the centre of an intense debate which has unfortunately divided the country along political lines. Whether it is GST or SST, the conversation should not be a political debate and the wellbeing of the country should take prime importance. With the big fiscal gap inherited since last year, how should Malaysia move forward?

How much tax is enough? Are we taxing the right people with the right amount? What can we learn from other countries?

The Malaysia Tax Policy Forum, a platform by ISI to gather all best practices and innovative ideas from around the world on the issue of taxation, seeks to address these burning questions and formulate strategic measures that can help Malaysia move forward as a financially strong nation in the near future.



PROGRAMME

9 January 2020 | The Everly, Putrajaya

8.00am - 9.00am

9.00am - 9.05am

10.00am - 10.30am

10.30am - 11.30am

FORUM REGISTRATION / MORNING REFRESHMENTS

WELCOMING REMARKS by

- **Fazil Irwan Som**
Executive Director, International Strategy Institute (ISI)

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- Strengthening Malaysia's Fiscal Future by
- **YB Dato' Wira Haji Amiruddin bin Haji Hamzah**
Deputy Minister of Finance Malaysia represented by
- **YBhg Dato' Sri Dr. Sabin Bin Samitah**
Chief Executive Officer and Director General
Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia

COFFEE BREAK

TAXATION - HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

Some countries have a high tax policy but deliver extensive public goods. Some have lower tax to spur greater consumption and growth. But there are also countries that have low tax regimes yet deliver adequate public goods and services. What is the ideal tax rate and how much is enough for a country?

SPEAKERS:

- **Dr Gunasegaran Muthusamy**
Director, Tax Research Department, Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia
- **Tan Sri Nor Mohamed bin Yakcop**
Former Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, Former Second Finance Minister and Minister in charge of the Economic Planning Unit for Malaysia
- **Amarjeet Singh**
ASEAN and Malaysia Tax Leader & Business Tax Services Leader,
Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd
- **Romil Shamsudin**
Working Committee, Perak Wakaf Board

MODERATOR:

- **Datuk Seri Azman Ujang**
Chairman, BERNAMA

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11.30am - 12.30pm

MALAYSIAN ECONOMY TOWARDS SHARED PROSPERITY - POST BUDGET 2020

The recently announced Budget 2020 and the launch of Shared Prosperity Vision (SPV) by the Prime Minister in providing a decent living standard to all Malaysians by the year 2030, clearly shows government effort in ensuring the country's prosperity will be enjoyed by all Malaysians. How do we ensure wealth distribution is spread evenly? How can we do it differently this time around?

Speakers:

- **YB Nik Nazmi bin Nik Ahmad**
Member of Parliament for Setiawangsa
- **Ali Salman**
Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS)
- **Mohd Nakhafi bin Hassan**
Head of Direct Tax Section, Tax Division, Ministry of Finance

Moderator:

- **Farah Rosley**
President, Chartered Tax Institute Malaysia

12.30pm - 1.00pm

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE ADDRESS

1.00pm - 2.00pm

COMMUNITY POWER LUNCH

This is a community networking lunch that brings together industry players in the different industries for discussion and collaboration.

2.00pm - 3.00pm

HOW DO WE PREVENT ATTRITION IN TAX COLLECTION?

A good tax regime is as good as its implementation. Without a sound and efficient system in tax collection, a country tends to risk billions in leakage and corruption. What is the best way to avoid tax attrition? Can new technology provide a solution? Are we ready for digitalisation of tax administration?

Speakers:

- **Sim Kwang Gek**
Country Tax Leader, Deloitte Malaysia
- **Khoo Kay Peng**
Independent Political Analyst
- **Surin Segar**
Head, Group Tax & Performance Reporting, Maybank
- **Thenesh Kannaa**
Partner, TraTax

Moderator:

- **Fazil Irwan Som**
Executive Director, International Strategy Institute (ISI)

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3.00pm - 4.30pm

COMPARATIVE TAX ANALYSIS - HOW DOES MALAYSIA FARE COMPARED TO ITS ASIAN NEIGHBOURS?

Malaysia's fiscal performance should not only be seen within its own context but also in comparison to its Asian neighbours. How high is Malaysia's tax rate and how extensive are its public deliverables as compared to its neighbours?

Speakers:

- **Saravana Kumar Segaran**
Partner, Tax, GST & Private Clients Practice, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill
- **Kittirut Kevin Luecha**
Tax Consultant, Attorney-At-Law & Notarial Services Attorney, Tax Department, Dharmniti Law Office Co., Ltd, Thailand
- **Anil Kumar Puri**
Partner, Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd

Moderator:

- **Jamal Raslan**
Former Banker, Spoken Word Artist and Poet

4.30pm

End of Programme / Refreshments

DISCLAIMER / NOTES:

- ISI reserves the right to alter the content and timing of the programme in the best interest of the forum and is not responsible for cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances
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ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY INSTITUTE (ISI)

The International Strategy Institute (ISI) is a not-for-profit organisation that functions as a super connector between government and business leaders across Asia, promoting universal values, equal societies and sustainable development. ISI is also a house of strategic studies, and a platform for capital raising and investment activities in Asia.

ISI runs conferences, summits and networking programmes on various topics covering a wide array of sectors, to bring forth the latest contemporary issues on politics, economics and business, as well as connecting the different stakeholders in society namely government, private sector, NGOs and the media, to create synergy to spur economic growth.

PLEASE CONTACT

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