

MEDIA RELEASE

International Strategy Institute (ISI) organises a Special Web Conference of the World Islamic Trade Forum (WITF) with the theme "Our Future in a Covid-19 World"

13 May 2020, Kuala Lumpur – Covid-19 will likely see the worst global recession since the Great Depression, decimating thousands of lives and ravaging economies across the globe. It is one of the biggest calamities in modern history, affecting 210 countries and territories worldwide. The world will never be the same again. As countries shut down borders, minimising movement of goods and people across borders, the era of globalisation might be at the brink of collapse.

In the midst of all these, three factors still bring us together. Technology, the universal values of religion and medical collaboration that can save lives. How can these change the fate of the world? What policy changes should leaders consider considering a prolonged outbreak? How can technology revive global trade? What societies do we expect to see in the Covid-19 era?

In this regard, the International Strategy Institute (ISI) will organise a Special Web Conference of the World Islamic Trade Forum (WITF) on **14 May 2020 at 2.15pm**, bringing together government representatives, private sector and civil society in the Muslim World from 12 countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, France, UK, Germany, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Spain, Saudi Arabia and Senegal) to share policy ideas and trade solutions to this global conundrum, offers critical insights into the future of our world in the Covid-19 era.

YTH Bapak Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno, Honorary Chairman of WITF in his message said "Covid-19 is one of the greatest challenges in our modern history. It has destroyed both life and livelihood hundreds of thousands of people in more than 200 countries. The number is staggering, is almost 4 million now. It has affected my country in Indonesia in many ways and I believe your country has suffering too."

"WITF is a global trade platform focusing on business and investment opportunities in the Muslim world, connecting government and business in term of leadership, explore new innovative solutions for the problem in the Muslim world and promote new collaboration and partnership for a better future. We will discuss medical collaboration, future of food and technology and society that we want in the future. Please join us and we need your voice", added YTH Bapak Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno.

Other speakers who will be sharing their views at the forum are:

- H.E. Dr. Salim bin Mohammed Al-Malik, Director General of Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)
- H.E. Mr. Yerlan Baidalet, Director General of Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
- Tan Sri Jemilah Mahmood, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Public Health, Member of the Economic Action Council Malaysia and Former Under Secretary General, IFRC
- Mr. Cheah Chyuan Yong, Organiser Chairman, International Strategy Institute (ISI)
- Mr. Fazil Irwan Som, Organising Chairman of WITF cum Executive Director of ISI
- Ms. Ramata Almamy Mbaye, Director of Human and Social Sciences, ICESCO
- Mr. Mohamed Irshad, Founder and President, Roses of Peace, Singapore
- Ms. Siti Kamariah Ahmad Subki, CEO, Selangor Women's Empowerment Institute
- Mr. Zikry Kholil, Forbes 30 Under 30, Co-founder & Chief Commercial Officer (CCO), Incitement
- Ms. Jashida Kamal, Entrepreneur, Wealth Strategist and Speaker
- Mr. Mamadou Ndiaye, Founder and CEO, Appsaya (France)
- Mr. Imteaz Ahamed, Head of Direct to Consumer eCommerce, Reckitt Benckiser (UK)
- Mr. Raphael Tay, Partner, Lee Hishamuddin Allen & Gledhill (Malaysia)
- Mr. Suhaimi Sulaiman, Chairman, BERNAMA
- Prof. Sayed Azam Ali, CEO, Crops for the Future

- Ambassador Dr. Hameed Opeloyeru, Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)
- Mr. Kamarul Bahrin Haron, Editor-in-Chief, Astro Awani (Moderator)
- Ms. Isabel Romero Arias, President, Junta Islamica and CEO, Halal Institute (Spain)
- Mr. Alexander Boehmer, Head of Division, South and Southeast Asia, OECD
- Mr. Aymen Kasem, Division Manager, Trade Development, International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
- Dato' James Foo, Founder & Chairman, Snappars Group
- Mr. Santiago Rodriguez Goiecoechea, Senior Development Advisor, World Bank
- Mr. Teymoor Nabili, former Aljazeera Anchor for "101 East" and Executive Producer, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Moderator
- Brigadier General Charito Booc Plaza, Director-General, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)

All this and more at this **Special Web Conference**. Please stay tuned this **Thursday, 14 May 2020 at 2.15pm on Zoom**, meeting link: <https://bit.ly/WITF2020>

About WITF

World Islamic Trade Forum (WITF) was established to discuss and brainstorm on how prepared the Muslim World is in tackling its fundamental problems and whether it is investing its vast resources in the right direction. It aims to secure a sustainable future for the younger generation who shall inherit an independent, peaceful and prosperous region.

WITF objectives are:

- To align government policies in the Muslim World on business and investment to ensure the successful financing of key infrastructures and the upgrading of human capital
- To create a clearing house for investment opportunities, where investors and businesses meet to explore possibilities and close deals
- To create a hub for creative ideas for new industries in the digital future

The annual WITF is due to be held in different cities in Indonesia meanwhile the regional programmes will be held in key cities in the Muslim world.

About ISI

The International Strategy Institute (ISI) is a not-for-profit organization 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.

For more information, contact us at info@istrategy.global or +603 2242 3799.

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