2ND MALAYSIA TAX POLICY FORUM

“TIGHTENING MALAYSIA’S FISCAL REGIME AMIDST COVID-19”

29 SEPTEMBER 2020 | THE EVERLY PUTRAJAYA
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 2nd 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

8.00am – 9.30am
FORUM REGISTRATION

9.30am – 10.30am
WELCOMING REMARKS
INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY INSTITUTE (ISI)

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS
"TIGHTENING MALAYSIA'S FISCAL REGIME AMIDST COVID-19"

10.30am – 11.30am
SHOULD WE BRING BACK GST TO IMPROVE FISCAL HEALTH?
With our fiscal standing depleting as a result of massive resource mobilisation due
to the covid-19 pandemic, there is a debate as to whether bringing back GST regime,
albeit at a smaller rate, would be a better structure for the country and to increase
government’s revenue. Is this a good move? Is GST a better regime? What are the
impediments to implementation?

11.30am – 12.30pm
CAN MALAYSIA TAX THE RICH MORE WITHOUT IMPEDING GROWTH?
Tax is the revenue bloodstream of every government which is crucial to develop public
goods and infrastructure, as well as providing welfare for its citizens. To increase
revenue, tax must be appropriated from people who can afford to pay more. But
others argue that this might also impede growth. What is a sweet spot formula to
got more money from the T20 without sacrificing economic growth?

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
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?

3.00pm – 4.00pm
DEEPEN PERSPECTIVES ON TAX - A DIALOGUE WITH LHDN
Tax can be a sensitive subject as it involves people’s economic welfare, economic
growth, and division of income classes. It is a balancing act that can only be
appreciated when we understand perspectives from the tax authority. This is a
special session where participants can throw the questions to LHDN in order to get
a deeper understanding of the country’s tax situation.

4.15pm
End of Programme

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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- Working programme as of 9 September 2020
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ISI runs conferences, summits and networking programmes on various topics covering a wide arrays 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.

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