INSIGHTS
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ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY INSTITUTE (ISI)

The International Strategy Institute (ISI) is a not-for-profit organisation that helps connect governments and businesses across Asia. We stand for universal ethical business values such as equality, transparency, fair trade, and sustainable development.

Our dialogues, programmes, research and networking platforms, are designed to drive economic growth in the region. We aim to:

1. Build platforms for regional dialogue and networking opportunities that allow businesses, industry captains and governments to come together to drive economic growth of the region;

2. Provide timely research to keep our members and governments informed and updated on global trade and political issues that may have an impact on their operations;

3. Match businesses to the right investors and to ensure that the companies are paired with the right strategic investment partner.

4. Provide strategic platforms that connects governments, businesses, and civil society organisations (CSOs) around the region to conduct CSR programmes for community outreach and to give back to the community.

VISION AND MISSION

International Strategy Institute (ISI) aims to be the leading regional connector and networking platform for governments and businesses across Asia and the Pacific.

Through our networking events, conferences, and rigorously research publications, special dialogue with key decision maker within the government, captain of industries and NGOs, we hope to promote a robust Asian socioeconomic environment that is strategic, inclusive, thought provoking, innovative, and sustainable for all.
The concept of ‘new normal’ will demand a new and more flexible approach to weather the storm of the pandemic. With Covid-19 hit at the end of 2019, the entire world was caught off-guard by the unprecedented health crisis. In addition to the ensuing panic, the world economy has come to a virtual halt as the spread of Covid-19 has single-handedly disrupted the world. In what seems like the blink of an eye, this disease has upturned our lives and our daily activities. We are seeing many businesses across multiple sectors come to a standstill, delivering a significant blow to the global economy. However, as they say, within every crisis, there is an opportunity. Many of our businesses have drastically change their models in order to stay competitive. The use of technology, mainly to keep their businesses running and connected with the people has made many of us somewhat at a turning point: a make or break time.

Industry leaders are finding themselves in a transformational landscape, and are rolling out solutions that will not only help mitigate the impact from Covid-19, but also allow the nation’s economy to bounce back from the MCO safely and responsibly.

Over the last few years, the small and medium enterprises (SME) have stood out as the key driver behind the economic development and emerged as an important and dynamic sector for the economy. According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM), SMEs contribute 38.9% (RM553 million) of the total GDP in 2019, and it is anticipated that the contribution will push to or surpass 50% mark within the next decade, this is supported with the continues outperformance of the year-to-year SME GDP growth to the total Malaysia’s GDP since 2011.

The statistic above foresees that Malaysia will soon be driven by the SMEs as the main engine for the economy, and as it grows, there is a need to ensure funding options are available and aware of by the SMEs in order for them to continue growing. This sector, if provided with the right support, has the potential to spread industrial growth throughout the country.

For many years, the SMEs have been relying mostly on banks to provide financing for their expansion agenda, and many of them have failed to secure the funding due to the risk associated with SMEs generally, in which banks often avoid. With the current economic recession arising from the pandemic, the banks are being reluctant more than ever in approving financing application from SMEs.
One of the alternative funding solutions that Malaysia's capital market has to offer, is Crowdfunding. Crowdfunding as defined in the Cambridge Dictionary, is “the practice of getting a large number of people to each give small amounts of money in order to provide the finance for a business project, typically using the internet”. There are four types of Crowdfunding; donation-based, reward-based, equity-based (commonly known as equity Crowdfunding (ECF), and lending-based (commonly known as Peer-to-Peer (P2P) financing). The first two types do not provide any financial returns to the contributors nor they are regulated, the later two are otherwise and they are of concern to this article.

The Crowdfunding market has been gaining attraction, especially during this pandemic as it has accelerated the adaptation of digitalisation by all of the relevant stakeholders. Crowdfunding offers several value propositions as compared to the conventional financing option, main ones are:

1. It takes shorter time to obtain funding through Crowdfunding as it does not go through rigorous process as how banks would normally do. However, there are safety measures that are required by the Crowdfunding platform operator to undertake to ensure legitimacy of the SMEs.

2. Crowdfunding offers access to larger audience/investors as compared to banks, in which it increases the funding success rate relatively.

3. SMEs that seek funding through Crowdfunding are required to pitch their businesses/projects to the crowd/investors directly via online Crowdfunding platform, which provides an opportunity for the SMEs to leverage on to gain media exposure, especially through social media.

4. SME that list its business/project on crowdfunding platform will also get sense of the market reaction towards its business/project. Hence, it would provide opportunity for the SME to enhance its operation or change its business strategy depending on the reaction it gets from the crowd/investors.

5. SMEs that seek to list their businesses/projects on ECF or P2P platforms will get coached by the platform operators to ensure that the funding target is achieved and also ensure that the SMEs continue to grow. The platform operator does this to increase its rate of successful campaigns listed on its platforms and also in some cases, to manage their own risk as the operators are allowed to invest into the SMEs’ businesses/projects directly, but limited to certain percentage.
There are two types of Crowdfunding that are regulated by the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) (under the Guidelines on Recognised Market); ECF and P2P financing. Both of these types provide financial returns to the investors.

The InvestSmart (an investor empowerment body initiated by the SC) defines ECF as “a form of fund-raising that allows a start-up or other smaller enterprises to obtain capital through small equity investments using online portals to publicise and facilitate such offers to crowd investors”. In short, it refers to micro funding activity targeted at the general public, where in return, the investors (crowd) will obtain portion of the equity of the company/issuer, similar to purchasing stock of a public listed company in Bursa Malaysia. As at January 2021, there were 10 ECF platform operators registered with the SC, and these platforms have collectively raised RM 129.64 million with 119 successful campaigns (as at 30 September 2020).

P2P financing however, it is defined by InvestSmart as “a lending and borrowing activity between businesses and investors, facilitated through an online marketplace i.e. a P2P financing platform operator. The funding needs are met by a group of investors putting in small amounts of money for a particular business need that has been vetted by a P2P financing platform operator”. In layman term, it refers to micro funding activity funded by the general public/crowd for a specific business/project where investors expect interest/profit in return. As at January 2021, there were 11 P2P platform operators registered with the SC, and these platforms have collectively raised RM 921.83 million with 13,039 successful campaigns (as at 30 September 2020).

ECF or P2P platform operators that facilitate the offering of Islamic campaigns are required to appoint Shariah adviser as stated in Chapter 12 of the Guidelines on Recognized Markets to ensure the campaign comply with Shariah rules and principles at all times. Currently there are one from each ECF and P2P platforms that facilitate the offering of Islamic finance campaigns, which are Ethis Ventures Sdn Bhd and P2P Nusa Kapital Sdn Bhd, respectively.

SMEs that are interested may contact the licensed ECF or P2P platform operators directly to understand further. Additionally, the platform operators normally provide information on successful campaigns which would allow the SMEs to comprehend further and learn from the past experience of others. The list of the licensed platform operators by the SC are available in https://www.sc.com.my/development/digital/list-of-recognized-market-operators.

Lack of access to affordable funding can easily trap SMEs in a “downward spiral”. They are unable to grow without more funds and they cannot get funds without more growth. One of the ways to help in reducing financing hurdles for SMEs is to strengthen the infrastructure that supports the financial transactions, which includes the laws, regulations, and institutions to create, register and enforce collateral, insolvency regime and credit reporting tools. It would also help for the government to develop a credit guarantee schemes for SMEs businesses, private SME lenders, and establish a hometown investment trust funds for financing risky SMEs and start-up businesses.

The lack of SME databases is another challenge for our SMEs. Their financial and nonfinancial accounts are often difficult to assess. Hence, reducing their chances in getting financial loans or any form of finance assistance. Japan has created a Credit Risk Database (CRD) that shows how SMEs can be rated based on financial and nonfinancial data. This CRD will includes data that can be used to rate SMEs through statistical analysis. This is something that we should be looking at in helping our SMEs and at the same time keeping track of their business developments.

- This article was written by Cheah Chyuan Yong, Chairman and was publish in Nanyang Siang Pau
中小企业融资替代方案
——国际策略研究院主席及创办人谢泉勇

在“新常态”概念下，我们需要一种新的、更灵活的方法来抵御大流行的风暴。随着 2019 年底新冠病毒肺炎的袭击，全世界都对前所未有的健康危机的出现措手不及。除了随之而来的恐慌之外，随着新冠病毒的传播扰乱了世界，世界经济几乎陷入停滞状态。似乎在一眨眼之间，这种疾病已经颠覆了我们的生活和日常活动。

我们看到多个领域的许多企业都已经停顿，给全球经济造成了重大打击。然而，诚如所说，在每一次危机中，都存在着机会。为了保持竞争力，我们的许多企业已经大幅改变了他们的模式。技术的使用，主要是为了保持企业的运转和与人民的联系，使我们中的许多人在某种程度上处于一个转折点，即成败攸关的时刻。

企业领袖们发现自己处于一个转型的格局中，他们正在推出的解决方案不仅有助于减轻新冠病毒肺炎大流行的影响，并且让国家经济能够安全、负责任地从行动管制令中复苏。近几年来，中小企业一直是经济发展背后的关键驱动力，并成为经济中一个重要而充满活力的领域。根据马来西亚统计局（DoSM）的数据，2019 年中小企业对国内生产总值的贡献为 38.9%（5.53 亿令吉），预计在未来 10 年内，中小企业对国内生产总值的贡献将达到或超过 50%。自 2011 年以来，中小企业国内生产总值同比增长占马来西亚国内生产总值总量的比例持续走高，也支持了这一点。

上述统计数据预测，马来西亚的经济将很快地由中小企业作为主要的引擎来推动，随着经济的增长，有必要确保中小企业能够获得融资选择，并了解这些选择，以使它们继续增长。这一领域如果得到适当的支持，就有可能在全国推动工业增长。多年来，中小企业大多依赖银行为其扩张计划提供融资，由于中小企业普遍存在风险，而银行往往会规避这些风险，以致许多中小企业未能获得融资。由于目前的经济衰退是由这一流行病所引起的，因此银行比以往任何时候都更不愿意批准中小企业的融资申请。
中小企业融资替代方案
——国际策略研究院主席及创办人谢泉勇

在“新常态”概念下，我们需要一种新的、更灵活的方法来抵御大流行的风暴。随着2019年底新冠病毒肺炎的袭击，全世界都对前所未有的健康危机的出现措手不及。除了随之而来的恐慌之外，随着新冠病毒的传播扰乱了世界，世界经济几乎陷入停滞状态。似乎在一眨眼之间，这种疾病已经颠覆了我们的生活和日常活动。我们看到多个领域的许多企业都已经停顿，给全球经济造成了重大打击。然而，诚如所说，在每一次危机中，都存在着机会。为了保持竞争力，我们的许多企业已经大幅改变了他们的模式。技术的使用，主要是为了保持企业的运转和与人民的联系，使我们中的许多人在某种程度上处于一个转折点，即成败攸关的时刻。企业领袖们发现自己处于一个转型的格局中，他们正在推出的解决方案不仅有助于减轻新冠病毒大流行的影响，并且让国家经济能够安全、负责任地从行动管制令中复苏。

近几年来，中小企业一直是经济发展背后的关键驱动力，并成为经济中一个重要而充满活力的领域。根据马来西亚统计局（DoSM）的数据，2019年中小企业对国内生产总值的贡献为38.9%（5.53亿令吉），预计在未来10年内，中小企业对国内生产总值的贡献将达到或超过50%，自2011年以来，中小企业国内生产总值同比增长占马来西亚国内生产总值总量的比例持续走高，也支持了这一点。上述统计数据预测，马来西亚的经济将很快地由中小企业作为主要的引擎来推动，随着经济的增长，有必要确保中小企业能够获得融资选择，并了解这些选择，以使它们继续增长。这一领域如果得到适当的支持，就有可能在全国推动工业增长。

多年来，中小企业大多依赖银行为其扩张计划提供融资，由于中小企业普遍存在风险，而银行往往会规避这些风险，以致许多中小企业未能获得融资。由于目前的经济衰退是由这一流行病所引起的，因此银行比以往任何时候都更不愿意批准中小企业的融资申请。因此，有必要提供其他的融资解决方案，以帮助中小企业克服困境。

众筹市场越来越吸引人，尤其是在这次大流行期间，因为它加速了所有相关利益者对数字化的适应。与传统融资方案相比，众筹提供了几个价值主张，主要有：

1. 通过众筹获得资金需要较短的时间，因为它不像银行那样，通常需要经过严格的程序。然而，众筹平台运营商需要采取一些安全措施来确保中小企业的合法性。
2. 与银行相比，众筹为更多的受众/投资者提供了机会，从而相对地提高了融资成功率。
3. 通过众筹寻求融资的中小企业需要通过在线众筹平台直接向人群/投资者推销其业务/项目，这为企业提供了一个利用网络获得媒体曝光的机会，特别是通过社交媒体。
4. 在众筹平台上列出其业务/项目的中小企业也将了解市场对其业务/项目的反应。因此，这将为中小企业提供机会，使其能够根据群众/投资者的反应，加强经营或改变经营策略。
5. 寻求在股权众筹（ECF）或点对点（P2P）平台上上市的中小企业将得到平台运营商的指导，以确保实现融资目标，并确保中小企业继续增长。平台运营商这样做是为了提高它在其平台上列出的活动项目的成功率，在某些情况下，也是为了管理自己的风险，因为运营商获准直接投资于中小企业的业务/项目，但仅限于一定的比例。

马来西亚证券委员会（SC）（根据公认市场准则）监管的众筹有两种类型：ECF和P2P融资。这两种类型都为投资者提供财务回报。

投资智能InvestSmart（由SC发起的一个投资者授权机构）将ECF定义为“一种筹资形式，允许初创企业或其他小型企业通过使用在线门户网站的小型股权投资获得资本，以向众多投资者宣传和促进此类献议”。3简言之，它是指面向公众的小额融资活动，作为回报，投资者（群体）将获得公司/发起人的部分股权，类似于购买马来西亚证券交易所上市公司的股票。截至2021年1月，共有10家ECF平台运营商向SC注册，这些平台共募集资金额12964亿令吉，成功开展了119项活动（截至2020年9月30日）。4
有兴趣的中小企业可直接与持有牌照的 ECF 或 P2P 平台运营商联系，以进一步了解详情。此外，平台运营商通常会提供成功活动项目的信息，使中小企业能够进一步了解和借鉴他人的过去经验。获得 SC 批准的持有牌照的 ECF 或 P2P 平台运营商名单可在以下网站获取：

https://www.sc.com.my/api/documentms/download.ashx?id=3626dd03-ef8d-4517-a38d-a3cee223c9a9


根据《被认可的市场指南》第 12 章的规定，推出伊斯兰股项的 ECF 或 P2P 平台运营商必须任命伊斯兰教义顾问，以确保活动项目始终符合伊斯兰教义规则和原则。目前，每个 ECF 和 P2P 平台都有一个促进提供伊斯兰金融活动的平台，分别是 Ethis Ventures Sdn Bhd 和 P2P Nusa Kapital Sdn Bhd。

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https://www.sc.com.my/api/documentms/download.ashx?id=3626dd03-ef8d-4517-a38d-a3cee223c9a9

缺乏负担得起的资金很容易使中小企业陷入“恶性循环”。没有更多的资金，他们就无法成长；没有更多的增长，他们就无法获得资金。帮助减少中小企业融资障碍的方法之一是加强支持金融交易的基础设施，包括建立、登记和执行担保品、破产制度和信用报告工具的法律、条例和机构。政府能为中小企业、私营中小企业放贷人制定信贷担保计划，并建立一个投资信托基金，为有风险的中小企业和初创企业融资，将有助于中小企业的发展。

中小企业数据库的缺乏是我们中小企业面临的另一个挑战。他们的财务和非财务账户往往难以评估。因此，这就减少了他们获得金融贷款或任何形式的金融援助的机会。日本建立了一个信用风险数据库（CRD），显示如何根据金融和非金融数据对中小企业进行评级。该 CRD 将包括可用于通过统计分析对中小企业进行评级的数据。这是我们在帮助中小企业同时跟踪其业务发展时应该关注的问题。
MARA maths scholar, Nur Fitri Azmeer Nordin, who was studying at Imperial College in May 2015 when he was arrested, tried and charged with producing and possessing thousands of “Category A” images, depicting penetrative sex with minors. This caused an outrage amongst our Malaysian public at the time not because he was arrested but as to how a scholar such as himself was able to commit such a crime overseas and put us Malaysians to shame.

The British Metropolitan Police said that Nur Fitri had amassed around 30,000 images of child pornography which they described as some of the most extreme they had witnessed.

I remember this case very well as I was working as the press secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, YB Dato’ Sri Anifah Haji Aman at the time. It was a shock even to us as to how a promising scholar could commit such an offence at that time.

Dato’ Sri Anifah Haji Aman then Foreign Minister of Malaysia was one of the most vocal in condemning the crime and said that Malaysian students have a duty to focus on their studies and uphold the good name and image of the country whilst studying abroad.

Dato’ Sri Anifah also added his voice to growing calls for a sex offender’ list in the country, particularly those involving crimes against children.
“As a committed member of the international community, I think that it is high time that Malaysia consider establishing a register of convicted paedophiles that would be made publicly known so that parents and communities with young children will feel safer,” he said, adding that it will be a strong deterrent against the crime.

Now fast forward to August 2019, Mariam Mokhtar wrote and reported that Nur Fitri Nordin was now studying at UKM and that the then Minister of Rural and Regional Development, Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal and MARA Chairman, Tan Sri Annuar Musa wanted to give this paedophile a second chance and what makes matter worse is that although Nur Fitri Azmeer Nordin was charged in the UK, he was not EVEN on our sexual offenders list? How bizarre is this? It was even confirmed by the then Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Hannah Yeoh on 23 August 2019.

YB Hannah Yeoh excuse was that a list to record sex offenders was compiled just only in 2017 when explaining the exclusion of a Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) PhD student convicted of possessing child pornography.

Yeoh said the Sexual Offences Against Children (SOAC) Act 2017 only came into force in July that year.

What this literally means is that the government only had records of convicted sex offenders from 2017 onwards, which can be considered quite recent given the nature of this hideous crime.

Nur Fitri was sentenced to five years’ jail in 2015 after he pleaded guilty in a London court for keeping over 30,000 images and videos of child pornography.

British police had then said that the files he kept were the “most extreme material” they had come across. He was extradited to Malaysia after serving a reduced jail sentence from 18 months to nine.

Is this not enough information for our Malaysian Government to place Nur Fitri a convicted Category A offender as convicted by the British Government under the Malaysian Sex Offenders’ list? Even so, why has the list not been made public? And more importantly why does the Sex Offenders’ list remain under the care of a Ministry not having the correct authority? Shouldn’t the list be under the care of the Home Ministry? Why does it take 5 days for any member of public to get any information on who is on the Sexual Offender’s list and even so the process to obtain the information remains rigid and NOT so public friendly?

Some may argue that paedophilia is a mental illness and may use it as an excuse for reformation of offenders and giving offenders second chances. However, as a mother of four, I for one am not willing to take the chance to forgive such an offence nor do I wish to take the risk of the offender repeating the offence.

What if Nur Fitri who is not even registered in our Malaysian Sex Offenders’ list one day decides to become a primary school teacher? How confident are we that he will not repeat the act or God forbid go further and become more daring? Are we willing to place our children’s well-being at risk? As a parent I urge the Senior Officials in Government within the relevant industries to provide answers.
Do we even have a system or an aptitude test currently in Government that detects applicants with heavy tendency to do such an act? Especially for ones that might or will be exposed or have access to children or even teenagers in their line of work. It would be interesting to find out.

It is indeed very disappointing that since 2015, we are still no where near having the proper procedures to ensure the necessary people are registered in our Malaysian Sex Offenders’ List nor are we allowing the necessary access to the information by the Public.

Unfortunately, Nur Fitri’s case is not an isolated case when it comes to Sexual offences committed by Sexual offenders. What about the Canny Ong case in 2003? Was it really the first sexual offence for the offender? Was he even on any sexual offenders list? Some studies claim that sexual offenders that escalate to murder normally would have committed sexual offences in the past prior to the murder before even having the guts to commit murder. The offender Ahmad Najib Aris, then 27, was given wide publicity, stunned the nation with horrific details of the abduction, rape, murder and the dumping of Canny’s body into a manhole before it was torched.

Another case which was reported by Kembara Kitchen founder William Cheah in 2018 where he reported that a 36-year-old man had allegedly been sexually grooming underage girls he met via charity groups and churches he volunteered at and that the alleged paedophile had been preying on young girls in Malaysia via Facebook for the last 10 years (since 2008).

More than 15 of them stepped forward at the time to recount their encounters with the paedophile since his messages with girls as young as 14 years old were posted on Facebook. Do we even know if this paedophile as reported by The Straits Times was ever even registered on our Sex Offenders’ list?

Sadly, many cases such as the ones I’ve mentioned seem to exist in Malaysia, but do we take offences such as these seriously?

It was a British court that handed Richard Huckle 22 life sentences in June 2018 for abusing up to 200 babies and children, mostly in Malaysia, and sharing images of his crimes on the dark web.

Again, some may argue that the reason the Malaysian government does not publish child sexual abuse data is because it is protected under Malaysia’s Official Secrets Act. The government provides data on child abuse only at the request of a member of parliament. Now I can understand if we do not publish the name of the victims especially being minors but why can’t we name and shame the offenders? This could be an act to deter future or potential offenders from committing similar offences. Should we not be given the opportunity to defend our children and do we not have the right to feel safe?
Dare I say that Foreign paedophiles could be targeting Malaysia as other countries around the region strengthen child protection laws and step-up enforcement.

Snow White Smelser, programme officer at the child sex offences team in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’s (UNODC) East Asia headquarters in Bangkok, said in 2018 the paedophiles compare notes and share information online about countries, where they can operate most freely.

Weak Child protection laws make it difficult to punish child abusers in Malaysia, leading to inadequate investigations and low convictions on the reported cases, according to officials and child welfare groups Reuters interviewed.

With all these cases happening and even more under the radar happening, are we as Malaysians taking the issue of paedophilia, sexual child abuse and the need for a proper sexual offenders list that is made public too lightly? God forbid paedophiles target Countries such as Malaysia due to weak laws on Sexual offenders. Do we want our country to become famous for all the wrong reasons? These are questions which should be answered.

It is high time that the Malaysian Government act and provide our Enforcers such our Police Force the right laws and tools for them to be able to act accordingly and it is also high time that the Malaysian Public be given the right tools and access to information when it comes to sexual offences especially those involving minors. We the public need a sense of security and should have the right to know if a sexual offender is anywhere near the vicinity of our children and women. I implore the Malaysian Government to allow less rigid and easier public access to the Sex Offenders’ list and that the right Ministry such as the Ministry of Home Affairs takes charge of such a list.

- This article was written by Executive Director of ISI, Nirvana Jalil Chani and published by Free Malaysia Today, Borneo Post, Malaysia Gazette, Malay Mail and Daily Express.

Majlis ini merupakan satu lagi peristiwa bersejarah Di Perkampungan Orang Asli Kampung Jeram Kedah kerana pertama kalinya Program sebegini dianjurkan, dimana teknologi Internet diberikan kepada Perkampungan Orang Asli Kampung Jeram Kedah yang terdiri daripada 3 buah Kampung iaitu Kg Jeram, Kg Lumut, Kg Machang. Mereka menyokong hasrat kerajaan serta

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY INSTITUTE (ISI) URGES GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH AN ACCESSIBLE AND USER-FRIENDLY SEXUAL OFFENDERS LIST TO GAIN PUBLIC TRUST AND CREATE A SENSE OF SECURITY

4 March 2021

04 March 2021, Kuala Lumpur – The International Strategy Institute (ISI) welcomes the recent statement made by the Honorable Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, YB Datuk Seri Rina Harun on the draft Sexual Harassment Bill being on the final stages of review by the Attorney General's Department and is expected to be completed this March and to be tabled at the next Dewan Rakyat session. It is indeed an important milestone which will create a sense of security and gain public trust as to who is living in their communities, however, the ISI feels that much more is needed to be done especially on the issue of public access to the sexual offenders list and the accuracy of the data in the actual Sexual Offenders list.

Due to the nature of the crime itself, ISI believes the sexual offenders list should be more accurate and complete where high-profile well-known cases as well as data going back to the year of 2000 should be included into the list and not just from 2017 onwards. In 2019, the then Deputy Minister of Women, Community and Family Development, YB Hannah Yeoh announced that the Ministry has come up with a child sex offender registry which set to be running by April 1, 2019. The initiative was welcome by all but the system in placed was said had some major setback. The red tape on the system created hurdles in dissemination of information. The system was unable to produce searchable by name, year or area code, and include all types of sex crime offenders, not just paedophiles, to parents and future employers for societal safeguards for young children and the system apparently has only information starting from 2017 onwards and is unclear on cases involving Malaysians abroad, citing the case of a promising scholar who was convicted of owning child pornography in the UK and who has since returned home where he faces no penalties.

Whilst it is appreciated and well received effort from the Government however, we should not leave any list half baked. Proper feedback or information should be given and received from PDRM and both Ministry of Women, Community and Family Development and Home Affairs should work together on the list to make it more accurate, accessible, complete, and current. However, ISI also believes the ministry that should ultimately be given the responsibility to manage the list should be the Ministry of Home Affairs and not the Ministry of Women, Community and Family Development as the Ministry of Home Affairs would have more access and real time and up to date information on the actual sex offenders committed local and international.

Therefore, ISI urges the Government to allow the Ministry of Home Affairs to lead and take charge of the Sex Offenders list and make the list more accessible to public. Parents especially should be aware of who their neighbors are. It is important for parents to have such information to have the opportunity protect their family and feel safe. In general, the public should be entitled to their privacy, but that people forfeit that right when they harm someone else.
ANNOUNCEMENT

SIGNING OF MOU WITH PMOBOR

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between International Strategy Institute (ISI) and Persatuan Muafakat One Belt One Road Malaysia (PMOBOR) on 17 December 2020. The MoU was signed by the Chairman of ISI, Mr. Cheah Chyuan Yong and President of PMOBOR, H.E. Ambassador (R) Datuk Iskandar Sarudin.
Datuk Seri Dr. Md Zabid Bin Haji Abdul Rashid is currently the Executive Director of Think Data Sdn Bhd. He was the former President and Vice Chancellor of University Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK). Datuk Seri was conferred the “Officier” in the “Ordre Nationale du Merite” by the President of the Republic of France through the Ambassador of France in Malaysia. The National Order of Merit, is alongside the Legion of Honor, one of the two most highest Orders in France in 2016.

He began his career in Sumitomo Corporation as executive in 1979 and subsequently joined Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) as economist in the same year. In 1980, Prof. Datuk Seri Dr. Md. Zabid Bin Haji. Abdul Rashid joined Universiti Pertanian Malaysia and was its Head of Department of Management Studies (1995-1997), Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management (1995-1997), Founding Dean of the Malaysian Graduate School of Management (1997-2001) and Chief Operating Officer of the Malaysian Graduate School of Management Foundation 1997-2002. He retired from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia in 2003 and joined Open University Malaysia where he held the positions of Director of Centre for Graduate Studies and Professor of Management of the Faculty of Business and Management until 2006.

Datuk Seri has written more than 150 articles in Malaysian and International journals, conferences, proceedings, monographs, seminars, chapter in books, newspapers with H Index: 18, and Citations: 2,450, as of 1 April 2020.

Datuk Seri obtained his Bachelor’s degree from University Pertanian Malaysia, Master’s degree from University of London, and Doctorate in Management from the University of Aix-Marseille, and ESSEC, France. He is the first Malaysian to have obtained a doctoral degree in Management from one of the most prestigious universities and top business school from France which was done in French in 1987.

Datuk Seri has conducted several trainings and consultancy programmes including the National Economic Action Council (NEAC), National Implementation Directorate (NID), Prime Minister’s Department, Yayasan Sumber Maklumat, UMNO, UPM, OUM, UTHM, UTEm, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Department of Agriculture, FAMA, MARA, Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation, Malaysian Insurance Institute, Utusan Melayu (M) Bhd, Capital Insurance Sdn Bhd, Malaysia Airlines Berhad, Carrefour, Bank Negara Malaysia, Matshushita Berhad, METEOR Sdn Bhd, Perbadanan Filem Malaysia (FINAS), Northport (Malaysia), Government of Somalia, Government of Tartarstan – Russia, etc,
PROFESSOR TS. DR. KAMAL ZUHAIRI BIN ZAMLI

Dr. Kamal Zuhairi Zamli obtained his BSc from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA in 1992, MSc in Real Time Software Engineering from the Centre for Advanced Software Engineering, UTM in 2001, and PhD in Software Engineering from University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK in 2003. Currently, Dr. Kamal Zuhairi Zamli is the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) in the Faculty of Computing, College of Computing and Applied Sciences, University Malaysia Pahang. His current research focuses on Software Engineering Research. Dr. Kamal research interests focuses on Software Testing, Software Engineering, as well as Algorithm and Data Structures. Kamal Zuhairi Zamli holds several research grants related to Software Testing both from the government and the industry.

DATUK ISMAIL BIN RAMLI

Datuk Ismail Ramli is currently the Chairman of Think Data Sdn Bhd, Beta Resources, Yayasan Pendidikan Tun Abdul Razak, Yayasan Pengakap Malaysia (Malaysia Scout Foundation) and Advisory Chairman to Astra Trading Sdn Bhd. He was the President for the Alumni Sekolah Menengah Sains Tuanku Jaafar (PRESTIJJ) and Vice President of Malaysian Scout Federation.

He obtained his Advanced Diploma in Business and Management from the University of Wales Trinity, United Kingdom in 1992, Diploma in Business Studies from Institute of Commercial Management, Bournemouth, Dorset, United Kingdom in 1991 and Diploma Pengajian Perniagaan from Institute Technology Mara, Jementah Campus, Segamat, Johor in 1990.

Datuk Ismail was very active with the Malaysian Scout Federation activities over the years. Some of the awards conferred to him based from his work with the scout federation was the Scout Service Medal (PJP), Bintang Semangat Rimba Class I (Gold) of the Malaysian Scout Federation, that was conferred by the King in 2011 in conjunction with the Star of Merit Award and National Scout Federation of Malaysia Medal, Selangor State Scout Federation of Malaysia President's Award, Scout Award by the Australian government, Indonesian Scout Award - Medan Serumpun Award from Indonesia, Hong Kong Scout Award and Sabah State Malaysian Scout Federation 100th Anniversary Medal from 2010 to 2016.

Datuk Ismail was also part of the government think tank.
21 April 2021

Courtesy call by our Chairman, Mr. Cheah Chyuan Yong, upon TYT Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, 8th Yang Di Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang. During the courtesy call, our chairman on behalf of the International Strategy Institute congratulated His Excellency on his inauguration and wish His Excellency all the best. Current issues related to Penang were also discussed and how best the Institute could contribute to the State.

16 April 2021

Courtesy call by our Chairman Mr Cheah Chyuan Yong on Minister of Home Affairs Malaysia, YB Dato' Seri Hamzah Zainudin today. A very positive meeting indeed with various topics discussed. YB Minister was very supportive of the work done by the Institute and has agreed to attend one of our future events.
10 March 2021

Courtesy call by our chairman, Mr Cheah Chyuan Yong with Yang Di-Pertua Dewan Negara Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim at Parliament Malaysia today. Exchanged views and positive discussion pertaining to the upcoming Malaysia Democracy Forum due to be held this 30 March 2021 with Yang Di-Pertua Negara’s confirmed attendance.
HAPPENINGS

30 December 2020

Courtesy Call by Chairman of International Strategy Institute (ISI) upon Mr. Kuik Cheng Kang, Editor in Chief of Sin Chew Daily where both parties had an interesting and encouraging discussion on 30 December 2020. Sin Chew Daily gave assurance of support and coverage in events, researches and collaboration with the Institute. The International Strategy Institute would like to thank Sin Chew Daily for its support.

28 December 2020

Courtesy Call by Chairman of International Strategy Institute (ISI) upon His Excellency Ambassador Hermono, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Indonesia to Malaysia on 28 December 2020. It was a very interesting and exciting discussion exchanging views on current issues as well as ISI’s future plans. His Excellency Ambassador gave assurance of his support and participation in events, researches and collaboration with the Institute. The International Strategy Institute would like to thank His Excellency for his strong support and time. Welcome back to Malaysia Your Excellency.

23 December 2020

Courtesy Call by Chairman of International Strategy Institute (ISI) upon YBrs Dr. Fadhlullah Suhaimi Abdul Malek, Chairman and Adjunct Professor for the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia) on 23rd December 2020. We had a very fruitful and positive discussion. MCMC Chairman gave assurance of his support and participation in events, researches and collaboration with the Institute. The International Strategy Institute would like to thank the Chairman of MCMC for his time and support.
11 December 2020

Courtesy Call by Chairman of International Strategy Institute (ISI) upon YB Senator Ras Adiba Radzi, BERNAMA Chairman on 11 December 2020. Positive discussions on collaboration with BERNAMA. YB Senator gave assurance of her support and participation in events, researches and collaboration with the Institute. The International Strategy Institute would like to wish YB Senator Ras Adiba Radzi the best of luck with her new position as the BERNAMA Chairman.

10 December 2020

Courtesy Call by Chairman of International Strategy Institute (ISI) upon H.E. Khalid Ghanim AlGhaith, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Malaysia. Discussed many bilateral and multilateral issues. Very positive discussion with His Excellency giving assurance of support towards the Institute.
7 August 2020

ISI would like to thank YBhg. Dato’ Shamshun Baharin Bin Mohd Jamil, Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention), Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for the warm welcome during the courtesy visit on 7 August 2020. ISI is humbled with the support from the MACC for our upcoming 2nd Malaysia Anti-Corruption Forum scheduled on 3 September 2020.

5 August 2020

ISI is privileged to meet the Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat, YB Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun, on 5 August to share and exchange ideas about the future of democracy in the country.

16 April 2019

ISI Chairman, Mr. Cheah Chyuan Yong, visited the Deputy Commissioner of the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Commission, Datuk Seri Azam Baki, to discuss the preparations for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Forum, organised by ISI to be held in July. As a country increasingly beset with corruption cases, it is high time that we unite the government and the people on this deep-rooted problem, as we move towards a high-income nation status in the near future.
Digital inclusion and literacy culture outreach programme for Orang Asli community in the new norm is jointly organised by the International Strategy Institute and Digital Education Organisation Malaysia mainly focusing on the efforts from various campaigning parties and creating awareness on the importance of ICT knowledge, health, healthy lifestyle practices and community service activities to be able to empower the natives and maintaining the welfare of the Orang Asli community.
The inaugural International Strategy Institute (ISI) Malaysia Democracy Forum with the theme Charting the Future of Parliamentary Democracy in Malaysia was organised on 30 March 2021 at the InterContinental Hotel Kuala Lumpur. The Forum marked as a landmark event with an objective to increase the quality of discourse in Parliament, one that is befitting Malaysia’s aspiration to become a mature and efficient parliamentary democracy, and to increase the voice and participation of the youth in our political process in order to do away with racial politics that has stifled our country’s progress for decades. As the world is transformed through this pandemic crisis, Malaysian democracy also finds itself at a unique crossroad. The window for reform has been thrown open by the uncertainties of the pandemic, affording us an opportunity for us to revisit the institutions that have served the people all this while.
The 2nd Malaysia Anti-Corruption Forum at The Everly Putrajaya. The Forum was well attended with about 250 participants from the government, private sector, academia and NGOs. With this year’s theme, “Restoring Trust and Building A Culture of Integrity”, the Forum focused on the importance of trust and culture of integrity in our constant journey towards nation-building.

The forum was officiated by YBhg. Dato’ Sri Shamshun Baharin Mohd Jamil, Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

The 2nd Malaysia Tax Policy Forum with the theme “Tightening Malaysia’s Fiscal Regime Amidst Covid-19” was attended by about 190 participants from the relevant government agencies, private sector practitioners, academia and the NGO sector. The Forum focused on issues such as whether GST is the best tax regime for the country amidst a fiscal deficit and the Covid-19 pandemic, taxation of the rich segment of society, a comparative tax analysis between Asian countries, including a special head-to-head session with YBhg Datuk Mohd Nizom Sairi, the Deputy CEO (Tax Operation) of the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (LHDN).
This special dialogue by the World Islamic Trade Forum (WITF) organised by ISI brought 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. The WITF Honorary Chairman, YTH Bapak Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno delivered the forum Special Keynote Address.

ISI together with the China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC) had organised the World Chinese Economic Forum 2020 (Special Live Conference). As we know, the world is facing the devastating effects of the covid-19 pandemic. As the first country to see the first surge in outbreak, China sacrificed freedom and its economy, to successfully curb the outbreak. Today China has resumed life and business, while other countries are experiencing lockdowns and standstill economies. The WCEF 2020 brought together government and private sector representatives in China to share their experiences, as well as speakers from Asia and Europe, to exchange ideas on how to solve this looming crisis.
ISI organised the Malaysia Tax Policy Forum with the theme “Strengthening Malaysia’s Fiscal Future”. The forum keynote address by YB Dato’ Wira Ir. Haji Amiruddin bin Haji Hamzah, Deputy Minister of Finance Malaysia was read by YBhg. Dato’ Sri Dr. Sabin bin Samitah, CEO and Director General of the Inland Revenue Board Malaysia. The forum received 200 participants from the government sector, private, tax practitioners, academician and public at large.

The issue of taxation is a hotly debated topic among Malaysians and has been the centre of an intense debate which has unfortunately divided the country along political lines. Taxes and the people. Fiscal policy should also help people fully participate in and adapt to a changing economy. Better access to education, jobs, and health services, as well as social insurance, can make it easier for people to spring back from a job loss or illness.
The World Chinese Economic Forum (WCEF) is a world-class premier event connecting China and the Chinese diaspora network through business and the narration of the China story. It is a global platform with a track record of more than 10 years, discussing the most important global issues related to China and the Chinese diaspora. 11th World Chinese Economic Forum- “Realising The Vision of Shared Development For A Better World” which was held in Hangzhou, China on 11-12 December 2019 was co-hosted by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and International Strategy Institute (ISI) while China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC) was the organiser of this event.

It was a great success on strengthening ASEAN-China Trade under Belt and Road Vision. Speakers and delegates from various countries played active part in the discussion of the future of global trade, redefining global trade through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), impact of new tech wave and 5G to the world and strengthening the long-term partnership between China and ASEAN.

Since China’s economic reform and opening up 40 years ago, it has grown to become an important economic powerhouse in the world. Under the Belt and Road initiative, it has paved closer ties with ASEAN in global trade and investment. With the rise of US-China trade war, as well as the global economy marred by uncertainties, closer cooperation between China and ASEAN matters even more. The key is to uphold multilateralism to maintain broader cooperation among institutions and nations based on mutual respect, equality and shared prosperity.
China and ASEAN trade is about US$ 600 billion in 2019, and it has opened doors to many Chinese investors into the ASEAN market. Under BRI, China plans to collaborate with Southeast Asian countries on a high-speed railway project connecting Kunming province, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and so on. The infrastructure development would provide opportunities for Southeast Asia to spur business opportunities and FDI in the ASEAN region through free trade zones and tax incentives.

Panel 3, BRI Initiative-Redefining Global Trade has hosted Dr. Bhokin, the President of Chinese Culture and Economy Association of Thailand who believed that China’s decision to stand firmly with the international community is a good move, as it is important to consult and negotiate with other countries in trade to create mutual trust and
respect. As a result, Thailand imports from China increased to USD50 billion in 2018 or a 150 percent increase, meanwhile, Thailand’s exports to China in 2018 was USD1.8 billion or an 88 percent increase. China also plans to collaborate with Thailand on a flagship project, a high-speed railway project connecting Kunming province, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Dr. Bhokin viewed that the BRI project ought to be international, involving collaborations with Japan, South Korea, India and even European countries. If the project is done successfully, it would be a showcase project for the 21st century of the Maritime Silk Road.

China is a new player, having in the last five years become a major capital exporter to Malaysia. China has also gradually moved away from manufacturing sectors in the last three years. There is currently over US$50 billion worth of projects under the pipeline between Malaysia and China, and Dato’ Abdul Majid, the Chairman of Malaysian Investment Authority (MIDA) is optimistic with its future outcomes by the end of the year.
The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) has ranked Malaysia in 2018, number 61 out of 180 countries. These perceptions determine to an extent whether foreign direct investments come in or bypass us. Business must be committed to high standards of integrity, fairness and accountability. With this in mind, ISI organised the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Forum with the theme “Understanding and Addressing the World’s Biggest Problem” and was well attended with almost 300 participants from the government, private sector, academia and NGOs. YB Dato’ Seri Anwar Ibrahim, President Parti Keadilan Rakyat delivered the Opening Keynote Address.

The Malaysia Domestic Trade and Consumer Forum was organised following the closed-door ISI Ministerial Dialogue between YB Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution, Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs and members of the private sector. This important Forum brought together policymakers, media and concerned citizens of the country to address issues on domestic trade, the rights of consumers and the necessary measures to be taken in the foreseeable future.
ISI MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE
9 April 2019 • Le Meridien, Putrajaya

The ISI Ministerial Dialogue with the Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Malaysia, YB Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail focused on the future of domestic trade in Malaysia, its policies and future direction, in line with the “Malaysia Baharu” spirit under the leadership by the Pakatan Harapan government.

PENANG INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT
26 February 2019 • Hotel Equatorial Penang

Penang International Business and Investment Summit (PIBIS) is a high-level networking summit brought together stakeholders from the government and private sectors to explore business and investment opportunities in the state of Penang. The strong partnership will bring forth Penang’s vision towards 2030. YB Dato’ Haji Abdul Halim Haji Hussein, Penang Exco for Domestic & International Trade, Consumer Affairs & Entrepreneurship Development delivered the Keynote Address on behalf of Chief Minister of Penang, YAB Chow Kon Yeow.
ISI as the WMLF Asian Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, was honoured to be given the opportunity to partner with Global One Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation based in UK to organise the World Muslim Leadership Forum. Held biannually, WMLF is an effort initiated in 2010 where its main purpose is to provide a platform to address leadership issues which are critical for the upliftment of the ummah, the global community at large and the Muslim community in particular. The Hon. Datuk Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia delivered the forum Keynote Address.

KEDAH INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT
13 December 2018 • Aloft Langkawi, Pantai Tengah

Kedah International Business and Investment Summit (KIBIS) was graced by the Chief Minister of Kedah, YAB Dato’ Seri Hj. Mukhriz Tun Mahathir. With the theme “Kedah in a New Malaysia-Building a Resilient Economy”, the summit focused on the strategic development plans of the state of Kedah, and how the state builds a resilient economy amidst the drastically changing landscape both politically and economically.

WORLD MUSLIM LEADERSHIP FORUM
6-7 December 2018 • Lambeth Palace and House of Commons
London, United Kingdom

ISI as the WMLF Asian Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, was honoured to be given the opportunity to partner with Global One Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation based in UK to organise the World Muslim Leadership Forum. Held biannually, WMLF is an effort initiated in 2010 where its main purpose is to provide a platform to address leadership issues which are critical for the upliftment of the ummah, the global community at large and the Muslim community in particular. The Hon. Datuk Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia delivered the forum Keynote Address.
2018 marked the 44th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia. In view of that, the World Chinese Economic Forum (WCEF) was held to celebrate the 44th Anniversary of Malaysia-China diplomatic relations. More than 500 delegates including 200 from China as well as delegates from 50 countries attended the Forum, which also discussed the US-China Tarde War, the Belt and Road Initiative and the Digital Economy. YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia delivered the Keynote Address and the Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, H.E. CY Leung also delivered another Keynote Address.

This inaugural national summit was set as a platform for Ministers and related Ministries, agencies, business leaders, NGOs civil society to address emerging issues, exchanging ideas, sharing of knowledge and experiences, with an aim to collectively develop the nation under the new administration. With the theme “Building a New Malaysia, Fulfilling Hope”, the summit was officiated by YB Senator Tuan Waytha Moorthy, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department for National Unity and Social Wellbeing.
ISI organised #Women in Tech Summit with the theme “Preparing Women for Digital Age and the 4th Industrial Revolution”. The summit aimed at providing a platform for women leaders in addressing emerging issues, exchanging ideas, sharing of knowledge and experiences, all in pursuit of exemplary leadership as we move towards IR4.0. YB Hannah Yeoh, Deputy Minister of Women, Community and Family Development Malaysia (KPWK)’s Opening Keynote Address was read by YBhg. Datuk Yatimah Sarjiman, Director General, Department of Women Development of KPWKM.

ISI organised the Corporate Malaysia Summit to provide a much needed platform, especially in the context of a New Malaysia to connect the new government and the business sector of this country. The summit focuses on the fundamental issues affecting the business climate in Malaysia. The summit was officiated by YB Puan Teresa Kok, Minister of Primary Industries Malaysia.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

MARCH

- Friendly Golf Tournament
  TPC Kuala Lumpur

- Malaysia Democracy Forum
  InterContinental Kuala Lumpur

APRIL

- Program Jelajah Pemudayaan Literasi ICT dan Khidmat Komuniti Masyarakat Orang Asli Dalam Norma Baru
  Ulu Beranang, Negeri Sembilan

- Is Malaysia Ready to Deal with Dark Web Crime and How Effective is our Knowledge and Monitoring?
  Kuala Lumpur

- Charity Dinner
  Kuala Lumpur

MAY

- ISI Golf Charity Tournament
  TPC Kuala Lumpur
JUNE

Digita Islamica Forum

JULY

3rd Malaysia Tax Policy Forum
The Everly Putrajaya 1, Jalan Alamanda 2, Presint 1, Putrajaya

AUGUST

International Conference on Principled Policing

SEPTEMBER

3rd Malaysia Anti-Corruption Forum

OCTOBER

2nd World Islamic Trade Forum

NOVEMBER

12th World Chinese Economic Forum

DECEMBER

Roundtable Dialogue
ISI is dedicated to providing quality programmes and we can only achieve this with your honest feedback.

We also know that no man is an island. Together, we can create impactful programmes that can improve the wellbeing of our shared economy and society. We are therefore open to proposals for partnerships and collaborations, and we hope you can join us in this journey.

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