



MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE UPDATE 2013

“People’s Expectations and New Models of Governance”

Canberra and Springbank Room, Crawford School of Public Policy

21-22 August 2013

Host: ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Supporters¹: Research School of Asia and the Pacific, Crawford School of Public Policy, Department of Political and Social Change and the ANU Southeast Asia Institute

Partners: Asia Pacific Learning Communities and the ANU ASEAN Society

.....

Update Synopsis

Malaysia and Singapore are Southeast Asian success stories. Since independence they have made remarkable progress in social and economic development, and in achieving political stability. Bolstered by these achievements, the UMNO-dominated Barisan Nasional in Malaysia, and the People’s Action Party in Singapore, have remained in power since independence.

However, in recent years there has been discontent among Malaysian and Singaporean citizens with these ruling parties, as evidenced by the 2008 and 2013 general elections in Malaysia, and the 2011 general elections, two by-elections and the presidential elections, in Singapore. Social media in both countries became platforms that spread strident anti-government criticisms.

The proven policies of delivering economic progress and socio-political stability, so successful in the past decades, now seem insufficient to guarantee the BN and the PAP victory at elections. The ruling political establishments need to address the changing expectations from their electorates urgently. This not only calls for a better understanding of the issues that are driving the discontent, but also the efficacy of the current economic, political and social models of governance in managing emerging issues and expectations.

The Malaysia and Singapore Update 2013 brings together experts to discuss and debate recent elections, the key issues that influence governance and policymaking, and to recommend ways to respond to changing perceptions and societal expectations – taking into account both domestic and external influences that are impacting on Malaysia and Singapore.

¹ We thank Steven Wong, Senior Director of ISIS Malaysia and Dr. Gillian Koh, Senior Research Fellow, IPS Singapore for their very useful inputs in developing this programme.

2013 Update Program

Day 1: Wednesday, 21st August 2013

Time	Activity
8.30am	Registration
9.00am	Welcome <u>Andrew MacIntyre</u> , Dean, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
9.15am	Malaysia Update 2013
9.15-10.30am	Political and Social Updates Speakers: <u>Bridget Welsh</u> Malaysia's GE13: Representing the Peoples Wishes? <u>AB Shamsul</u> Representation, Perception and 'Gladiatorism' in Malaysian politics: A Question of Political Literacy <u>Clive Kessler</u> The New Post-GE13 Logic of UMNO Domination Chair: <u>Paul Hutchcroft</u> , Director, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies
10.30-11.00am	Coffee & Tea break
11.00am-12.15 pm	Political and Social Updates Speakers: <u>Joo-Cheong Tham</u> The Australian Electoral Commission – Ensuring the Integrity of the Electoral System <u>Amanda Whiting</u> Reforming Malaysia's Legal System <u>Rueban Balasubramaniam</u> The Rule of Law and Legitimate Political Rule Chair: <u>Dr Stephen Sherlock</u> Consultant on democratic institutions
12.15-1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Singapore Update 2013
1.30-3.00pm	Political and Social Updates Speakers: <u>Geoff Wade</u> , Operation Cold Store, 50 years on <u>Bilveer Singh</u> The Gaps Between Government and Public Expectations in Singapore. <u>Lily Rahim</u> Government Responses to 'Expectations' from Society Since 2011 <u>Terence Lee</u> Listening to the citizens: The Singapore government's communications strategy Chair: <u>Robert Cribb</u> , Professor, School of Culture, History and Language
3.00-3.30pm	Coffee & Tea break

3.30-4.45pm Economic Updates

Speakers:

Mohamed Ariff Abdul Kareem Managing the Malaysian Economy Since the 2008 General Elections

Shandre Thangavelu Managing the Singapore Economy Since the 2011 General Elections

Prema-Chandra Athukorala Malaysia and Singapore Compared Since the Global Financial Crisis

Chair: Hall Hill , H.W Arndt Professor of Southeast Asian Economics, Arndt Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy

Day 2: Thursday, 22nd August 2013

Time	Activity
9:00-10.15am	Governance, Growth, Macro and Micro Level Reforms and Social Welfare in Singapore <u>Lee Soo Ann</u> , Economic Growth, Democratic Participation and Social Welfare in Singapore <u>Phua Kai Hong</u> , Managing Singapore's Health Care System <u>Shandre Thangavelu</u> , Managing Singapore's Human Capital Development System Chair: <u>Bruce Chapman</u> , Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy
10.15-10.45am	Coffee & Tea break
10.45am-12.00 pm	Governance, Growth, Macro and Micro Level Reforms and Social Welfare in Malaysia <u>Steven Wong</u> , Economic Growth, Democratic Participation and Social Welfare in Malaysia. <u>Wee Chong Hui</u> , Malaysia's management of petroleum resources <u>Ross Tapsell</u> , Media as a tool for governance in Malaysia Chair: <u>Anthony Milner</u> , Basham Professor of Asian History, School of Culture, History and Language
12.00-1.00pm	Lunch

Time	Activity
1.00-2.15pm	<p>Malaysia-Singapore bilateral relationship and foreign policy</p> <p><u>Bilveer Singh</u>, A view from Singapore <u>Steven Wong</u>, A view from Malaysia <u>John Funston</u>, A view from Australia</p> <p>Chair: <u>William Tow</u>, Professor, and Head of Department of International Relations, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies</p>
2.15-3.30pm	<p>Experience from the Region in Managing People's Expectations, Democratic Participation and Sustainable Growth</p> <p><u>Hyung-A Kim</u> The Korean experience <u>Nicholas Farrelly</u> The Thai and Myanmar experience <u>Edward Aspinall</u> The Indonesian experience</p> <p>Chair: <u>Greg Fealy</u> , Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political and Social Change, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies.</p>
3.30-4.00pm	<p>Coffee & Tea break</p>
4.00-5.15pm	<p>State, society, civil society and political parties</p> <p><u>Meredith Weiss</u> – Coalitions in Malaysia - Comparing party networks and dynamics <u>David Martin Jones</u> UMNO and PAP Compared <u>Gaik Cheng Khoo</u>, <i>Bersih and Ubah</i>, citizenship rights, inter-generational togetherness and multicultural unity in Malaysia</p> <p>Chair: <u>Ed Aspinall</u>, Professor of Politics, Department of Political and Social Change, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies</p>
5.15pm	Till we meet again