MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE UPDATE 2013
21-22 AUGUST 2013

Crawford School of Public Policy
Department of Political and Social Change
Southeast Asia Institute
Research School of Asia and the Pacific
College of
Asia & the Pacific
MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE UPDATE 2013 PROGRAM
People’s expectations and new models of governance

Time: 21-22 August 2013
Venue: Canberry and Springbank Room, Crawford School of Public Policy
Host: ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
Supporters: Research School of Asia and the Pacific, Crawford School of Public Policy, Department of Political and Social Change, ANU Southeast Asia Institute, High Commission of Malaysia, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics and Professor Prema-chandra Athukorala
Partners: Asia Pacific Learning Community and the ANU ASEAN Society

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 (BN) in Malaysia, and the People’s Action Party (PAP) 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.

Cover image by flickr user chooyutshing
DAY ONE - WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 2013

8.30 am  
**Registration**

9 am  
**Welcome**  
*Professor Andrew McIntyre*  
Dean, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

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**Malaysia Update 2013**

9.15 am  
**Political and social updates**  
Chair: Professor Paul Hutchcroft, Director, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

*Malaysia’s GE13: Representing the people’s wishes?*  
*Associate Professor Bridget Welsh*  
Singapore Management University

*Representation, perception and ‘gladiatorism’ in Malaysian politics: A question of political literacy*  
*Professor AB Shamsul*  
National University of Malaysia

*The new post-GE13 logic of UMNO domination*  
*Emeritus Professor Clive Kessler*  
University of New South Wales

10.30 am  
**Coffee and tea break**

11 am  
**Political and social updates**  
Chair: Dr Stephen Sherlock, Consultant on democratic institutions

*The Australian electoral commission – ensuring the integrity of the electoral system*  
*Associate Professor Joo-Cheong Tham*  
The University of Melbourne

*Reforming Malaysia’s legal system*  
*Dr Amanda Whiting*  
The University of Melbourne

*The rule of law and legitimate political rule*  
*Associate Professor Rueban Balasubramaniam*  
Carleton University

12.15 pm  
**Lunch**
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<td>1.30 pm</td>
<td>Political and social updates</td>
<td>Chair: Professor Robert Cribb, School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU</td>
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<td><strong>Operation cold store, 50 years on</strong></td>
<td>Dr Geoff Wade, Independent researcher</td>
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<td><strong>The gaps between government and public expectations in Singapore</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor Bilveer Singh, National University of Singapore</td>
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<td><strong>Government responses to ‘expectations’ from society since 2011</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor Lily Rahim, The University of Sydney</td>
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<td><strong>Listening to the citizens: The Singapore Government’s communications strategy</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor Terence Lee, Murdoch University</td>
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<td>3 pm</td>
<td>Coffee and tea break</td>
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<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td>Economic updates</td>
<td>Chair: Professor Hall Hill, H.W Arndt Professor of Southeast Asian Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU</td>
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<td><strong>Managing the Malaysian economy since the 2008 general elections</strong></td>
<td>Emeritus Professor Mohamed Ariff Abdul Kareem, International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance</td>
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<td><strong>Managing the Singapore economy since the 2011 general elections</strong></td>
<td>Dr Lee Soo Ann, National University of Singapore</td>
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<td><strong>Malaysia and Singapore compared since the global financial crisis</strong></td>
<td>Professor Prema-chandra Athukorala, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU</td>
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Malaysia and Singapore Update 2013 program
DAY TWO - THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2013

9 am  Governance, growth, macro and micro level reforms and social welfare in Singapore
      Chair: Professor Bruce Chapman, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU
      
      Economic growth, democratic participation and social welfare in Singapore
      Dr Lee Soo Ann
      National University of Singapore
      
      Managing Singapore’s healthcare system
      Associate Professor Phua Kai Hong
      National University of Singapore
      
10.15 am  Coffee and tea break

10.45 am  Governance, growth, macro and micro level reforms and social welfare in Malaysia
      Chair: Professor Anthony Milner, Basham Professor of Asian History, School of Culture, History
      and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
      
      Economic growth, democratic participation and social welfare in Malaysia
      Steven Wong
      Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia
      
      Malaysia’s management of petroleum resources
      Professor Wee Chong Hui
      University of Technology, Malaysia
      
      Media as a tool for governance in Malaysia
      Dr Ross Tapsell
      School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

12 pm  Lunch

1 pm  Malaysia-Singapore bilateral relationship and foreign policy
      Chair: Professor William Tow, Head of Department of International Relations, School of
      International, Political and Strategic Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
      
      A view from Singapore
      Associate Professor Bilveer Singh
      National University of Singapore
      
      A view from Malaysia
      Steven Wong
      Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia
      
      A view from Australia
      Dr John Funston
      School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

Continued over page
2.15 pm  
Experience from the region in managing people’s expectations, democratic participation and sustainable growth  
Chair: Associate Professor Greg Fealy, Head, Department of Political and Social Change, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

The Korean experience  
Associate Professor Hyung-A Kim  
College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU; and Director, Australia-Korea Leadership Forum

The Thai and Myanmar experience  
Dr Nicholas Farrelly  
School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

The Indonesian experience  
Professor Edward Aspinall  
School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

3.30 pm  
Coffee and tea break

4 pm  
State, society, civil society and political parties  
Chair: Professor Ed Aspinall, Professor of Politics, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

Coalitions in Malaysia - comparing party networks and dynamics  
Associate Professor Meredith Weiss  
State University of New York (at Albany)

Bersih and Ubah, citizenship rights, inter-generational togetherness and multicultural unity in Malaysia  
Associate Professor Gaik Cheng Khoo  
The University of Nottingham (Malaysia campus)
THE 2013 UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE

Conveners:

- Dr Greg Lopez, Department of Political and Social Change, ANU  E gregore.lopez@anu.edu.au
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- Professor Hal Hill, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU
- Professor Paul Hutchcroft, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, ANU
- Professor Andrew Walker, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
- Dr John Funston, School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Steering Committee thanks Mr Steven Wong, Senior Director at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and Dr Gillian Koh, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) at the National University of Singapore for their invaluable contributions in developing this year’s program.

The Steering Committee thanks all the chairs and speakers, in particular the speakers who have come from far to participate in this year’s Update. Without their strong support, the Update would not have been possible.

The Steering Committee also thanks the following student volunteers for their time and invaluable contribution: Daniel Wei Boon Chua, Noel Hidalgo Tan, Dahlia Martin, Ira Nadiha, Norshahrill Saat, Nivarith Nair, Sum Dek Joe, Jin Low, Aslam Abdul Jalil, Gatra Priyandita, Yi-Leen Lim, Andy Chua and Nina Dalton.

The Steering Committee also thanks the following colleagues for their time and invaluable contribution: Emma Butz, Belinda Cranston, James Giggacher, Martyn Pearce, and Yanhong Ouyang.

Lastly, the Steering Committee would like to convey the deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and colleagues of the late Dato’ Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin, Chief Executive of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia. She was an avid supporter of this year’s Update and of Australia-Malaysia relations.
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