

Keynote Speaker 1

DATUK SUPPERAMANIAM MANICKAM

Datuk Supperamaniam Manickam served in the Ministry of Trade and Industry for 33 years prior to his official retirement. Upon graduating from the University of Malaya in 1970 with a B.A. (Hons.) degree in Economics, Datuk Supperamaniam was posted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry as Assistant Director in October 1970. He went on to hold various key positions in the ministry including Director, International Trade and Malaysia's Senior Trade Commissioner to Hong Kong/People Republic of China; Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the World Trade organisation in Geneva, Switzerland.



During the tenure of service with Government, Datuk Supperamaniam was charged with the responsibilities and functions relating to the development of international trade policy as well as export promotional strategy. He represented Malaysia at various bilateral regional and international conferences including the Senior Officials Meetings, Summits and Ministerial Conferences of G77, APEC, Indian Ocean Rim Regional Cooperation, UNCTAD and ASEAN. Datuk Supperamaniam was assigned a key role in representing Malaysia in various trade negotiations conducted under the auspices of GATT/UNCTAD/ WTO/APEC and ASEAN.

While serving as Ambassador/Permanent Representative to WTO in Geneva, he was appointed by the WTO membership to chair the WTO Committee on Budget Administration and Finance, the WTO Informal Group of Developing Countries, the Council for Trade in Goods and the Working Party on the Accession of Uzbekistan.

At present, Datuk Supperamaniam has assumed the role as a speaker resource person/ consultant to meetings, workshops and conferences organised by United Nations Agencies, regional and international organisations and foreign governments. He is also actively engaged in several working/expert group meetings of several NGOs and private sector organisations related to trade/investment and development issues. His current positions include Adjunct Professor (International Islamic University of Malaysia; Management and Science University, Kuala Lumpur), Distinguished Fellow (Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia), Permanent Advisor to Asia-Pacific Research Trade Network (Artnet) Coordinated by UNESCAP based in Bangkok, Thailand, Steering Committee Member Asia WTO Research Network based in Tokyo, Advisor to Asean-China Research Institute, Guangxi University, China, Board Director (Shangri-La Hotels Malaysia Berhad and Panasonic Manufacturing Malaysia Berhad), Advisor to the Malaysia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and member of the International Advisory Panel, Belt and Road Research Institute based in Hong Kong.

Keynote Speaker 2

PROFESSOR HSU SHIH-JUNG

Professor Hsu is the Director at the Center for the Third Sector, and Professor of Economics at the Department of Land Economics at the National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan. Previously, he was the Chair of the Department of Land Economics at the same university. From 2003 to 2004, he was a visiting scholar to the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy at the University of Delaware, USA.



In 2017, Professor Hsu was awarded the Golden Tripod Awards, which is regarded as the highest honour in Taiwan's publishing industry. He was the winner of the 2007 Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Alumni Achievement Award at the University of Delaware. He has won distinguished prizes from the Taiwan's National Science Council.

Professor Hsu has a Ph.D. from University of Delaware and an M.A. in political science from the same university. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. in land economics from the National Chengchi University.

Keynote Speaker 3

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. MICHAEL FARMER

Dr. Michael Farmer is an environmental economist focusing on rural industry and sustainable development. He has worked at Texas Tech University since 2006. His focus is managing long run land use change for ecological and economic sustainability through new high value added product development.



Dr. Farmer received his M.S. in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and his Ph.D. in the same field from Ohio State University. He has experience working with energy research bureaus, water authorities, land use managers and industry (pulp and paper, cotton growers, rural electric cooperatives). Dr. Farmer brings together the sub-disciplines of regional economic development, industry structure and rural entrepreneurship. He believes that - "any economic activity truly good for the environment over the long-run almost always entails non-trivial, substantive increases in local wages." Dr. Farmer has published more than 35 peer reviewed journal articles, and more than 90 reviewed presentations with more than 5000 citations to his work.

Working with ecologists, political scientists and engineers, his current focus is to work with local stakeholders in developing economies to build economically and ecologically sustainable systems. Past work occurred in the Gambia, Zimbabwe, Turkey and China. Current work commencing in Malaysian Borneo focusses on rural enterprise development in the montane highlands. The research focus centers on institutional readiness to meet the opportunities of global markets to transform the economic position of rural workers and small-holders.

Keynote Speaker 4

PROFESSOR DR. JONGHYUN PARK

Professor Park is the Chair of the Graduate School of Project-specific Global and Regional Research Institutes and Professor at the Graduate School of Economics at Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan. Prior to joining the Hosei University in 2007, he taught in Daito Bunka University, Tokyo.

Professor Park has published extensively in the area of international urban system and networks, and cross border cooperation in Asia. At present, he is the Chief Editor of the GRRJ journal. He is also the editorial board member of the Japan Association of Economic Geographers journal. Professor Park obtained his Doctor of Science and Master in geography from the University of Tokyo, Japan.



Keynote Speaker 5

PROFESSOR DATUK DR. HJ KASIM HJ MD MANSUR

Professor Datuk Dr. Hj Kasim Hj Md Mansur obtained his PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin, United States of America. In the past 17 years Prof Kasim has been invited and participated in both national, regional and international conferences and seminars. Topics of papers presented are related to economic development in general and the importance of education and human resource in particular.

Professor Datuk Dr. Hj Kasim was appointed as a visiting professor, fellow and advisor to various international universities and center of excellence including HeBei Normal University, University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), Petro-Chemical Institute Beijing, Beihang University Beijing, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China, Wako University, Tokyo, Japan, NIDA, Bangkok, Thailand and Palawan State University, Palawan, the Philippines. At the national level, Professor Datuk Dr. Kasim is the Advisor to Society Empowerment Economic Development of Sabah (SEEDS), Associate Fellow – Pusat Pengajian Kemiskinan dan Pembangunan (CPDS) Universiti Malaya, Deputy Chairman, Majlis Profesor Negara (MPN) UMS Chapter – in charge of the Socioeconomic and Development cluster. He is also the Associate Editor for The Borneo Review Editorial Board (IDS)



Professor Datuk Dr. Hj Kasim is actively involved in extracurricular activities mainly for university students in the nation, as well as within ASEAN, Asia and at the international level. He assumed the post of the President of the Malaysian University Sport Council (MASUM) in 2011-2014. He was the President of the ASEAN University Sport Council (AUSC) and chaired the 16th ASEAN University Games (AUG) in Lao PDR with great success. He was awarded the Cross of Friendship by the Laos PDR Government in 2014. In the same year, he was recognized for his leadership in sport and was awarded 'the Tokoh Sukan Universiti-Universiti Malaysia'. In July of 2017, he is one of the recipients of the Asia HRD Awards 2017 in recognition of his contributions to the HR Community in the area of Human Development.

Keynote Speaker 6

DATO' SHAIFUL NIZAM BIN ABDULLAH

Dato' Shaiful Nizam bin Abdullah is a successful businessman engaged in a wide range of business activities. He is the Executive Chairman for Jabat Yakin Aluminium Sdn. Bhd. Jabat Yakin Aluminium engages in the construction of aluminum smelter plant. The company was incorporated in 2005 and is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At present, Jabat Yakin Aluminium Sdn. Bhd. operates as a subsidiary of Sumatec Resources Bhd. Dato' Shaiful consistently pushes for introduction of new technologies and innovative solutions across his business. His extensive experience in the industry made him a highly regarded business practitioner among his peers.

Besides his active involvement in business-related consultations, Dato' Shaiful is also the President of MCIO (Malay, Chinese, Indian and Others). MCIO is a non-governmental organization that aims to provide explanation and clarification to Malaysian when misperceptions arise in aspects related to national unity. MCIO supports the government transformation that connects development advancement and wellbeing of future generation. Through his involvement in MCIO, Dato' Shaiful MCIO has been actively involved in various activities and community projects to foster and enhance national integration and unity. Dato' Shaiful has been frequently consulted in various issues for being outspoken especially in patriotism and national unity.

