

Moderator:

Prof. Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah Murad

Mohd Hazim Shah Murad is currently Professor at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University of Malaya where he taught the history, philosophy and sociology of science. He obtained his Master's degree in Philosophy of Science from the London School of Economics in 1979, and his PhD in History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1990. In 1993 he was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Dept of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourne, Australia, and from January to June 2008 he was a Visiting Scholar at the Dept of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge. This has partly to do with his idea of the ideal life which is to spend the summer in Australia, spring in England, autumn in Scandinavia, and of course winter in Malaysia. His research areas are Comparative Epistemology, Scientific Thought and the relationship between Science, Religion and Culture. He has published extensively in local and international journals.

PROGRAMME

3.45 – 4.00:	Registration and Networking Tea
4.00 – 4.30:	The 2008 Malaysian General Elections: A State and Society in Transition? Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmund Terence Gomez
4.30 – 5.00:	Did the 2008 Malaysian Election Campaign Matter? Reflections on Messaging, Machinery and Mass Mobilisation in the 12 th General Elections. Dr. Bridget Welsh
5.00 – 6.00:	Question and Answer
6.00 – 6.15:	Souvenirs Presentation
6.15	End of Programme



INPUMA FORUM SERIES

Political Change in Malaysia?: A Review of 2008 General Elections

Panelists:

ASSOC. PROF. DR. EDMUND TERENCE GOMEZ
(University of Malaya)
DR. BRIDGET WELSH
(John Hopkins University)

Moderator:

PROF. DR. MOHD. HAZIM SHAH MURAD
(University of Malaya)

Day: Monday, 25 August 2008
Time: 3.45 – 6.15 pm
Venue: Rimba Ilmu Auditorium,
University of Malaya,
Kuala Lumpur

Synopsis

The 2008 Malaysian General Elections: A State and Society in Transition?

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmund Terence Gomez

The results of the 2008 General Elections suggest that while Malaysian society has experienced fundamental and significant transformations as its economy developed, its political parties and the country's political structures have not kept pace. The election results further suggest that a serious gap has emerged between what Malaysians want from their government and what they actually received. Through an assessment of electoral trends between 1990 and 2008 and a review of the outcomes of key economic and social policies on Malaysian society, this study assesses the validity of these view points.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmund Terence Gomez

Edmund Terence Gomez is Associate Professor of Political Economy at the Faculty of Economics & Administration, University of Malaya. He has also held appointments at the University of Leeds and Murdoch University. Between 2005 and 2008, he served as Research Coordinator at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). His publications include *Malaysia's Political Economy: Politics, Patronage and Profits* (1999), *Political Business in East Asia* (2002), *The State of Malaysia: Ethnicity, Equity and Reform* (2004) and *Politics in Malaysia: The Malay Dimension* (2007).

Did the 2008 Malaysian Election Campaign Matter? Reflections on Messaging, Machinery and Mass Mobilisation in the 12th General Elections.

Dr. Bridget Welsh

One of the defining transformations of Malaysian Politics in the 12th General Elections has been the adoption on new "modern" campaign techniques, from polling and party "branding" to multi-media messaging and blogging. This forum discusses the impact of the campaign on support for different political parties and on shaping different forms of political participation among Malaysians. Drawing from a national survey conducted by the Merdeka Center in the wake of the election campaign and fieldwork observation from throughout the election period, this forum highlight different public perceptions of political parties, patterns and preferences of use of different campaign techniques and profiles the different core supporters of political parties. It illustrates that the campaign itself played a decisive role in shaping the 2008 electoral outcomes.

Dr. Bridget Welsh

Dr. Bridget Welsh is the project director of the Applied Business Systems Sdn. Bhd. (ABS) project in Malaysia and an Assistant Professor in the Paul H. Nitze School of International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University. She is the editor of *Reflections: The Mahathir Years* (2008), *Legacy of Engagement* (2008) and *Impressions: The Goh Chok Tong Era in Singapore* (2009) as well as the author of numerous articles on Southeast Asian Politics.