

KNOWLEDGE CONTRIBUTORS



ORGANISERS



SUPPORTED BY



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY IN ASEAN

6-7 AUGUST 2025

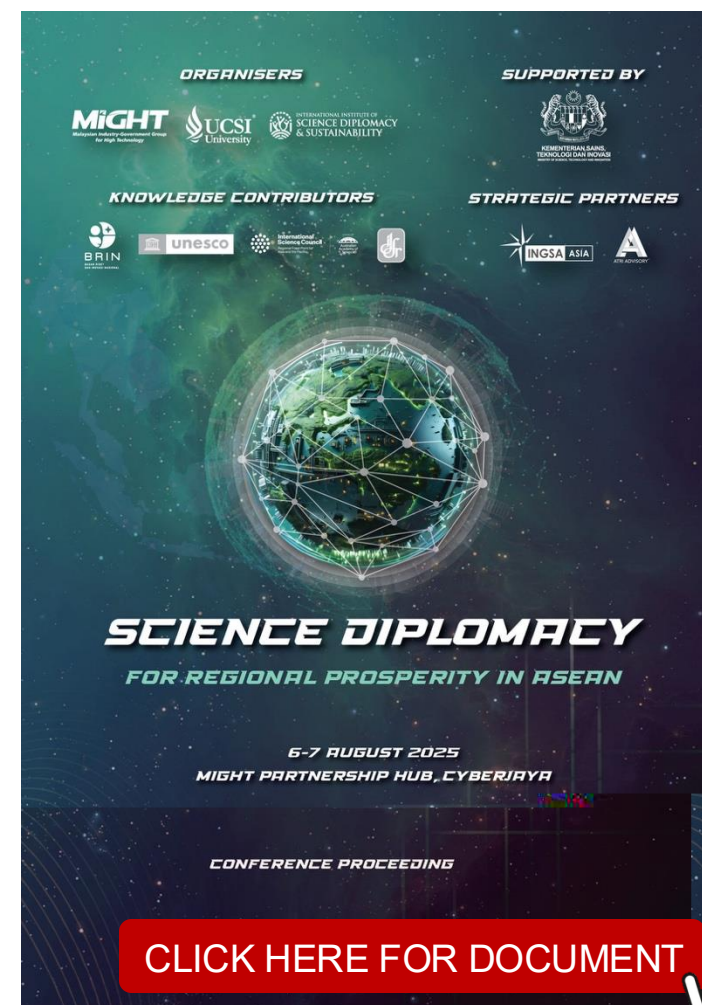
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB,
CYBERJAYA



CONFERENCE OUTCOME

Science diplomacy is the relationship between two or more countries in addressing common problems predicated on scientific knowledge. It is also a good compliment to sustain good relations between two countries in times of strained public diplomatic relations. An excellent example: at the height of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the U.S. (1947-1991) “scientific and technical people-to-people exchanges” continued to be promoted to encourage communication and dialogue. The exchanges had a positive impact on bilateral relations and wider implications on world politics. Personal contacts between the scientists fostered mutual trust and better understanding, thus eventually encouraging political leaders on both sides to improve relations and sustained a peaceful coexistence amidst the threat of nuclear warfare.

This Track-Two Diplomacy is increasingly gaining traction over and above international relations normally practiced by career diplomats. This has been especially so since the Earth Summit in 1992 when the UN took greater interest in addressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable development. There is greater interaction between the scientific community and the policymakers, as exemplified by the roles played by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on policymakers attending the regular meetings of the Conference of Parties (COPs) of the UNFCCC and UNCBD respectively.

[CLICK HERE FOR DOCUMENT](#)



Speaker:

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc, Joint Chairman (Government), MIGHT and Founding Director, IISDS-UCSI

The urgency to address challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution was underscored, with a call to translate international debates into concrete regional and local actions. Highlighting major processes like the Conferences of the Parties, the Convenor stressed the need to bridge the gap between science and policymaking to secure political will. Appreciation was expressed to the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation for attending, reinforcing the value of political leadership.

The Convenor also acknowledged the gap between commitments and implementation, the strategic role of ambassadors, and the diverse intergenerational participation spanning senior leaders to young scientists. In closing, ASEAN and other developing nations were urged to take a proactive role in shaping solutions that balance conservation with sustainable development.

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)



WELCOMING ADDRESS I

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



[WATCH VIDEO](#)

UCSI welcomed delegates to the International Conference on Science Diplomacy for Regional Prosperity in ASEAN, underscoring the strategic significance of the event in fostering dialogue, collaboration, and innovation across the region. UCSI University's conviction that science diplomacy is anchored in collective action and sustained partnerships, citing the institution's long-standing collaborations with government agencies, international organisations, academia, and civil society.

The five-year strategic collaboration between UCSI University and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) to establish the ASEAN Centre for Science Diplomacy—the first of its kind in the region. The Centre is intended as a practical platform to support ASEAN Member States and developing nations in jointly addressing complex transboundary issues

Speaker:

Distinguished Professor Dr Phang Siew Moi, FMBA (UK), Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Postgraduate of UCSI

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)

**Speaker:**

Ts. Rushdi Abdul Rahim, President & CEO, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)

Since its inception, MIGHT has embedded science diplomacy as a strategic imperative through initiatives such as the Langkawi International Dialogue and the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC), fostering trust, collaboration, and innovation across government, industry, and academia under the Triple Helix model.

Guided by its “three forces” of conversation, collaboration, and co-creation, and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, MIGHT applies strategic foresight to navigate a volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world—using science diplomacy as the bridge that transforms knowledge into action and global insight into local impact, affirming its belief that *Together, We Make It Happen*.

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Malaysia's commitment to advancing science diplomacy within ASEAN, noting that the region faces a range of transboundary challenges from climate change and biodiversity loss to the digital divide—which no nation can resolve in isolation. Science diplomacy, offers a critical platform for building trust, sharing knowledge, and co-creating solutions. It serves as a bridge connecting scientists with diplomats, policymakers with researchers, and governments with communities.

The Minister called upon all participants to commit not only to the principles of science diplomacy but also to the concrete actions and institutional frameworks required to advance it. He urged delegates to engage actively in the conference deliberations, viewing the event not as the culmination of dialogue but as the beginning of a sustained movement. The Minister then formally declared open the International Conference on Science Diplomacy for Regional Prosperity in ASEAN.

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)**Speaker:**

H.E. Chang Li Kang, Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia

KEYNOTE I : DIPLOMACY, THREE GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND THE COMMON DESTINY OF HUMANKIND

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



WATCH VIDEO

Chairperson:

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc, Joint Chairman (Government), MIGHT and Founding Director, IISDS-UCSI

Speaker:

Academician Dato' Ir. (Dr) Lee Yee Cheong, Honorary Chair, The International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) / Distinguished Visiting Professor IISDS-UCSI

Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative are interconnected, sharing the common objective of fostering peace, prosperity, and mutual respect. For ASEAN and Belt and Road countries, he stressed the importance of ensuring that these initiatives bring tangible benefits to ordinary people, safeguard truth, and contribute to a common destiny for humankind.

[Click here for the presentation](#)



CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS



KEYNOTE II: UNESCO'S GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



Using sci
countries

Inform
Informin

WATCH VIDEO



Chairperson:

Professor Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc , Joint Chairman
(Government), MIGHT/ Founding Director, IISDS-UCSI

Speaker:

Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno External Consultant, UNESCO

UNESCO highlighted the UNESCO's longstanding history of cooperation with ASEAN, formalized through agreements focusing on science, technology, and innovation (STI) as a primary area of collaboration. UNESCO expressed its readiness to mobilize not only its internal expertise but also that of its partners to advance such initiatives in ASEAN. The discussion also emphasized the opportunity for ASEAN to intensify efforts towards developing a regional science diplomacy roadmap, drawing on examples from Africa and other regions.

[Click here for the presentation](#)



CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS



PANEL DISCUSSION I: CURRENT ISSUES IN SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: SDGS, PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS, REGIONAL COOPERATION, SCIENCE-POLICY NEXUS

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB

Capacity building was identified as essential not only for developing but also for developed countries, ensuring that all delegates regardless of background, understand technical issues before making policy decisions. Several interventions focused on the relationship between science diplomacy and political diplomacy, noting that political and legal priorities often take precedence over scientific evidence. Participants observed that training scientists in diplomatic skills is more effective than expecting diplomats to gain deep technical expertise.

Moderator:

Mr. Mohd Zakwan Mohd Zabidi, Senior Vice President, MIGHT

Panellists:

- Prof. Elil Renganathan, Professor of Public Health and Policy, Monash University Malaysia
- Ms. Kunzang Choden, Programme Manager, ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific
- Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno, External Consultant, UNESCO

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)

KEYNOTE III: REFLECTIONS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BEYOND 2030 AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB

Under a high-ambition scenario, most Goals are projected to make substantial progress by 2030, with the majority achieved or near target by 2050. Yet, persistent issues such as air pollution and food waste management will remain challenging. Measures in this scenario include carbon pricing, phasing out coal and biomass, mandating electric vehicles, reforming energy subsidies, and advancing sustainable consumption. Professor Kanie stressed that business-as-usual pathways, incremental adjustments, or even modest reforms will be insufficient to achieve the SDGs by 2030 or 2050; instead, transformative and game-changing interventions are required.



Post-2030 agenda offers a unique space where science diplomacy can align evidence-based insights with policy, foster international collaboration, and guide transformative action toward sustainable development well beyond mid-century.

Chairperson:

Mr. Alizan Mahadi, Senior Manager (Policy & Regulations), PETRONAS

Speaker:

Professor Norichika Kanie, Professor at the Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University

[Click here for the presentation](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)

KEYNOTE IV: EUROPEAN UNION PERSPECTIVES OF SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



The current international landscape for science diplomacy as a “perfect storm” shaped by three concurrent and interrelated dynamics:

- (i) Profound geopolitical shifts, including the Russian war against Ukraine, the transformation of China’s economic influence into geopolitical power, evolving relations among Western allies, and the legitimate calls from the Global South for greater participation in global governance;
- (ii) Rapid advances in research and innovation, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology and their implications for global politics, as demonstrated by vaccine diplomacy during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (iii) Critical transformations in the Earth’s life-support systems, notably climate change and biodiversity loss.

Chairperson:

Professor Dr. Mohamad bin Osman, Deputy Director of the The International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS), UCSI University

Speaker:

Jan Marco Müller, Team Leader Global Approach, Multilateral Dialogue and Science Diplomacy, European Commission



[Click here for the presentation](#) 

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#) 



KEYNOTE V: SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: FROM ANTARCTICA TO ASEAN

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



Science diplomacy requires decision-making across a continuum of urgencies, integrating immediate security imperatives with long-term sustainability objectives. Informed decisions consider both present and future contexts, while uninformed decisions address only a single point in time. The “currency” of science diplomacy is time, informed by empirical evidence, patterns of change, and diverse knowledge systems.

From Our Common Future to the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community has progressively refined approaches to planetary stewardship. The central governance challenge remains the reconciliation of national and common interests. The Antarctic experience underscores that the starting point of dialogue—conflict or cooperation—largely determines the nature of outcomes.

Chairperson:

Professor Dr. Mohamad bin Osman, Deputy Director of the The International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS), UCSI University

Speaker:

Professor Paul Arthur Berkman, Director of the Science Diplomacy Center™, USA and Faculty Associate, Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School

[Click here for the presentation](#) 

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#) 

PANEL DISCUSSION II: “COMMON INTERESTS”: SPACE ECONOMY, BLUE ECONOMY, PERSPECTIVE FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH, WATER WOES, SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



Achieving common interests across the space economy, blue economy, water security, and digital transformation requires:

1. Addressing systemic global economic imbalances.
2. Ensuring equitable access to technology and scientific knowledge.
3. Strengthening science-policy interfaces and regional cooperation.
4. Deploying science diplomacy to facilitate inclusive, sustainable development and shared prosperity.

Chairperson:

Prof. Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Mokhtar, Adjunct Professor IISDS, UCSI

Panellists:

- Distinguished Professor Dr Phang Siew Moi, FMBA (UK), Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Postgraduate of UCSI
- Ms. Chee Yoke Ling, Executive Director, Third World Network
- Dr. Hul Seingheng, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI), Cambodia
- Mr. Bocar A BA, Chief Executive Officer, SAMENA Telecommunications Council

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)

DINNER TALK:

"BEYOND BORDERS: REIMAGINING ASEAN PROSPERITY THROUGH THE DIPLOMACY OF SCIENCE AND SHARED FUTURE"

6 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



Speaker:

H.E Tan Sri Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Former Foreign Minister of Malaysia and Former Chair of World Islamic Economic Forum



KEYNOTE VI: THE POTENTIAL OF BIO-DIPLOMACY

7 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



The establishment of an ASEAN Centre for Science Diplomacy, announced by Malaysian leadership, was welcomed as a platform to foster cross-border scientific collaboration on environmental, agricultural, and marine issues.

Professor Ahmad cited international models, such as the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Vienna, and called for a similar institution in ASEAN to address emerging regional challenges in climate, biodiversity, and sustainability through cooperative science-based diplomacy.

Chairperson:

Dr. Raslan Ahmad, Chairman of Malaysia Smart Cities Alliance (MSCA)

Speaker:

Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Bin Ibrahim, FASc, Faculty of Engineering, Technology & Built Environment of UCSI

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)



PANEL DISCUSSION III: ELEMENTS FOR A SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FRAMEWORK

7 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



Moderator:

Prof. Abhi Veerakumarasivam, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University

Panellists:

- Dr. Suneetha M Subramanian, Research Fellow and Academic Associate in the Biodiversity and Society Programme, United Nations University, Tokyo
- Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa, Senior Intellectual Property Consultant National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
- Associate Professor Dr. Siti Hafsyah Idris, Senior Lecturer of Environmental Law, Universiti Teknologi MARA
- Ms. Wan Faizah Che Din, Chief Executive Officer, Amanah Lestari Alam (ALAM)

Four overarching priorities for an ASEAN science diplomacy framework:

1. Inclusivity and trust-building across disciplines, sectors, and societal groups.
2. Capacity development in technical, legal, negotiation, and communication skills.
3. Flexible, networked institutions with strong solution-oriented mandates.
4. Integrated funding mechanisms that incentivise long-term, impact-driven initiatives.

By embedding these principles, ASEAN can strengthen its ability to address global challenges, safeguard regional interests, and operationalise science diplomacy as a strategic tool for sustainable development.

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)



KEYNOTE VII: TRAINING OF YOUNG DIPLOMATS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

7 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



Chairperson:

Mohd Nurul Azammi Mohd Nudri, Head of Foresight, MIGHT

Speaker:

Dato' Zainol Rahim Zainuddin, Director General, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)

Training for the modern diplomat must be continuous, adaptive, and grounded in real-world complexities. It should prepare individuals to understand science, address cyber threats, and engage with evidence-based policymaking.

Science diplomacy offers a vital pathway, not to turn diplomats into scientists, but to equip them to apply scientific knowledge ethically and effectively in addressing global challenges. The evolving nature of conflict, rivalry, climate crises, and technological change demands a generation of diplomats who can think systematically, act ethically, and adapt continuously

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)



PANEL DISCUSSION IV: TRAINING FOR WHOM, ON WHAT, AND HOW?

7 AUGUST 2025
MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB



The panel collectively affirmed that advancing ASEAN's science diplomacy capacity requires holistic, multidisciplinary approaches that integrate science, diplomacy, indigenous perspectives, and foresight. Investments in tailored training programs, experiential learning, and inclusive collaboration will equip ASEAN diplomats and partners to address emerging global challenges with agility, evidence, and cultural sensitivity.

This session underscored the multifaceted nature of science diplomacy, emphasizing the need for:

1. Inclusive, long-term capacity-building programs,
2. Creation of neutral dialogue spaces to build trust,
3. Enhancement of communication literacy and foresight capabilities,
4. Institutionalization of indigenous engagement and whole-of-government collaboration.

Moderator:

Sam Johnston, IISDS-UCSI Adjunct Professor/Senior Fellow, Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne, Australia

Panellists:

- Mohd Nurul Azammi Mohd Nudri, Head of Foresight, MIGHT
- Dr. Joannes Ekaprasetya Tandjung, Director for Research and Innovation Infrastructure Partnership Strengthening, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
- Dato' Westmoreland Palon, Director, Competency Enhancement Centre, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)
- Ms. Jennifer Rubis, Indigenous Peoples Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)





The Chair expressed sincere appreciation to all participants for their continued engagement throughout the two-day conference, describing the experience as both rich and enriching. This conference marks a pivotal step towards the formulation and endorsement of the ASEAN Centre for Science Diplomacy (ACSD), envisioned as a regional Centre of Excellence to advance science diplomacy in ASEAN.

A draft resolution document was presented for review and endorsement. Participants were invited to provide feedback and express their support. The document reflects the collaborative spirit of the conference and seeks to be inclusive of all relevant institutional partners.

[Click here for the draft resolution](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS](#)

Chair:

Prof. Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, Joint Chairman (Government),
MIGHT / Founding Director, IISDS-UCSI

Presenter:

Ahmad Razif Mohamad, International Partnership Unit, MIGHT

