ORGANISERS

MiGHT Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology

UCSI University

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE DIPLOMACY & SUSTAINABILITY

SUPPORTED BY

KEMENTERIAN SAINS, TEKNOLOGI DAN INOVASI
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

KNOWLEDGE CONTRIBUTORS

BRIN BADAN RISET DAN INOVASI NASIONAL

unesco

International Science Council Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific

Australian Academy of Science

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

INGSA ASIA

ATRI ADVISORY

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY IN ASEAN

6-7 AUGUST 2025

MIGHT PARTNERSHIP HUB, CYBERJAYA

CONFERENCE PROCEEDING

MALAYSIA MADANI

ASEAN MALAYSIA 2025

Visit Malaysia 2026 Truly Asia

Foreword

On behalf of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) and UCSI University, it is our privilege to welcome all delegates, distinguished speakers and partners to the International Conference on Science Diplomacy for Regional Prosperity in Asean. This gathering takes place at a critical juncture for the region, as we seek to strengthen multilateral cooperation, foster resilience and unlock the full potential of science diplomacy as a driver of sustainable development and regional competitiveness.

MIGHT's enduring mission is to bridge government, industry, and academia in shaping high-technology ecosystems that are inclusive, forward-looking and globally competitive. Science diplomacy aligns closely with this mission—serving as a powerful tool to address transboundary challenges such as climate change, disaster preparedness, food and water security, and energy transitions. This conference offers a timely opportunity to advance a science diplomacy framework that is grounded in regional realities and guided by shared aspirations.

UCSI University, through the International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS), is deeply committed to fostering interdisciplinary exchange at the nexus of science, policy and diplomacy. We believe that meaningful progress requires not only technological advancement, but also the institutional capacity to translate knowledge into action. For Asean, this means empowering the next generation of leaders to navigate complexity, forge partnerships and contribute to the region's long-term stability and prosperity.

This conference is more than a platform for dialogue—it is a strategic space for designing actionable pathways. It compels us to consider how we prepare diplomats to engage with scientific discourse, how we enable scientists to participate in policy processes and how we create enabling environments where both communities can collaborate effectively. Embedding science diplomacy into the region's institutional architecture is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity.

As co-organisers, MIGHT and UCSI are united in our commitment to advancing regional cooperation, nurturing talent and building resilience that serve Asean's collective interests. We extend our sincere appreciation to all participants for your engagement and contributions. May this conference catalyse enduring partnerships and chart new frontiers for science diplomacy in ASEAN.

Conference Overview

In the 19th century, renowned French chemist and microbiologist Louis Pasteur famously said that “Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world.” The wisdom of that remark has proven itself often in many decades since. Successfully advancing research depends on sharing ideas and knowledge with colleagues worldwide, And the benefits of such cooperation can draw together ever the staunchest of enemies

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.

Such global interest can be translated into regional initiatives in a grouping like ASEAN which has many issues of common interests such as the transboundary haze, mega-biodiversity, climate change and food security.

Detailed Proceedings

Proceedings: International Conference on Science Diplomacy for Regional Prosperity in ASEAN

6–7 August 2025 | MIGHT Partnership Hub, Cyberjaya, Malaysia

Day 1: 6 August 2025

Opening Session

Convenor's Remarks: Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc, Joint Chairman (Government) of MIGHT and Founding Director of International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS)

The Convenor extended a warm welcome to all participants of the two-day regional event and duly observed all protocols, noting in particular the presence of ambassadors from the region and beyond, alongside distinguished colleagues engaged in the field of science diplomacy. The Convenor outlined that the objective of the meeting was to link global issues of concern with national priorities—particularly in Malaysia—and to align them with the broader ASEAN agenda encompassing all ten Member States. This initiative, the Convenor emphasized, was both timely and essential given the existential nature of current global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and other pressing environmental crises. While these matters are extensively debated at the international level, the Convenor underscored the need for their translation into concrete and actionable measures at both regional and local levels. Referencing major international processes such as the Conferences of the Parties on climate change, biodiversity, and biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, the Convenor identified these as clear examples of science diplomacy in action. The Convenor stressed that such global challenges are fundamentally underpinned by scientific evidence, which is readily available; however, the critical challenge lies in bridging the gap between the scientific community and policymakers to ensure the necessary political will and commitment. In this regard, the Convenor expressed deep appreciation to H.E. the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) for attending despite a demanding schedule, recognising the pivotal role of political leadership in advancing these agendas. The Convenor also reflected on the persistent gap between commitments and implementation, noting that while international summits attract strong participation, progress can be undermined when key nations withdraw from agreed processes. The Convenor acknowledged the strategic role of ambassadors in fostering closer linkages between diplomatic and technical spheres. The Convenor further highlighted the intergenerational composition of the meeting's participants, encompassing eminent figures in sustainable development—such as Dato' Lee, long-

standing advocates since the Rio Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development—together with mid-career professionals and a younger generation of scientists and practitioners, including delegates in their early twenties. This diversity, the Convenor noted, was a testament to the importance of inclusive participation across all age groups. In conclusion, the Convenor urged ASEAN and other developing nations to play a proactive role in shaping solutions that balance conservation with sustainable development. The Convenor formally welcomed all delegates to the two-day conference and expressed confidence that the deliberations would yield constructive outcomes.

Welcoming Address I: Distinguished Professor Dr. Phang Siew Moi, FASc, FMBA (UK), Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Postgraduate of UCSI

The Speaker expressed great pleasure in welcoming 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. The Speaker noted the diverse and distinguished international participation, with representatives from the United States, Japan, France, Australia, Thailand, and Cambodia. This global presence was recognised as a testament to the shared commitment to purposeful engagement, the exchange of knowledge, and the advancement of science diplomacy as a bridge between nations, disciplines, and sectors. The Speaker reaffirmed 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. A key initiative highlighted was 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 such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and air pollution. The Speaker further noted UCSI University's partnership with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) through its International Institute of Science, Diplomacy and Sustainability, which convenes high-level dialogues and conferences to connect experts, diplomats, and policymakers, with the aim of promoting evidence-based policymaking at both regional and global levels. The Speaker also acknowledged the presence of Professor Paul Arthur Berkman, founder of the Science Diplomacy Center in the United States and faculty associate at Harvard Law School, who has been instrumental in advancing lessons from Cold War-era science diplomacy, particularly in US–Soviet cooperation in Antarctica. The Speaker expressed the University's appreciation for the opportunity to explore new avenues of collaboration with Professor Berkman at a time of increasing global uncertainty and polarization. Emphasizing the need for shared objectives and transboundary

cooperation, the Speaker underscored the importance of open data, shared resources, and collaborative research in accelerating the translation of scientific ideas into tangible societal benefits. Science diplomacy, it was stressed, is a collective responsibility involving policymakers, scientists, innovators, and community advocates alike. In conclusion, the Speaker expressed confidence that the conference would generate valuable insights, strengthen collaborative networks, and inspire impactful initiatives for the advancement of both the region and the wider global community.

Welcoming Address II: Mr. Rushdi Abdul Rahim, President & CEO of MIGHT

On behalf of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), the Speaker extended a formal welcome to all delegates, acknowledging with appreciation those who had travelled across borders, disciplines, and sectors to attend the International Conference on Science Diplomacy for Regional Prosperity in ASEAN. The Speaker noted that the gathering represented more than a conference, describing it as a convergence of ideas, missions, and momentum towards shared goals. The Speaker observed that although the term science diplomacy gained broader international attention after 2010, MIGHT has embedded its principles as a strategic imperative since its establishment. Notable examples include the Langkawi International Dialogue, which convened leaders from across the Global South to advance cooperation and development, and the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC), which brought together global thought leaders to advise Malaysia on its innovation trajectory. These initiatives, the Speaker emphasised, were not merely events but ecosystems that cultivated trust, fostered collaboration, and laid enduring foundations for regional prosperity. For over three decades, MIGHT has positioned itself at the nexus of industry, academia, and government, championing high technology, strategic foresight, and collaborative industrial development. The Speaker affirmed that science diplomacy is deeply embedded in the organisation's ethos, reflected in its global partnerships, alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, and integration of futures thinking into national governance processes. The Speaker described science diplomacy as a bridge—linking nations, dismantling silos, and connecting knowledge to action and aspirations to implementation. In this regard, strategic foresight was highlighted as an indispensable tool for navigating complexity and uncertainty in today's volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) global environment. Foresight was characterised as a necessity, with science diplomacy serving as the vessel that enables its application. The Speaker underscored the "Triple Helix" model—bringing together government, industry, and academia—as a dynamic framework for innovation and impact. MIGHT has consistently facilitated this interplay, convening stakeholders, translating ideas into actionable strategies, and co-creating solutions across domains, from high-technology ecosystems to regional economic corridors. Initiatives such as the

Langkawi International Dialogue and GSIAC were cited as exemplary manifestations of the Triple Helix, combining global insight with local relevance and shared ambition. In conclusion, the Speaker reaffirmed that sustainable progress emerges from conversation, collaboration, and co-creation. These principles, referred to within MIGHT as its "three forces," were identified as the heartbeat of both the organisation and science diplomacy. The Speaker encouraged delegates to share openly, listen deeply, and work collectively to build enduring bridges of cooperation, echoing MIGHT's commitment to the principle that *Together, We Make It Happen.*

Launching Remarks: H.E. Chang Lih Kang, Minister of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI) Malaysia

The Minister commenced his remarks by expressing his great pleasure in welcoming delegates to the *International Conference on Science Diplomacy for Regional Prosperity in ASEAN*, convened in Cyberjaya—a location he described as a fitting hub within Malaysia's innovation and digital ecosystem. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, he extended sincere appreciation to all participants, including policymakers, diplomats, scientists, innovators, and academicians from across ASEAN and beyond. Their presence, he noted, reflected a shared conviction that science diplomacy is not merely a concept for the future but an urgent priority for the present. The Minister underscored Malaysia's longstanding recognition of the pivotal role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) as a driver of sustainable development, economic competitiveness, and societal well-being. He referred to the *National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation 2021–2030*, which articulates Malaysia's aspiration to achieve high-technology nation status by 2030. This policy framework, he explained, emphasises inclusive and responsible STI aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, grounded in four key dimensions: economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, societal well-being, and good governance. He further highlighted that Malaysia's investments in STI extend beyond enhancing research and development capacity, aiming instead to foster an enabling ecosystem where researchers, industry, government agencies, and communities collaborate to address complex global and regional challenges. These include climate change, emerging diseases, cyber security, and food security. The Minister also reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to green growth and energy transition, positioning science and innovation at the core of the national development agenda. He drew attention to the application of STI in enhancing disaster preparedness and public health resilience, particularly in the post-pandemic context, emphasising that STI requires a whole-of-nation approach rather than being confined to any single sector. Turning to regional matters, the Minister reaffirmed 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, he stated, 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 acknowledged Malaysia's collaboration with strategic partners, including the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) and the International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability at UCSI University. He noted Malaysia's interest in establishing a *Regional Centre of Excellence in Science Diplomacy*, envisioned as a hub for knowledge exchange, capacity development, strategic foresight, and policy coordination. This initiative, he explained, aligns with Malaysia's contributions to the *ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2026–2035*. Looking ahead, the Minister proposed the development of an ASEAN Strategic Roadmap for Science Diplomacy beyond 2025. This roadmap, he suggested, should:

1. Define the goals, scope, and frameworks for regional science diplomacy.
2. Identify thematic priorities such as health security, climate resilience, digital ethics, and sustainable food systems.
3. Promote mobility and knowledge exchange among scientists, young leaders, and policymakers.
4. Strengthen institutional linkages and foster a regional community of practice.

He emphasised that the roadmap should be inclusive, co-created by governments, universities, think tanks, and civil society, and should prioritise the empowerment of a new generation of science diplomats capable of navigating both technical and diplomatic arenas. In conclusion, 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*.

Keynote I : Diplomacy, Three Global Initiatives and The Common Destiny of Humankind

Chairperson: Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc, Joint Chairman (Government) of MIGHT and Founding Director of International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS)

Speaker: Academician Dato' Ir. (Dr) Lee Yee Cheong, Honorary Chairman, Governing Council, International Science Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC)

The speaker began by noting that the year marks two major anniversaries: the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN) and the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. He stated that the UN, in his view, represents humanity's greatest diplomatic achievement, having been established to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." Quoting Winston Churchill, he recalled that "It is better to jaw-jaw than to war-war," underlining the importance of dialogue over conflict. The speaker expressed concern that the current global situation remains troubled, with ongoing armed conflicts, the persistence of genocide in Gaza, and recent acts—such as the unprovoked bombing of Iran—contradicting the principles of the UN Charter. He observed that the erosion of multilateralism, evidenced by the United States' withdrawal from UNESCO for the third time, challenges the rules-based international order. He emphasised the need for science diplomacy in such circumstances but noted its limited influence in shaping world events. In an era of misinformation and disinformation, he proposed that one critical role for institutions involved in science diplomacy is to train diplomats to distinguish truth from falsehood, grounding diplomatic practice in evidence, facts, and the scientific method. He suggested that the ASEAN Centre for Science Diplomacy could take the lead in providing such training for ASEAN diplomats. Turning to the Global Development Initiative, the speaker recalled the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. While acknowledging their comprehensiveness, he suggested that the goals may be overly ambitious for many nations to fully achieve by 2030. For high-income developing countries such as Malaysia, he recommended prioritising the first five goals: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality. Among these, he stressed that poverty eradication is the most urgent, identifying it as the root cause of many social, economic, and environmental challenges. He highlighted China's success in lifting 800 million people out of poverty and preventing their return to deprivation, attributing this achievement to comprehensive infrastructure development and strong governance. The speaker highlighted on the establishment of a Belt and Road Friendship Villages Forum to promote cooperation between Ningxia, China—anchoring the overland Silk Road—and Malaysia—anchoring the maritime Silk Road. He reported that discussions with Ningxia authorities on this proposal are ongoing.

Discussing the Belt and Road Initiative, the speaker observed that large-scale infrastructure projects such as railways, power plants, and ports were developed within short timeframes. However, he emphasized that these assets require proper maintenance over decades, highlighting the importance of capacity building for engineers, technicians, and managers in partner countries. He shared that Xiaomi has launched a program to establish Artificial Intelligence of Things (AIoT) Training Centres in developing countries. Each centre will be fully funded, including equipment,

software, and training, with the first two centres to be established in Malaysia and Indonesia in 2025. Eight other training institutes will be set up in Asia and Africa in the next five years. He invited other Belt and Road countries to consider participation in this initiative.

Addressing the Global Civilization Initiative, launched in 2023, the speaker explained that it aims to promote mutual learning between cultures and to build a shared future for humankind. He referenced historical maritime voyages led by Admiral Zheng He, noting that these expeditions brought trade, knowledge, and friendship without territorial conquest. To continue this legacy, he proposed creating an Alliance of Ports among Belt and Road countries to safeguard freedom of navigation. He also highlighted the importance of educational programmes on the histories of the land and maritime Silk Roads. The Fusion of Civilizations curriculum—based on the travels of Ibn Battuta and Admiral Zheng He—was cited as an example, blending historical and cultural narratives with science education.

In conclusion, the speaker stated that the 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.

Keynote II: UNESCO's global initiative on science diplomacy

Chairperson: Professor Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc, Joint Chairman (Government) of MIGHT and Founding Director of International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS)

Speaker: Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno, Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy Expert, UNESCO

Mr. Moreno commenced his address with a quotation from Louis Pasteur: *"Science knows no country because knowledge belongs to humanity, and it is the torch which illuminates the world."* He underscored that science is universal in nature, governed by the same laws everywhere, and capable of bridging divides even in periods of political tension. This universality, he noted, positions science diplomacy as a vital mechanism for fostering peace. In commemoration of UNESCO's 80th anniversary, he reiterated its founding principle that, as wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in their minds that the defences of peace must be constructed. Achieving this vision requires not only political agreements but also scientific cooperation and solidarity. UNESCO has long practised science diplomacy through initiatives such as CERN and SESAME, its international scientific programmes, policy advisory work, and capacity-building efforts that bring scientists and diplomats together to create mutual

understanding and operational synergies. Mr. Moreno identified the evolving global context—marked by geopolitical tensions, competition for resources, rapid technological change, the influence of non-state actors, and significant disparities in scientific capacity—as a call for renewed science diplomacy. The *UN Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development* provides a unifying framework to advance science that is responsive, inclusive, and equitable.

UNESCO's strategic priorities in science diplomacy are:

1. **Balancing open science and research security**, particularly concerning dual-use technologies.
2. **Inclusive participation in emerging technologies**, ensuring that the Global South contributes to and benefits from global governance and development processes.
3. **Protection of scientific systems during crises**, including conflicts and natural disasters.
4. **Peaceful governance of transboundary natural resources**, such as rivers, oceans, and biodiversity.

Illustrative actions include the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, collaboration with the Human Cell Atlas, post-conflict STI system recovery in Sudan, the Friends of the Nile initiative, and the SESAME research facility. He further cited the *Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy*, convened by UNESCO, which engaged over 1,000 participants and 60 ministerial-level representatives to examine the future of science diplomacy. Key recommendations urged UNESCO to assist Member States in developing national strategies, enhance capacity-building for both scientists and diplomats, and strengthen open and equitable cooperation. In conclusion, Mr. Moreno emphasised the importance of regional frameworks for pooling resources, harmonising policies, and consolidating expertise. Highlighting UNESCO's support for Africa's Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy (STISA 2034), he endorsed the call for an ASEAN roadmap for science diplomacy and affirmed UNESCO's readiness to support its development.

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.

Discussion by Participants

A subsequent intervention was made by an Ambassador from Egypt, who commended the day's informative presentations, particularly from the keynote speakers. Drawing on personal experience as a career diplomat with prior roles in transboundary water issues, human rights, and participation in COP27 negotiations, the Ambassador underscored the importance of equipping diplomats with technical understanding in scientific matters. H.E. noted that while scientists and subject-matter experts contribute to negotiations, it is diplomats who remain engaged through to the conclusion of discussions—often without sufficient technical grounding, particularly in developing countries. The Ambassador urged UNESCO and other capacity-building institutions to prioritize targeted training for diplomats, as they are the principal negotiators in such settings. In response, the convenor noted that the International Institute on Science, Diplomacy and Sustainability at UCSI University already addresses this need. An example cited was the forthcoming "Training the Negotiators" programme, supported by the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, which will engage young officials from approximately 20 African countries. It was further observed that, alongside diplomats, lawyers also play a critical role in finalizing declarations and agreements. Accordingly, capacity-building efforts should extend to both diplomats and legal professionals, integrating science into their professional competencies.

Panel Discussion I: Current Issues in Science Diplomacy: SDGs, Pandemic Preparedness, Regional Cooperation, Science-Policy Nexus

Moderated by Mohd Zakwan Mohd Zabidi, Senior Vice President of MIGHT

Panelists:

1. Prof. Elil Renganathan**,** Professor of Public Health and Policy of Monash University Malaysia
2. Ms. Kunzang Choden, Asia Program Manager at ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific of International Science Council
3. Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno, Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy Expert, UNESCO

The session opened with the Moderator welcoming participants to the first panel discussion of the conference, focusing on pressing issues in science diplomacy, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), pandemic preparedness, regional cooperation, and the science–policy nexus. He highlighted the evolving nature of science diplomacy, noting the emergence of new actors—particularly large multinational corporations that now wield influence comparable to, or exceeding, some states in shaping technological directions.

Prof. Elil Renganathan began by emphasising the centrality of evidence in science diplomacy, drawing parallels to health diplomacy. He outlined three dimensions: *science in diplomacy* (using evidence to inform negotiations), *science for diplomacy* (scientific cooperation fostering diplomatic relations), and *diplomacy for science* (diplomatic efforts to promote scientific collaboration). He illustrated the importance of evidence through Malaysia's initiative on integrated approach to lung health, which progressed from a national policy in the Ministry of Health to adoption as a World Health Assembly resolution and is now being advanced under Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship. He stressed that evidence must be sourced not only from one's own field but also from other disciplines, with due recognition of its value.

Ms. Kunzang Choden introduced the International Science Council (ISC) and its Asia–Pacific Regional Focal Point, hosted by the Australian Academy of Science and supported by the Australian Government. She highlighted ISC's role in convening scientific communities, ensuring that regional priorities are integrated into global scientific discourse. Observing gaps in the Global South, she noted the absence of formal institutional mechanisms linking ministries of science with ministries of foreign affairs, and the lack of regional forums for science diplomacy. She pointed to the shortage of professionals capable of bridging the science–policy divide, as scientists are often untrained in negotiation and diplomats in scientific literacy.

Mr. Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno addressed the perceived mistrust in science, clarifying that global surveys often show high trust in science but lower trust in institutions. He identified a "paradox of trust" during crises—precisely when open science and data sharing are most needed, nations often become more reluctant to share due to vulnerability. He described UNESCO's proactive efforts to create frameworks for trust, such as guidelines for data sharing during crises (developed with CODATA), and methodologies for assessing the impact of conflicts on science, technology, and innovation systems, as in Ukraine and Sudan. He underscored the importance of framing the global good as being in every nation's interest.

Returning to the discussion, Prof. Renganathan reflected on lessons from COVID-19: while the pandemic spurred unprecedented scientific collaboration and rapid medical product development, it also generated challenges from misinformation and disinformation. He cited ongoing negotiations on a global pandemic agreement and emphasised the importance of regional approaches, such as ASEAN's Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED). He discussed efforts to create a collaborative platform bringing together academia, civil society, the private sector, and even finance professionals to influence policy and support ACPHEED's work, while also holding it accountable.

Ms. Choden agreed that science diplomacy is a vital geostrategic tool, bridging nations, cultures, and communities. She stressed that the concept, though relatively new to international discourse, is often misunderstood and conflated with scientific collaboration. Highlighting ISC initiatives, she described the Asia Science Mission Initiative, which promotes transdisciplinary innovation by co-designing solutions with diverse stakeholders, and the Seeds of Science Asia programme, which funds projects that strengthen evidence-based governance in Asia, including ASEAN member states.

Mr. Galindo Moreno concluded with perspectives on the future of science diplomacy, identifying four priorities:

1. **Anticipatory governance** – developing forward-looking collaborations and regulations to address future technological and societal challenges, thereby fostering trust and predictability.
2. **Bridging capacity gaps** – ensuring the Global South has a voice in global forums, with tailored training for both diplomats and scientists, and opportunities for joint engagement.
3. **Equitable financing** – transforming funding mechanisms for science, technology, and innovation to target societal needs and underserved regions.
4. **Engaging diverse actors** – improving communication interfaces with new stakeholders, particularly the private sector, potentially through the language of "tech diplomacy."

The discussion closed with reflections on capacity building at both present and future levels. Examples included Thailand's innovative use of health taxes to fund robust participation in international negotiations, and the importance of national expert rosters to support diplomats in complex, multidisciplinary negotiations. Panelists agreed that without adequate capacity, even the best-prepared diplomats cannot effectively defend their countries' or the Global South's interests in international arenas.

Discussion by Participants

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.** Examples from the World Health Organization illustrated the historical shift from

technical expert representation to country-level political representation, and the growing need for cross-sector understanding.

Panellists stressed the importance of **effective communication** between scientists and policymakers, aligning differing timelines and priorities, and creating platforms for collaborative decision-making. The discussion also broadened the definition of science to include natural sciences, social sciences, and indigenous knowledge systems, with transdisciplinary approaches highlighted as vital for addressing global challenges.

The role of capacity building for scientists was repeatedly emphasized, with calls for **early integration of science diplomacy training**—potentially at university or even school level—to cultivate communication, negotiation, and policy engagement skills. Mentoring and learning-by-doing were recommended as effective methods, alongside formal models such as national science advisory systems.

Participants agreed that science diplomacy is a strategic integration of scientific inquiry and diplomatic negotiation, requiring robust ethics, reliable data, inclusive knowledge systems, and continuous capacity building. Both science and diplomacy are processes—one seeking answers, the other fostering dialogue—whose combination can address the complex challenges of the future.

Keynote III: Reflections on the Sustainable Development Goals Beyond 2030 as an opportunity for Science Diplomacy

Chairperson: Alizan Mahadi Senior Manager (Policy & Regulations), Corporate Sustainability Office, Petronas

Speaker**:** Professor Norichika Kanie, Keio University Graduate School of Media and Governance

Professor Norichika Kanie presented an in-depth analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) beyond 2030, framing this transition period as a strategic opportunity to advance science diplomacy. He began by introducing the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, mandated in 2015 to monitor and review progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This work builds upon prior "assessment of assessments" and seeks to strengthen the science–policy interface into a more comprehensive science–policy–society interface.

Professor Kanie noted that global SDG awareness, commitments, partnerships, and institutional mechanisms have increased substantially; however, these developments have not yet translated into measurable performance improvements. A survey of 60 countries revealed that by 2021, 75% of governments had developed SDG strategies and action plans. Nonetheless, significant weaknesses remain:

- **Financing:** The SDG financing gap in developing countries widened by at least 56% in 2020.
- **International cooperation:** Global solidarity, essential for human security, has declined.
- **Accountability:** Inclusive and trusted institutions and decision-making mechanisms remain insufficient.

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.**

He argued that **transformation itself is a strategic space for science diplomacy**, offering opportunities to define post-2030 goals and targets that guide the world toward sustainability and influence policy and business practices to remain viable in the long term.

Highlighting ongoing efforts, Professor Kanie reported on the *Informal Roundtable Dialogue on Beyond SDGs* (21 July 2025, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, New York), held as a side event of the 2025 UN High-Level Political Forum (where Japan's Voluntary National Review was also presented). The event was hosted by Keio STAR, co-hosted by UNU and The Global Forum, and supported by the Environmental Research and Technology Development Fund (Ministry of the Environment, Japan) and the AEON Environmental Foundation.

In closing, Professor Kanie reiterated that the 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.

Discussion with Participants

A participant expressed appreciation for the focus on the post-2030 agenda, describing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as "a gift to humanity" and noting their difference from the preceding Millennium Development Goals. The participant emphasised the importance of approaching discussions on "beyond 2030" from an intergenerational perspective, highlighting that milestones such as 2030 or 2050 are arbitrary in nature. **Sustainable development, they argued, is inherently**

about long-term, cross-generational thinking, and current children must inherit and advance these aspirations. In response, Professor Kanie agreed on the importance of involving the younger generation. He noted that Japan had begun discussions about 2050 some 25 years earlier, yet that horizon is now rapidly approaching. He suggested extending the outlook further—perhaps towards 2075 or even 2100—so as to better anticipate future sustainability challenges.

Another participant raised questions on the practical application of climate tech solutions in Asian countries. He observed that SDGs, while global in nature, **may still reflect a predominantly Western perspective,** and suggested the integration of Asian approaches into the global discourse to enrich sustainability efforts. Professor Kanie acknowledged this view, noting that while the United Nations system originated largely from Western traditions, there is now an opportunity to refine it into a truly global framework.

A subsequent intervention from a policy research and advocacy representative stressed the need to **connect science with social justice**, observing that SDG negotiations had often been shaped by the political priorities of developing countries. She also raised concerns about the increasing politicisation of science, citing examples such as climate change denial. Professor Kanie responded that mutual understanding at the local level, grounded in evidence-based approaches, is critical. He noted the challenges of aggregating diverse, localised knowledge but stressed that the process of solution-finding itself is a valuable exercise.

In concluding the session, the Chair underscored that **science–policy linkages must evolve into science–policy–society interactions**, as reflected in the diverse perspectives and reflections shared during the discussion.

Keynote IV : European Union Perspectives of Science Diplomacy
Chairperson: Professor Dr. Mohamad bin Osman, Deputy Director of 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

Mr. Müller characterised 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.

Science is becoming more open and societally engaged through citizen science, policy advisory mechanisms, open science initiatives, and enhanced research security, while increasingly fulfilling diplomatic functions, such as CERN's observer status at the United Nations General Assembly. Diplomacy itself is undergoing change, with digital communication platforms and social media altering established protocols. The proliferation of thematic diplomacies i.e. green, climate, water, ocean, Arctic, health, and energy—underscores the cross-cutting nature of science diplomacy, which underpins them all.

Across Europe and globally, more countries are adopting science and technology diplomacy strategies. Within the EU, the number of Member States with designated science diplomacy functions in foreign ministries has grown from eight to twenty over the past five years. The EU's *Global Approach to Research and Innovation* (2021) foregrounds values such as academic freedom, ethics, and gender equality, alongside reciprocity and cooperation, identifying science diplomacy as a strategic tool for projecting soft power and advancing economic and political interests. In 2022, EU ministers reached consensus on developing a European framework for science diplomacy, with Mr. Müller leading the coordination.

Key challenges include divergent conceptions of "Europe" between scientific and diplomatic communities, complex governance structures, a multiplicity of stakeholders, linguistic and cultural differences, and distinct professional languages. In response, a "science diplomacy steering team" was convened, comprising representatives from EU institutions, national ministries, academia, and civil society. The inaugural European Science Diplomacy Conference (2022) brought scientists and diplomats into structured dialogue, resulting in five co-chaired working groups addressing geopolitics, science advice and foresight, the role of science in diplomatic missions, training and capacity building, and cross-cutting definitional and values-based issues. An open call for participation yielded 130 experts—equally divided between science and diplomacy—engaged in an inclusive and balanced process.

The culmination of this work, the *European Framework for Science Diplomacy* (2024), recognises science diplomacy as both a soft-power instrument for building trust and a hard-power tool for safeguarding strategic interests, exemplified by the exclusion of Russia from Horizon Europe. The framework sets out strategic, operational, and enabling instruments, recommending the establishment of clear priorities; a calibrated approach to openness and security; strengthened advisory and foresight capacities; greater utilisation of diaspora and alumni networks; creation of platforms for sustained dialogue; investment in capacity-building; and advancement of the

research base on science diplomacy. The mission is to leverage Europe's science and technology capabilities to promote peace, multilateralism, and the stewardship of global public goods, while supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. The vision is for science diplomacy to become an integral component of the EU's diplomatic toolbox.

Looking ahead, the European Commission is working towards a Council Recommendation on science diplomacy, further implementation actions under Horizon Europe, the creation of a European science diplomacy platform, and the continuation of thematic workshops, national outreach events, and structured dialogues with partner regions, including ASEAN in 2025. Mr. Müller concluded by extending an invitation to the 2nd European Science Diplomacy Conference, to be held on 17–18 December 2025 in Copenhagen under the Danish EU Presidency, emphasising that the very act of discussing science diplomacy is itself a form of practising it.

Discussion by Participants

A participant from Malaysia highlighted the absence of explicit reference to nuclear diplomacy in the presentation and questioned the selective application of science diplomacy, citing the European Union's stance toward Russia and silence on nuclear facility bombings. Dr. Mueller clarified that nuclear matters fall under his broader category of "energy diplomacy" and are included in EU cooperation exemptions for nuclear fusion, nuclear safety and security, and space — enabling ongoing collaboration with Russia in these areas. He stressed that, while science is only one factor influencing political decisions, robust structures are needed to integrate scientific evidence into foreign and security policy.

A second participant observed that differences in governance preferences — favouring large or small government — can shape science diplomacy approaches, as evidenced during pandemic responses. Dr. Mueller noted that smaller states often engage actively in science diplomacy, leveraging niche expertise (e.g., Lithuania's leadership in laser technology) for geopolitical influence. Examples from outside Europe included Rwanda and Costa Rica. He emphasised that science diplomacy is not solely the domain of major powers.

Keynote V : Science Diplomacy: From Antarctica to ASEAN

Chairperson: Professor Dr. Mohamad bin Osman, Professor Dr. Mohamad bin Osman, Deputy Director of 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

Drawing from a lifelong engagement with polar science and international policy, Professor Berkman examined the relevance of Antarctic science diplomacy for Southeast Asia. He proposed Malaysia as a potential **Centre of Excellence for Science Diplomacy** within ASEAN, highlighting the critical balance between national and common interests as a foundation for regional and global stability. Antarctica geographically remote yet politically significant offers enduring lessons in the governance of regions beyond national jurisdiction. Approximately 30% of the Earth's surface lies within national boundaries; the remaining areas, such as the deep sea, outer space, the high seas, and Antarctica, require cooperative governance based on common interests. The historical evolution of these arrangements demonstrates a shift from early 20th century nationalism and global conflict toward post-World War II frameworks for cooperation. The **Antarctic Treaty (1959)**, the first nuclear arms agreement, emerged from sustained scientific collaboration during the International Geophysical Year (1957–58).

It established a governance model grounded in:

- Peaceful purposes
- Preservation of living resources
- Open scientific exchange
- Continuous dialogue on matters of common interest

This approach enabled enduring cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, despite profound geopolitical rivalry. The Antarctic model illustrates that initiating dialogue from a position of common interests fosters sustained cooperation. Professor Berkman drew a parallel between transferring lessons from Antarctica to the Arctic, and potentially to ASEAN, with Malaysia serving as a regional hub for science diplomacy. He recounted convening the first formal dialogue between NATO and Russia — achieved without governmental authority — by **framing questions of mutual concern rather than offering prescriptive recommendations.** 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.

Professor Berkman defined science diplomacy as "a language of hope in a security environment dominated by fear," integrating international engagement, transdisciplinary knowledge, and inclusive participation. He expressed confidence that Malaysia and ASEAN can advance this agenda by fostering a regional science diplomacy centre, thereby strengthening cooperation at both regional and global scales.

Discussion with Participants

The discussion commenced with a participant's observation that conversations grounded in common interests tend to progress more smoothly. However, in the current media environment, conflict is more readily understood and frequently reported. Messages framed in broadly aspirational terms—such as *promoting trade within ASEAN for the benefit of all humanity*—may be met with scepticism, as conflict narratives often appear more tangible and credible to audiences. Historical precedents, such as the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (1943), Bretton Woods monetary framework (1944), and the United Nations (1945), illustrate the importance of strategic planning before, during, and after global crises.

A subsequent intervention raised the issue of generational differences in decision-making. While earlier generations tended toward consensus-driven, hope-oriented approaches, younger generations may prioritize swift and decisive action. In reply, it was emphasized that dialogue itself constitutes a meaningful form of action. Reference was made to the facilitation of the first meeting between NATO and Russia, achieved by creating a neutral platform when neither party could formally extend an invitation to the other.

The discussion concluded with the assertion that, in international relations, the sustainability of dialogue between allies and adversaries is as critical as any specific negotiated outcome. Continuity of engagement was identified as a central action in advancing shared global interests.

Panel Discussion II: "Common Interests": Space Economy, Blue Economy, Perspective from the Global South, Water Woes, Sustainable Digital Development
4.15 pm, 6th August 2025
Chaired by Prof. Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Mokhtar, Adjunct Professor of the International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS), UCSI University
Panelists:

1. Distinguished Professor Dr. Phang Siew Moi, FASc, FMBA (UK), Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Postgraduate of UCSI University,
2. Ms. Chee Yoke Ling, Executive Director of Third World Network,

3. Dr. Hul Seingheng, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (MISTI) and the National Chairman of the ASEAN Committee of Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI) - Cambodia
4. Mr. Bocar Ba, Chief Executive Officer, Samena Telecommunications Council

Prof. Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Mokhtar opened the second panel by introducing the speakers, whose expertise spans academia, environmental advocacy, government, and industry.

Ms. Chee Yoke Ling discussed systemic inequities in the global economic order, noting the continuing dominance of the US dollar, the power of three major credit rating agencies, and the burden of unsustainable debt—particularly in developing countries where debt servicing can consume over 60–70% of GDP. She emphasised that such conditions restrict national sovereignty, hinder sustainability, and limit access to technology due to restrictive intellectual property regimes. She underscored the imbalance in global trade and services, where developing nations often pay more in royalties, licensing fees, and digital service charges than they gain from exports. She further highlighted the politicisation of science, inequitable access to knowledge, and the need for structural reforms in financing, governance, and technology sharing to realise true common interests.

Dr. Hul Seingheng reflected on the paradox of rapid scientific advancement alongside persistent global challenges. Drawing on Mekong regional experiences, he stressed the importance of:

- Leveraging local and indigenous knowledge in line with Gandhi's view that "science without humanities is a sin."
- Strengthening collaborative research and science–policy dialogues.
- Building capacity among younger generations to sustain cooperation across borders.
- Depoliticising science and safeguarding its role in human development.

He cited the Mekong River Commission as a model for institutionalised upstream–downstream dialogue, while noting that current scientific understanding covers only a fraction of what is needed for effective governance of shared resources.

Mr. Bocar Ba focused on the digital economy as the backbone of modern governance and economic growth. He identified 2.6 billion people globally who remain unconnected—representing not just an economic opportunity of USD 3.5 trillion annually but also a "dignity gap," depriving communities of access to education, healthcare, employment, and democratic processes. He noted that a 10% increase in connectivity can raise GDP by 1%. Science diplomacy, he argued, can help unlock

financing, bypass restrictive credit ratings, and foster human capital development. He called for moving from “common interest” to “common intelligence,” with coordinated international regulation in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and digital safety. He advocated time-bound, structured partnerships and the training of a new generation of diplomats skilled in science and digital policy.

Conclusion:
The panel concluded that achieving common interests across the space economy, blue economy, water security, and digital transformation requires:

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

Discussion with Participants

A participant emphasised the importance of checks and balances in scientific development, noting the valuable role of NGOs in providing input and oversight. Drawing from personal experience in rare earth regulation, the speaker stressed that science diplomacy requires clear rules of engagement, adherence to international standards, and application of good regulatory practices. As an example, the Lynas project in Malaysia is transitioning toward a circular economy, with radioactive components to be marketed as thorium and remaining material repurposed as fertiliser. The participant urged applying similar principles to other environmental challenges, such as microplastics and carbon emissions.

Dr. Hul Seingheng reiterated his earlier point on “more science in politics and less politics in science.” He explained that integrating natural and social sciences can improve understanding of human needs and political decision-making, thereby strengthening the policy nexus.

Mr. Bocar Ba elaborated on his call for moving from “common interest” to “common intelligence,” noting that intelligent cooperation could transform diplomacy for future generations. He recommended that science diplomacy be implemented with measurable outcomes, regular follow-ups, and long-term strategies for predictable and sustainable prosperity. He suggested Malaysia could serve as convener, connector, and catalyst in such initiatives.

Ms. Chee Yoke Ling stressed that NGOs are not merely advocacy groups but often comprise professionals and former academics applying their expertise to public

interest issues. She raised concerns about the absence of robust scientific assessment in Malaysia's energy transition planning, particularly the unanticipated demand from large-scale data centres. She also underscored the importance of addressing conflicts of interest in scientific standard-setting and applying the precautionary principle where knowledge gaps exist.

Prof. Dr. Phang Siew Moi highlighted the ocean's potential for innovation and sustainable development in the Global South. She emphasised the role of science diplomacy in facilitating technology sharing, translating scientific knowledge into practical applications, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

The Chair concluded by noting the session's lively and substantive exchanges, and encouraged continued dialogue on these themes.

Day 2: 7 August 2025

Keynote VI: The Potential of Bio-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 University

Professor Ahmad highlighted major global threats beyond trade conflicts, including climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, pandemics, and food insecurity—issues exacerbated by rapid population growth exceeding eight billion and increasing pressure on global resources. He stressed that human activities have intensified carbon emissions and disrupted ecosystems, with emerging diseases such as COVID-19 linked to environmental changes. **Bio-diplomacy** was defined as the practice of international diplomacy focused on the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. Its relevance spans multiple areas:

- **Pandemics**: Managing the emergence and spread of pathogenic microbes.
- **Agricultural diseases**: For example, serious outbreaks affecting rubber plantations, such as *Pestalotiopsis*, which can infect multiple crop species.
- **Food security**: Ensuring sustainable agricultural production.
- **Bioterrorism**: Addressing deliberate microbial threats.
- **Biodiversity**: Conserving potential sources for new medicines, food, and sustainable crops, with palm oil cited as a unique high-yield example.

Professor Ahmad emphasised that bio-diplomacy extends beyond science diplomacy to address ethical, political, and security dilemmas related to living systems. It can play a role in regional conflict resolution, such as in the South China Sea, and in advancing the blue economy, marine conservation, and coral reef protection.

He proposed that bio-diplomacy be applied to **transboundary haze pollution**, suggesting that agricultural biomass (e.g., palm oil empty fruit bunches) be harnessed for renewable energy instead of open burning, thereby reducing air pollution and creating rural livelihoods.

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.

Discussion with Participants

Participants acknowledged the role of bio-diplomacy in strengthening regional cooperation, particularly in medicine, food security, and biodiversity conservation. The discussion emphasised moving beyond dialogue towards concrete, collaborative actions involving all ASEAN member states. A participant noted that bio-diplomacy is not a new concept and forms the basis of the third objective of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)—access to and benefit-sharing (ABS) of genetic resources. Citing past examples, such as joint research with MIT on anti-cancer compounds derived from a Sarawak tree, they questioned the potential for ASEAN countries to operationalise ABS in practice. Professor Ahmad agreed, citing the lack of collaboration platforms as a key obstacle. He gave examples from the rubber industry, where regional cooperation could address market instability and crop diseases. Drawing from the palm oil sector's experience in biofuel development, he stressed the need for an ASEAN science diplomacy centre to facilitate joint problem-solving and resource capitalisation.

Another participant emphasised that such a centre must bridge science and practice, ensuring that evidence informs societal benefits through strategies rooted in regional cultural contexts. They highlighted the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity as a model for convening negotiations and advancing regional consensus, but noted that equity issues—both within ASEAN and in dealings with external partners—remain unresolved. Professor Ahmad reiterated that a dedicated ASEAN centre could catalyse discourse, collaboration, and implementation, even in sensitive contexts such as Myanmar's rubber sector, where economic interdependence could support peacebuilding.

A finance sector representative stressed the importance of compelling storytelling to engage non-scientific stakeholders, especially investors. They noted that scientific

data alone may not persuade financial institutions, and illustrated the point with the example of Langkawi's "Dream Forest" tourism project, which, despite attracting visitors, harms local insect populations through pesticide use and light pollution. Professor Ahmad agreed that communication is a critical challenge, particularly across disciplines. He emphasised the need to translate technical findings into language accessible to non-specialists, citing his own work in teaching engineers effective cross-disciplinary communication. A final example was shared from Universiti Malaya, where seagrass research was successfully communicated to the public through gamelan performing arts, demonstrating the potential of creative approaches to engage wider audiences in scientific issues.

Panel Discussion III: Elements for a Science Diplomacy Framework
9.30 am, 7th August 2025
Moderated by Prof. Abhi Veerakumarasivam, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University
Panelists:

1. Dr. Suneetha M Subramanian, Research Fellow and Academic Associate of Biodiversity and Society Programme at UNU-IAS
2. Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa, Senior Intellectual Property Consultant of National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
3. Dr. Siti Hafsyah Idris, Faculty of Law, UiTM
4. Ms. Wan Faizah Che Din, Chief Executive Officer, Amanah Lestari Alam

The panel examined strategic elements required to establish a science diplomacy framework for ASEAN, with emphasis on moving beyond conceptual awareness towards institutionalisation. Discussions focused on inclusivity, governance, capacity-building, and sustainable financing, recognising both resource limitations and structural inertia in the region.

Dr. Suneetha M. Subramanian highlighted that effective science diplomacy centres must be open, pluralistic, and adaptable. Such institutions should integrate diverse forms of expertise, including scientific, cultural, and indigenous knowledge, and actively engage all relevant stakeholders.

Key design features include:

- **Pluralism:** Inclusion of multiple disciplines and knowledge systems.
- **Solution orientation:** Prioritising actionable measures alongside problem analysis.
- **Perception management:** Building credibility, trust, and relatability among stakeholders.

- **Networked scalability:** Small but strategically connected institutions capable of extensive reach.
- **Safe negotiation spaces:** Functioning as honest brokers in contested policy arenas.

She advocated for personalising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to local contexts to enhance relevance and uptake.

Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa examined the role of intellectual property (IP) policy in enabling equitable science diplomacy. She emphasised that IP should be approached not only as a protection mechanism but as a facilitator of cooperation. Key recommendations included:

- Developing regional IP policy templates for universities and research institutions.
- Addressing uneven IP literacy across ASEAN, especially in lower-capacity states.
- Training emerging scientists in negotiation, science communication, and stakeholder engagement.

She argued that shared understanding of IP principles strengthens both national innovation systems and regional collaboration.

Dr. Siti Hafsyah Idris outlined a layered governance structure for addressing transboundary challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and biosafety risks:

- **International frameworks:** Binding treaties and conventions (e.g., UNFCCC, CBD) with specific protocols (e.g., Kyoto, Cartagena, Paris).
- **Regional agreements:** Instruments like the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.
- **Specialised bodies and clearinghouses:** IPCC, WHO, and biosafety knowledge platforms for data exchange.
- **Domestic legislation and enforcement:** Translating international commitments into national law.

She identified key barriers to effectiveness, including fragmented regimes, enforcement gaps, and sovereignty–commons conflicts, which constrain ASEAN's impact in global negotiations.

Ms. Wan Faizah Che Din addressed sustainable finance mechanisms to support science diplomacy initiatives. Drawing on the experience of ALAM, a nature trust under Malaysia's National Development Bank, she highlighted:

- **Impact-based financing:** Prioritising qualitative environmental and social outcomes over purely financial metrics.
- **National resource mobilisation:** Reducing dependence on international funds through local development bank initiatives.
- **Co-creation with funders:** Engaging financiers in early project design to align objectives.
- **Policy-linked investments:** Using evidence-based advocacy to drive systemic change, exemplified by ALAM's role in embedding Education for Sustainable Development into Malaysia's national education blueprint.

The discussion yielded four overarching priorities for an ASEAN science diplomacy framework:

- **Inclusivity and trust-building** across disciplines, sectors, and societal groups.
- **Capacity development** in technical, legal, negotiation, and communication skills.
- **Flexible, networked institutions** with strong solution-oriented mandates.
- **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.

Discussion with Participants

A participant from the United States noted that true national strength lies not in economic or military might, but in the capacity to operate effectively from the short to the long term, with a vision for the common welfare and future generations echoing the essence of sustainable development. An example was given of Malta's 1967 introduction of the "common heritage of mankind" concept at the UN General Assembly, which influenced major global treaties such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Outer Space Treaty. The speaker emphasised that science diplomacy requires bridging the data–evidence interface: research generates data to answer questions, but evidence is what informs decisions. Science diplomats must not only translate data into evidence, but also present decision-makers with policy options rather than advocating for a single course of action. On legal frameworks, the speaker noted that post-World War II governance structures are based on national and international jurisdiction, yet

planetary-scale issues require more integrated approaches, including subnational and regional dimensions.

Questions were raised on how ASEAN could collectively address global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss, given the presence of three ASEAN members among the world's 17 megadiverse countries. Panellists were invited to propose frameworks for joint action, legal harmonisation, financial cooperation, and youth engagement in science diplomacy. One panellist stressed that ASEAN's science diplomacy should remain regionally focused while aligning with global goals. Building resilience—both socio-ecological and institutional—requires policy coherence, multi-actor ownership of initiatives, and improved science communication. The ability to adapt messages to new media and storytelling formats was highlighted as essential for mobilising action, particularly among youth.

From the research community, an example was shared of the Belmont Forum's "Advancing Leadership Programme," initially supported by the US NSF but now hosted by Thailand's National Science, Research and Innovation Fund. The programme focuses on transdisciplinary collaboration across sectors, with science diplomacy identified as a key skill area.

From a legal perspective, differences in ASEAN members' legal systems and regulatory maturity create challenges for harmonising standards and addressing transboundary issues. Non-interference principles may further limit the development of common frameworks. Youth engagement through educational programmes such as Model ASEAN activities was proposed to build long-term awareness and capacity.

On financing, it was argued that ASEAN financial cooperation is inevitable, citing past examples such as ASEAN stock exchange linkages, the development of Islamic finance products, and the growth of exchange-traded funds. The speaker advocated for Malaysia to take a leadership role in pioneering regional financial mechanisms to support science diplomacy initiatives.

Summary

The moderator distilled eight "C's" for an ASEAN science diplomacy framework:

1. **Co-owned mission** – shared accountability for outcomes.
2. **Code of shared values** – ethical and normative alignment.
3. **Communication** – inclusive, accessible, and strategic outreach.
4. **Capacity building** – ensuring long-term sustainability.
5. **Collaboration** – addressing resource gaps through partnerships.
6. **Common legal standards** – while respecting national sovereignty.

7. **Channelling finances** – integrating funders in the design stage.
8. **Co-design** – problem definition in partnership with stakeholders.

Final Round of Remarks

- Build on existing networks and initiatives in ASEAN.
- Strengthen fundamental understanding of science diplomacy among researchers and diplomats.
- Ensure diplomats possess scientific literacy to effectively represent regional positions.
- Foster partnerships between scientists and the financial sector through platforms such as the SEACF Climate Finance Innovation Lab, linking research outputs to funding opportunities.

Keynote VII: Training of young diplomats from the Global South in multilateral negotiations

Chairperson: Mohd Nurul Azammi Mohd Nudri, Head of Foresight, MIGHT
Speaker: Dato' Zainol Rahim Zainuddin, Director General, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)

Dato' Zainol Rahim began by commending the organisers for convening the International Conference on Science Diplomacy for Regional Prosperity in ASEAN, noting the relevance of science diplomacy as a convergence point for strategic challenges and technological advances. His keynote focused on the **training of young diplomats from the Global South** for multilateral negotiations—an arena shaped by information saturation, social media pressures, and competing national interests.

The Global South

Representing two-thirds of the global population and over 40% of GDP, the Global South is rich in culture, history, and values such as *adab*—propriety and ethical conduct. This diversity provides depth but also poses challenges in forging identity, purpose, and solidarity. Despite this, the Global South has organised into influential blocs such as the G77 and China, the Non-Aligned Movement, BRICS, the African Union, and ASEAN, shaping global agendas on trade, climate, and human rights.

Science Diplomacy Dynamics

While the Global North often uses science diplomacy to maintain technological leadership and set international norms, the Global South employs it to promote equity, capacity-building, and alignment with local development needs. Persistent challenges include entrenched Western-centric norms in global institutions, limited scientific and technological capacity, underinvestment, and brain drain. Geopolitical

competition, interregional rivalries, and national-interest trade-offs further complicate collective action.

Contemporary Diplomatic Environment

Dato' Zainol outlined five major challenges for today's diplomats:

1. **Armed Conflict & Humanitarian Crises** – Persistent conflicts in Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan, and elsewhere require principled and sustained engagement.
2. **Great Power Rivalries** – U.S.–China competition affects trade, technology, and regional cohesion, narrowing the space for neutrality.
3. **Economic–Geopolitical Convergence** – Economic tools, including sanctions and investment restrictions, are now primary foreign policy instruments.
4. **Technological Disruption** – AI enhances analytical capacity but also brings risks of misinformation, surveillance, and over-reliance.
5. **Erosion of Multilateralism** – Institutions such as the UN and ASEAN face slow decision-making and structural limitations, yet remain essential platforms for dialogue and legitimacy.

Multilateral Negotiation Practice

Despite its flaws, multilateralism enables dialogue, compromise, and peaceful resolution. Negotiation success often lies in pragmatic trade-offs that safeguard national interests while enabling collective progress, as illustrated by the Paris Agreement. ASEAN's consensus-based model, while criticised for lack of enforceability, continues to provide vital communication channels.

Stamina, Skills, and the Role of AI

Stamina is a critical yet undervalued asset for diplomats, especially those from resource-constrained states. Long negotiations, multitasking, and limited support demand resilience. In this context, AI is not merely a tool but a **force multiplier**, freeing diplomats from time- and energy-intensive tasks and enabling greater focus on strategic thinking. Training must also strengthen **emotional intelligence, active listening, empathy, stress management, and communication styles**—skills that are not "soft" but survival tools in a complex, high-sensitivity global arena. Substance must be prioritised over style, moving beyond generic modules to focus on negotiation skills, cross-cultural communication, policy design, and digital competency. Intellectual depth should be preserved through roundtables, interdisciplinary forums, and closed-door sessions to foster critical thinking and the ability to connect across geographies, themes, and paradigms. The goal is not to mould technocrats but to develop capable stewards who can represent, listen, adapt, and lead.

IDFR's Role and Programmes

Dato' Zainol highlighted the work of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) as Malaysia's primary diplomatic training institution under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), IDFR trains diplomats from the Global South and beyond, offering modules on diplomatic practice, negotiations, economic and cultural diplomacy, and public diplomacy. Programmes combine practical exercises, immersive simulations, and cultural exchange to build skills and foster solidarity. The Crisis Management and Preparedness Programme, for example, places officers in high-pressure scenarios simulating real diplomatic emergencies, covering emergency coordination, risk communication, and mission safety protocols. IDFR is expanding its curriculum to address technological innovation and emerging geopolitical dynamics, including AI ethics and responsible usage. Emotional intelligence, effective communication, empathy, and relationship building are being prioritised alongside intellectual agility through platforms such as the Malaysia–Australia Mid-Career Diplomat Roundtable, where participants debate issues such as trade wars, great power rivalries, and AI's role in diplomacy. Research underpins all training to ensure relevance and forward-looking curriculum design. By combining technical skill-building with values-based education, IDFR seeks to produce principled, prepared, and perceptive diplomats.

Conclusion

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—credible representatives and capable stewards of a shared and interdependent world.

Discussion with Participants

One participant remarked on the keynote's insightful linkages between diplomatic training and foresight, highlighting the importance of preparing diplomats to anticipate future scenarios and navigate uncertainty. He noted the growing role of AI as both a tool and skill enabler, levelling the playing field between the Global North and South.

Another participant, who had recently delivered a lecture on science diplomacy at IDFR, observed that participants in such programmes often come from a wide range of disciplines — including the sciences, management, and technology — rather than

purely diplomatic backgrounds. He asked how IDFR tailors its training to meet the needs of this multidisciplinary audience, particularly given that some participants may not have entered the field of diplomacy by choice, but by institutional requirement.

A further intervention addressed the persistence of outdated labels such as "developing nations" when referring to the Global South. The participant argued that these terms no longer reflect current realities, as the Global South increasingly holds strategic advantages — for example, Malaysia's role in supplying solar panels for energy transitions. The comment called for a reframing of such terminology to reflect the evolving balance of capabilities between North and South.

Responses by Dato' Zainol Rahim Zainuddin

Dato' Zainol explained that IDFR's programmes are deliberately designed to be multidisciplinary, ensuring that participants — regardless of background — can engage with the full spectrum of issues encountered in international negotiations. While "diplomats" traditionally refers to Ministry of Foreign Affairs officers, negotiations now involve officials from multiple agencies. Training therefore covers a broad cross-section of topics, enabling participants to bridge their own expertise with wider diplomatic, economic, and security considerations.

He emphasised that modern diplomacy demands "jack-of-all-trades and masters of everything," as sectoral boundaries between economics, security, and geopolitics are increasingly blurred. An agricultural official, for instance, must still understand the dynamics of multilateral negotiation in order to represent national interests effectively.

On the question of Global North–South dynamics, Dato' Zainol observed that while distinctions remain, the lines are increasingly fluid. The divide is now often defined more by issues than by geography, with countries in the Global South occasionally aligning with positions associated with the North, and vice versa. This shift underscores the complexity of present-day coalitions and the need for flexibility in both training and strategic engagement.

Panel Discussion IV: Training for Whom, On What, and How?

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

Panelists:

1. Mohd Nurul Azammi Mohd Nudri, Head of Foresight of MIGHT
2. Dr. Joannes Ekaprasetya Tandjung, Director for Research and Innovation Infrastructure Partnership Strengthening of National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)

3. Dato' Westmoreland Palon, Director, Competency Enhancement Centre, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)
4. Ms. Jennifer Rubis, Indigenous Peoples Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Sam Johnston, reflecting on over two decades of interdisciplinary experience spanning science, law, and diplomacy, highlighted the increasing importance of science diplomacy as a mechanism to foster international collaboration amid geopolitical uncertainty. He noted the imperative to build a robust ASEAN science diplomacy centre capable of harnessing scientific expertise to support evidence-based policymaking and global engagement.

Azammi elaborated on the strategic role of foresight in equipping diplomats to navigate uncertain futures. He distinguished foresight from prediction, describing it as a structured process for analysing current trends and generating multiple plausible future scenarios. Strategic foresight facilitates anticipatory governance, enabling diplomats to proactively address emerging global challenges such as pandemics and climate change. Azammi advocated for embedding foresight methodologies in diplomatic training to develop future-ready professionals with enhanced capacity for long-term planning and collaborative problem-solving.

Dr. Tandjung shared insights from his extensive career at the intersection of science and diplomacy. Reflecting on a formative negotiation experience on endangered species, he emphasised the intrinsic link between scientific knowledge and diplomatic practice. Currently serving as Director for Partnership Infrastructure at Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (Brin), he outlined Indonesia's evolving science diplomacy priorities structured in three tiers:

- **Science for Diplomacy**: Using scientific evidence to inform diplomatic negotiations.
- **Diplomacy for Science**: Employing diplomatic channels to facilitate scientific collaboration.
- **Science and Diplomacy**: Integrating science and diplomacy as mutually reinforcing domains.

Dr. Tandjung highlighted efforts within Indonesia's Foreign Ministry to build capacity across these tiers, stressing the importance of comprehensive training programs that encompass not only diplomats but also scientists. He underscored the need for *training-of-trainers* initiatives targeting senior officials to cascade science diplomacy competencies effectively across institutional levels.

Dato' Palon discussed Malaysia's Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations' (IDFR) approach to building competencies for a dynamic geopolitical landscape. He stressed

scenario planning and anticipation of diverse futures as key skills for diplomats facing environmental and transboundary challenges. Citing recent workshops on science diplomacy conducted with academic partners, he highlighted the communication gap between diplomats and scientists, especially regarding technical jargon. Reciprocal training—scientists gaining diplomatic skills and diplomats enhancing scientific literacy—was recommended to bridge this divide. Simulations and experiential learning formed the core of IDFR's methodology, fostering practical negotiation and advocacy skills, including defending national interests before expert panels. Foresight and scenario exercises prepare diplomats to respond effectively at national and ASEAN regional levels.

Ms. Rubis emphasized the often underrepresented yet crucial role of Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in addressing regional and global environmental challenges. She called for explicit recognition of IKS as distinct, epistemologically valid ways of knowing, complementary to Western science.

Key principles she identified for integrating IKS into science diplomacy training include:

1. **Epistemic Legitimacy**: Respecting IKS as autonomous knowledge frameworks.
2. **Acknowledgement of Historical Legacies**: Addressing power imbalances through ethical engagement protocols such as Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).
3. **Co-Design of Programmes**: Collaborating with Indigenous communities rather than merely translating their knowledge.
4. **Distinct Pedagogical Approaches**: Adapting training to the experiential and relational nature of indigenous learning.

Rubis noted the challenge of integrating multiple knowledge systems in international assessments, highlighting a gap in platforms like the IPCC that ASEAN science diplomacy could help to address.

Cross-Cutting Themes and Recommendations

- **Multi-Stakeholder Training:** Capacity building must target diplomats, scientists, indigenous advocates, and senior decision-makers to foster shared understanding and effective collaboration.
- **Training-of-Trainers:** Programs designed for senior personnel will generate cascading expertise and institutional sustainability.
- **Experiential Learning and Simulations:** Practical exercises build negotiation, communication, and scenario-planning skills essential for real-world diplomacy.

- **Foresight Integration:** Embedding anticipatory methods in training enables preparedness and strategic prioritisation.
- **Inclusive Knowledge Systems:** Recognising and incorporating Indigenous knowledge alongside scientific expertise enriches policy development and strengthens regional cooperation.
- **Reciprocal Skill Development:** Facilitating mutual literacy between scientists and diplomats promotes more effective negotiation and policy outcomes.

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.

Discussion with Participants

The panel discussion highlighted critical factors influencing the effectiveness of science diplomacy within the ASEAN region and beyond. The following key themes emerged from participant contributions:

Talent Recognition and Capacity Building

Speakers emphasized the importance of **identifying and nurturing appropriate talents** for roles in science diplomacy. It was noted that not all diplomats or ambassadors inherently possess negotiation skills, and that self-awareness among practitioners is essential to recognize personal strengths and limitations. Individuals lacking specific capabilities should be encouraged to defer to more qualified colleagues. This approach fosters more effective negotiation and advisory processes. The experience of Professor Tanzari Zakhri, a longstanding science advisor to a national prime minister, was cited as an exemplar of effective scientific counsel at the highest political levels.

Inter-Ministerial Engagement: Foreign Affairs and Defence

The discussion drew attention to the often-overlooked role of **ministries of defence in science diplomacy**. Given their shared national interest objectives with ministries of foreign affairs, stronger collaboration between these sectors was proposed. Drawing on practices from the United States and NATO, participants suggested mechanisms such as "2+2" consultations (engaging foreign and defence ministers jointly) to facilitate dialogue on science diplomacy issues, particularly those related to security and operational risks.

Moreover, the panel advocated a **whole-of-government approach** that expands beyond foreign affairs and defence to include other relevant ministries, thereby ensuring policy coherence and comprehensive engagement.

Training Senior Leadership and Trainers

Beyond training diplomats and scientists, the necessity of **building scientific literacy and diplomatic skills among senior officials and trainers** was underscored. Without sufficient understanding at senior decision-making levels, even highly qualified advisors may have limited influence, potentially compromising policy outcomes.

Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge and Human Security

The inclusion of **indigenous knowledge systems** was recognized as a vital component in addressing environmental and sustainability challenges in the ASEAN region, which hosts significant indigenous populations. Indigenous perspectives offer deep, intergenerational insights that enrich climate diplomacy and sustainable development efforts. Climate change was framed as a **human security issue**, emphasizing the need for inclusive dialogue and peace-building approaches that integrate scientific and cultural knowledge. Models such as the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group within the Green Climate Fund were highlighted for effectively incorporating indigenous representation.

Strategic Pathways Forward

Participants outlined several practical steps to advance science diplomacy capacity in the region:

- Establishment of **working groups dedicated to capacity development and financial mechanisms** to support sustained science diplomacy efforts.
- Embedding **foresight training** within regional institutions, including the proposed ASEAN Centre for Science and Diplomacy, to anticipate emerging trends and conflicts.
- Promoting **cross-sector collaboration** among scientists, diplomats, policymakers, and communities to foster ownership and inclusive participation.
- Leveraging forthcoming platforms such as the **World Science Forum in Jakarta** to strengthen regional partnerships and spotlight science diplomacy's role in resilience and equity.

Addressing Challenges: Patience and Collaborative Approaches

The panel recognized the slow and complex nature of progress in science diplomacy, calling for **long-term vision and patience**. Participants cautioned against reliance on leverage in international relations, advocating instead for **collaborative strategies rooted in shared interests and trust-building** to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Summary

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

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

The panel concluded with a consensus on forming working groups to operationalize these insights into actionable frameworks, thus strengthening ASEAN's science diplomacy landscape in addressing current and future global challenges.

The Way Forward

Moderated by Prof. Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, Joint Chairman (Government) of MIGHT and Founding Director of International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS)

Presented by Ahmad Razif Mohamad, Head of International Partnership of MIGHT

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.

The organising committee in Malaysia, comprising UCSI University, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), and other national stakeholders, reported substantial progress. Engagement has extended to the ASEAN Secretariat, notably during the recent ASEAN Science, Technology, and Innovation Plan of Action (APASTI) meeting, as well as to key regional partners in Indonesia, Brunei, and beyond. There is broad consensus that the proposed Centre complements existing ASEAN Centres of Excellence—such as those on biodiversity in the Philippines, climate change

in Brunei, energy in Indonesia, and sustainable development in Thailand—by providing critical linkages across sectoral scientific interests.

Adoption of Draft Resolution and Endorsement Process

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. The draft includes:

- **Preamble:** Acknowledging the urgent need for enhanced collaboration at the nexus of science, technology, innovation, and foreign policy to tackle regional and global challenges, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), APASTI, and other multilateral frameworks. The document recognizes the diverse expertise shared throughout the conference, spanning bio-diplomacy, space economy, capacity building, and science policy integration.
- **Institutional Support:** Recognition of support from Malaysian government agencies, UCSI University, the International Institute of Science, Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS), UNESCO, BRIN, the European Union Science Diplomacy Group, Asia-Europe Foundation, and other key partners.
- **Resolution #1:** Calls for the establishment and operationalization of the ASEAN Centre for Science Diplomacy as a regional hub to convene, coordinate, and catalyse initiatives addressing ASEAN's collective concerns, including climate resilience, digital sustainability, health, security, and inclusive development.
- **Resolution #2:** Commits to advancing common regional interests through expanded dialogue and cooperation in areas such as the space economy, blue economy, water security, and digital transformation, leveraging scientific collaboration as a tool for trust-building, policy alignment, and innovation diplomacy.
- **Resolution #3:** Recommends integrating science diplomacy modules into ASEAN diplomatic academies, emphasizing multilateral negotiation, technology foresight, regulatory diplomacy, and scientific literacy—especially for foreign service professionals from the Global South.
- **Resolution #4:** Supports programmes to train the next generation of science diplomats, including fellowships, simulations, and joint research platforms, with particular attention to empowering underrepresented groups and indigenous perspectives.
- **Resolution #5:** Reaffirms the role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) as enablers of inclusive and sustainable development, calling on ASEAN Member States to invest in regulatory coherence, infrastructure, capacity building, and technology transfer, especially for least developed countries and vulnerable communities.

- **Resolution #6:** Endorses ongoing global and regional collaborations with like-minded institutions, encouraging deeper ASEAN engagement in multilateral platforms and extending an open invitation to other partners to contribute to the Centre's vision.

Participant Comments and Recommendations

Several participants offered remarks emphasizing the importance of:

1. Including **energy security** explicitly alongside climate and health security.
2. Highlighting major global challenges such as **climate change, pollution, and biodiversity**.
3. Recognizing emerging priorities like the **space economy and artificial intelligence**, reflecting regional ministerial agendas.
4. Maintaining an **inclusive and open framework** for identifying shared regional priorities, with flexibility for future additions.
5. Adding language referencing **planetary boundaries and foresight** to better situate ASEAN's role within global environmental contexts.
6. Developing an **ASEAN Science Diplomacy Roadmap** to clearly outline strategic goals and milestones, to be brought forward at ministerial and summit levels

The Chair noted that this conference represents the **pre-negotiation phase** of establishing the ASEAN Centre for Science Diplomacy, with further consultations anticipated over the coming two years involving all 11 ASEAN Member States. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia is committed to championing this initiative, including preparing necessary documentation for formal endorsement. The Chair expressed hope that the forthcoming ASEAN Summit in October might formally recognize the Centre.

The Chair thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and expressed optimism about the cadre of committed individuals now advancing the pursuit of science diplomacy in ASEAN. The conference concluded with a call for continued collaboration, resource mobilization, and inclusive engagement to realize the shared vision.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY IN ASEAN

6–7 August 2025 | MIGHT Partnership Hub, Cyberjaya, Malaysia

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Preamble

We, the participants of the International Conference on Science Diplomacy for Regional Prosperity in ASEAN, comprising policymakers, diplomats, scientists, academics, industry leaders, and regional stakeholders, convened on 6–7 August 2025 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia;

Acknowledging the urgent need for greater collaboration at the intersection of science, technology, innovation, and foreign policy to address common regional and global challenges;

Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI), and various multilateral frameworks that promote sustainable prosperity, shared futures, and peaceful cooperation;

Recognising the diverse experiences, expertise, and aspirations presented during the conference, through keynotes, panel discussions, and dialogues, on issues ranging from bio-diplomacy and the space economy to regional capacity building and science-policy integration;

Appreciating the strong support from the Government of Malaysia, the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), the International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS-UCSI), UNESCO, National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN) and all partnering institutions;

Hereby adopt the following resolution:

1. **Strengthening ASEAN Science Diplomacy**
   Urge the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre for Science Diplomacy as a regional hub to convene, coordinate, and catalyse science diplomacy initiatives that address ASEAN's collective concerns in areas such as climate resilience, digital sustainability, health security, and inclusive development.
2. **Advancing Common Interests through Science**
   Commit to expanding dialogue and collaboration on shared regional priorities including, but not limited to artificial intelligence, the space economy, blue economy, water security, energy security and digital transformation by

leveraging scientific cooperation as a strategic tool for trust-building, policy alignment, and innovation diplomacy. With planetary foresight.

3. **Integrating Science into Foreign Policy Training**
   Recommend the institutionalisation of science diplomacy modules within the training curricula of ASEAN diplomatic academies, with a focus on multilateral negotiations, technology foresight, regulatory diplomacy, and scientific literacy for foreign service professionals, particularly from the Global South.
4. **Fostering the Next Generation of Science Diplomats**
   Support programmes that train young diplomats, researchers, and policy professionals in the principles and practice of science diplomacy through regional fellowships, immersive simulations, and joint research platforms, with special emphasis on empowering underrepresented groups and indigenous perspectives.
5. **Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Development through STI**
   Reaffirm the role of science, technology, and innovation (STI) as critical enablers for inclusive growth and sustainable development, and call upon ASEAN Member States to invest in regulatory coherence, infrastructure, capacity building, and technology transfer, especially for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and vulnerable communities.
6. **Championing Global-Regional Synergies**
   Endorse ongoing global and regional collaborations with like-minded institutions including Asia-Europe Foundation, National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN), Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA), Keio University, Science Diplomacy Center (USA), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and others. While calling for deeper ASEAN engagement in these multilateral platforms, we also extend an open invitation to other interested partners to collaborate in advancing the vision and establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Science Diplomacy.

The Way Forward

We call upon ASEAN Member States, regional institutions, academia, industry, and civil society to co-create a dynamic, inclusive, and responsive science diplomacy ecosystem that can elevate ASEAN's collective voice, resilience, and prosperity in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Adopted in Cyberjaya, Malaysia

7 August 2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 1 (6 August)

Time	Agenda
0915	Convenor's Remarks by **Professor Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc**
0925	Welcoming Address by **Distinguished Professor Dr Phang Siew Moi**, FASc, FMBA (UK), Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Postgraduate of UCSI
0935	Welcoming Address by **Rushdi Abdul Rahim**, President & CEO, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)
0945	Launching Remarks by **YB Chang Lih Kang,** Minister of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI) Malaysia
1000	Coffee break and networking
1030	Chair: **Professor Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc** Keynote I – Diplomacy, Three Global Initiatives and The Common Destiny of Humankind by **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
1100	Chair: **Professor Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, FASc** Keynote II – UNESCO's global initiative on science diplomacy by **Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno, UNESCO, Paris**
1130	**Panel Discussion I – "**Current Issues in Science Diplomacy**" :** SDGs, Pandemic Preparedness, Regional Cooperation, Science-Policy Nexus led by **Mohd Zakwan Mohd Zabidi,** Senior Vice President, MIGHT, Malaysia 1. **Prof. Elil Renganathan**, Monash University Malaysia 2. **Ms. Kunzang Choden**, Programme Manager, ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific, Canberra, Australia. 3. **Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno,** UNESCO, Paris
1300	Lunch break

1430	Chair: **Alizan Mahadi**, Senior Manager (Policy & Regulations), Corporate Sustainability Office, Petronas Keynote III **–** Reflections on the Sustainable Development Goals Beyond 2030 by **Professor Norichika Kanie,** Keio University, Japan
1500	Chair: **Professor Dr. Mohamad bin Osman**, Deputy Director of the The International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS), UCSI University Keynote IV – European Union Perspectives of Science Diplomacy by **Jan Marco Müller,** Team Leader Global Approach, Multilateral Dialogue and Science Diplomacy, European Commission (Virtual)
1530	Chair: **Professor Dr. Mohamad bin Osman**, Deputy Director of the International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability (IISDS), UCSI University Keynote V – Antarctica as a Science diplomacy model for ASEAN by **Professor Paul Arthur Berkman, Director of the Science Diplomacy Center™, USA and Faculty Associate, Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School**
1600	Coffee break
1615	**Panel Discussion II – "Common Interests" :** Space Economy, Blue Economy, Perspective from the Global South, Water Woes, Sustainable Digital Development led by **Professor Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar,** Adjunct Professor IISDS, UCSI 1. **Distinguished Professor Dr Phang Siew Moi**, FASc, FMBA (UK), Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Postgraduate of UCSI 2. **Ms. Chee Yoke Ling,** Executive Director, Third World Network **3. Dr. Hul Seingheng,** Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI), Cambodia **4. Bocar Ba,** Chief Executive Officer, Samena Telecommunications Council
1730	**End of Day 1**

Day 2 (7 August)

Time	Agenda
0900	Chair by **Dr. Raslan Ahmad,** Chairman of Malaysia Smart Cities Alliance (MSCA) Keynote VI – Potential of Bio-Diplomacy by **Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Bin Ibrahim, FASc, Faculty of Engineering, Technology & Built Environment of UCSI**

0930	**Panel Discussion III – Elements for a Science Diplomacy framework by Prof Abhi Veerakumarasivam,** Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University 1. **Dr Suneetha M Subramanian**, United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan 2. **Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa**, Senior Intellectual Property Consultant National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand 3. **Dr Siti Hafsyah Idris,** Faculty of Law, UiTM, Malaysia 4. **Ms. Wan Faizah Che Din**, Chief Executive Officer, Amanah Lestari Alam
1100	Coffee break and networking
1130	Chair by: **Mohd Nurul Azammi Mohd Nudri,** Head of Foresight, MIGHT **Keynote VII** – Training of young diplomats from the Global South in multilateral negotiations by **Dato' Zainol Rahim Zainuddin,** Director General, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)
1230	Lunch Break
1400	**Panel discussion IV** – Training for whom, on what and how? **To be led by Sam Johnston, UCSI-IISDS Adjunct Professor/Senior Fellow, Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne, Australia** 1. **Mohd Nurul Azammi Mohd Nudri,** Head of Foresight, MIGHT 2. **Dr. Joannes Ekaprasetya Tandjung,** Director for Research and Innovation Infrastructure Partnership Strengthening, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) 3. **Dato' Westmoreland Palon,** Director, Competency Enhancement Centre, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) 4. **Ms. Jennifer Rubis,** Indigenous Peoples Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)
1530	Coffee break
1600	**The Way Forward – *Distinguished Prof Dr. Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid***
1700	**End**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND PANELLIST PROFILE

Keynote Speakers

Keynote I:

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. Dr. Lee is a leading authority on science diplomacy and South-South cooperation. His career blends engineering expertise with multilateral diplomacy, promoting inclusive and equitable scientific collaboration across developing countries. Dr. Lee's work directly supports ASEAN's strategic goal of building robust STI ecosystems through shared research platforms and capacity-building programs. His advocacy for science diplomacy facilitates the transfer of technology and knowledge necessary for ASEAN's sustainable development and regional integration within the Global South framework.

Keynote II:

Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno

A UNESCO official based in Paris, Moreno contributes to multilateral cooperation on science diplomacy and capacity building. He supports developing countries, including ASEAN members, in aligning STI policies with sustainable development. His work strengthens the global science-policy interface, which ASEAN leverages to elevate its voice in international forums and mobilize resources for regional development.

Keynote III:

Professor Norichika Kanie

A distinguished scholar from Keio University, Prof. Kanie specializes in sustainable development governance and the post-2030 SDG agenda. His research informs policy frameworks that integrate science diplomacy and STI for global and regional sustainability. His insights guide ASEAN's efforts to extend and deepen SDG commitments through science-enabled policy innovation and cooperation within the Global South.

Keynote IV:

Jan Marco Müller

Team Leader for Global Approach, Multilateral Dialogue and Science Diplomacy at the European Commission, Müller provides expertise on EU diplomatic frameworks and science-policy integration. His virtual presentation offers lessons for ASEAN in designing effective science diplomacy strategies. His experience with multilateral diplomacy informs ASEAN's approach to engaging with global STI governance structures, strengthening regional influence and partnership opportunities.

Keynote V:

Professor Paul Arthur Berkman

Director of the Science Diplomacy Center™ (USA) and Faculty Associate at Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation, Prof. Berkman is a preeminent global authority on science diplomacy. He pioneered Antarctic science diplomacy models, demonstrating how shared scientific research can serve as a foundation for peaceful international cooperation. His work provides ASEAN with a blueprint for fostering regional scientific collaboration that transcends political boundaries, a critical approach for managing transboundary environmental and societal challenges in the Global South.

Keynote VI:

Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Bin Ibrahim, FASc

Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Bin Ibrahim, FASc, is a distinguished Malaysian academic and scientist renowned for his contributions to science, technology, and innovation policy. With a career spanning several decades, Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad has played a pivotal role in shaping national strategies in science diplomacy, sustainable development, and higher education, earning him recognition as a key thought leader and advisor in both national and regional platforms. His work continues to inspire the next generation of scientists and policymakers in ASEAN and beyond.

Keynote VII:

Dato' Zainol Rahim Zainuddin

Director General of IDFR, Dato' Zainol is a seasoned diplomat and educator specializing in multilateral negotiations. He integrates science diplomacy principles into diplomatic training programs targeting officials from the Global South. His efforts reinforce ASEAN's strategic priority to develop diplomats proficient in leveraging scientific evidence for effective international negotiations and sustainable development.

<u>Moderator & Panellists</u>

Panel Discussion I – Current Issues in Science Diplomacy

Mohd Zakwan Mohd Zabidi (Moderator)

Senior Vice President at MIGHT, Zakwan focuses on science-policy integration, pandemic preparedness, and regional cooperation. His strategic leadership supports ASEAN's efforts to build resilient health systems and respond collectively to global challenges through science diplomacy. Zakwan's work enhances ASEAN's institutional capacity to operationalize STI policies that address public health and sustainability. His

role exemplifies how science diplomacy facilitates knowledge exchange and coordinated action among ASEAN member states.

Prof Elil Renganathan

An academic at Monash University Malaysia, Prof. Renganathan's research centers on sustainable development, science policy, and public health. His interdisciplinary approach bridges scientific research with policymaking processes. His scholarship informs ASEAN's science diplomacy initiatives by providing evidence-based insights to support regional sustainability and pandemic response strategies.

Ms Kunzang Choden

Programme Manager at the ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia-Pacific, based in Canberra, Ms. Choden coordinates scientific collaborations on biodiversity, climate change, and sustainability. She plays a key role in connecting regional scientific communities with policymaking bodies. Her efforts facilitate ASEAN's engagement with global scientific networks, enhancing regional preparedness and environmental stewardship through science diplomacy.

Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno

A UNESCO official based in Paris, Moreno contributes to multilateral cooperation on science diplomacy and capacity building. He supports developing countries, including ASEAN members, in aligning STI policies with sustainable development. His work strengthens the global science-policy interface, which ASEAN leverages to elevate its voice in international forums and mobilize resources for regional development.

Panel Discussion II – Common Interests

Professor Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Mokhtar (Moderator)

Adjunct Professor at IISDS, UCSI University, Dr. Nor Aieni leads research on space and blue economies, emphasizing sustainability from a Global South perspective. Her work advances ASEAN's exploration of emerging economies linked to STI and environmental stewardship. Her expertise supports ASEAN's vision to diversify economic growth while ensuring the sustainable management of shared resources, a core science diplomacy challenge.

Professor Dr. Phang Siew Moi

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Postgraduate Studies at UCSI University, Prof. Phang is a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and a prominent environmental scientist. Her leadership promotes research that addresses ASEAN's biodiversity and ecological concerns. She champions interdisciplinary research and international collaborations that underpin ASEAN's science diplomacy initiatives focused on environmental resilience.

Ms. Chee Yoke Ling

Executive Director of the Third World Network, Ms. Chee is a leading advocate for development justice and environmental sustainability. Her work critiques global economic policies and promotes equitable development within the Global South. Her participation enriches ASEAN dialogues on sustainability by emphasizing inclusive governance and social equity as pillars of science diplomacy.

Dr. Hul Seingheng

Under Secretary of State at Cambodia's Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, Dr. Seingheng plays a crucial role in enhancing Cambodia's STI capacity and regional collaboration. His efforts contribute to strengthening ASEAN's collective STI infrastructure, fostering integration and shared prosperity across member states.

Bocar BA

Commissioner at the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Chair of ITU's CRO/IAGDI, Member in the ITU's Digital Innovation Board, and CEO of SAMENA Telecommunications Council, Bocar BA is a renowned industry advocate, and a proponent of sustainability in digital transformation, investment in digital infrastructure, unlocking access to capital, and addressing policy and regulatory challenges to accelerate progress on the global Sustainable Development Agenda while incentivizing the private sector across the ICT and space industries within the South Asia – Middle East – North Africa region. platforms.

Panel Discussion III – Elements for a Science Diplomacy Framework

Professor Abhi Veerakumarasivam (Moderator)

Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University, Prof. Abhi is an academic leader with expertise in innovation systems, governance, and science diplomacy frameworks. His work informs the design of institutional frameworks critical for ASEAN to institutionalize science diplomacy and optimize STI contributions to regional prosperity.

Suneetha M Subramanian

Representative of the United Nations University, Tokyo, Suneetha specializes in sustainability policy and the science-policy interface. Her research supports evidence-based decision-making critical to ASEAN's SDG implementation. Her global perspective assists ASEAN in aligning regional science diplomacy efforts with international sustainability commitments.

Dr. Orakanoke Phanraksa

Senior Intellectual Property Consultant at Thailand's National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Dr. Orakanoke's expertise includes innovation policy

and intellectual property management. Her knowledge aids ASEAN countries in harmonizing IP frameworks to facilitate technology transfer and innovation collaboration, key pillars of science diplomacy.

Dr. Siti Hafsyah Idris

Faculty of Law at UiTM Malaysia, Dr. Siti Hafsyah's research focuses on legal aspects of science diplomacy, including intellectual property rights and international treaties. Her scholarship is integral to ASEAN's efforts to develop legal and regulatory frameworks that support science diplomacy and STI cooperation.

Ms. Wan Faizah Che Din

CEO of Amanah Lestari Alam, Wan Faizah leads community-based environmental governance initiatives. Her work bridges grassroots action with policy advocacy to promote sustainable development. Her engagement exemplifies the bottom-up dimension of science diplomacy, ensuring inclusive participation in ASEAN's sustainability agenda.

Panel Discussion IV – Training for Whom, On What and How?

Sam Johnston (Moderator)

Adjunct Professor and Senior Fellow at Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, Johnston specializes in international law, diplomacy, and science diplomacy training. He focuses on capacity building for diplomats from the Global South to navigate multilateral negotiations effectively. His expertise aligns with ASEAN's goal to empower its diplomatic corps with skills that integrate scientific knowledge into international policy-making and negotiations, strengthening the bloc's global influence.

Dr. Joannes Ekaprasetya Tandjung

Dr. Joannes Ekaprasetya Tandjung, widely known as JET, is a seasoned Indonesian diplomat with over 20 years of service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Currently serving as Director for Strengthening Partnership of Research and Innovation at Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency, he focuses on enhancing infrastructure and fostering collaborations in research and innovation.

Ms. Jennifer Rubis

Jennifer Rubis is the indigenous peoples specialist for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). She joined GCF in 2019, after serving 10 years with UNESCO, where she coordinated the Climate Frontlines forum and was program specialist for the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems program. Her specialty areas include indigenous knowledge and climate change with a focus on adaptation and impacts, indigenous-led initiatives in community forestry and natural resource management, using technologies to assist

marginalized people in developing countries, community tourism, indigenous and land rights issues, and traditional knowledge documentation.

Mohd Nurul Azammi Mohd Nudri

Head of Foresight at MIGHT, Azammi leads strategic foresight initiatives that anticipate emerging trends in STI, supporting Malaysia's and ASEAN's adaptive policy frameworks. His foresight work enhances ASEAN's agility in science diplomacy, ensuring the region remains proactive in addressing future challenges and opportunities.

Dato' Westmoreland Palon

Director of the Competency Enhancement Centre at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Malaysia, Dato Westmoreland drives professional development for Malaysian diplomats, emphasizing multilateral negotiation and science diplomacy skills. His work supports ASEAN's diplomatic capacity-building initiatives crucial for effective engagement in international STI governance.

LIST OF ATTTENDANCE

No.	Name	Designation	Organisation
1.	H.E. Chang Lih Kang	Minister	Ministry Of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI)
2.	H.E. Marta Laura Gabrieloni	Ambassador	Embassy Of Argentina
3.	H.E. Juraj Koudelka	Ambassador	Embassy Of The Czech Republic In Kuala Lumpur
4.	H.E. Dr. Ismael Maaytah	Ambassador Extraordinary And Plenipotentiary	Embassy Of The Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan
5.	H.E. Maria Angela Abrera Ponce	Ambassador	Embassy Of The Republic Of The Philippines
6.	Mr. Mohamed Rizvi	Acting. High Commissioner	High Commission Of Sri Lanka In Kuala Lumpur
7.	Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid,Fasc	Chairman (Government)	Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology (MIGHT)
8.	Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ir. Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, Fasc	Chairman (Industry)	Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology (MIGHT)
9.	Mr. Rushdi Abdul Rahim	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology (MIGHT)
10.	Mdm. Ida Semurni Abdullah Ali	Chief Operating Officer (COO)	Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology (MIGHT)
11.	Distinguished Professor Dr Phang Siew Moi, Fasc, FMBA (UK)	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research And Postgraduate	UCSI University
12.	Al Jeffery Ibrahim	CEO	Nusa Space
13.	Azmil Zakri	CEO	Atri Advisory
14.	Dato Dr Zulkifli Mohaned Hashim	Board Of Director	Venturetech Sdn Bhd.
15.	Datuk Ali Bin Abdul Kadir	Trustee	Amanah Lestari Alam (ALAM)

16.	Dr Meilina Ong Abdullah	Director	Malaysian Palm Oil Board
17.	Dr Wemel C V	Chairman	LTT Global | Mymobileuni
18.	Harikrishna Kulaveerasingam	Trustee	AMANAH LESTARI ALAM (ALAM)
19.	Kesavan Jaganathan	Director	Teras Impiana
20.	Tan Wee Hoe	Chair	INGSA Asia
21.	Afiza Binti Mohd Salleh	PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Ministry Of Communications
22.	Ahmad Ibraheem Bin Abu Bakar	POSTGRADUATE STUDENT	Solar Energy Research Institute, UKM
23.	Aimee Falkum	Science And Technology Officer	U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur
24.	Alifah Binti Ahmad	PENOLONG SETIAUSAHA	KEMENTERIAN KERJA RAYA
25.	Amanda Hu		Fossla, UCSI University
26.	Assoc Prof Dr Heo Chong Chin		Faculty Of Medicine, UITM
27.	Azleen Pishal	Manager	FGV Transport Services Sdn Bhd
28.	Aznie Rahim	Consultant	World Bank
29.	Balqis Binti Azmi	Penolong Pengarah	MOSTI
30.	Chan Boon Hwee	Executive	PETRONAS Research
31.	Clarissa Marie Villamor	Economic Attache	Philippine Embassy
32.	Datuk Chris Tan	Executive Director	Narico Enterprises
33.	Dr Amir Adam Hon	Head Of Sustainable Energy Research	PETRONAS
34.	Dr Hazmimi Binti Kasim	RESEARCH OFFICER	MALAYSIAN NUCLEAR AGENCY
35.	Dr Lee Say Wah (Sarah)	Head Of Programme	MILA University
36.	Dr Sheeba Chenoli	Associate Professor	Universiti Malaya

37.	Dr Zeittey Karmilla Kaman	RESIDENT FACULTY	OTHMAN YEOP ABDULLAH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA (KL CAMPUS)
38.	Fareed Farihin Bin Mohd Firdaus	Post Graduate Student	Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI), UKM
39.	Hasnul Ambia	Principle Assisstant Director	MASTIC, MOSTI
40.	Hazel Yean Ru Ann	Lecturer	Sunway University
41.	Helena Varkkey	Associate Professor	Universiti Malaya
42.	Intan Marzueani Binti Dato Mohamad Nor	Expert Researcher And Analyst	IDFR
43.	Jane Gew Lai Ti	Associate Professor	Sunway University
44.	Jia Cuiping	PHD Student	UCSI
45.	Karen George Abraham	Deputy Director	MASTIC, MOSTI
46.	Keigo Matsuo	Second Secretary	Embassy Of Japan
47.	Leong Sat Sing	VP	UCSI UNIVERSITY
48.	Li Zengkun	Dr.	UCSI UNIVERSITY
49.	Maya Izar Binti Khaidizar	RESEARCH OFFICER	MARDI
50.	Mohamad Farid Bin Mohd Aris	Senior Principal Assistant Secretary	Ministry Of Works Malaysia
51.	Mohd Fuad Bin Ahmad	Group Chief Corporate Development Officer	Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad
52.	Mohd Zakry Bin Mohd Sa'ed	Biz Development Manager	IOT SATA SDN BHD
53.	Mr. Ahmed Ali Jasim Al-Sudani	Second Secretary	Embassy Of The Republic Of Iraq
54.	Mr. Ahmed Ghanim Abduljabbar Al Gburi	Deputy Head Of Mission/Counselor	Embassy Of The Republic Of Iraq, Kuala Lumpur
55.	Mr. Oswaldo Gonzalez Vasquez	Charge D' Affaires A.I./ Minister Plenipotentiary	Embassy Of The Sultanate Of Oman

56.	Mr. Oswaldo Gonzalez Vasquez	Deputy Head Of Mission	Embassy Of Venezuela
57.	Mrs. Adelina Soares Martins	First Secretary	Embassy Of Timor-Leste
58.	Mrs. Mariela Machado	Charge d'Affaires A.I.	Embassy Of The Republic Of Uruguay
59.	Ms. Fatma Alzahraa Hassan Abdelkawy	Charge d'Affaires A.I.	Embassy Of The Arab Republic Of Egypt
60.	Muhammad Ashraf Bin Musauddin	Consultant	The Eceos
61.	Muhammad Syafiq Bin Mohammed Khusrin	Assistant Director	MOSTI
62.	Nina Azrah Razali	Senior Analyst	Academy Of Sciences Malaysia
63.	Nurul Hawa Ahmad	Dr.	Faculty Of Food Science & Technology, Universiti Putra Malaysia
64.	Poorani Krishnan	Science And Innovation Advisor	British High Commission Kuala Lumpur
65.	Prof Madya Dr Azlin Mohd Azmi	Deputy Director	Solar Research Institute, Universiti Teknologi MARA
66.	Prof Ts Dr Zainura Binti Zainon Noor	PROF. DR.	UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA (UTM)
67.	Raja Dato (Dr) Abdul Aziz Bin Raja Adnan	Principal Advisor	The Eceos Sdn Bhd
68.	Rohana Binti Yusof	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic & Internationalisation	UCSI University
69.	Saw Leng Guan	Biodiversity Consultant	
70.	Siti Arfah Sabarudin	Manager	Mypower Corporation
71.	Tey Yok Pee	Senior Consultant	SIRIM Berhad
72.	Toka Khaled	Research Engagement Specialist	Scicomm X

73.	Ts. Sr Khoo Sui Lai	Head Of Department (Quantity Surveying)	UCSI University
74.	Wangyun	PHD Students	UCSI University

Acknowledgments

The organizers extend their sincere appreciation to all partners for their roles in making this conference possible, with special recognition to the **Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)** for its support. We wish to express our profound gratitude to our **Strategic Partners** — the **ASEAN Secretariat**, the **International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA)-Asia**, and **Atri Advisory** — for their invaluable collaboration. We also acknowledge with deep appreciation the contributions of our **Supporting Partners** — the **International Science Council (ISC)**, the **Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR)**, the **National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia**, and the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** — whose commitment has been instrumental in advancing science diplomacy for regional prosperity in ASEAN.