

Public Forum

13th - 14th January 2024

Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Level 5, Wawasan Open University, 54 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, 10050, George Town, Pulau Pinang.

2023 forum recording: <https://shorturl.at/ghtBR>

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1 ~ 13.1.2024 (Saturday)

Saturday afternoon session will focus on a review of COP28 held in UAE and its implications on both climate action and possible impact on Malaysian policies on climate change.

2.00pm-5.30pm: Public Forum on Climate Action on National, State and Local levels

Synopsis

Climate Change is systems change, complex because planetary and human systems cannot change overnight, and yet it has become clear that human excess consumption has damaged the planet in the Anthropocene Age. Systems change has many dimensions, of which the moral issue is that there is injustice inflicted on both humans (social inequities) and the planet (biodiversity loss, human pollution and destruction of irreplaceable minerals and habitat). To change requires a mindset change and not just state or market, but also communities and individual levels.

At the global level, COP28 and COP15 have finally agreed there is serious warming up and also biodiversity loss, but there is lack of meaningful action because of disagreements at the geopolitical level. War is likely to delay climate action since coal and nuclear power are being seriously considered again, postponing clean energy transformation. The world is also running out of key minerals that can help the clean energy transformation.

Can we find a Middle Path to green inclusive growth versus the degrowth debate? How do we change the narrative and empower the grassroot communities to act in the right direction that will change state and market forces?

The right focus is now what to do and what types of social action will make a difference. This conference brings together a stock take of action to-date, and assesses what kind of climate action can be taken at the local, community, national (Malaysia), state (Penang and others) and regional, global levels that would make meaningful impact or difference.

Time	Activity
1.45pm - 2.00pm	Registration for members of the public
2.00pm - 2.10pm	Opening remarks by Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Koon , <i>Chairman of Wawasan Education Foundation, Chairman of Board of Governors, Wawasan Open University.</i>
2.10pm - 3.30pm	<p>Post COP28 Review</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tan Sri Andrew Sheng, Chairman, GIOAS, will provide an overview and weave together the themes of the conference. 2. Dr. Douglass Carmichael, Strategy Consultant, INET, will reflect on lessons from COP28, present his latest thinking on the political economy of GardenWorld, the possible paths ahead to address climate change issue. 3. Mr. Jan Vasbinder, Founder, Para Limes, will reflect on Climate Action after the book, <i>Buying Time for Climate Action</i> from the European perspective. 4. Ms. Meena Raman, Third World Network, will reflect on South views of COP28.
3.30 pm-3.45pm	Tea break
3.45pm-4.45pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Stephen Oppenheimer, Oxford University, wrote the book 'Eden in the East, the Drowned Continent of Southeast Asia' (1998). He is currently writing a book: 'The Fourth Flood'. Will address the current rapid sea level rise, the fourth event since the last glaciation. Will discuss the central role of the human fossil fuel industry in triggering this uniquely-massive atmospheric methane release in the present climate crisis." 2. Prof. John Crawford, University of Glasgow (Zoom or recorded video), will present the imperative of the Global Soil Health Programme and Global Creative Commons. 3. Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar to comment on his visit to COP28 and implications for Malaysia.
4.45pm-5.30pm	Q&A and discussion session

Day 2 ~ 14.1.2024 (Sunday): Forum on Climate Change

Day 2 will focus on Malaysian policies and progress to date on climate action in the morning and in the afternoon look at specific experience in Penang, including the idea of smart omni village experiment in Sabah, India and Bhutan.

9.00 am-12.30 pm: Part 1 ~ Climate Action in Malaysia

Time	Activity
8.30am-9.00 am	Registration and network breakfast
9.00am-9.10am	Introduction by Tan Sri Andrew Sheng.
9.10am-9.30am	Emeritus Prof. Dan Brooks, University of Toronto (Zoom)
9.30am-10.00am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Nungsari Ahmad Radhi, Khazanah Research Institute, will discuss on Malaysian economy and issues relating to Malaysia moving to NetZero and Ekonomi Madani. 2. Mr. Yin Shao Loong, Deputy Director of Research, Khazanah Research Institute, will share his work on National Climate Strategy and recent climate action in Malaysia.
10.00am-10.30am	Mr. Allen Tan, Managing Director, Habitat Penang, on visions on UNESCO Biosphere implementation in Penang, forest regeneration, Save the Tiger Campaign.
10.30am-11.00am	Coffee break
11.00am-11.30am	Mr. Robin Lee, Consultant, Enggang Holdings, will brief on "Climate change - is it possible to reduce the financial impact on Malaysians". (ZOOM)
11.30am-12.00pm	Universiti Sains Malaysia, Professor Saidatulakmal Mohd and Assoc. Prof Dr. Mohd Wira Mohd Shafiei on USM research on ESG (exact title to be confirmed)
12.00pm-12.30pm	Open Discussion
12.30pm-1.50pm	Lunch, networking & tribal art exhibition at Homestead

2.00pm – 5.30pm: Part 2 ~ Climate Action in Penang

Time	Activity
2.00pm-2.30pm	<p>1. Dato' Cheuk Lay Leng, CEO, Penang Hill Corporation, will discuss experience in pushing Penang to be forefront through UNESCO Biosphere and work on Penang Hill restoration and regeneration.</p> <p>2. Ms. Josephine Tan, Chief Executive, Penang Green Council, to brief on activities of Penang State Government in pushing green agenda through the PCC.</p>
2.30pm-3.15pm	<p>1. Mr. Lhundup Dukpa will share his experience in village regeneration and NGO work in Bhutan.</p> <p>2. Ms. Sneha Poddar will brief on the Smart Omni Village (SOV) Integrated Approach, lessons in Sabah and India.</p>
3.15pm-4.00pm	Mr. Lim Hock Song, Datuk Dr. Richard Gunting and Mr. Virgil Gunting will brief on the PROVE- Pensiangan Regenerative Omni Village Ecosystem Project in Sabah, Borneo.
4.00pm-4.30pm	Roundtable Discussion and Closing
4.30pm-5.30pm	Closing and Coffee