



**MALAYSIA FORUM 2014: SEKARANG**  
KUALA LUMPUR

**APRIL 20, 2014 (SUNDAY)**

8.45am – 12.00pm

DIGNITY INTERNATIONAL,  
A-2-7 Pusat Perdagangan Seksyen 8,  
Jalan Sg Jernih 8/1,  
46050 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

# ABOUT MALAYSIA FORUM

Malaysia Forum (MF) is a global organization of Malaysians that aims to extend the boundaries of civil and non-partisan discussion. Our goal is to have these conversations in the spirit of striving towards maturity in thought and growth as individuals and a society.

There are many MF communities around the world, including Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, the US Northeast, Midwest and West Coast, London, Paris and Sydney. Each year, MF organizes a global conference to bring together Malaysians from all over the world to discuss pertinent Malaysian issues and exchange ideas as a platform for further action. Besides the annual conference, each MF community also runs their own set of events, discussions and forums throughout the year.

To read more about our philosophy and vision, please visit <http://www.malaysiaforum.org>

To read more about our events and forum, please visit <http://www.malaysiaforum.org/nmf>

## MF 2014: SEKARANG

The theme for Malaysia Forum NY and KL 2014 is 'Sekarang', which means 'now' in Bahasa Malaysia. The theme was chosen in part to reflect on the post-GE 13 sentiments of the nation.

The Malaysia Forum team believes it is a timely juncture to ask questions pertaining how we as citizens can contribute to the development of our country today, instead of waiting for the next general elections to discuss and exercise our political freedom. It also the time to examine the tensions that exist within our society and ask how and why these tensions exist, as well as reflect upon what best serves the interest of an entire nation that is easily fragmented. We have constructed our panels across three MF audiences to approach pertinent Malaysian topics of today, and what exactly it means to be a citizen of Malaysia. Among the topics discussed are technology, entrepreneurship, democracy, education, film, ethnoreligious relations and brain drain.

**Malaysia Forum 2014 is held at the following locations this year:**

- Dignity International, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
- New York University (NYU), USA
- National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore
- ... and also viewable online at [livestream.com/malaysiaforum](http://livestream.com/malaysiaforum)

# MF KL Schedule

8.45am – Welcome Breakfast and Opening Address

9.00am – **Panel 1:** Race and religion in Malaysia - what lies ahead

- **Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad**, Executive Director of the PAS Research Center
- **Ms. Honey Tan**, human rights activist and lead writer of the COMANGO report
- **Dr. Maznah Mohamad**, Associate Prof at NUS Departments of Malay Studies and SEA Studies
- **Tuan Haji Haniff Khatri Abdulla**, former Deputy President of the Muslim Lawyers Association
- **Moderator: Mr. Ahmad Fuad Rahmat**, managing editor of ProjekDialog.com and producer at BFM 89.9

10.30am – **Panel 2:** Civil Society: paving the way from the ground up

- **Mr. Brian Gomez**, founder at Merdekarya, writer
- **Ms. Sze Ying Goh**, lead at #BetterCities, PopDigital
- **Mr. Darren Lai**, Deputy Chairperson of Safer Malaysia, Malaysian Bar Council
- **Moderator: Dr. Shariha Khalid**, founder of Scope Group

MF KL Panel 1 (9.30 AM – 10.30 AM)  
***Race and religion in Malaysia - what lies ahead***

Race and religion has been a part of Malaysian society since the country's formation. Now after 50 years, is race and religion a bigger, or smaller part of Malaysian life? The panel, representing diverse vantage-points, will explore sub-topics like on-going events like the "Allah" case and Kassim Ahmad's arrest; democratic space and the role of civil society; the effect of GE13 and the evolving political landscape.



**Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad**

Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad is the Executive Director of the PAS Research Centre and the former Member of Parliament for Kuala Selangor. Dr. Dzulkefly has a Bachelor's degree from Birmingham University, a Master's in Science from Surrey University and a Ph.D in Medical Science (Toxicology) from Imperial College, University of London. A member of the PAS Central Executive Committee since 2004, Dr. Dzulkefly is not only an accomplished lecturer on Toxicology, but also had a short stint in Islamic finance and investment before joining an asset management firm in KL. He had a calling to enter the world of politics during the raging days of the Reformasi era. Dr. Dzulkefly has also been a member of the Bersih Steering Committee since 2006.



**Ms. Honey Tan Lay Ean**

Honey Tan Lay Ean is a human rights activist and lawyer. She practices primarily in the area of family law and is actively engaged in public interest litigation, particularly in the areas of equality and non-discrimination. Honey is the spokesperson and lead writer of the report submitted by the Coalition of Malaysian NGOs in the UPR Process (COMANGO) for Malaysia's 2nd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2013. A former Executive Director of the All Women Action Society (AWAM), Honey is also a member of Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (EMPOWER) and the Malaysian Bar Council.



**Tuan Haji Haniff Khatri Abdulla**

Tuan Haji Haniff Khatri Abdulla is the former Deputy President of the Muslim Lawyers Association.



**Dr. Maznah Mohamad**

Maznah Mohamad is an Associate Professor with the Department of Malay Studies and Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore. She specializes in gender, ethnic and Islamic studies with regional emphases on Malaysia and Southeast Asia. Her published books include *Melayu: The Politics, Poetics and Paradoxes of Malayness* (co-edited 2011, NUS Press), *Changing Marriage Patterns in Southeast Asia: Economic and Socio-Cultural Dimension* (co-edited 2011, Routledge Press) and *Family Ambiguity and Domestic Violence in Asia: Concept, Law and Process* (co-edited 2013, Sussex Academic Press).



**Moderator: Mr. Ahmad Fuad Rahmat**

Ahmad Fuad Rahmat is the managing editor for ProjekDialog.com, a social media outreach platform promoting greater interfaith understanding among Malaysian youths. In addition to his column in the Malaysian Insider, he is also a producer for BFM radio where he is also a co-host for Night School, a talk show that explores philosophy and social theory. He recently completed the Malaysian Centre for Independent Journalism's 2012-2013 Freedom of Expression report. In his spare time he teaches philosophy at Sekolah Falsafah, a grassroots initiative to promote philosophy among Malaysian youths.

MF KL Panel 2 (10.30 AM – 12.00 PM)  
***Civil Society: paving the way from the ground up***

This panel will explore innovations that give large positive externalities to society without being borne or executed at the policy level. What inspired these social innovations and what are the hurdles they face? As the thought and action behind these groups expand, have we seen the roles of politically derived institutions diminish or grow? What legitimizes social innovation: productivity, sustainability, recognition or something else?



**Mr. Brian Gomez**

Brian Gomez is a writer of songs and stories. His debut novel, *Devil's Place* was released in 2008 and is a Malaysian cult favourite. It was also translated and published in Italy. His debut album, *Gun Inside My Brain*, was released in 2012, described as "fire and brimstone folk rock". He is an experienced live performer and has been onstage for more than ten years. He also runs independent arts space *Merdekarya*, which he co-owns with his wife. He is currently working on his second novel.



**Ms. Sze Ying Goh**

Sze Ying Goh is the #BetterCities Lead at Popdigital, steering the initiative since its inception in late 2011. She manages the overall campaign's programme, curates the talk series and establishes partnerships with individuals, businesses and institutions. She has presented on various conferences on participatory urbanism and design for social good, e.g. Chiang Mai Creative Cities 2014, Archifest SG 2012, TEDxKL 2012, SEACAM Asia New Media Forum 2008, et. al. She has a keen interest in the arts, visual design, online and offline spaces.



**Mr. Darren Lai**

Darren Lai is a lawyer and a partner in a law firm in Petaling Jaya. He is also a Deputy Chair of the Bar Council's Safer Malaysia Committee. Safer Malaysia is a project by concerned private citizens of Malaysia, which attempts to push for reforms of our security administration and to help Malaysians reclaim the ownership of the issue of safety in Malaysia.



**Moderator: Dr. Shariha Khalid**

Shariha is co-founder of Scope Group, an innovation and impact advisory and incubator, where she leads the health and development practice focusing on policy design, systems innovation and strategic partnerships. Shariha believes that by building, supporting and putting together like-minded individuals and organisations around a common cause, new ways can be found to address society's most pressing challenges. Her skills in understanding the interplay between sometimes non-complementary policy agendas and working between social and financial interests underscore her passion for ethical business, social impact, and creating shared value. Shariha is a +SocialGood Connector and Global Good Fund Ambassador, and received her degrees in design, medicine and health systems research in the United Kingdom.

## MISC INFORMATION

1. **Attire:** Smart Casual.
2. **Punctuality:** Please remember to show up on time for Malaysia Forum. Our panels will start sharp on time, as they will be broadcast live to many waiting audiences across the world.
3. **Live Broadcast:** All MF KL sessions and selected sessions from New York will be broadcast live. These sessions will be available for viewing at [livestream.com/malaysiaforum](http://livestream.com/malaysiaforum). Please encourage your friends who are not able to make it for the Forum to catch the live broadcast and take part in the discussions!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Su Ann Lim – 012-315-1311

Hafiz Noor Shams – 016-263-4076

Ren Chung Yu – 010-225-7971

Carol Yong – 010-982-7651

Aaron Nair – 019-354-8888

(Please call Ren Chung for directions to the venue if you are lost!)

# GETTING TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE

## ADDRESS:

DIGNITY INTERNATIONAL,  
A-2-7 Pusat Perdagangan Seksyen 8,  
Jalan Sg Jernih 8/1,  
46050 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia



## Directions to MF KL By Car

From the Federal Highway:

- Take the Jalan Barat exit (near PJ Hilton). It's the one after Taman Jaya
- Turn left at the exit
- Immediately keep to the right lane to the traffic light. You'll see a row of shops on your right with Secret Recipe, Victoria Station, Giant and Subway. KFC is at the corner opposite the traffic light.
- Turn right at the traffic light. Go all the way down until the T-junction.
- Turn right.
- You'll see a group of yellow-colored buildings. The area is called 8 Avenue
- Turn right into the parking, past the barrier.
- Look for unit A-2-7. It's on the left side, above the restaurant called Back to Basic. It's opposite the restaurant called Cristang.
- Go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. See you at Malaysia Forum!

## By Public Transportation

### Closest LRT Station – Asia Jaya

From Asia Jaya LRT Station, Dignity International is just 1.0km or an approximately 12-minute walk away

