

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Esteemed Readers,

It is with profound pride and immense pleasure that INTAN unveils the seventh edition of the Journal of Economics and Policy. This prestigious annual compendium is devoted to the critical exploration of contemporary Malaysian issues in Economics, Business, Finance, and Public Policy. Over the years, this journal has cemented its status as a formidable platform for intellectual discourse, particularly on public sector governance and its pivotal role in nation-building, thereby reflecting the government's visionary aspirations for Malaysia's future.

This year's edition is a treasury of knowledge, comprising twelve meticulously curated pieces. The content is thoughtfully categorized into seven journal articles, four policy perspective papers, and one thought-provoking book review – each offering a fresh lens on pressing national and global challenges.

The journal articles commence with a compelling analysis of Government Guarantees (GG), elucidating their instrumental role in fostering economic growth through the stimulation of sustained private expenditure. Following this, an illuminating discourse on Kuala Lumpur's climate initiatives – including the Low Carbon Society Blueprint 2030 and the Climate Action Plan 2050 – underscores Malaysia's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 while maintaining a delicate balance between sustainability and economic growth.

Another critical examination centers on Malaysia's housing overhang, providing an incisive evaluation of government measures and strategic recommendations aimed at enhancing market stability. Additionally, the journal features an exploration of the innovative responses exhibited by Malaysian playschools and kindergartens during the COVID-19 pandemic, shedding light on supply chain resilience amidst unprecedented disruptions.

Healthcare infrastructure also takes center stage, with a comprehensive analysis of the Patient Management System (SPP) through the lens of the VRIO (Values, Rare, Imitable, Organization) framework. This study reveals the

system's competitive advantages, offering valuable insights for future healthcare advancements. Equally noteworthy is the examination of reforms in the Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) program, advocating for a more holistic focus on social impacts, including well-being and equality, in policy formulation. Adding a global perspective, this edition features a study on Vietnam's online learning challenges during the pandemic and a critical policy paper on submarine cables as vital infrastructure for Malaysia's connectivity and national security.

The policy perspective segment delves into regulatory challenges in moderating illegal online content in Malaysia, drawing insightful comparisons with the European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA). Another paper emphasizes the transformative potential of big data analytics in higher education, advocating for synergistic collaboration among institutions, industry, and government to drive innovation. The critical role of fundamental research in advancing technology and human capital is also spotlighted, underscoring the urgent need for robust, well-funded policies to sustain Malaysia's global competitiveness.

This edition concludes with an enthralling review of "Industrial Halal Mind" by Dr. Lokman bin Ab. Rahman. The review provides a comprehensive exploration of Malaysia's Halal industry, its Shariah-based underpinnings, and the multifaceted challenges it faces in an ever-evolving global market.

To uphold the highest standards of academic excellence, all submissions undergo a rigorous double-blind review by eminent scholars from Malaysia's leading universities. This meticulous process underscores our steadfast commitment to integrity, inclusivity, and intellectual relevance.

We sincerely hope that this edition ignites meaningful discourse and empowers readers to contribute meaningfully towards building a more harmonious, equitable, and prosperous Malaysia.

With warmest regards,

DATUK DR. MOHD ZABRI YUSOFF

Editor-in-Chief

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