

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers,

INTAN once again presents *the Journal of Economics and Policy*, an annual publication which discusses contemporary Malaysian issues in the fields of Economics, Business, Finance and Public Policy. This sixth edition of the journal presents six articles which touch on an array of diverse but current issues related to public sector governance.

In line with Malaysia MADANI – a policy framework which focuses on the elements of good governance, sustainable development and racial harmony – many of the articles have been chosen as they can contribute towards a healthy dialogue in pursuit of this goal. The first article aptly explores the concept of an ideal society viewing it from the Malaysia MADANI perspective juxtaposed against the concepts of civil society held by the West and Islam; thus setting the tone of this year's journal.

Improving the well-being of the *rakyat* is one of the major goals identified under the new MADANI economic framework. In the spirit of “*raising the floor*”, there are articles that address current issues affecting the welfare of the *rakyat*. One article analyses inflation and private expenditure in Malaysia while another examines the monitoring and evaluation system utilised in the paddy and rice subsidy programme; certainly, a pertinent subject matter in light of rising food insecurity.