A 1Malaysia Supply Chain Approach

On December 10, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK), one of Malaysia's leading private universities specialising in innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship, hosted the fifth lecture in its Tun Abdul Razak Lecture Series. Titled "National Unity & National Development: A 1Malaysia Supply Chain Approach" and presented by Tan Sri Andrew Sheng Len Tao, this lecture was held at UNIRAZAK’s Razak Campus at Capital Square. Members of the public were invited and attendance was free of charge. Over 130 delegates from the government, private sector, universities, embassies and high commissions attended.

UNIRAZAK strives to play an active role in promoting and cherishing national idealism and the achievements of our great leaders such as former prime minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak. In line with this objective, the Tun Abdul Razak Lecture Series was organised to be delivered by well known personalities in their respective field of studies.

The featured speaker, Sheng is also pro-chancellor of UNIRAZAK, among many other positions. A chartered accountant by training, he is currently the chief adviser to the China Banking Regulatory Commission and a board member of the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority, Sime Darby Berhad and Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Malaysia. He was also partly responsible for forming Malaysia’s New Economic Model as a member of the National Economic Advisory Council.

In his welcoming address, UNIRAZAK president and vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Md Zabid Hj Abdul Rashid, thanked Sheng and the TARLS committee (headed by the university’s Razak School of Government) for successfully organising the event. He reiterated the purpose of the TARLS series, which is to ensure that the current generation of Malaysians understands and appreciates the efforts taken by the nation’s founding fathers to ensure that Malaysia is a peaceful, harmonious, and prosperous nation.

In his lecture, Sheng mentioned that he was honoured to be invited as he loves education and spends a lot of time teaching. He is also Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University, Beijing.
and the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. He stressed how visionary the late Tun Abdul Razak was, as he had a unique ability to see talent and potential in the young and promote them to positions of responsibility in which they performed well, citing Tun Ahmad Sarji (UNIRAZAK's other pro chancellor) as an excellent example. Previous speakers did well in sharing their experiences with Tun Abdul Razak as a man, leader, and nation builder, and Sheng's lecture related to the late Tun's legacy and vision.

Sheng shared his view that the concept of togetherness, integration, and mutual economic success started with the late Tun and has continued to mould and affect the current 1Malaysia vision and New Economic Model (NEM) under the late Tun's son, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the current Malaysian Prime Minister. Sheng opined that for Malaysia to advance as a nation and achieve the high income goals as stated in the NEM, national harmony and unity is essential. It is imperative for all Malaysians from all social and economic levels, not just the government and private sector, to be able to work together to achieve prosperity – the 1Malaysia Supply Chain, as it were. He stated that if any one party loses out this would negatively affect others in the supply chain, citing a rural farmer as an example. If a farmer fails to take his produce to market, it means that not only does the farmer lose out, but also the consumer, the transport suppliers, the distributors, and others. Sheng shared that in order for us to strengthen our economy, we must strengthen our domestic supply chain and change the way we think and do things – which requires national effort.

He further stressed that the countries that succeed have strong entrepreneurs and strong governance, and concluded that we must work on shared values and ideals with more cooperation, and pay greater attention to our social environment and relations. He said that with harmony there comes unity, with unity there comes progress, and with progress there comes prosperity, and shared that he was optimistic for the well-being of Malaysia's future economic success.

Tan Sri Andrew Sheng’s speech for UNIRAZAK’s Tun Abdul Razak lecture series is available at www.unirazak.edu.my. If you wish to attend future lectures, contact Nor Azami at 03-7627 7113.