



**US-ASEAN**  
BUSINESS COUNCIL, INC.

## Roundtable Luncheon

*in honor of*

**H.E. Senator Amir Hamzah Azizan**

Malaysia Second Finance Minister

and

**Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour**

Malaysia Central Bank Governor

Washington, D.C. | April 18, 2024





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## *Marc Mealy*

Chief Policy Officer of US-ASEAN Business Council

Marc Mealy is the Senior Vice President-Policy at the US-ASEAN Business Council. He manages the production of the Council's information products, coordinates advocacy efforts across our country and industry committees, and serves as the in-house lead on international trade policy. He joined the Council in 2003 as the Senior Director for Malaysia, Philippines and Brunei Affairs as well as Coordinator of the Council's ASEAN Financial Services Working Group. He was named the Vice President in 2010.

Marc has over twenty years of experience in international trade and economics.

He began his professional career in 1989 as an international economist with International Trade Policy Division of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Services. While at USDA he was accepted into the United States Foreign Service, and later went on to manage some of USDA's largest commodity trade finance (GSM) and food assistance programs (PL-480) in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe for USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

In 1994-1996, he joined the African American Institute, an international non-profit NGO, as the Director of its Trade and Investment Program and later worked as a consultant to foreign government and international development NGO's.

Prior to joining the Council Marc spent four years inside the U.S. Congress. From 1999-2001 he was a member of the Professional Staff of the House International Relations Committee. From 2001 to 2003, he served as the international economic and foreign policy advisor to Congressmen Gregory Meeks of New York, a member of the House Foreign Affairs and Financial Services Committees.

Marc holds a B.A. in Economics and Third World Studies from Oberlin College and an M.S. degree in Economics from the University of Florida.



## *H.E. Senator Amir Hamzah Azizan*

Bank Negara Malaysia Governor

Amir Hamzah Azizan was appointed as the Finance Minister II effective 11 December 2023. Prior to assuming the role of Finance Minister II, he had helmed the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) as Chief Executive Officer since March 2021.

With a corporate experience spanning more than 27 years, Amir Hamzah began his career with a decade-long tenure at the Shell Group of Companies. During this period, he held diverse roles in Malaysia, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. Subsequently, he joined MISC Berhad in 2000 and held several senior management portfolios before being appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer in January 2009.

Following his tenure at MISC Berhad, Amir Hamzah took on the role of Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of PETRONAS Dagangan Berhad in June 2010. In August 2012, Amir Hamzah joined PETRONAS Lubricants International as Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, concurrently serving as the Vice-President for Downstream Marketing, and subsequently as Vice-President of Lubricants for the PETRONAS Group.

In March 2016, Amir Hamzah joined Ekuiti Nasional Berhad (Ekuinas) to steer its investee company Icon Offshore Berhad as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Subsequently, he took on the role of Group Chief Executive Officer at Themed Attractions Resorts and Hotel Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad. In April 2019, he further showcased his versatility across industries by taking on the role of President/Chief Executive Officer at Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB).

Amir Hamzah has also contributed to various organisations in non-executive capacities. He formerly served as the Non-Executive Chairman of Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB) and held directorial positions on the boards of Sime Darby Plantation Berhad and Sime Darby Oils International Limited.

Amir Hamzah holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management (majoring in Finance and Economics) from Syracuse University, New York. He has also attended the Stanford Executive Programme at Stanford University, and the Corporate Finance Evening Programme at London Business School.



## *Datuk Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour*

Bank Negara Malaysia Governor

Datuk Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour is the 10th Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia. He was appointed for a five-year term effective 1 July 2023. In his role as Governor, Rasheed also serves as the chair of the Bank's Board of Directors, Monetary Policy Committee and Financial Stability Executive Committee. Rasheed joined the Bank in 1988 and has helmed various positions across the breadth of the Bank's primary functions. These include monetary policy and economics, international reserves management and financial markets, financial sector development, and banking regulations. In 2016, he assumed the role of Deputy Governor.

Rasheed has also played a leading role in driving the Bank's advocacy efforts on economic affairs, including in the areas of social protection and labour market reforms. This includes to support and advise the Government on issues relating to the management of the pandemic. He also played key roles in the development and implementation of the Financial Sector Masterplan and Financial Sector Blueprints.

At the international level, Rasheed has served and been a member of various international platforms, such as the Islamic Financial Services Board and Bank for International Settlements. He has also championed various efforts to strengthen regional financial integration and cooperation, such as the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework. Previously, he also served as the Alternate Executive Director of the Southeast Asia Voting Group Office of the International Monetary Fund.

Rasheed attended St. John's Institution in Kuala Lumpur, prior to obtaining his Bachelor of Economics from Universiti Malaya. Rasheed also holds a Masters of Business Administration from Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.



## *George Kalantzakis*

Manager, International Government Affairs and Political Risk,  
ConocoPhillips

George Kalantzakis is Manager of International Government Affairs and Political Risk for ConocoPhillips.

Kalantzakis has multiple years of industry experience. Originally from Houston, George began his career in the petroleum land management side of the energy business in Texas.

Prior to joining ConocoPhillips, George spent over five years in a government affairs role at Hess Corporation. Prior to Hess, George worked for the chief economist at the American Petroleum Institute.

Kalantzakis co-chairs the Christian A. Herter Society, an alumni organization at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and represents ConocoPhillips on the Asia Natural Gas and Energy Association (ANGEA) steering committee.

Kalantzakis earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University, a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and an MBA from the Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School.



## *Mistika Idris*

Head of Public Policy, Malaysia  
Amazon Web Services

Mistika is the Head of Public Policy at Amazon Web Services, where she works to foster a robust digital ecosystem in Malaysia. With a background in public policy and government affairs, she previously spearheaded the Public Policy & Government Affairs department at Shopee as the Lead for Strategic Partnerships and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

During her tenure, Mistika was instrumental in establishing over 30 government partnerships and leading numerous CSR initiatives, effectively serving as a critical liaison between the business sector and government entities. Her professional journey includes a significant stint in Public Relations, where she managed a diverse portfolio of government and private sector clients.

Mistika holds a degree in International Relations & French from the University of Nottingham. Beyond her professional endeavors, Mistika is deeply committed to youth empowerment.

She is the Co-Founder of MyDiplomacy, an initiative dedicated to providing young individuals with diplomatic opportunities. Additionally, she is an active member and served as the President of the Perdana Fellows Alumni Association (PFAA) in 2020-2022, a youth leadership program under the Government with an aim to foster the next generation of leaders.



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# *Agenda*

## **WELCOME REMARKS BY USABC**

Marc Mealy  
Chief Policy Officer and Senior Vice President, US-ABC

## **OPENING REMARKS**

H.E. Nazri Aziz  
Ambassador of Malaysia to the United States

## **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

George Kalantzakis  
Conoco Phillips

## **KEYNOTE REMARKS**

H.E. Senator Amir Hamzah Azizan  
Malaysia Finance Minister II

## **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Mistika Idris  
Amazon Web Services

## **KEYNOTE REMARKS**

Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour  
Malaysia Central Bank Governor

## **DISCUSSION**

Moderated by Marc Mealy, US-ABC

## **CLOSING**



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# Menu

## PRE-SET STARTERS

**Fresh bread**

*Sweet Butter*

**Baby Gem Salad**

*Cucumber | Tomato | Charred Corn | Pickled Radish*

*| Feta | Sweet Onion Vinaigrette (GF) (V)*



## ENTRÉE COURSE

**Grilled Mahi Mahi**

*Mango Chutney | Coconut Rice | Sautéed Spinach (GF)*



## DESSERT COURSE

**Tres Leches Cake**

*with Whipped Cream and Chocolate Shavings (V)*



## BEVERAGES:

**Freshly Brewed La Colombe Coffee & Decaf**

**Selection of Herbal Hot Teas**



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