



THE CENTER TO COMBAT
CORRUPTION AND CRONYISM

JANUARY - MARCH 2024
**QUARTERLY
REPORT**

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RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL WORKING STUDY TRIP TO AUSTRALIA



From 26 February to 1 March, C4 Center was selected as one of two civil society representatives alongside the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) to join a working study trip to Sydney and Canberra, Australia to learn about the details of the Commonwealth Freedom of Information (FOI) framework from various government departments and bodies, such as the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the Departments of Defence, Home Affairs, and Foreign Affairs & Trade, and the Attorney General's Chambers.

Aside from the civil society representatives, the diverse delegation consisted of representatives from several government departments (including the Legal Affairs Division, Attorney General's Chambers, and Personal Data Protection Department), two Members of Parliament from the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on Human Rights, Elections, and Institutional Reform.

This trip provided valuable insight into the real-world application of fundamental Right to Information (RTI) principles: the challenges which must be addressed as well as the tangible benefits which arise therefrom. Our in-depth discussions covered a wide variety of topics, such as federal-state relations, the intersection of national security with public interest considerations, and the process of managing appeals from dissatisfied applicants. The lessons learned from this trip shall aid the development of the domestic RTI framework greatly. There

is a lot to gain from international best practice, as long as these ideas are adapted to fit the domestic context without losing their 'teeth' in doing so. C4 Center is sincerely grateful to the wonderful officers at the Legal Affairs Division for their continued collaboration with civil society in the institutional reform process. It is clear that the government now recognises the importance of engaging civil society as a key stakeholder in this process, which is a pattern we hope to see persist moving forward. We would also like to thank the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their strong and continued support of Malaysian legal and institutional reform, in line with the new Australia-Malaysia Institutional Strengthening Program which aims to facilitate institutional exchange, capacity building, and advancing government integrity and transparency.

C4 Center is excited to continue engaging with the Legal Affairs Division and other key government stakeholders in the development of the Malaysian RTI framework over the coming months, in the hopes of bringing greater accountability, transparency, and public scrutiny for the Malaysian government. Additionally, we are currently working closely with CIJ and other CSO members of the Freedom of Expression (FOE) cluster to produce a CSO Model RTI Bill, which shall hopefully provide important guidance for the drafters of the federal legislation.



RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL PRESS CONFERENCE AT PARLIAMENT



In connection with the working study trip to Australia, C4 Center was invited by Kota Melaka MP Khoo Poay Tiong and the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on Human Rights, Election, and Institutional Reform to join a press conference at Parliament on 18 March.

CEO Pushpan Murugiah was given the opportunity to say a few words on our hopes for the enactment of the Right to Information (RTI) Act in Malaysia. In his comments, Pushpan emphasised the importance of transparency and freedom of information in tackling corruption, highlighting the need for this act to do just that.

STRUCTURING THE MALAYSIAN OMBUDSMAN OFFICE



In 2023, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said announced that the government was considering the possibility of establishing an Ombudsman's office as an independent statutory body tasked with addressing and resolving public complaints against government departments and agencies. This body aims to improve the current system of managing public complaints helmed by the Public Complaints Bureau (PCB), which presently lies under the authority of the Prime Minister's Office and draws its authority from administrative circulars.

This lack of structural independence carries the inherent risk of executive interference in the functions of the PCB. Therefore, it is imperative that the Ombudsman – which is meant to enhance oversight upon the public services – is conferred sufficient power, authority, and autonomy to fulfil its intended purpose.

As part of the drafting process of the Ombudsman Bill, several consultations were held with various stakeholders – including a session with civil society organisations on 8 May. Since that consultation session, C4 Center has conducted an in-depth comparative analysis of Ombudsman institutions across the world through extensive desk research and stakeholder consultations over a 10 month period – culminating in a research report titled “Structuring the Malaysian Ombudsman Office”.

The report contains various recommendations on the structure, functions, and powers which should be afforded to a proposed Ombudsman office in Malaysia, taking into account domestic complexities when adopting and adapting best practices from a range of international jurisdictions.

The report was launched on 7 March at the Hotel Eastin, Petaling Jaya. The event included two panel discussions to stimulate debate and discussion on a relatively foreign concept for Malaysia:

Panel Discussion 1 on “Fundamental Issues with Public Service Delivery Today”

- Steven Thiru (Managing Partner of Steven Thiru & Sudhar Partnership, former President of the Malaysian Bar)
- Fiqah Roslan (Tiada.Guru Campaign representative, co-founder of Borneo Speaks)
- Dato' Sutinah Sutan (Board of Directors of C4 Center, former Deputy Commissioner of the MACC)

The panellists discussed the historical context of the Malaysian public service and the development of the current system of integrity and oversight applicable to public servants. This discussion aimed to identify existing gaps in the oversight mechanisms for the public service i.e. the problems which are sought to be addressed by introducing the Ombudsman.



SECTION 1/C4 EVENTS



Panel Discussion 2 on “Ombudsman Institution in Practice”

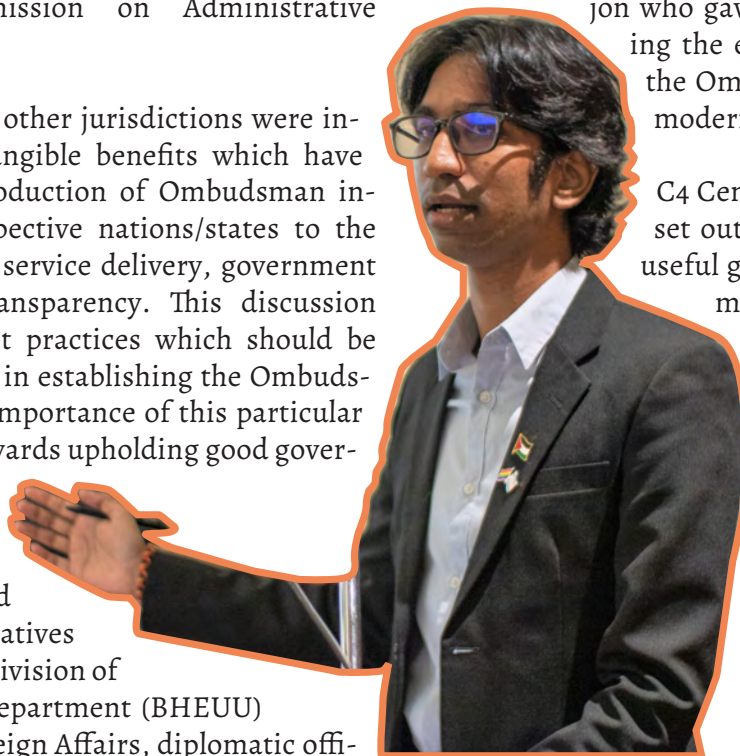
- Iain Anderson (Commonwealth Ombudsman, Australia)
- Luka Glušac (Assistant Director & Research Fellow, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade)
- Isolina Kinyua (Chief Legal Officer, Office of the Ombudsman/Commission on Administrative Justice, Kenya)

Panellists from various other jurisdictions were invited to explain the tangible benefits which have resulted from the introduction of Ombudsman institutions in their respective nations/states to the improvement of public service delivery, government accountability, and transparency. This discussion aimed to illustrate best practices which should be considered by Malaysia in establishing the Ombudsman, and to show the importance of this particular institutional reform towards upholding good governance in Malaysia.

Attendees of the report launch event included government representatives from the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department (BHEUU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic offi-

cials from various embassies and high commissions, members of the media, and other civil society representatives. C4 Center is grateful in particular for the attendance of BHEUU's Principal Assistant Director of the Policy and Research Section Pn. Nurbani Shuhada, who graciously received a copy of our report at the event; as well as First Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Sweden, Mr Robert Lejon who gave the keynote speech tracing the evolution of the concept of the Ombudsman in Sweden to the modern day.

C4 Center hopes that the proposal set out in this report will provide useful guidance for Malaysian lawmakers in the establishment of this new office, and we look forward to continued engagement with relevant stakeholders in this reform area.



C4 CENTER ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING



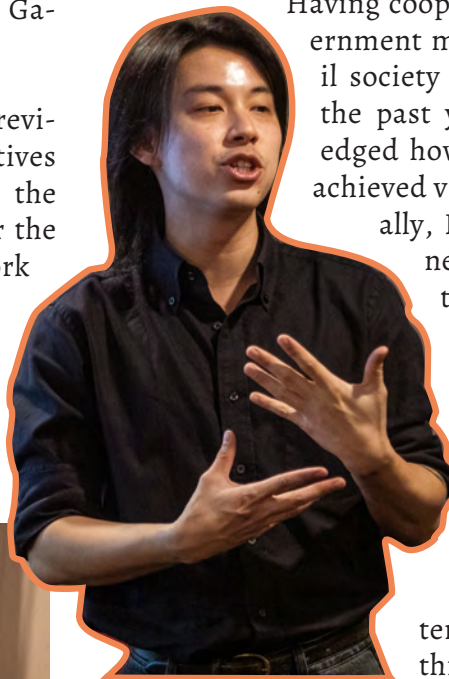
The team went for a two-day strategic planning meet to discuss C4 Center's new and upcoming plans for the year 2024. Other than the usual team, C4 Center was delighted to have been joined by its esteemed board members, with Prof Terence Gomez, Dato' Hjh. Sutinah, Azrul Mohd Khalib and Cynthia Gabriel all participating.

To kick things off, the team reflected on the previous year's events, taking note of both the positives and negatives. Each officer would then have the chance to speak on their goals and projects for the year, discussing ways to build off of the good work done last year. C4 Center CEO Pushpan Murugiah also had the chance to brief the team on the ideas he has in store for the organisation. Among them was a focus on finding new and innovative initiatives to fight against corrup-



tion. In this vein, Pushpan stressed the need for more collaboration and engagement with different parties, such as C4 Center's involvement in the consultative panel for the Climate Change Act.

Having cooperated with various government ministries and fellow civil society organisations (CSOs) in the past year, Pushpan acknowledged how much progress can be achieved via this avenue. Additionally, Pushpan highlighted the need to address corruption not just locally within Malaysia, but across borders regionally as well, doing so through international collaboration. By fostering these closer connections, it is believed C4 Center would be better empowered to push through key reforms.



Overall, this two-day meeting had a tone of positivity and hopefulness in anticipation of what could be achieved in the approaching year. The team were more than pleased to have their bonds bolstered as their time spent was filled with knowledge, memories and fun.



KEY MEETINGS

ASIA PACIFIC WASTE TRADE GROUP CONVENING WITH BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC (BFFP)

As part of Break Free from Plastic's (BFFP) working groups, C4 Center, together with the Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) co-convened the Asia Pacific working group specifically on waste trade issues.

This working group aims to enhance engagement and advocacy throughout the Asia Pacific region by having fruitful discussions on waste trade related issues, consolidate stances to amplify our call to end plastic pollution and phase out plastic waste trade. The first meeting was kickstarted on January 11th, which was participated by 18 NGOs and CSOs and it will be running throughout 2024 as a monthly meeting scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month.

C4 Center's objectives in convening and participating in this working group is to enhance our capabilities to analyse good governance in combating plastic pollution at international level. The inputs from this engagement also helped in our concurrent Japan Plastic Waste Trade research, which is slated to be launched in the first quarter of 2024.

HARMONY IN DEMOCRACY : GATHERING ADVOCATES FOR LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MALAYSIA



On the 17th January 2024, C4 Center, along with other civil society organisations (CSOs) such as Bersih, SUARAM, CSO Platform for Reform, Pusat Komus and the SME Association of Malaysia gathered to

discuss the implementation of local council elections in Malaysia.

C4 Center CEO Pushpan Murugiah and Policy and Programme Coordinator Arief Hamizan represented C4 Center in this meeting. During the gathering, a consensus was established as to the need of local council elections within the current political system.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER IN PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT (LAW & INSTITUTIONAL REFORM) AZALINA OTHMAN ON THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL



On the 23 January 2024, C4 Center was invited to attend a meeting with Minister in The Prime Minister's Department (Law & Institutional Reform) Azalina Othman Said and the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department. The meeting, which was attended by C4 Center Founding Director Cynthia Gabriel, CEO Pushpan Murugiah, and Policy and Programme Coordinator Arief Hamizan, aimed to create space for roundtable discussion on the Right to Information (RTI) bill. This discussion allowed for C4 Center to contribute and participate in the drafting of the Right to Information bill. We eagerly anticipate our ongoing collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in our collective endeavour to draft a comprehensive and effective RTI bill.

SECTION 2/KEY MEETINGS

MEETING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)



C4 Center was invited to meet the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the 16 February. During this meeting, we discussed the issues faced by migrant workers in Malaysia, while discovering where we aligned on related migrant issues.

Overall, we agreed that future engagements with ILO and other relevant stakeholders would be highly beneficial. With this, we hope to create a fair, safe and corruption-free labour market for migrants in our country.

MEETING WITH BERSIH CHAIRPERSON FAISAL ABDUL AZIZ



On the 20 February, C4 Center CEO Pushpan Murugiah and Policy and Programme Coordinator Arief Hamizan attended a meeting with the Chairperson of Bersih Faisal Abdul Aziz. The meeting touched upon preparations that needed to be made by NGO groups for the upcoming Parliamentary session in late February.

INTERVIEW WITH JABATAN PENGURUSAN SISA PEPEJAL NEGARA (JPSPN) FOR JAPAN PLASTIC WASTE TRADE PROJECT



As a part of the Japan Plastic Waste Trade Project, C4 Center's environmental team managed to conduct an interview with the Jabatan Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal Negara (JPSPN) team under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT).

The main objective of this interview was to understand the role of JPSPN as the spearheading agency that provides licenses to the imported plastic waste businesses and their challenges in enforcement to tackle this massive issue.

This fruitful engagement with JPSPN helped us to gain more insights on the existing issues in plastic waste management, and we have established our interest in participating in any future discussions with KPKT and JPSPN to enhance the plastic waste management in Malaysia.

MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF PARTI SOSIALIS MALAYSIA (PSM) AND JPKK

As part of C4 Center's work in investigating corruption within the labour market, representatives from Jaringan Pekerja Kontrak Kerajaan (JPKK) and Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) attended a meeting at C4 Center's office.

The discussions touched on potential reforms within the tender process for contractors. These discus-

SECTION 2/KEY MEETINGS

sions largely centred around the need to better the system to prevent contract workers from being mistreated by such companies.



MEETING WITH CSO PLATFORM FOR REFORM



On the 13 March, CSO Platform for Reform stopped by C4 Center's office to hold a brief introductory session for the new members of their Sabah and Sarawak chapters. During the meeting, several ideas on future collaboration were shared along with a discussion on the latest developments pertaining to future laws in Malaysia.

MEETING WITH MR ROBERT LEJON OF THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN MALAYSIA

On the 20 February, C4 Center CEO Pushpan Murugiah along with Research Officer Bryan Cheah attended a meeting with Mr. Robert Lejon, the First

Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission of the Swedish Embassy in Malaysia. This meeting was in the wake of C4 Center's report on a potential Ombudsman office in Malaysia.

The meeting touched on how further advocacy in establishing an Ombudsman can be done in collaboration with the Swedish Embassy. Furthermore, a point of emphasis in this discussion was how the Ombudsman can push for reforms through conciliatory engagements as a form of soft power.

Mr. Robert provided invaluable insights as to the practical applications of an Ombudsman in Malaysia. In particular, he touched on how the bill has been implemented in his home country, Sweden, detailing one case in which the office had successfully mediated conflicts between labour unions and businesses through its conciliatory mechanisms.

C4 Center is extremely thankful to Mr. Robert Lejon and the Swedish Embassy in Malaysia for their constant support.

MEETING WITH EAIC ABOUT THE CREATION OF AN OMBUDSMAN OFFICE IN MALAYSIA



SECTION 2/KEY MEETINGS

As part of the advocacy surrounding the establishment of a Malaysian Ombudsman office, C4 Center paid a courtesy call to the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission (EAIC) at their office in Putrajaya on 25 March to present and discuss the findings of our research report, “Structuring the Malaysian Ombudsman Office”.

The functions of the EAIC as stipulated under the EAIC Act 2009 largely mirror the roles played by Ombudsman institutions worldwide, but on a smaller scale – only overseeing enforcement agencies listed under the Schedule to the Act. Therefore, C4 Center strongly believes that the institutional knowledge and expertise of the Commission could be a vital part of the Ombudsman reform agenda by potentially assigning the functions of the Ombudsman office to the EAIC along with a proportionate increase in its budget and staffing.



It is also of note that the EAIC Chairman Tan Sri Dr Ismail Hj Bakar has been reported as stating that the EAIC would be willing to spearhead the establishment of the Ombudsman if the government decides to consolidate the functions of the office under its ambit.

C4 Center is grateful to the members of the EAIC who joined this presentation and discussion, and who were very receptive to the ideas presented to them. As we continue towards the development of a progressive and comprehensive Ombudsman Bill, we look forward to continued collaboration and discussions with various relevant government bodies and other stakeholders.

MEETING WITH JKPK TIA ON THE CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2023 (CPI) AT THE DEWAN NEGARA

On the 25 March, C4 Center’s CEO Pushpan Murugiah and Policy and Programme Coordinator Arief Hamizan were invited to the Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas Tata Kelola, Integriti dan Antirasuah Dewan Negara (JKPK TIA) at the Dewan Negara to share our views regarding the Corruption Perception Index 2023.



During the meeting, ways to improve and maintain the improvement of Malaysia’s CPI Index were discussed, while we warned them of a potential derailment of the country’s progress due to recent events. Among the events brought up were:

- 1) The discharge not amounting to an acquittal (DNAA) for Zahid Hamidi in the Yayasan Akalbudi prosecution.
- 2) The reduction of Najib Razak sentence for his conviction in the SRC International trial.
- 3) Regressive laws.
- 4) Lack of real reforms in fighting corruption.

We also stressed the point that looking at CPI scores alone is not sufficient in fighting the biggest cancer that Malaysia has, which is grandcorruption. In doing so, the importance of implementing institutional reforms was heavily stressed.

PARTICIPATORY TALKS AND CONFERENCES

MALAYSIA'S 4TH CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW AND MEDIA BRIEFINGS



Malaysia underwent its 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 25 January in Geneva, Switzerland, where 131 states gave their recommendations to Malaysia on improving the national human rights situation. C4 Center has been a long-standing member of the Coalition of Malaysian NGOs in the UPR Process (COMANGO), and in this cycle we have actively advocated for the inclusion of anti-corruption and good governance issues in the push for promoting and protecting human rights in Malaysia.

In the weeks leading up to the review in January, C4 Center joined a media briefing session on 18 January to sensitise the media and bring about coverage on the UPR process. For the UPR Pre-Sessions in Geneva, C4 Center created a factsheet summarising our recommendations both in the COMANGO joint submission and C4 Center's sole submission, for dissemination to the country representatives there.

During the review on 25 January, C4 Center attended the UPR Watch Party organised by SUARAM to watch the livestreamed session and provide live commentary to media personnel present. At the review itself, it was clear that our advocacy had been successful: Canada submitted a recommendation

for the establishing permanent independent bodies such as Parliamentary Select Committees to oversee appointments to all oversight institutions with sufficient resources and independence to perform their function – a recommendation taken directly from our resources.



Further, Kenya and Lesotho stressed the importance of establishing an autonomous and viable Ombudsman's Office, which is a key reform agenda that C4 Center is presently pushing for.

In the following months, C4 Center shall continue to work with other COMANGO members to push for the acceptance of these recommendations by the Malaysian government during the next UN Human Rights Council session in June 2024.

ROUNDTABLE: TECHNOLOGY AND CRIME IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

C4 Center Policy and Programme Coordinator Arief Hamizan attended and took part in a roundtable discussion at the Australian High Commission on the 31 January. Organised by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, the meeting sought to collect insights on domestic challenges in combating cyber crime. C4 Center raised the following issues:



- i) The insufficiencies in Malaysia's legal framework on cybercrime.
- ii) Malaysia's lack of involvement in the Budapest Convention, an international treaty that provides a framework for cross-border cooperation against cybercrime.
- iii) Limited development on domestic cybercrime laws in Malaysia.
- iv) The use of cryptocurrencies for money laundering activities, which has created another layer of complexity for enforcement agencies.

#LAWANKORUPSI: NAJIB RAZAK'S PARDON ISSUE FORUM

Following the reduction of Najib Razak's jail sentence, the Malaysian United Democratic Alliance (MUDA) held a forum on the 4 February to discuss this issue. Joining MUDA was a team of panellists brought on to discuss corruption at large.



During the forum, C4 Center publicly decried the decision to commute the sentence of the former Prime Minister, noting its distinct lack of fairness. Following in the same note, Pushpan emphasised the need to carry out institutional reforms in order to prevent unjust instances such as this again.

SIME DARBY'S INTEGRITY CAMPAIGN 2024



On the 7 February, C4 Center CEO Pushpan Murugiah was invited to serve as the moderator for the panel discussion on corruption and integrity at the launch of Sime Darby's Integrity Campaign 2024.

The esteemed panelists included Dato' Sri Akhbar Satar, President of the Malaysia Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed, Former Chief Commissioner of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

We look forward to further collaboration on strengthening anti-corruption efforts and transparency.

THE LAUNCH OF BERSIH REFORMASI 100 PERATUS CAMPAIGN



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C4 Center's Policy and Programme Coordinator Arief Hamizan along with our Policy and Legal Research Officer Prishanth Linggaraj, were invited to attend the launch of Bersih's Reformasi 100 Peratus Campaign. During this event, C4 Center stated our position on the Madani's Government to the media, noting the contradictory actions taken by them despite a supposed commitment to anti-corruption efforts.

We decried the lack of progress and commitment shown by the government in implementing reforms foundational to fighting corruption in Malaysia. We also reiterated that the cost of Najib's pardon is not only monetary, but devalues the risks and sacrifices made by government servants, whistleblowers, and enforcement agents both in Malaysia and internationally who worked together to bring him to justice.

UNODC REGIONAL PLATFORM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR UNCAC IMPLEMENTATION

C4 Center CEO Pushpan Murugiah was invited as a panellist in the UNODC regional platform in Southeast Asia to fast track the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) held in Bangkok.



In his capacity as a panellist, Pushpan spoke on the intersection between corruption and human rights and the impact it has on gender issues and the role of civil society. C4 Center is immensely grateful to UNODC for the opportunity.

SAHABAT ALAM MALAYSIA AND THIRD WORLD NETWORK'S FORUM ON CLIMATE JUSTICE

On 29 February, C4 Center attended a forum on Climate Justice, organized by Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) and Third World Network (TWN). The forum aimed to focus on the inequality between the Global South and Global North in dealing with the exacerbating climate change.



The developed countries in the Global North are responsible for around half of all the emissions since the Industrial Revolution, whereas developing countries with lesser capabilities in handling climate change have to deal with the burden of the continued emissions, in addition with the carbon tax that was initiated by the Global North. SAM's president, Meenakshi Raman highlighted that equity and distribution are the key elements that we need to focus on to address this existing climate injustice.



SECTION 3/PARTICIPATORY

In addition, Hillary Kung, senior researcher for SAM and TWN presented critical assessments of the carbon pricing and carbon offset policies that are currently being explored in Malaysia, especially in Sabah and Sarawak. Some of the unresolved conceptual issues in this matter mentioned were:

- The injustice in climate debt of developed countries.
- How trading in the carbon market must not be equated to the provisions of climate finance by developed countries to developing countries.
- How carbon markets and the “net zero” concept present a false solution to the climate crisis.

C4 Center fully concurs with the SAM’s stance on the carbon market as a false solution to combat climate change. It is imperative that Malaysia, as a developing country, take a step back and reconsider the carbon market implications. Feasibility studies must be done in a holistic way before we implement such policies and regulations related to the carbon market.

TOP GLOVE: EMERGING TRENDS IN BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY & HUMANITY

EMERGING TRENDS SHAPING BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY & HUMANITY

6 March 2024 Wednesday 9:00am to 5:30pm Via zoom Complimentary Webinar

SPEAKERS

TAN SRI DR LIM WEE CHAI Founder and Executive Chairman Top Glove Corporation Bhd	LIH CHENG GUAN Managing Director Top Glove Corporation Bhd	IZWAN ZAINUDDIN Chairman of ADFM Council & PUNB	SHARILA SEKARA-JASEKARAN Chief, Rural Sustainability Committee Top Glove Corporation Bhd
TAN SRI SHARIL REZA MEDZIAN Chairman, Independent Adviser Group Berhad	YIN TORIN KALLIAN ALUM Chairman Perpetual Capital	DAVID WONG SHARIL DAVIDSON Chairman HSD Corp	DATUK SRI SUNITA RAJAGURAN Chairperson Climate Governance Malaysia
PRICE DR DRG KIM WING Director Philosophy Relics & Resonance BPM Program	DAVID MOHD ABUDIN Chief Executive Officer, National Philanthropy	GENIE SEY Group Chief Sustainability Officer CIMB Group	MOHD HASBRI HADRI Head, Private Sector Sector, Community Education Division MAMC
MOHD ELIAS MANIP Secretary General ADFM	FAROUZ NADAR Executive Director of UNOCHYS	BARBARA RAJENDRAN Head, Project Delivery Office, HSD Office Khalid Group Berhad	PUJANNA RUBINAN Chief Executive Officer CA Centre
MOHAMED KYTHE LIM President & Chief Executive Officer ICSM	GLADYS CHIA Chief Executive Officer RAM Sustainability	EMERSON DEANDAR Business Consultant & CEO Renuk Eklak Sdn Bhd	TAN SRI YING Director of Member Relations UNOCHYS
HIS HONOUR WONG International Development Former UNDP Team Leader	JOSEPH HEND MANIP Independent Non-Executive Director Bank Rakyat	DATUK LEE KIM MEOW Non Independent Non Executive Director Top Glove Corporation Bhd	EMERSON PROF DATUK DR KIMIA Independent Non Executive Director Top Glove Corporation Bhd
DATUK NORHAN KAMSO Chairman (Group) Andongke Matang Former Board Member of Top Glove	ADINA TUN ARSHAD Independent Non Executive Director Top Glove Corporation Bhd	MODERATORS	

C4 Center CEO Pushpan Purugiah was invited as a speaker and panellist in a webinar titled, “Emerging Trends In Business Sustainability & Humanity” by the Top Glove Corporation on the 6 March. Pushpan spoke on the new and emerging threats to gover-

nance and board, giving his input through his background in researching corruption and governance issues.

LAUNCH OF 2023 RACISM REPORT BY PUSAT KOMAS

C4 Center’s Policy and Legal Research Officer Prishanth Linggaraj attended Pusat KOMAS’ launch of the Malaysia Racism Report 2023 on 15 March. This report series aims to provide a snapshot of trends in racial discrimination in Malaysia for a given year.



This report provides important qualitative data on racism in Malaysia for C4 Center to consider as well, given the intersectional nature of racism and corruption, where racially discriminatory policies allow for the entrenchment of patronage and corruption in Malaysia.

It is important to continue establishing lasting connections with fellow CSOs to create opportunities for collaboration and mutual support in the long run, and C4 Center is always ready to work together with ideologically aligned parties towards our common goals.

BUILD MY-TOWN PLAY SESSION WITH CSO PLATFORM FOR REFORM AND PUSAT KOMAS

On the 18 March, C4 Center was invited to the office of both CSO Platform for Reform and Pusat Kommas to conduct a Build My-Town play session. As several

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of CSO Platform's members had arrived from Sabah and Sarawak, they were not exposed to the game prior to this.



Thus, in hopes of increasing sales in East Malaysia, C4 Center was invited to conduct a play session to introduce the game and its concept to them. Within the merriment and fun of playing the game, the overall importance of implementing institutional reform was stressed as well.

THE FOURTH INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM SUMMIT

On the 23 March, C4 Center attended a full-day investigative journalism workshop organised by The Fourth Media. A private event involving around 40 participants representing several different media organisations, NGOs, and public advocacy groups, this summit involved a range of discussions on investigative strategies, collaboration methods, and the impact of civil society organisations within the investigative journalism sphere.

During these discussions, participants were exposed to a wide range of speakers including individuals from Malaysiakini, the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ), Sinar Project and Tempo Digital. Throughout the event, participants were encouraged to interact and share with one another their ideas on the practical applications of investigative journalism within a Malaysian context via 'breakout' sessions. These sessions encouraged a degree of collaboration between representatives from the many organisa-



tions that attended. With this, The Fourth sought to open the door for future partnerships that would centre around investigative journalism works, in a sense creating a multi-sectoral community that strived to produce "impact-driven" investigations in Malaysia.

CONTRIBUTION ON CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE FOR SUARAM'S ANNUAL MALAYSIA HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2023

SUARAM's Annual Human Rights Report is an important resource for data-driven advocacy in Malaysia, as it provides a concise yet extensive overview of the human rights situation in the nation for a given year - tracking areas of progress, regress, and avenues for improvement.

In this regard, C4 Center is grateful for the opportunity to contribute a chapter on "Corruption and Governance" which explores the intersection between national anti-corruption efforts and good governance with the promotion, protection, and enjoyment of human rights (particularly the full realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights) for the year 2023. A preliminary version of this chapter was released last year in the Human Rights Report 2023 Overview, while the full report was launched by SUARAM on 27 March.

This chapter – which was authored by Policy and Legal Research Officer Prishanth Linggaraj and peer



reviewed by Research Officer Bryan Cheah – posits that the full enjoyment of human rights is wholly dependent upon the existence of effective, accountable, and transparent public institutions and public service delivery systems.

Therefore, the occurrence of human rights violations are symptoms of broader institutional failures that impair the government’s ability or willingness to govern in a manner consistent with a rights-based approach.

C4 Center’s diversified approach to understanding corruption allows us to identify a wider range of causal links that both entrench and aggravate the problem, resulting in a more holistic perspective overall. This also creates the opportunity for us to modify our advocacy strategies to enlarge our target audience and discover new possibilities for collaboration and cooperation. To this end, we shall continue striving to work beyond the confines of our ‘silos’.

LEGAL AID PROGRAMME

IN COLLABORATION WITH SELANGOR STATE BAR COMMITTEE AND LEGAL AID CENTRE SELANGOR



The nature of these sessions were oftentimes interactive, with constant back-and-forths occurring to create thoughtful discourse on matters pertaining to corruption in Malaysia. The pupils were tasked with conducting independent research to come up with solutions to some of the inadequacies in Malaysian laws which allow for the perpetration and perpetuation of corruption. They were also encouraged to voice out their own opinions and disagreements with any of the suggestions or ideas presented to them.



As part of a continuing partnership with the Selangor State Bar Committee and Legal Aid Centre Selangor, C4 Center has taken on one batch of 15 pupils as part of their legal aid duties. This group represents the third batch of pupils that C4 Center has taken on during this partnership. The legal aid programme is pursuant to Rule 10.06 of the Bar Council Rules and Rulings and as part of the mandatory 9-month pupillage period, for any person to be admitted as a qualified legal practitioner with the right appearance in court, they must perform 14 days of legal aid services. During their time with us, they were exposed to anti-corruption and good governance and the legal issues arising therefrom.

Every Wednesday for 14 weeks, the pupils underwent workshops on various topics relevant to C4 Center's mandate, such as whistleblower protection, government procurement, political financing, and environmental governance. These sessions were generally conducted by the research officers in a conversational and informal manner, in order to stimulate open and free discussions on the nuances of these often complex issues.

From these discussions, it is hoped that C4 Center would be able to grant them a deeper understanding of the laws which form part of their day-to-day occupations. It is C4 Center's hope that by providing this exposure to the pupils, they might be encouraged to pursue future careers focused on public interest issues – particularly legal reform.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

BEYOND THE HEADLINES: ROYAL INSTITUTION, MALAYSIA'S NEW KING & STOPPING CORRUPTION | NST ONLINE



On the 2 February, C4 Center CEO Pushpan Murugiah was invited on to NST Online's "Beyond the Headlines" web series for an interview session. During the session, Pushpan gave a general discussion on corruption in Malaysia, keeping in mind the upcoming announcement of Transparency International's latest Corruption Perception Index.

Among the issues discussed were the vague definition of corruption in Malaysian law, and the shocking lack of political financing legislations in the country. Within these discussions, Pushpan outlined the damaging effects corruption has had in Malaysian society.

A notable issue that was also raised by Pushpan was the way in which corruption actually negatively impacts Malaysia's economy through the lack of investor confidence.



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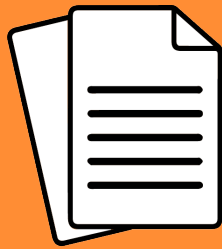
With the government announcing plans to establish an Ombudsman office in Malaysia, Astro Awani called upon the expertise of C4 Center CEO Pushpan Murugiah and former EAIC Commissioner Prof Dr Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmood to discuss the proposed bill in general.



Among the matters discussed surrounding the bill was an overall evaluation of the need for an Ombudsman office in Malaysia, with its importance in allowing for investigations to be made within government agencies being stressed by Pushpan. Besides this, the scope, function and role of this future office was discussed as well, giving context as to how it would work within Malaysia's administrative system.

Notably, the discussion touched upon the delays from the government's side in moving forward with the creation of this office as well.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



6 Press Statements
released in Q1 of 2024



C4 Center featured in around 30
news articles in Q1 of 2024



IG followers:
66 new
followers from
December 2023



FB Followers:
20 new
followers from
December 2023



IG Interactions:
604 Total
Interactions in
Q1 of 2024



FB Reach:
4.1k Reach in
Q1 of 2024



Social Media
Outreach



Profile Visits:
438 Profile Visits
in Q1 of 2024



Profile Visits:
1k Profile Visits
in Q1 of 2024



THE CENTER TO COMBAT
CORRUPTION AND CRONYISM

C Four Consultancies Sdn Bhd

201401002929 (1079003-M)

Unit A707, Block A
Pusat Dagangan Phileo Damansara 1
No. 9, Jalan 16/11, Off Jalan Damansara
46350, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

Tel: +603-7660 5140
Email: contact@c4center.org
www.c4center.org