

Hosted by:



APPGM-SDG



SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
PPM-023-14-07012020

Malaysian Indian Concerns and Sustainable Development Goals

CONFERENCE 2026



PRE-CONFERENCE

27 NOVEMBER 2026

CONFERENCE

28 -29 NOVEMBER 2026



Program Book

Publication

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POLITICAL AND THOUGHT LEADERS IN THE MALAYSIAN INDIAN COMMUNITY



The document, "Political and Thought Leaders in the Malaysian Indian Community," provides the background for two research projects examining Malaysian Indian development. The first reviews 38 Members of Parliament elected between GE10 and GE15, focusing on how Malaysian Indian development concerns were addressed in Parliament and the contributions and challenges of those who served in government. The second reviews 71 major English-language books and reports published between 1960 and 2025 on the Malaysian Indian community. Together, these studies provide an evidence base for researchers and policy writers to analyse political leadership, thought leadership, and community development. The findings will contribute to discussions at the Research Conference on Malaysian Indians' Political and Thought Leaders, 28–29 November 2026, with the broader aim of strengthening evidence-based policymaking and ensuring that no individual or community is left behind.

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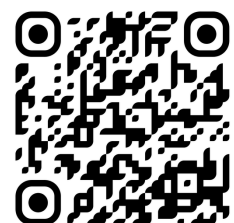
AN ANTHOLOGY OF SOCIAL THOUGHT ON THE MALAYSIAN INDIAN COMMUNITY (1965–2025)



This book provides a comprehensive overview of Malaysian Indian development from the 1960s to 2025, drawing on 71 key publications across four major periods of Malaysia's social, economic, and political transformation. It explores how historical legacies, socio-economic conditions, education, political participation, governance, and policy changes have shaped the Malaysian Indian community over more than six decades. Bringing together perspectives from history, sociology, political economy, education, law, and public policy, the book highlights both the challenges faced by the community and its resilience, progress, and evolving opportunities. It offers valuable insights for scholars, policymakers, community leaders, and readers interested in Malaysian Indian development, inclusive development, social justice, and nation-building.



**RUANG ASPIRASI BELIA -
APPGM-SDG, BUNTONG, PERAK**



PRE-CONFERENCE : DAY 1 | 27 NOVEMBER 2026 (FRIDAY)

TIME	PROGRAMME
5.30pm - 6.15pm	Arrival and Registration
6.15pm - 7.00pm	Refreshments
07.00pm - 9.45pm	PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION: SETTING THE STAGE FOR PRE-CONFERENCE This opening panel sets the conference tone, exploring key challenges and opportunities in Malaysian Studies on Malaysian Indian Concerns and Sustainable Development Goals through socioeconomic, grassroots, and national perspectives. • Political commitment to the Indian community in Malaysia: Evidence from Parliament Hansard (GE10-GE15) by <i>Dr. Thanaraj Murudi, Head of the Northern Zone, APPGM -SDG</i> • Development of political leadership in Tamil Nadu and Malaysia among Tamil politicians by <i>Darshini Rawichandran, Assistant Director of Project Management Department, APPGM -SDG</i> • Policy solutions towards Indian community needs: Case study of Penang state government by <i>Paniirselvam Jayaraman, Director of Policy Solution Department, APPGM-SDG</i> • Replicable grassroots intervention for socio-economic empowerment in the Malaysian Indian community by <i>Mr James Ryan Raj, Deputy Executive Director, APPGM -SDG</i> • Development plans and policy advocacy for Malaysian Indians during 9th, 10th and 11th Malaysia plans by <i>Professor Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, Head of Secretariat, APPGM-SDG</i> Moderator: Professor Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria (Head of Secretariat, APPGM-SDG)
9.45pm - 10.30pm	Feedback and Discussion
10.30pm	END OF DAY 1 PRE-CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE: DAY 1 | 28 NOVEMBER 2026 (SATURDAY)

TIME	PROGRAMME
08:00am - 09:00am	Arrival and Registration
09:00am - 09:15am	Welcoming Remarks by Puan Rahmah Othman (Executive Director, APPGM -SDG)
09:15am - 09:30am	Introduction by Darshini Rawichandran (Assistant Director of Project Management Department, APPGM-SDG)
09:30am – 12.30pm	SESSION 1: MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY The APPGM SDG initiative has been conducting poverty studies that expand beyond income. Many NGOs, community and faith-based organisations, as well as cooperatives, have been addressing poverty concerns. This provides an opportunity to review methodology, intervention strategies, and best practices. We can link the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to the SDGs (17 goals), as the focus is on inclusive and holistic development to leave no one behind. Presenters: • Socioeconomic Dynamics of Indian Households in Malaysia (1960s–Present) by <i>Dr. Doris Padmini S Selvaratnam (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, UKM) Research Paper</i> • Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: Household Stability, Women's Roles and Grassroots Intervention among Indian B40 Communities by <i>Keerthana Rajaderan (Pertubuhan Perkhidmatan Sosial dan Pembangunan Komuniti Daerah Gombak, Selangor) Research Paper</i> • Enhancing Multidimensional Poverty Study Amongst Malaysian Indians with 'Hidden Dimensions' of Deprivation by <i>Sivarajan Arumugam Research Paper</i> • Kemiskinan Multidimensi dan Ketahanan Sosial Komuniti India di Parlimen Taiping: Dapatan Kajian MPI dan Cadangan Intervensi Berasaskan Komuniti by <i>Faizzul Amri bin Shahabuddin (Pertubuhan Kebajikan Masyarakat Marhaen Taiping (KMM) dengan kerjasama APPGM-SDG) Research Paper</i> • Beyond Income: Understanding Multi-Dimensional Poverty Among Malaysian Indian Women Through Community-Based Empowerment Initiatives by <i>Dr. Sharala Subramaniam (Taylor's University) Research Paper</i> Moderator: James Ryan Raj, APPGM-SDG Q&A Session & Certificate Giving
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Break

1.30pm - 3.30pm	SESSION 2: POLITICAL LEADERSHIP This session narrowed political leaders to Members of Parliament elected between GE10 (1999) and GE15 (2022), including those who are currently serving in the lower house of the Malaysian Parliament. We identified 38 MPs from different political parties, with 11 currently serving. They are from MIC (1), DAP (6) and PKR (4). All 11 are with the Unity Government and therefore none are in the opposition. Presenters: • From Crisis to Continuity: Succession Planning as a Leadership Framework for the Malaysian Indian Community by Nara Subramaniam (<i>Resolve Asia, Malaysia</i>) Research Paper • Melangkau Politik Berasaskan Kaum: Analisis Tren Pengundi India dan Evolusi Parti Politik dari PRU-10 sehingga PRU-15 by Dr. Sharmin Kutty Sivaraman (<i>NTI International University Nilai Malaysia</i>) Research Paper • Beyond Disinterest: Structural Barriers and Pathways to Gender Parity for Indian Women in Malaysian Politics by Dr. Mary Angeline Santhosam. E (<i>Nazareth College of Arts and Science</i>) Research Paper • Indians in Malaysia: Impact of Political Inclusion on Sustainable Development Goals by Dr. Harrieya V (<i>Agurchand Manmull Jain College, Meenambakkam, Chennai</i>) Research Paper
3.30pm - 4.00pm	Break
4.00pm - 5.30pm	SESSION 2: (CONTINUE) POLITICAL LEADERSHIP Presenters: • Studies on Malaysian Indian Concerns and Sustainable Development Goals by Shaleen Surendra (<i>IMAN</i>) Research Paper • Localising The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals For The Malaysian Indian Community: Leaving No One Behind by Dr. Mahadevan Krishnan (<i>Universiti Sains Malaysia, USM</i>) Research Paper • Beyond Inclusivity: Reframing Malaysian Indian Welfare in the 13th Malaysia Plan by Dr. Velan Kunjuraman (<i>Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, UKM</i>) Research Paper • Development as Freedom: An Insider's Capability-Based Principles and Pathways for Financing and Policy in the SDG Era for Malaysian Indians by Datuk Dr Ar Ravin Ponniah (<i>Endeavour Land Associates Ltd.</i>) Research Paper Moderator: Dr Thanaraj Murudi, APPGM-SDG Q&A Session & Certificate Giving
6.00pm	REFLECTIONS ON DAY 1 PRESENTATION by Professor Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, APPGM-SDG
6.30pm	END OF DAY 1 CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE DAY 2 | 29 NOVEMBER 2026 (SUNDAY)

TIME	PROGRAMME
08:00am - 09:00am	Arrival and Registration
09:30am - 11.00pm	SESSION 3: THOUGHT LEADERS This sessions have narrowed the identified 71 books and reports between 1960 and 2025. This is not an exhaustive list but serves as a guide to work already undertaken. In the paper you write, you may refer to these books and thought leaders, or bring in other publications that you feel are important. Our work must be evidence-based. Some say it sounds very academic. However, this is not intended for popular writing but for policy intervention. Presenters: • Sustainable Entrepreneurship Through MSMEs in Malaysian Indian Communities: Catalysts for Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Development by Dr. Geetha Krishnapillai (<i>University of Wollongong, Malaysia</i>) <i>Research Paper</i> • Bridging Inequality Through Skills Development: Empowering Working Adults and Entrepreneurs in the Malaysian Indian Community by Agnes Manunmani Arumugam (<i>Aplus Ultimate Marketing & Consultancy (AplusUMC)</i>) <i>Research Paper</i> • Personal Narrative as National History: A Geopolitical Analysis of Rasammah Bhupalan's Life and Legacy by Dr. Saraswathi Simansalam (<i>AIMST University</i>) <i>Research Paper</i> • Reconnect, Rebuild, Re-ignite: Strengthening Learning Confidence among Malaysian Indian Children through SJKT Schools by Dr. Kalaivani Chellappan (<i>Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, UKM</i>) <i>Research Paper</i> Moderator: Paniirselvam Jayaraman, APPGM-SDG Q&A Session & Certificate Giving
11.00pm - 12.00pm	GUEST SPEAKER SESSION: Legal Reforms under the MADANI Government and Their Relevance to Malaysian Indians Today by Dr Punitha Silivarajoo, <i>Deputy Director-General (Policy and Development), Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department</i> Q&A Session & Certificate Giving
12.00pm - 12.30pm	Networking and Booth Exploration
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Break

1.30pm - 3.30pm	SESSION 4: COMMUNITY IMPACT SHARING These impact stories highlight how APPGM-SDG solution providers and grassroots communities have worked together to create meaningful change, strengthen community resilience, and support sustainable local development. Presenters: • Studies on Malaysian Indian Concerns and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by <i>Ahmad Azhar Othman (Dahlia Duta Utama Sdn Bhd) Case Studies</i> • Your Journey Matters: A Personal Growth Story by <i>Santhy Ganapathy (Indian Recreational and Charity Club (IRCC) Case Studies</i> • Projek Jana Ekonomi Dalam Bidang Usahawan Makanan B40 Dan Digital Marketing by <i>Karim Din Mohd Ismail (KRT Taman Chemor Idaman Kinta) Case Studies</i> • WOMEN bizSENSE with Mom's Cottage (Dessert Discovery Zone: Taste, Learn and Create) by <i>Pathma Devi Pakrisamy (Perak Caring Association) Case Studies</i> • Your Journey Matters: A Journey of Strength, Growth and New Beginnings by <i>Logesvaree Muthaya (Indian Recreational and Charity Club (IRCC) Case Studies</i> Moderator: Rose Helen, APPGM-SDG Q&A Session & Certificate Giving
3.30pm - 4.00pm	Break
4.00pm - 5.00pm	CLOSING SESSION: A closing reflection on the conference's key discussions, findings, and policy recommendations, highlighting future actions to advance the inclusive and sustainable development of the Malaysian Indian community. Panelists: • Darshini Rawichandran, Assistant Director of Project Management Department, APPGM -SDG • Dr Teo Leo Ken, Director of Constituency Coordination Department, APPGM -SDG • Dr Khairil Izamin Ahmad, Director of MySDG CSI, APPGM -SDG • Dr. Thanaraj Murudi, Head of the Northern Zone, APPGM -SDG • Dr. Velan Kunjuraman, Senior Lecturer of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, UKM Moderator: Mr James Ryan Raj, APPGM-SDG Q&A Session
5.00pm -5.15pm	CLOSING REFLECTIONS <i>by Professor Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, APPGM-SDG</i>
5.15pm	END OF CONFERENCE



APPGM-SDG

**Advancing Social Development
through Community Empowerment**



**Persatuan Promosi Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari
(PPM-023-14-07012020)**

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