



ACSAT 2021 Presentation Abstract

Transforming into a Knowledge Economy and Society in the Post-Covid Era: Necessity, Challenges and Opportunities

Tengku Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen

Senior Fellow, Academy of Sciences Malaysia

Abstract:

In my 2018 ACSAT presentation entitled “Paradigms, Disruptions, Destructions, Transformations and Revolutions – The Challenge of Transforming into a Knowledge Economy and Society” I asserted the crucial importance for all societies to transform into knowledge economies and societies with information and communication technology (ICT) as the primary technological enabler. More so, the process of transformation should be guided by the correct principles founded upon sound understanding of the basic concepts underlying the dominant forces of knowledge-based change in contemporary human development. I then proposed a purposeful change programme guided by the Maqasid al Shar’iah which may catalyse systemic change that is founded on faith and balanced development.

The Covid pandemic has vindicated the proposal made three years ago. Economies around the world have been forced to shut down as a means to curb infection. Creativity and innovation have been applied widely to confront the crisis posed by need to limit physical interaction demanding close proximity. To ensure that economic and social activities continue to function the human race turned to technology, in particular ICT. Online interaction largely replaced physical meetings. Automation of production processes rapidly increased. E-commerce is fast supplanting trade based on brick-and-mortar infrastructure. In short, digital transformation in all its manifestations has been accelerated way beyond anticipation.

My presentation for ACSAT 2021 will take a deeper look at current trends in ICT development and adoption. I will highlight the key areas that fit societies’ wider purposes and propose ways and means by which we may rebuild our economies in the aftermath of the Covid crisis towards creating more equitable societies for all.