

# **A Critical Study of Malaysian Financial Conglomerates: Some Preliminary Issues**

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## **Abstract**

*This paper is an introduction to my research project on Malaysian Financial conglomerates. In this paper I will discuss some issues relating to the need for a critical study of Malaysian financial conglomerates. In this paper I have briefly conceptualize and define what a financial conglomerate is in the context of Malaysia. This is done by using and adapting Granovetter's 6 dimensions of business groups. In doing so I imagine that further research needs to be done just to identify the financial conglomerates and classify them*

Keywords: Financial Conglomerate, Conglomerate, Business Group

## **1. Introduction and Background**

In this paper I will discuss some issues relating to the need for a critical study of Malaysian financial conglomerates. These issues are part of the larger conceptualization of the term financial conglomerate. I argue that there is a need for a critical study of financial conglomerates in Malaysia especially in the context of the changing style of governance.

I am interested in conglomerates in Malaysia because I see this as a continuity of the current framework of Malaysian policy makers to favor certain sectors and perhaps certain groups over others in their efforts to develop this country. If in the Mahathir era, the industrial conglomerates are favored, now it seems that the services sectors are given prominence. Financial sector is one the current sectors that are given this favorable treatment and the financial conglomerates are the

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