

# GRANT REPORT

May 2020 – April 2025

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## PROJECT TITLE:

**Enculturation Of Universal Values In Daily Lives  
Activities Towards Social Wellbeing From Diverse  
Religions Background Among The Young Generations**

Edited by:

Rosilawati Zainol

Chang Lee Wei

Ahmad Mohamad

Nur Lisa Mohd Yusoff

**Grant Report**  
**on**  
**Enculturation Of Universal Values**  
**In Daily Lives Activities Towards**  
**Social Wellbeing From Diverse Religions**  
**Background Among The Young Generations**

**Edited by**

**Rosilawati Zainol**  
**Chang Lee Wei**  
**Ahmad Mohamad**  
**Nur Lisa Mohd Yusoff**



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2025**

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# Preface

In an increasingly interconnected yet complex global landscape, the journey towards social harmony and mutual understanding has never been more critical. This project funded by Dato' Dr Mahmood Merican emerges as a beacon of hope and pragmatic intervention in this vital domain.

This report represents more than a mere documentation of programs and activities; it is a testament to our collective commitment to bridging cultural and religious divides through meaningful engagement with young people. By strategically designing and implementing programs that emphasize shared human values that transcend specific religious boundaries, we have embarked on a transformative path of social cohesion and mutual respect.

Throughout the project, we recognized that true social wellbeing is not achieved through theoretical discourse alone, but through practical, immersive experiences that allow young individuals to connect, understand, and appreciate diverse perspectives. Each program detailed in this report was carefully crafted to create spaces of dialogue, empathy, and collaborative learning.

Our approach has been deeply rooted in the understanding that universal values—such as compassion, respect, integrity, and human dignity—are not abstract concepts but living principles that can be nurtured and practiced in everyday life. By focusing on the young generation, we invest in a future where diversity is not just tolerated, but celebrated as a source of collective strength and enrichment.

This report chronicles our journey, challenges, learnings, and most importantly, the tangible impact of our interventions. It is our sincere hope that these pages will not only serve as a record of our work but will also inspire other initiatives, institutions, and communities to pursue similar paths of inclusive and transformative engagement.

**Chang Lee Wei**  
**Project Leader**  
**Enculturation Of Universal Values In Daily Lives Activities**  
**Towards Social Wellbeing From Diverse Religions Background**  
**Among The Young Generations**



# Introduction

In a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society like Malaysia, maintaining social harmony and unity presents a significant challenge. The historical context of racial tensions, most notably the devastating 1969 racial riot, continues to underscore the critical importance of mutual respect, understanding, and tolerance among different cultural and religious groups. Despite achieving 67 years of independence, the nation still grapples with underlying racial and religious sentiments that threaten social cohesion.

Previous research has highlighted the potential for religious tolerance among Malaysian youth, yet emphasizes the need for increased inter-racial interaction and socialization. The path to national unity has been pursued through various mechanisms, including language policy, educational strategies, and efforts to change the medium of instruction. However, a persistent gap remains between religious teachings and actual behavioral practices.

The complexity of maintaining social harmony is rooted in the fundamental challenge of understanding and respecting diverse cultural and religious practices. While all religions fundamentally advocate for good values and mutual respect, there exists a significant disconnect between religious teachings and daily life interactions. This discrepancy poses a potential threat to the unity and social wellbeing of Malaysian society.

Recognizing these challenges, Dato' Dr Mahmood Merican has agreed to provide a seed fund of MYR75,000.00 to the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) for the enculturation of universal values in daily life activities among young people from diverse religious backgrounds.

The series program is uniquely positioned to address the critical need for deeper interreligious understanding. It explores the extent to which individuals are open to understanding different cultural and religious practices, and how this understanding can be fostered. By targeting students, parents, and lecturers from public universities across Malaysia, this interdisciplinary study provides insights that can bridge the gap between religious teachings and actual social interactions, ultimately contributing to the broader goal of national unity and social wellbeing.

# FUNDER

## Dato' Dr Mahmood Merican

Dr. Mahmood Merican is a senior Orthopaedic & Joint Replacement Surgeon and among the pioneering doctors at the Pantai Hospital, Kuala Lumpur with a practice of +65 years. He did his MBBS in 1958 from University Malaya, Singapore and then in 1964, he did a fellowship from The Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh and in 1978, he did another from The Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons, Glasgow. Dr. Merican is an expert at performing orthopaedic procedures, particularly of the spine and for cases of trauma. He also treats knee injury, sports injury and fractured bones.



# GRANT RECIPIENTS

## Rosilawati Zainol



Prof. Gs. Dr. Rosilawati Zainol is currently a Professor at the Centre of Sustainable Urban Planning and Real Estate (SUPRE), Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Faculty of Built Environment, Universiti Malaya (UM). Dr. Rosilawati Zainol also served as the Director of the UM Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) from 2018 - 2021.

## Chang Lee Wei



Chang Lee Wei (Chris) is currently a Senior Research Officer at the UM Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD). His works are now much related and involved with research and publishing works related to articulating values that may be the basis of a common platform for solving issues and problems universally encountered across and within cultures and civilisations.



# OUR PARTNERS

## INTERNATIONAL



## LOCAL



Hashim Sani  
Centre for  
Palestine Studies



UNGKU AZIZ  
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



# RESEARCH SUPPORT

Name: Mr. Ahmad bin Mohamad

Student ID: 17133327/3

Thesis Title:

*Pembentukan Garis Panduan Dialog Antara Agama Menurut Perspektif Islam di Malaysia*



Developing Interreligious Dialogue Guidelines  
from an Islamic Perspective in Malaysia

Supervisory Team:

i) Dr. Alwani Binti Ghazali

ii) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Khairul Naim bin Che Nordin

## ABSTRACT:

*Dalam era moden yang penuh cabaran, dialog antara agama sering dilihat sebagai solusi untuk menangani konflik perhubungan antara agama. Namun, pelaksanaannya sering dikritik, khususnya dalam konteks Islam, kerana dianggap bercanggah dengan prinsip akidah Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah. Di Malaysia, permasalahan ini merupakan isu serius yang mempengaruhi pemikiran masyarakat secara halus dan berpotensi merosakkan asas akidah yang sebenar. Walaupun dialog antara agama terus digunakan sebagai alat untuk memupuk keharmonian, masih kurang kajian yang mendalam mengenai permasalahan yang timbul serta masih tiada garis panduan yang jelas terhadap pelaksanaannya. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan tumpuan kepada analisis kepustakaan dan Perbincangan Meja Bulat (Round Table Discussion) untuk mencapai tiga objektif utama: menjelaskan perkembangan dialog antara agama di Malaysia, mengenalpasti isu dan cabaran dalam pengamalannya, serta membentuk garis panduan baharu bagi pelaksanaan dialog ini. Hasil kajian ini diharapkan dapat memberi panduan praktikal tanpa menggadaikan prinsip akidah Ahli Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah.*



## SERIES PROGRAM SUPPORT

# Islamic Philosophy and the Heritage of Islamic Civilisation

(December 13, 2023) UM Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) and Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Raden Fateh, Palembang, co-hosted an illuminating international seminar exploring the depth and

breadth of Islamic philosophical heritage. The "International Seminar on Islamic Philosophy and the Heritage of Islamic Civilisation" brought together distinguished scholars from Malaysia and Indonesia to engage in a profound dialogue about Islamic intellectual traditions.

Keynote Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Nyanyu Khodijah, Rector, UIN Raden Fateh
- Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD

Distinguished Guest Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Israr Ahmad Khan
- Dr. Nur Fitriyana
- Dr. Alwani Ghazali
- Dr. Idrus Alkahf
- Mrs. Siti Maryam Aj-Jalilah
- Dr. Anisatul Mardiyah

Moderator: Ms. Jenika Susanti

The seminar served as a critical platform for exploring the enduring relevance of Islamic philosophy, highlighting its dynamic intellectual heritage and ongoing significance in contemporary scholarly discourse.





## Inevitable Solutions for the Palestinian Plight

(November 28, 2023) UMCCD and the Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine Studies co-hosted a profound public lecture addressing the complex Palestinian situation. "Inevitable Solutions for the Palestinian Plight," the

event brought critical insights into one of the world's most enduring conflicts.

Dr. Stephen Robert Sizer, Director of Peacemaker Trust and Chair of the Convivencia Alliance, delivered a comprehensive examination of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Mohd Nazari Ismail, Director of the Hashim Sani Center for Palestine Studies, the lecture explored the historical context of Palestinian displacement since 1948.

The presentation delved into:

- Historical background of the conflict
- Challenges of Palestinian self-determination
- Diplomatic approaches to conflict resolution
- Potential pathways toward peace

An engaging Q&A session followed, allowing participants to explore the nuanced perspectives surrounding this complex issue. The event concluded with UMCCD presenting tokens of appreciation to the speaker and moderator.





# STOP CORRUPTION

## Intercultural-Religious Dialogue on Integrity and Corruption

corruption. The event, titled "Intercultural-Religious Dialogue on Integrity and Corruption" (Dialog Antara Pelbagai Budaya-Agama Mengenai Integriti dan Rasuah), drew an impressive audience of approximately 250 participants.

Held at the High Impact Research Building's Auditorium, the program was accessible both physically and virtually, reflecting a commitment to broad engagement and accessibility. The dialogue served a critical purpose: to illuminate the devastating impacts of corruption and foster a deeper understanding of integrity within Malaysia's diverse societal landscape.

Key objectives of the event included:

- Raising awareness about the perils of corruption
- Exploring corruption's detrimental effects on national development
- Providing a platform for meaningful dialogue across cultural and religious boundaries
- Educating youth about the importance of integrity

By bringing together diverse perspectives, the dialogue aimed to create a comprehensive approach to understanding and combating corruption, leveraging the strength of Malaysia's multicultural society.

(November 16, 2023) UMCCD and the Universiti Malaya Integrity Unit, in collaboration with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), hosted a pivotal dialogue on integrity and anti-

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA**

**Sambutan Hari INTEGRITI & ANTIRASUAH UM 2023**

**DIALOG Antara Pelbagai Budaya - Agama Mengenai Integriti & Rasuah**

**16 NOVEMBER 2023 | KHAMIS**  
**9.30 PAGI - 1.30 PETANG**  
 Auditorium, Aras G, Bangunan High Impact Research  
 Universiti Malaya

**KPKPJ AZMIN BIN YUSOFF**  
 Timbalan Pengarah  
 Bahagian Pendidikan Masyarakat  
 Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia

**DR. ALWANI CHAZALI**  
 Jabatan Akidah & Pemikiran Islam  
 Akademi Pengajian Islam, Universiti Malaya

**DR. CHARANJIT KAUR DARSHAN SINGH**  
 Fakulti Industri Inovasi  
 Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)

**REV. JONATHAN JESUDAS**  
 Tamil Methodist Church  
 Kajang Area, Dengkaran

**MR. THAI MING YEOW**  
 Buddhist Missionary Society Malaysia  
 (BMSM)

**MR. RAVICHANDRAN BALASUBRAMANIAM**  
 Pertubuhan Setia Hindu  
 Teluk Kemang

**PENDAFTARAN**

**MODERATOR**

**PROF. MADYA DR. DURIYAH SHARIFAH HASAN ADLI**  
 Puan Penyelidik  
 Pusat Dialog Antarabangsa UM

**ANDURAN**  
 Unit Integriti Universiti Malaya &  
 Panel Dialog Persekitaran Universiti Malaya  
 Dengan Keluaran  
 Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia  
 (SPRM)



## International Youth Day 2023

(September 22, 2023) UM UNESCO Club (UMUC) commemorated International Youth Day with a powerful event focused on "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World". Held at the Institute of

Advanced Studies, UM, the program brought together educators, leaders, and young changemakers to explore critical pathways for environmental sustainability.

The event commenced with opening remarks by Prof. Dr. Yatimah Alias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) of Universiti Malaya. The ceremony was officially officiated by YB Tuan Adam Adli Bin Abd Halim, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia.

A touching moment preceded the main discussions, with a captivating 3-minute violin performance by Breydon Lim, a talented young musician with autism, symbolizing the diverse potential of youth.

The centerpiece of the event was a thought-provoking panel discussion titled "Nurturing Changemakers," which explored the intersections of education, environment, leadership, STEAM, and entrepreneurship. Distinguished panelists included:

- Dr. Ir Muhammad Akram, CEO of Mega Jati Academy Sdn Bhd
- Dr. Fong Chng Saun, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Advanced Studies UM
- Assoc. Prof. Datin Dr. Nurasyikin Mahmud, Dean of Faculty of Education, Arts and Humanities UPTM
- Dr. Donnie Adams, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education UM

Moderated by Mrs. Suhaila Mohamad, President of the UM UNESCO Club, the discussion delved into the United Nations theme of developing "green skills" - the knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes necessary for creating a sustainable and resource-efficient society.

The event underscored the critical importance of empowering youth in addressing global climate challenges and achieving Sustainable Development Goals. By focusing on green skills, the program highlighted the potential of young people to drive meaningful environmental and social change.





## Climate Change: What We Need to Know and What Can Be Done

"Can Be Done?" brought together distinguished experts to illuminate the complexities of environmental sustainability.

The webinar featured the Honourable Dr. Iyad Abu Moghli, Founder and Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Faith for Earth Initiative, alongside two prominent University of Malaya academics: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zul Ilham Zulkiflee Lubes from the Faculty of Science and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Helena Muhamad Varkkey from the Department of International and Strategic Studies.

Dr. Iyad Abu Moghli's address highlighted the critical intersection of environmental stewardship and Islamic teachings. He introduced the "Islamic Declaration on Climate Change," a powerful call to action that demands:

- Rejecting the abuse of natural resources
- Preserving nature's delicate equilibrium
- Recognizing the moral obligation of environmental conservation

The panel offered complementary perspectives on climate action. Dr. Zul Ilham emphasized the importance of proactive, strategic approaches, while Dr. Helena encouraged participants to take incremental steps towards climate mitigation.

Climate change, as explained during the webinar, represents long-term alterations in temperature and weather patterns, with scientific consensus attributing nearly all global warming over the past 200 years to human activities.

(June 15, 2023) UMUC and the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue hosted an impactful webinar addressing one of the most critical global challenges of our time. "Climate Change: What We Need to Know and What

**WEBINAR**

**CLIMATE CHANGE:  
WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW AND WHAT CAN BE DONE?**  
"ITS OUR CALL TO ACTION"

**SPECIAL ADDRESS BY:**  
YBHG (HONORABLE) DR. IYAD ABU MOGHLI  
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)  
FAITH FOR EARTH INITIATIVE

**SPEAKER 1**  
ASSOC. PROF. DR. ZUL ILHAM ZULKIFLEE LUBES  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT  
INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITI MALAYA

**SPEAKER 2**  
ASSOC. PROF. DR. HELENA MUHAMAD VARKKEY  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND  
STRATEGIC STUDIES  
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITI MALAYA

**MODERATOR:**  
SIMALA MOHAMAD  
PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITI MALAYA UNESCO CLUB  
(UMUC)

**15 JUNE 2023, THURSDAY  
2.00 P.M. (MALAYSIA TIME)  
ZOOM**

FOR REGISTRATION

QR CODE

UNESCO  
World of  
Biospheres and Parks

E-CERTIFICATES WILL BE GIVEN TO  
PARTICIPANTS WHO FILL UP THE  
EVALUATION FORM





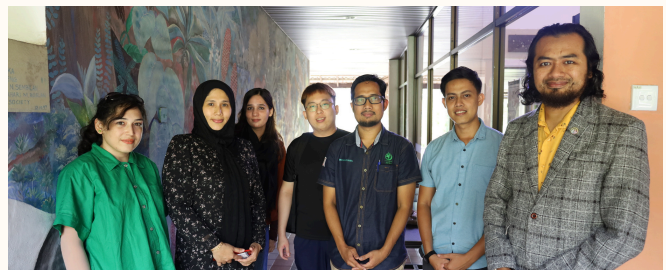
## Dialogue on Inclusivity and Peace

(April 28, 2023) The Regional Network for Peacebuilders Project brought together a diverse group of 30 participants at Rimba Ilmu, Universiti Malaya, in a groundbreaking dialogue aimed at exploring pathways to

peaceful and harmonious societies. The collaborative initiative, jointly organized by the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) and UMCCD, focused on grassroots engagement and meaningful cross-sector communication.

The innovative dialogue format featured five parallel sessions, each exploring critical contemporary themes:

- Digital Technology
- Economy and Politics
- Education
- Gender
- Climate



Participants represented a rich tapestry of backgrounds, including university students, UMCCD members, professionals from Family Health International (FHI360), representatives from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and Malaysian experts in technology and human rights. This diverse assembly highlighted the event's commitment to inclusive dialogue and collaborative problem-solving.

By creating spaces for open, nuanced conversations across different sectors and perspectives, the dialogue aimed to uncover shared challenges and potential collaborative solutions in building more peaceful, understanding communities.



## Communication Through Imagery: Exploring a Visual Language for Humanity

(March 7, 2023) UMCCD and International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia co-organized a thought-provoking lecture that delved into the intricate relationship between visual perception, understanding, and human communication.

"Communication through Imagery: Exploring a Visual Language for Humanity" featured Dr. Eric Winkel, renowned translator of *al-Futūḥāt al-Makkiyah*, with Dr. Asmawati Muhammad moderating the session.

Drawing from Ibn Arabi's philosophical insights, Dr. Winkel explored the profound difference between seeing and understanding. He emphasized that while eyes always capture data accurately, the mind often limits and distorts perception. Optical illusions were presented as a prime example of how mental interpretation can restrict the raw visual experience.

The lecture introduced the concept of cognitive dissonance as a critical moment of insight—a point where mental confusion creates space for deeper heart-centered understanding. Dr. Winkel challenged participants to move beyond immediate mental categorizations, advocating for a more holistic approach to perceiving human relationships and experiences.

Expanding on Ibn Arabi's metaphor of Mother Earth, the discussion touched on humanity's disconnect from natural wisdom. Just as a baby learns from its mother, humans should learn from the earth—a lesson increasingly critical in addressing climate change and social challenges.

The engaging presentation sparked numerous questions during the Q&A session, highlighting the audience's deep interest in alternative ways of perception and communication.





## Art of Dialogue: Intersecting Anthropology and Religion

(March 1, 2023) IAIS Malaysia hosted a compelling forum exploring the dynamics of meaningful communication. "The Art of Dialogue: Intersecting Anthropology and Religion" brought together Dr. Lee-Shan Tse

(Art Director of the al-Futūḥāt project), and Prof. Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey Chiong Meng (Chairman of the Malaysian Sokka Kindergarten Board of Governors and Research Fellow at the Institute of Oriental Philosophy in Japan), with Mr. Muhammad Sayuti Mansor moderating.

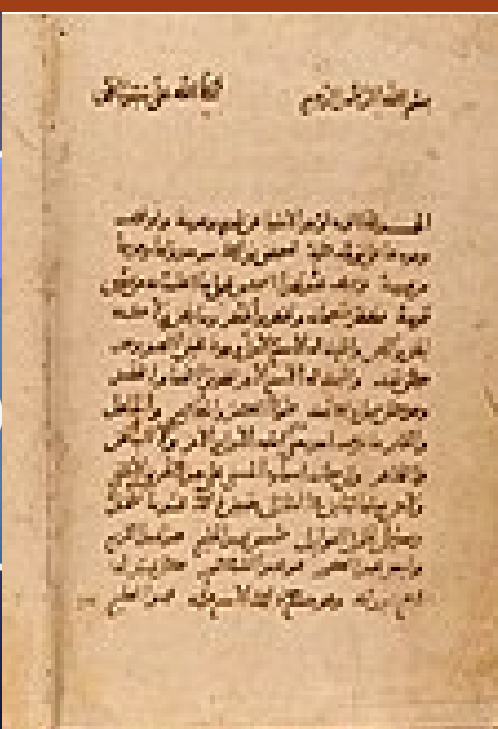
Dr. Lee-Shan Tse approached dialogue from an anthropological perspective, emphasizing the importance of avoiding external labeling and practicing mindful listening. She highlighted the need to respect individual perspectives and allow conversations to unfold naturally, without judgment.

Prof. Boey expanded on the philosophical dimensions of dialogue, presenting it as far more than a mere exchange of information. He defined dialogue as a profound attempt to connect deeply and understand one another. The ultimate purpose, he explained, extends beyond personal interaction to contribute to individual growth and societal betterment.

The forum outlined key criteria for meaningful dialogue:

- Mutual respect
- Viewing all participants as equal partners
- Honoring diversity of perspectives
- Seeking common ground
- Maintaining an open heart
- Practicing patient and deep listening

The forum underscored dialogue's potential to foster personal growth and contribute to societal understanding, transforming communication from a transactional interaction to a transformative experience.



## Pre-Intellect Human Communication: Speaking from the Heart and From the Imaginal

(February 22, 2023) UMCCD and IAIS Malaysia co-organized a thought-provoking public lecture that delved into the deeper dimensions of human communication. The event brought together scholars and enthusiasts to explore a transformative

approach to understanding and connection.

Dr. Eric Winkel, an acclaimed Islamic scholar renowned for his 23-year dedication to translating Ibn Arabi's seminal work *al-Futūḥāt al-Makkiyah*, served as the keynote speaker. Moderated by Mr. Muhammad Sayuti Mansor, a Research Fellow at IAIS, the lecture was broadcast live both in-person at the IAIS Malaysia Board Room and via the IAIS Facebook platform.

Drawing inspiration from the profound philosophical insights of Ibn Arabi, a 12th-century Arab Andalusian mystic and philosopher, Dr. Winkel explored communication that transcends intellectual boundaries. The lecture challenged traditional notions of dialogue by emphasizing the power of heart-centered and imaginative communication.

At the core of the discussion was a critical examination of conventional communication methods. Dr. Winkel argued that most communication challenges arise from an intellectual approach that tends to be restrictive, divisive, and reductive. The typical intellectual discourse often operates on a zero-sum paradigm, viewing interactions through a binary lens of 'for' or 'against'. In contrast, the lecture proposed an alternative model of communication rooted in mutual respect, openness, and deep emotional connection. Referencing the Arabic concept of *shura* - metaphorically described as "gathering honey" - Dr. Winkel emphasized the potential for authentic dialogue that emerges when we move beyond intellectual constraints.

The philosophical framework drew heavily from Ibn Arabi's mystical teachings, exploring the concept of communication that originates from the heart and imagination. This approach invites participants to access a more profound level of understanding, one that transcends logical reasoning and taps into a more holistic form of human connection.





## Governing Diversity, Multicultural Societies, and Faith: A Conversation

(February 8, 2023) UMCCD hosted a transformative dialogue that brought together thought leaders and community members to explore the delicate art of maintaining harmony in a multicultural

society. The event featured Dr. Hisham A. Hellyer, a distinguished scholar from the University of Cambridge and a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who shared profound insights into building bridges across cultural and religious divides.

The session began with welcoming remarks from Tuan Azril Mohd Amin, Chief Executive Officer of Institut Masa Depan Malaysia (MASA), setting a tone of openness and mutual respect. Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD, introduced Dr. Hellyer and moderated the engaging discussion that followed.

At the heart of Dr. Hellyer's message was a powerful vision of social cohesion. He emphasized the critical role of religious leaders in public discourse, advocating for religious institutions to be viewed as open, secure spaces where people can connect and communicate freely. "In a multiracial and multi-faith society," Dr. Hellyer noted, "understanding the basic values of our fellow citizens is not just important—it's essential."

The dialogue explored innovative approaches to interfaith communication, presenting dialogue as a powerful tool for building mutual understanding. Participants were encouraged to look beyond surface-level differences and recognize the shared human values that unite diverse communities. The interactive session sparked meaningful conversations about how individuals can contribute to a more inclusive and empathetic society.

Enthusiasm was palpable throughout the event, with participants actively engaging with the speaker's insights and sharing their own perspectives. The session concluded with a symbolic photography session, capturing the spirit of unity and collective commitment to peaceful coexistence.



## Mencakna Jiwa Generasi Muda dengan Nilai Perpaduan Malaysia

(November 29, 2022) UMCCD and MASA collaborated to host a profound forum exploring the soul of young generations through the lens of Malaysian unity values.

The event, titled "*Mencakna Jiwa Generasi Muda dengan Nilai Perpaduan Malaysia*", brought together a diverse panel of youth leaders and community representatives to engage in meaningful dialogue about national identity and social cohesion.

The forum featured three distinguished panelists: Mr. Azril Mohd Amin, CEO of MASA; Mr. Faisal Abdul Aziz, President of Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia; and Mr. Ravichandran A/L Balasubramaniam, Chairman of Teluk Kemang Hindu Youth Organization. Moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah, the discussion unfolded across two primary dimensions, exploring the critical role of values in national identity formation and the transformative power of dialogue in building mutual understanding.

Throughout the session, participants delved into the complexities of Malaysian social dynamics, addressing both the challenges and opportunities inherent in maintaining national unity. The panelists emphasized Malaysia's potential as a democratic role model, acknowledging the contemporary challenges posed by political complexities and social media while maintaining an unwavering commitment to building a harmonious and united nation.

The conversation highlighted the importance of intergenerational dialogue and the need for continuous effort in bridging cultural and social divides. By creating spaces for open, respectful communication, the forum demonstrated the potential for young leaders to drive meaningful social change and reinforce the values of unity and mutual respect.







# International Conference on Civilisational Dialogue 2022 (ICONCIDI '22)

(August 17-18, 2022) UMCCD hosted the International Conference on Civilisational Dialogue 2022 (ICONCIDI '22), bringing together global perspectives on critical challenges facing humanity.

Conducted virtually via Zoom, the conference explored the theme "The Future of Civilisation: Reimagining Sustainability" through six comprehensive sessions addressing pivotal global issues:

- Future of Civilisations & Dialogue of Civilisations
- Circular Economy & Climate Justice
- Science, Religion & Worldviews
- Sustainable Development & Local Actions
- Social Justice & Widening Gaps between the Rich and Poor
- The Meaning of Being Human in the Era of AI

The conference aimed to foster meaningful dialogue, encourage innovative thinking, and explore interconnected challenges facing global societies in the 21st century.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE 2022 (ICONCIDI'22)**  
THE FUTURE OF CIVILISATION: REIMAGINING SUSTAINABILITY  
17 & 18 AUGUST 2022

Today no one can claim uniformity with the many focused issues of sustainability. In the physical context the epoch that we live in today has indeed been labelled as the Anthropocene, which means that humans are changing the planet in ways that are irreversible and perhaps irrevocable knowledge and unknowing. Today, we also stand at a very critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future of once healthy great land and great promise. To move forward and sustain human civilization in the future, we must recognize that in the midst of a rapid diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, economic justice, and a culture of peace (Preamble of the Earth Charter).

To this end, the UMCCD is taking the initiative to host the 3rd International Conference on Civilisational Dialogue 2022 (ICONCIDI'22) to provide a platform for the sharing of possible solutions for some issues currently besetting humankind. For your information, ICONCIDI'22 will have six sub-sessions as follows:

**THEME**  
The Future of Civilisation: Reimagining Sustainability

**SUB-THEMES**

- Future of Civilisations & Dialogue of Civilisations (DoC)
- Circular Economy & Climate Justice
- Science, Religion & Worldviews
- Sustainable Development & Local Actions
- Social Justice & Widening Gaps between the Rich and Poor
- The Meaning of Being Human in the Era of AI

**ONLINE PARTICIPATION IS FREE!!!**

Please scan here to register!

Or register via the link below:  
[https://zoom.us/join/register?wn\\_5kpa0vVRLT6eVpDpXel-w](https://zoom.us/join/register?wn_5kpa0vVRLT6eVpDpXel-w)

Selected papers will be processed for publication in a journal indexed by MyCite.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
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Email: [dialogue@um.edu.my](mailto:dialogue@um.edu.my) Tel: +60379607522/7796/5697  
Website: <https://dialogue.um.edu.my/>

Jointly organised by:  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA  
UM Sustainability & Development Centre (UM SDCC)

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE 2022 (ICONCIDI'22)**  
THE FUTURE OF CIVILISATION: REIMAGINING SUSTAINABILITY

**DAY 1 - 17 AUGUST 2022**

9.30am Registration

9.45am Plenary Session  
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chai Lay Ching  
Plenary Keynote Address: Sustainable Development & Local Actions  
Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim  
Deputy Director, Institute for Environment and Development (I-ED), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

10.00am Session 1: Future of Civilisations & Dialogue of Civilisations (DoC)  
Moderator: Prof. Dr. Tariquallah Khan  
Plenary Keynote Address: Circular Economy & Climate Justice  
Prof. Dr. Tariquallah Khan  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Science, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

10.45am Paper Presentation Session 1 (2)  
(1) Authentic Dialogue On Ethnicity and Intercultural With Culture and Religion To Enhance Trusting and Learning in Diversity and Universality by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vahidshah Bakhshmand  
(2) Epistemological Challenges of Intercultural Dialogue by Dr. Azeem Ghazali

11.45am Session 2: Circular Economy & Climate Justice  
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim  
Plenary Keynote Address: Circular Economy & Climate Justice  
Prof. Dr. Tariquallah Khan  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Science, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

12.30pm Lunch Break

2.00pm Session 3: Science, Religion & Worldviews  
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim  
Plenary Keynote Address: Science, Religion & Worldviews  
Prof. Dr. Tariquallah Khan  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Science, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

2.45pm Paper Presentation Session 3 (2)  
(1) Ethics in Islamic Experimentation: The Concept of Al-Dirayah as a Complementary to the Principles of 28th by Mohammad Mustafizul Hakeem  
(2) Issues of Islamic Dialogue Implementation in Malaysia by Ahmad Mustafizul Hakeem

4.45pm End of Day 1

**DAY 2 - 18 AUGUST 2022**

9.30am Registration

9.45am Session 4: Sustainable Development & Local Actions  
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chai Lay Ching  
Plenary Keynote Address: Sustainable Development & Local Actions  
Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim  
Deputy Director, Institute for Environment and Development (I-ED), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

10.00am Paper Presentation Session 4 (2)  
(1) Social Behaviour of Working Women Amongst University Malaysia: Focus on Challenging Children by Farah Mayla Roshan  
(2) Educational Shelter Design: A Design For During And Post-Cyclone/Outbreak by Praveen Uthappa

10.45am Session 5: Social Justice & Widening Gaps between the Rich and Poor  
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anantha Duraipappah  
Plenary Keynote Address: Social Justice & Widening Gaps between the Rich and Poor  
Prof. Dr. Anantha Duraipappah  
Director, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)

11.45am Session 6: The Meaning of Being Human in the Era of AI  
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim  
Plenary Keynote Address: The Meaning of Being Human in the Era of AI  
Prof. Dr. Anantha Duraipappah  
Director, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)

12.30pm Lunch Break

2.00pm Paper Presentation Session 6 (2)  
(1) Exploring a Special Educational Needs Teacher's Transcultural Practices for Indigenous Students with Learning Disabilities: A Qualitative Case Study by Saharizah Mohd  
(2) Bioethics and Human Rights: Confronting the Interdisciplinary Approach (Indonesia and Malaysia) by Dr. Sri Hartono

2.45pm Session 7: The Meaning of Being Human in the Era of AI  
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim  
Plenary Keynote Address: The Meaning of Being Human in the Era of AI  
Prof. Dr. Anantha Duraipappah  
Director, UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)

4.45pm Closing & End of Day 2/ICONCIDI'22

Jointly organised by:  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA  
UM Sustainability & Development Centre (UM SDCC)

**Proceedings of International Conference on Civilisational Dialogue 2022 (ICONCIDI'22)**  
- The Future of Civilisation: Reimagining Sustainability  
Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA  
17 & 18 August 2022

Jointly organised by:  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA  
UM Sustainability & Development Centre (UM SDCC)



## Role of Youths in Civilisation and Sustainability

(May 30, 2022) In an era of complex global challenges, the role of youth in shaping our collective future has never been more critical. A recent collaborative forum between Institut Kajian Dasar (IKD) and MASA

illuminated the pivotal path young leaders must navigate to drive meaningful change. On this date, visionary leaders gathered to explore "The Role of Youths in Civilisation & Sustainability," offering a compelling blueprint for national progress. Mr. Azril Mohd Amin, CEO of MASA, set the tone with an inspiring special lecture, emphasizing the importance of a holistic national approach to sustainable development.

The forum, moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wendy Yee Mei Tien, brought together an exceptional panel of youth leaders who represent the dynamism and potential of Malaysia's next generation. Prominent voices including Mr. Muhammad Faisal Abdul Aziz from Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM), Mr. Mohd Izzat Afifi Abdul Hamid from the Malaysian Youth Council, Mr. Tharma Pillai from Undi18, and Mr. Mohammad Haafiz bin Nordin from Yayasan Teach for Malaysia, shared profound insights into youth empowerment.

Key discussions centered on the fundamental values essential for building a robust and forward-thinking civilization. The panelists unanimously highlighted critical areas of focus: ethical conduct (*akhlak*), quality education, principled leadership, and unwavering perseverance. They stressed that young people must cultivate optimism and resilience, particularly during challenging times, to emerge stronger and more adaptable. A particularly compelling message emerged about the importance of collective growth. The forum underscored that sharing wealth, opportunities, and knowledge is not just a noble ideal, but a practical necessity for sustainable societal development.

By localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and encouraging youth participation, Malaysia is positioning itself at the forefront of innovative, inclusive progress. The forum served as a powerful reminder that the future is not something that happens to us—it is something we actively create, one empowered youth at a time.





vivi alatas



Fatimah Kari



## Rethinking Poverty and Economic Development in the Context of the Pandemic and Natural Disaster Prone Era

(May 26, 2022) In the wake of global upheaval, understanding and addressing poverty has never been more crucial. UMCCD and Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC) joined forces to host a groundbreaking forum that delved deep into the complexities of economic development during unprecedented times.

Aligned with the United Nations' first Sustainable Development Goal of "No Poverty," the forum "Rethinking Poverty and Economic Development in the Context of the Pandemic and Natural Disaster Prone Era" brought together leading experts from research, development, and economic sectors to challenge conventional approaches to poverty measurement.

Expertly moderated by Prof. Dr. Fatimah Kari, the panel assembled a distinguished group of thought leaders: Mrs. Hawati Abdul Hamid from Khazanah Research Institute, Dr. Haniza Khalid representing the United Nations Development Programme, and Dr. Vivi Alatas, Lead Economist for the World Bank's Poverty program in Indonesia.

The forum offered a comprehensive exploration of poverty's multifaceted nature, presenting cutting-edge research and empirical case studies that illuminate the evolving landscape of economic vulnerability. Participants engaged in a vibrant discussion, highlighting the critical need for adaptive strategies in addressing poverty during global challenges. This event stands as a testament to the power of collaborative dialogue in understanding and combating one of humanity's most persistent challenges.



Centre For Civilisational Dialogue UM/  
Pusat Dialog Peradaban UM



CCD UM





## Ethics and Sustainability: The Role of Youths

(May 21, 2022) In the vibrant tapestry of Malaysian society, diversity is not just a characteristic—it's a cornerstone of national identity. Recognizing this crucial aspect, UM recently took a transformative step towards

fostering intercultural understanding through a groundbreaking forum that brought together voices from different cultural and religious backgrounds.

The "Ethics and Sustainability: The Role of Youths" forum emerged as a beacon of hope and connection. Co-organized by the UM Student Affairs Division and UMUC, the event underscored a powerful message: youth are the architects of national unity.

Officially launched by Professor Dr. Sabri Musa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UM, the forum assembled an extraordinary panel of thought leaders. Dr. Asmawati Muhamad from UM, Mr. V. K. Soon from the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, Mr. Jason Leong from the Association of NexGen Christians of Malaysia, and Mrs. Gowri A/P P. S. Thangaya from the Malaysia Hindu Sangam came together to explore the critical importance of civilizational dialogue.

A highlight of the event was UMUC's innovative "Values for Peace" exhibition, which beautifully illustrated ethical concepts from four distinct community perspectives. This visual narrative ran concurrently in the foyer, offering participants a tangible exploration of shared values and mutual understanding.

As Professor Dr. Sabri Musa eloquently noted, Malaysia's plural society demands continuous integration efforts. The forum championed the pivotal concept of intercultural dialogue, emphasizing its power to foster self-understanding and discover the nuanced similarities and differences that define our rich cultural landscape.

With overwhelming student participation and thought-provoking closing remarks from each panelist, the event stood as a testament to the potential of dialogue in building bridges across cultural divides. It was more than a forum—it was a promise of a more united, empathetic future.



Syarahen oleh:

**YBhg. Emeritus Prof. Dr. Shaharir Bin Mohamad Zain**

Fellow Kehormat Institut Kefahaman Islam Malaysia (IKIM)

Profesor Emeritus Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)



Pelancaran oleh:

**YBhg. Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Md. Salleh Yaapar**

Profesor Kesusasteraan Bandingan

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

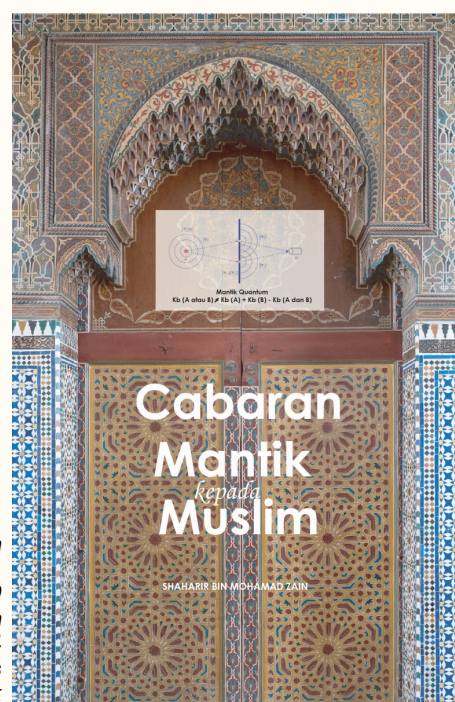
## Cabaran Mantik Kepada Muslim

(May 10, 2022) In an enlightening event that celebrated intellectual discourse, UMCCD hosted the launch of *Cabaran Mantik Kepada Muslim*, a thought-provoking book by Prof. Emeritus Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain.

The program commenced with a warm welcome from UMCCD Director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, setting an intellectually charged atmosphere for the event. The distinguished Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Md. Salleh Yaapar then took center stage, formally launching the book with a comprehensive review that illuminated its significance to contemporary scholarly discussions.

The highlight of the afternoon was the author's own lecture, masterfully moderated by UMCCD Deputy Director, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zul Ilham Zulkiflee Lubes. Prof. Emeritus Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain delved deep into the book's core chapters, offering unique insights and scholarly perspectives that captivated the audience.

A dynamic question-and-answer session followed, allowing attendees to engage directly with the author and explore the nuanced arguments presented in *Cabaran Mantik Kepada Muslim*. The event stood as a testament to the power of intellectual dialogue and the importance of critical thinking in understanding complex societal and philosophical challenges.



***Cabaran Mantik Kepada Muslim***

Penulis: Shaharir Mohamad Zain

Tahun: 2019

Penerbit: Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya

ISBN: 978-983-3070-53-4

Halaman: 106 m/s

Format: Paperback





## World Art Day 2022: Bringing People Together, Inspiring, Soothing and Sharing

UNESCO-declared day dedicated to celebrating the transformative power of art.

(April 15, 2022) In honor of World Art Day, the UMUC orchestrated a vibrant workshop that transformed artistic expression into a powerful medium of connection and understanding. The event embraced the

The program burst into life with opening remarks from UMUC President Ms. Suhaila Mohamad, setting an inspiring tone for the day's creative journey. Participants were immediately invited to explore their inner creativity, receiving drawing paper and crayons to express themselves under the theme 'In My Own Time'. This initial exercise created a personal and intimate space for artistic exploration.

The workshop then blossomed with a traditional batik colouring session led by Madam Fauziah Yahaya, introducing participants to the rich cultural art form. A captivating dialogue followed, featuring Mr. Qi Razali, who shared insights into his artistic journey. Participants eagerly engaged, posing questions that unveiled the personal narratives behind artistic pursuits.

The creative exploration continued with a henna art session conducted by Jonas John, UMUC's Secretary, adding another layer of cultural artistic expression to the day's activities. This diverse range of artistic experiences highlighted art's unique ability to transcend barriers and foster understanding.

Closing remarks by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli encapsulated the day's essence: art as a universal language of human connection. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants underscored the workshop's success in bringing people together through the transformative power of creativity.





# “RELIGION AND POST- MODERNISM”

1 March 2022 (Tuesday) | 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting

## Religion and Post-Modernism

(March 1, 2022) UMCCD inaugurated its lecture series with a thought-provoking presentation by Prof. Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah Abdul Murad from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). The lecture, titled "Religion and

Post-Modernism," offered a profound exploration of cultural and intellectual dynamics in contemporary global contexts.

Moderated by the UMCCD Director, the session delved into the complex relationship between Western modernistic approaches and alternative cultural perspectives. Prof. Hazim presented a nuanced critique of contemporary societal structures, challenging the tendency of Muslim societies to uncritically adopt Western systemic models.

The lecture's key insight emphasized the importance of intellectual and cultural autonomy. Prof. Hazim argued that while Western societies predominantly approach politics, administration, economics, and technology through a modernistic lens, Muslim societies must develop their own intellectual frameworks. These frameworks should be deeply rooted in their religious traditions and value systems, rather than simply mimicking external models.

This inaugural lecture set a powerful tone for the UMCCD's commitment to fostering critical dialogue and deep cultural understanding. For those interested in exploring these profound insights, the full lecture is available on the UMCCD website, inviting further reflection on the intricate interplay between tradition, modernity, and cultural identity.

Lecture by:  
**YBhg. Prof. Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah Abdul Murad**  
Professor, School of Languages, Civilisation, and Philosophy  
College of Arts and Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia

Moderator:  
**YBhg. Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin**  
Director  
Universiti Malaysia Centre for Civilisational Dialogue,  
UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability

Organised by:  
Universiti Malaysia  
Centre for Civilisational Dialogue

Registration: 

 umdialogue  Centre For Civilisational Dialogue UM / Pusat Dialog Peradaban UM  CCD UM





**UNIVERSITI MALAYA** **筑波大学**  
University of Tsukuba

# CULTURAL DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF CIVILISATION

1 DECEMBER 2021  
4.00 pm (MYT) / 5.00 pm (JST)

**Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharudin**  
Director, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue  
Universiti Malaysia

**Prof. Dr. Takeshi Kimura**  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
University of Tsukuba

REGISTRATION  
QR CODE

zoom

Moderated by  
**Dr. Alwani Ghazali**  
Deputy Director, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue  
Universiti Malaysia

## Cultural Dialogue on the Future of Civilisation

(December 1, 2021) In the 21st century, it is worth rethinking about civilization from its past, present and future. The "Cultural dialogue on the future of civilisation" was held via Google Meet. This dialogue focused on two cultures; the Malay Muslim and the Japanese (Shintoic) cultures. The interlocutors were Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD and Prof Dr. Takeshi Kimura from Tsukuba University, Japan. The moderator for this webinar was Dr Alwani Ghazali, Deputy Director of UMCCD. Among the objectives of this dialogue were

to explore Japanese and Malay cultural aspects and how the two civilisations can grow in the future and to create mutual understanding between the two civilisations in the East. The dialogue delved into questions on how these cultures influence its people's values, identity, attitude and perspectives which can eventually prepare them for the future.



## Faith in the times of pandemic: Coping mechanisms for the vulnerable in Asia

(October 5, 2021) The global COVID-19 pandemic has caused devastating social, economic and political crises, which led to a noticeable increase in the demand for mental health services. UMCCD together with King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) held a webinar "Faith in times of pandemic: Coping mechanisms for the vulnerable in Asia", which was officiated by Dr. Rosilawati Zainol, Director of UMCCD. The moderator was Reverend Father Renan Obregon. The invited

speakers were Dr. Alizi Alias, Mr. K V Soon, Ms. Arshintia Soemarsono, Ms. Aghalya Darmalingam, and Venerable Napan Thawornbanjob. This webinar was in conjunction with the World Suicide Prevention Day and the upcoming World Mental Health Day. The speakers which were from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, acknowledged that anxiety and stress are normal when people are faced with uncertainties. The pandemic has caused intense stress and disruption to people, and is causing pronounced mental health concerns in various vulnerable groups of the population. The speakers discussed on various coping mechanisms and mentioned that religious and spiritual coping strategies were essential means that can be used to deal with the consequences of COVID19.



# MALAYSIA HARAPAN KITA



**DR. DURRIYYAH SHARIFAH HASAN ADLI**  
MODERATOR: FELO PENYELIDIK  
PUSAT DIALOG PERADABAN UM

**TUAN HAJI BADLISHAH SHAM BAHARIN**  
PANEL 1: TIMBALAN PRESIDEN  
PERTUBUHAN IKRAM MALAYSIA



**KRISHNA KUMAR**  
PANEL 2: PENGASAS  
TAMIZHAR MEDIA GROUPS (TMG)



**NELSON JIA JUN NG**  
PANEL 3: PENGANALISIS PELABURAN  
KHAZANAH NASIONAL BERHAD MALAYSIA



## Dialogue Series Malaysia Day Edition: Our Hope for Malaysia

(September 23, 2021) UMCCD in collaboration with Projek 57, held a dialogue entitled "*Malaysia Harapan Kita*" in conjunction with Malaysia Day. Tuan Haji Badlishah Sham, Krishna Kumar, and Nelson Jia Jun Ng were the panelists, while Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli was the moderator. In order to accomplish the goals of this forum, each panelist came from different backgrounds. Malaysia's future must be shaped from numerous perspectives going forward, based on the recommendations of people in power. MCO has let us witness a substantial loss of human lives, physical and

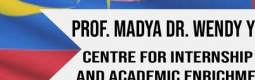
mental health problems, economy distress, and social disruption. This forum discussed on the researches and recommendations in building a better and prosperous future for Malaysia, and the importance of unity among Malaysians to achieve it. The program aimed to explore the perspectives of Malays, Chinese, and Indians on the formation of a stable and strong Malaysian future, learning how to create a harmonious Malaysia, and discussed on steps to be taken to address the economy, education, and family crises, so that Malaysia can set a good example to the world.

## MERDEKA DALAM PANDEMIK

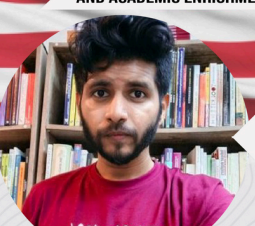
RABU | 25/8/2021 | 10.00 PG -12.00 TGH HARI | GOOGLE MEET



**PROF. DATUK DR. HARLINA HALIZAH SIRAJ**  
FAKULTI PERUBATAN  
UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA



**PROF. MADYA DR. WENDY YEE MEI TIEN**  
CENTRE FOR INTERSHIP TRAINING  
AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT (CITRA)



**KIRIDAREN JAYAKUMAR**  
AKTIVIS SOSIAL - THE BIBLIOPHILE



## Dialogue Series Independence Day Edition: Independence during the Pandemic

(August 25, 2021) UMCCD held this forum via Google meet, Facebook live, and Youtube live. Dr. Alwani Ghazali was the moderator while the panelists were Prof. Datuk Dr. Harlina Hj. Siraj from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yee Mei Tien from Universiti Malaya (UM), and Kiridaren Jayakumar from Open University Malaysia (OUM). On the eve of independence this year, the number of COVID-19 positive cases increased to over 1 million despite the implementation of Movement Control Order (MCO) for

several months. The people's anger began to peak as more people lost their source of income, leading them to become mentally stressed. Children involved with online learning process started to feel bored and lose focus. At the tertiary institution level, graduates felt burdened with the new mode of learning. That was the scenario people were facing. According to the panelists, in this pandemic era, independence not only meant recognising the country's freedom, but also freedom in terms of the people's mental health and economy. This forum met its objectives which included learning about the perspectives of Malays, Chinese, and Indians on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, determining how mental well-being can be strengthened during the pandemic, and discussing measures that can be taken in the face of economic, educational, and family crises during the pandemic.

## 1. *Dialogue as thinking together* (Berfikir bersama2), David Bohm, 1917-1992

- ada 4 prinsip iaitu
  - Bebas daripada agenda tertentu
  - 20-40 org duduk bersama berhadapan satu sama lain dan pertemuan ini berlangsung secara berkala
  - gantung atau tangguh fikiran menghukum sambil mendengar
  - ada fasilitator, tapi tak ada ketua

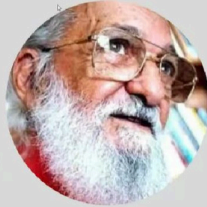


## 2. *Dialogue as Emancipation* (Pembebasan), Paulo Freire's (1921-1997)

- utk jadikan org yang tertindas bukan lagi sebagai objek, tetapi sebagai subjek. Secara tak langsung teori ni memerdekakan manusia.

Ada 4 aspek dalam teori ni:

- menyedari masalah
- refleksi secara kritikal
- Praxis atau berubah daripada bercakap kepada bertindak
- solidariti (bersama2 memanusiakan manusia)



# Dialogue Series: Understanding Dialogue

(July 10, 2021) The dialogue series was conducted by Dr. Alwani Ghazali, Deputy Director of UMCCD. It aimed to answer all questions about dialogue. Simply described, dialogue is a "two-way discussion between two persons with opposing viewpoints on a subject, with the goal of learning the other person's perspective on the subject or issue being addressed" (Leonard Swidler). Dialogue has two interactive dimensions: individual consideration and the sharing of ideas with others. The first dimension enables a person to get to know himself by requiring him to spend time reflecting or self-reflecting. Contact with

others is possible in the second dimension. Following that, there are seven different types of human verbal exchange: Conversation, discussion, meeting, debate, storytelling, face-to-face contact between two people, and a group of people who have come together to investigate or make a conclusion on a topic.

SELASA | 9 MAC 2021 | 9.00 PG | GOOGLE MEET

PROF. MADYA DR. CHE ZARRINA  
JABATAN AKIDAH & PEMIKIRAN  
ISLAM APIUM



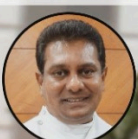
DR. BALAKRISHNAN KANDASAMY  
PENGURUS MALAYSIA NALVAAR  
MANDRAM



MR. THAI MING YEOW  
NAIB PRESIDEN IKATAN BELIA  
BUDDHIS SEDUNIA (WYFB)



FATHER XAVIER ANDREW  
KETUA PADERI VISITATION CHURCH,  
SEREMBAN NEGERI SEMBILAN



DR. CHARANJIT KAUR A/P DARSHAN SINGH  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR UNIVERSITI TUNKU  
ABDUR RAHMAN



PENDAFTARAN



GOOGLE MEET

ANJURAN BERSAMA:  
PUSAT DIALOG PERADABAN (PDP) &  
JABATAN AKIDAH DAN PEMIKIRAN ISLAM  
UNIVERSITI MALAYA

# The Role of Religion in Maintaining Mental Wellness during the Covid-19 Pandemic

(March 9, 2021) UMCCD and Department of Aqidah & Islamic Thought, Universiti Malaya jointly organized this webinar. The panelists were from different religions; Prof. Dr. Che Zarrina represented Islam, Dr. Balakrishnan Kandasamy represented Hindu, Mr. Thai Ming Yeow represented Buddhism, Father Xavier Andrew represented Christianity, and Dr. Charanjit Kaur represented Sikhism. The moderator was Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli. This interfaith talk aimed to convey perspectives from the different religions

on mental health, to understand how believers of the different religions help the mentally sick, and to explore initiatives in helping and supporting mental patients that seek clinical therapy during this highly crucial time. A group of experts from the Department of Medical Psychology Universiti Malaya reported in an article entitled "Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health in Malaysia: A Single Thread of Hope" that stress and mental illness such as depression and anxiety disorders were on the rise. As a first step by the government to reduce the number of mental healthrelated patients, advertisements urging people to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle were broadcast in the media. The significance of religion in mental healthcare was emphasised. All panelists agreed that the pandemic significantly impacted the community's psyche. The program positively impacted and provided assistance to all participants.





## Scriptural Reasoning on Religious Pluralism: A Dialogue

(February 23, 2021) UMCCD held a dialogue via Google Meet, which was also covered via Facebook live. The panelists for the dialogue were Dr. Alwani Ghazali, Deputy Director of UMCCD and Father Eugene Benedict from St. Theresa Church Nilai. The speakers discussed about the stands and views from their respective religion on religious pluralism. Both parties tried to understand each others' point of views through their comprehension of the Quran and the Bible. Dr. Alwani Ghazali mentioned the writing of John Hicks regarding pluralism: "Pluralism is the view that the great world faiths embody different

perceptions and conceptions of, and correspondingly different responses to, the Real or the Ultimate from within the major variant cultural ways of being a human; and that within each of them the transformation of human existence, from self-centeredness to Reality centeredness is manifestly taking place..., so far as human observation can tell".



## Dialogue Series: Life Challenges during MCO from Various Perspectives of Life

(February 15, 2021) UMCCD organised the first webinar of the dialogue series. To kickstart the series, "Cabaran Hidup sewaktu PKP Daripada Pelbagai Perspektif Kehidupan" was held via Google Meet. Society is confronted with many issues and challenges during the pandemic. Dr. Rosilawati elaborated on the purpose of Movement Control Order (MCO), parties involved in the MCO, the impacts of it, and future plans after the MCO. She talked on the challenges faced by people from various perspectives of life and suggested ways to

reduce the impact of these challenges. She reminded that each stratum of the society has to play their role in maintaining life's well-being, especially during this pandemic. This responsibility involves not only personal safety, but also the well-being of the society as a whole. The webinar received positive feedback and met its objectives in instilling awareness in the general public about the repercussions of the pandemic and the actions that must be taken to encounter it.



### AHLI PANEL



**COLLIN SWEE**  
PENGASAS BERSAMA  
PROJEK57



**MUHAMMAD FAISAL**  
PRESIDEN ABIM



**EDDIN KHOO**  
PENGASAS DAN  
PENGARAH PUSAKA



### MODERATOR

**THARMA PILLAI**  
PENGASAS BERSAMA UNDI 18

## NARADATA RUKUN NEGARA

Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaysia (PDPUM), PROJEK57, Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM), dan CITRA Universiti Malaysia.

Forum dijalankan secara langsung di layar skrin di tempat kediaman masing-masing sesuai dengan norma masa kini berikutan pandemik covid 19 di seluruh dunia. Seramai 584 peserta yang berdaftar dan mengikuti forum ini secara atas talian melalui platform Microsoft Teams yang telah disediakan oleh pihak penganjur.

## NARADATA Rukun Negara Penganut Perpaduan Kaum

(December 4, 2020) Forum ini dibarisi oleh 3 ahli panel yang berlainan latar belakang iaitu Muhammad Faisal Abdul Aziz (President ABIM), Eddin Khoo Bu Eng (Pengasas dan Pengarah PUSAKA), dan Collin Swee Lay Keong (Pengasas Bersama PROJEK57) dan seorang moderator iaitu Tharma Pillai (Pengasas Bersama Undi18).

Penaja utama bagi program ini adalah Institut Kajian Dasar dan Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Malaysia. Program ini merupakan kolaborasi daripada 4 organisasi iaitu Pusat



## Majlis Perasmian Siri Dialog Perpaduan Universiti Malaysia

(August 27, 2020) Majlis ini merupakan majlis perasmian Siri Dialog Perpaduan Universiti Malaysia. Perasmian ini diadakan pada pagi 27 Ogos 2020 bertempat di Galeri Seni Universiti Malaysia. Perasmian ini disempurnakan oleh Dato' Dr. Mahmood Merican selaku Penasihat Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaysia (PDPUM) serta penaja siri Dialog Perpaduan ini. Pengarah PDPUM, Prof. Madya Dr. Rosilawati binti Zainol turut mengambil peluang untuk berucap dalam majlis perasmian pada hari tersebut.

Majlis perasmian ini merupakan sebuah simbolik yang menunjukkan sebagai sebuah langkah permulaan terhadap program-program yang berbentuk dialog yang akan lebih digiatkan selepas ini. Sebuah forum yang bertajuk "Rukunegara Sebagai Asas Perpaduan Bangsa Malaysia" membuka tirai program Siri Dialog Perpaduan ini. Moderator pada hari kejadian diwakili oleh saudara Zairudin (Naib Presiden ABIM), manakala ahli panel pula diwakili oleh En. Eddin Khoo (Pengaroh dan Pengasas PUSAKA) dan Syed Saddiq Albar (Pengasas Bersama PROJEK57). Majlis perasmian ini juga turut mendapat liputan dari pihak media untuk ditulis dan diterbitkan. Beberapa ahli jawatankuasa yang menjayakan majlis tersebut, moderator, dan ahli panel turut diwawancara oleh pihak media dalam mendapatkan informasi-informasi tambahan mengenai program yang dijalankan.

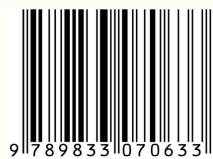
# Acknowledgements

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On behalf of the UM Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), we also wish to acknowledge the contributions of our collaborators, participants, and supporting institutions whose efforts and insights have greatly enriched the outcomes of this research.

The success of this initiative reflects the power of collaboration between local government, academic institutions, private agencies/NGOs and community organizations in fostering a shared commitment to social wellbeing and intercultural understanding.

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