

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Visit of the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin, Vice Minister State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), People's Republic of China	1
<i>Wacana mengenai Konsep Wasatiyyah</i> Discourse on the Concept of Moderation (<i>Wasatiyyah</i>)	4
<i>Wacana 'Keterlestarian sebagai Ilmu Multidisiplin termasuklah Ekonomi dan Matematik'</i> Discourse on Sustainability as a Multidisciplinary Science Including Economics and Mathematics	5
Workshop (I) on Various Religious and Cultural Perspectives on Selected Bioethical Issues in Malaysia	6
Workshop (II) on Various Religious and Cultural Perspectives on Selected Bioethical Issues in Malaysia	8
Public Lecture: Remembering to be Human: An Islamic Approach to Peace and Justice in South Asia by Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia from Arizona State University	9
National Workshop on Creative Leaders Generating Innovative Leadership 2011 <i>Bengkel Pemimpin Kreatif Menjana Kepimpinan Inovatif Peringkat Kebangsaan 2011</i>	10
External Events & Networking	12
Miscellaneous	17
- Dr. Shaharir joins UMCCD	
- Ongoing Research Projects and Consultancy	
- Future events	
- Upcoming Visiting Scholars	
Publications	20

**Visit of the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin
Vice Minister
State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), People's Republic of China
To University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue
14 January 2011
Court Room, Chancellery Building, University of Malaya**



The Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin presenting a token of appreciation to the Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya

Due to its relevance in the context of intercultural/intercivilisational dialogue and its collaborative activities with the Department of National Unity and Integration (JPNIN) especially via the context of national unity programs for the past seven years, University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) was chosen by JPNIN to be one of the places of interest to be visited by the **Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin**, Vice Minister for State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), People's Republic of China who was visiting Malaysia from the 13 to the 22 January 2011.

Continued on pages 2 & 3

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

EDITORIAL

Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin
Professor Dr. Samuel Oluoch Imbo
Siew Wai Ling

CONTRIBUTORS

Siti Rukiah Othman
Chang Lee Wei
Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri
Muhammad Azri Safwat Rizan
Zazren Ismail

LAY-OUT & DESIGN
Siew Wai Ling

ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS

Centre for Civilisational Dialogue
2nd Floor, Siswarama Buliding
University of Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
Tel: 603-79675697
Fax: 03-79675692
E-mail: dialog@um.edu.my
Website: <http://civilisationaldialogue.um.edu.my>



**Visit of the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin
Vice Minister State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC)
People's Republic of China
On 14 January 2011
(Reported by: Chang Lee Wei)**

The objectives of the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin's visit were:

- To exchange ideas and share experiences with Malaysians especially on the strategies and country policies in managing issues relating to multi-ethnic relations.
- To visit JPNIN and relevant Malaysian institutions in order to obtain ideas and experiences in promoting ethnic harmony and unity.



Members of UMCCD and the welcoming dance team of the Cultural Centre University of Malaya awaiting the arrival of the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin and his delegates

The delegates from China included:

1. The Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin, Vice Minister of SEAC
2. Mr. Wang Quanli, Director General of the International Relations Department
3. Mr. Zhang Jingze, Chair of University Council of Northern University of Nationalities
4. Mrs. Sui Qing, Deputy Director General, Supervision and Inspection Department
5. Mr. Li Huancai, Director of the International Relations Department
6. Mr. Li Zhi, Secretary at the General Office

The visit started at 3pm at the Tunku Chancellor Hall, University of Malaya. Upon his arrival, the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin was welcomed by **Professor Datuk Dr. Ghauth Jasmon**, Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya. This was followed by a welcoming dance by the students from the **Cultural Centre University of Malaya**. The dance is a unique performance comprising of Malay martial arts, named *Silat*. Betel Nut Leaves, locally known as *Daun Sireh* were also used in this performance which symbolizes great respect for the guests. UMCCD would like to record its appreciation to the **Cultural Centre University of Malaya** for their willingness to perform a welcoming dance in the welcoming ceremony.

The visitors were then led to the Court Room, Chancellery Building. In attendance were Heads of department, Deans, Director of the security office, Director of the Academy of Malay Studies and students from China.



Participants of the dialogue session with the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin

The briefing session started with the welcome speech by **Professor Datuk Dr. Ghauth Jasmon**, who among other points, gave statistics related to University of Malaya's active and rich collaboration with 13 Universities in China. Currently University of Malaya has 137 postgraduates from China (126 Masters & 20 PhD), while the partnerships and collaborations between University of Malaya and Universities in China have so far been conducted through the signing up of MoU and MoA which cover disciplines such as medicine, science, business, economics, and education and last but not least, culture.

In his address, the **Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin** in turn recorded his gratitude to University of Malaya for the warm hospitality. He also pointed out the importance of having the discussion and sharing of ideas on how to manage the issues faced by multi-ethnic countries like Malaysia and China. The Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin also mentioned the need for the enhancement of understanding between the majority and minority groups.

An important briefing on the UMCCD was then given by the Director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue. After introducing the Centre's origins, she described and explained the importance and functions of the Centre as well as its many activities. She also emphasized and gave examples of the importance and need for dialogue at the local and international level. **Professor Datuk Dr. Zainal Abidin Borhan**, Director of the Malay Studies Academy (APM) then provided statistics on the number of students from Guangxi University studying at APM as well as the intercultural programs that they are involved in.

A **Question & Answer Session** and also a dialogue session between the Honorable and those present were conducted after that. The dialogue discussed the management of University of Malaya, policies of Malaysia especially in sustaining the peace and harmony among the plural society and also how dialogue could help in understanding the needs of different ethnicities in promoting a context of national integration. Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin's visit to the UMCCD ended with a tour of the Asian Arts Museum at 5.00pm where the visitors were given an exquisite explanation and presentation by the museum director, **Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Rashid**.

UMCCD records its appreciation and gratitude to Professor Datuk Dr. Ghauth Jasmon, Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya, the Department of National Unity and Integration, Malay Studies Academy, Cultural Centre and the Asian Art Museum for participating in this event and making it an memorable one. UMCCD hopes that this official visit could be a good platform for the sharing of ideas and experiences as a way forward in promoting ethnic unity.



The Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin and his delegates from China at the Asian Art Museum



Students from the People's Republic of China studying at the University of Malaya attended the dialogue session with the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin



The Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin trying out a musical instrument at the Asian Arts Museum

Wacana mengenai Konsep Wasatīyyah (Discourse on the Concept of Moderation (Wasatīyyah))

22 Mac 2011

*Bilik Seminar KATHA, Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya (PDPUM)
(Dilaporkan oleh: Zazren Ismail)*



Profesor Emeritus Datuk Dr Osman Bakar sedang menerangkan sesuatu sambil diperhatikan oleh Encik Hakim bin Ahmad

Wacana ini merupakan sahutan kepada hasil persidangan meja bulat **The Second Brainstorming Session on Global Movement of the Moderates** yang telah diadakan pada 29-30 Januari bertempat di Melaka; anjuran Kementerian Luar Negeri. PDPUM merupakan dua organisasi di luar Kementerian Luar Negeri yang telah dijemput ke meja bulat ini.

Antara lain, sesi wacana ini disertai oleh Pengarah PDPUM, Profesor Datin Dr Azizan Baharuddin, Profesor Emeritus Datuk Dr Osman Bakar (Timbalan CEO International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies, IAIS), Dr Shaharir Mohamad Zain (Felo Penyelidik Kanan PDPUM), Profesor Madya Dr Zaid Ahmad (Ketua Jabatan Pengajian Kenegaraan & Ketamadunan, Universiti Putra Malaysia), Encik Hakim bin Ahmad (Penolong Pengarah (K), Bahagian Inovasi dan Ketamadunan, Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia, JAKIM) dan Cik Zazren Ismail. Tujuannya adalah untuk membincangkan **konsep moderate** di dalam gagasan Global Movement of the Moderates (GMM) yang telah diketengahkan oleh Perdana Menteri Malaysia di New York, untuk input kepada garis panduan Kementerian Luar Negeri.

Dalam membicarakan perkara ini, matlamat utama yang turut menjadi hasrat Perdana Menteri adalah untuk mengglobalisasikan atau mensejagatkan **konsep wasatīyyah** (selepas ini dieja wasatdiyyaht). Antara persoalan-persoalan yang ditimbulkan ialah, apakah kaedah atau pendekatan untuk mempromosi dan menonjolkan konsep wasatdiyyaht di peringkat global, dan bagaimanakah sahutan dan pandangan setiap agama terhadap konsep ini. Selain itu, sebagai pengisian kepada konsep ini, adalah amat perlu untuk memulakan wacana atau perbincangan ini dengan mengenengahkan kes-kes dalam julat yang sangat ekstrim dan peranan media dalam mempromosi wasatdiyyaht dan secara tidak langsung dapat menonjolkan imej Islam yang sebenar.

Wasatdiyyaht adalah konsep daripada beberapa prinsip penting yang lain seperti **keadilan** dan **jalan pertengahan**. Dalam prinsip wasatdiyyaht yang berasaskan Islam dan dihayati oleh arus perdana tiada tempat bagi kemelampauan atau ekstrimisme. Islam itu sifatnya, prosesnya, pelaksanaannya, konsepnya adalah wasatdiyyaht. Islam adalah agama pertengahan atau jalan pertengahan. Konsep wasatdiyyaht jika dilihat secara semesta adalah sesuatu yang relatif kepada masa, walaupun setiap agama mempunyai konsep sederhana. Dalam bahasa Inggeris ia disebut sebagai **Golden Mean**. Konsep kesederhanaan juga relatif kepada zaman agama tersebut diturunkan. Oleh kerana Islam adalah agama terakhir yang diturunkan, jadi konsep kesederhanaannya lebih cocok atau komprehensif untuk manusia di akhir zaman ini. Inilah konsep wasatdiyyaht yang disebut oleh Islam yang memenuhi dan sesuai dengan keperluan masyarakat manusia.

Di akhir wacana ini terdapat beberapa output yang telah disenaraikan iaitu pengumpulan makalah-makalah yang berkaitan dengan wasatdiyyaht, penganjuran Seminar oleh IAIS mengenai wasatdiyyaht dan strategi kementerian berkenaan di dalam GMM cetusan Perdana Menteri, makalah daripada Profesor Emeritus Datuk Dr Osman Bakar dan Dr Shaharir Mohamad Zain dan penambahbaikan program TITAS.



*Dari kiri ke kanan:
Profesor Madya Dr Zaid Ahmad dan Profesor Datin Dr. Azizan*

**Wacana: Keterlestarian Sebagai Ilmu Multidisiplin termasuklah
Ekonomi dan Matematik
(Discourse on Sustainability as a Multidisciplinary Science Including
Economics and Mathematics)**

26 April 2011

Bilik Seminar KATHA, Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya (PDPUM)

(Dilaporkan oleh: Siew Wai Ling)

Sesi wacana ini telah disampaikan oleh **Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain**, Felo Penyelidik Kanan Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya dan dipengerusikan oleh **Profesor Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah Abdul Murad**, Profesor di Jabatan Pengajian Sains & Teknologi, Fakulti Sains, Universiti Malaya. Wacana yang dianjurkan oleh PDPUM ini telah diadakan di Bilik Katha, PDPUM dan dihadiri oleh 27 orang ahli akademik dan pelajar daripada Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia dan lain-lain agensi.

Menurut Dr. Shaharir, **keterlestarian**, yang dikenali sebagai 'sustainability' bermaksud kebolehan untuk bertahan lama atau selama-lamanya ataupun merujuk kepada sesuatu yang tetap tidak berubah seperti asalnya. Lestari ialah Bahasa Jawa yang bermakna selama-lamanya, tetap, kekal dan abadi. 'Mapan', 'mampan' atau 'mempn' adalah istilah-istilah yang kurang tepat untuk menggantikan perkataan lestari. Terdapat penulis Indonesia yang menggunakan istilah 'berkelanjutan' untuk perkataan 'sustainable' tetapi penggunaannya dianggap tidak tepat berbanding perkataan 'lestari'. Perkataan dalam Bahasa Sanskrit yang dikatakan paling hampir dengan tercapainya lestari ialah '**dharma**' yang menjadikan perkataan Melayu *derma*; tetapi ini satu daripada cara mencapai keterlestarian mengikut ajaran Buddha.

Konsep keterlestarian Barat melibatkan pengurusan alam sekitar, ekologi, dan sumber keperluan manusia dengan sebaik-baiknya. Ini bersesuaian dengan takrif ilmu ekonomi, iaitu ilmu yang berkira bicara tentang 'peruntukan dan pengagihan sumber yang terhad dengan sebaik-baiknya' dan pada masa yang sama bersesuaian dengan makna matematik iaitu, 'memahami, menerangkan, menjelaskan, mentelaah, mengkaji, memperelajari, menangani dan mengurus persekitaran tabii, sosial dan politik'. Istilah 'terbaik' dan 'sebaik-baiknya' sentiasa ditafsirkan dalam sebutan Latin, *optimus*, yang diingeriskan sebagai 'optimum' bermaksud 'terbaik'. Oleh itu, ekonomi selalunya ditakrifkan sebagai ilmu pengoptimuman.

Perkataan 'economy' berasal daripada Bahasa Latin iaitu '*oconomia*' yang bermaksud pengurusan rumah-tangga. Perkataan *iq̄tishad* (Bahasa Arab) yang kemudiannya menjadi *iktisad* setelah dirumikan, membawa maksud yang sama dengan perkataan '*oconomia*'. Perkataan 'ekonomi' yang digunakan sekarang adalah gabungan makna *economy* dalam 'political economy'; 'sumber dan kekayaan bumi' dan 'economics'; 'ilmu tentang perkara sekarang ini'.

Kesimpulannya, daripada takrif etimologi lestari sahaja pun membayangkan keterlestarian itu melibatkan ilmu ekonomi dan matematik yang amat sarat nilainya kerana melibatkan pengurusan sumber dengan cara yang sebaik-baiknya. Maksud 'sumber' dan 'sebaik-baiknya' itulah yang sarat nilainya. Model 'sebaik-baiknya' sekarang sebagai 'optimum' amatlah tertakluk kepada ajaran agama atau kebudayaan. Oleh itu, keterlestarian memerlukan takrif yang baru.



*Dari kiri ke kanan:
Profesor
Hazim dan
Dr.
Shaharir*



Sesi soal-jawab bersama peserta wacana

Workshop (I) on Various Religious and Cultural Perspectives on Selected Bioethical Issues in Malaysia

22—23 February 2011

Katha Seminar Room, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya
(Reported by: Priah Applanaidu)



Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar and Professor Rofina Yasmin

A two-day workshop on the theme of Various Religious and Cultural Perspectives on Selected Bioethical Issues in Malaysia was held 22—23 February 2011. The workshop was attended by about 40 participants. Experts in biotechnology and bioethics, scholars, leaders of different backgrounds, religions and cultures were invited to this workshop to deliver their perspectives and views on the subject according to their religion, expertise and experience in their specific areas.

One of the objectives of this workshop was to obtain suggestions on how the bioethical issues can be tackled and bioethical principles that could form the basis of methods to solve the bioethical dilemmas in Malaysia. The workshop was also held to identify the guidelines and Bioethical policies based on moral values already available to address the issues related to religion and culture.

The workshop was started with a welcoming speech by Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD. Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar, the Deputy CEO of the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia was invited to deliver a keynote address on the theme of the importance of religion in bioethics issues and moral discussions. Subsequently, the opening speech for this workshop was delivered by **Professor Dr. Rofina Yasmin Othman**, Secretary General of the National Biotechnology Division Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

Five sessions were held through this workshop to discuss various current bioethical issues due to development of Modern Biotechnology in Malaysia.

Session I: Public Understanding of Biotechnology

'Public Understanding of Biotechnology: What do they know, should know and want to know' by Ms. Mahaletchmy Arujanan, Executive Director Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre (MABIC). The paper discussed what is biotechnology, what the public does not understand about biotechnology, how to enhance public understanding on biotechnology, role of media and religious scholars.



Presenters and participants of the workshop

Session II: Response of Multi-religious Scholars Towards Bioethics

- i) 'Bioethics from an Islamic Perspective' by Mr. Hj. Shaikh Mohd Saifuddeen Shaikh Mohd Salleh, Executive Director, Yayasan Ilmuwan. The paper focused on how Islam views the implication of biotechnology advancement and the bioethical issues arising from modern biotechnology development. Islamic views may be the basic guidelines for Muslims and to other religions in facing bioethical issues such as stem cell research, genetically modified organisms, genetically modified foods, and others by referring to the Quran and hadith.
- ii) 'Bioethics in Buddhism' by Dr. Angela Ng Min Hwei, Youth and Students Advisor, Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM). The paper explained the key concepts of life in Buddhism, Buddhist perspective of death and life, bioethics Issue and Buddhist perspective on Science & Technology.

iii) 'Interfaith Discussion Forum on: Bio-Ethical Issues' by Dr. M. Bala Tharmalingam, Deputy President, Malaysia Hindu Sangam. The paper explained the concept of God in Hinduism, the relationship between God and athma, meaning *aanava*, *maaya* and *karma* concepts in Hinduism and the four purposes of life in Hinduism. He suggested some recommendations to Scientists, clinicians, and other Malaysians regarding bioethics in the advancement of Biotechnology.

iv) 'Perspectives on Bioethics of the Christian Religion' by Professor Dr. Living Lee Chai Peng, Department of Geology, University of Malaya. He highlighted some bioethical issues and discussed the issue of the sanctity of life including that of the unborn.



v) 'Thoughts on Bioethics' by Dr. Murali Sukumaran, Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Malaysia. The paper discussed ethics and 4 principles of ethics according to the understanding of the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith.

Dr. Bala delivering his presentation

Session III: Public Response to Bioethics

i) 'Ethical Perceptions of Modern Biotechnology in Malaysia' by Dr. Latifah Amin. Centre for General Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The paper examined how the Malaysian public perceives the ethical aspects of modern biotechnology in general and their ethical perceptions towards several applications of agro- biotechnology.

ii) 'Cooperation between Religious Institutions and Public universities in Analysing Selected Bioethical Issues' by Ms. Rasmuna Mazwan Binti Muhamad, tutor in the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, University Malaya. The paper reviewed the role of religious institutions in monitoring and analyzing bioethical issues (global issues) and the role of the public in understanding and analyzing the bioethical issues through research.

iii) 'Media coverage on Ethical Issues in Biotechnology' by Ms. Rosnah binti Sadri. The paper was based on analysis of news content quoted from the New Straits Times from 1995 to 2010 on ethical issues in biotechnology. Ms. Rosnah explained how news content is reviewed by comparison of how the exposure (framing), the positive exposure (potential), the negative exposure (risk) and the proposed solutions to the ethical issues that arise.

iv) 'Response of Selected Muslim Scientists in Malaysia on Bioethics in Biotechnology' by Miss Nor Munirah Binti Isa, Fellow in the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya. She analyzed the views of scientists as academics on bioethics and their proposals for principles of bioethics from the Islamic perspective to stimulate the development of bioethics in Malaysia.

Session IV: Guidelines and Policies on Bioethics in Malaysia

i) Biosafety Legal Framework Governing Bioethics in Malaysia by Ms Siti Hafsa Idris, Faculty of Law, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). The paper addressed the legal protection afforded by the biosafety legal framework to bioethical concerns relating to GMOs within the current biotechnology terrain in Malaysia.

ii) 'Guidelines and Policy on Bioethics' by Ustaz Ahmad Zaky MD Ali, HUB Halal, JAKIM. The paper discussed the basic proposition Muslim dietary guidelines and evidence from the Hadith and the Malaysian Standard MS 1500:2009, the general guidelines on the production, preparation, handling and storage.

Session V: Selected Issues in Bioethics: Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) & Genetically Modified Food (GMF)

i) 'Elements of Bioethics in The Implementation of The Biosafety Act 2007' by Dr. Mohana Anita Anthonysamy, Department of Biosafety, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Putrajaya, Malaysia. The paper drew out the five principles under Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights and highlighted these as underlying principles in the implementation of the Biosafety Act 2007 due to the unique implications of modern biotechnology activities, bioethics consideration is fundamental in the implementation, promotion and regulation of biotechnology in Malaysia.



Session V From left to right: Mr. Goh Hong Lip, Professor Dr. Norzulani Khalid (moderator) and Dr. Mohana Anita

ii) 'Consumer Information and Biotechnology: The Case of Malaysia' by Mr. Goh Hong Lip, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanity, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The paper explained that the public has better acceptance when the GMF concerned gives direct benefits

rather than GMF that only gives partial benefit to them. Further research is needed to understand more the Malaysian consumer preference towards GMF. It is essential that the decision makers concerned ensure that the GMF market created are truly accepted by consumers.

Though this workshop, participants were exposed to the understanding of the bioethics from various perspectives and created a great opportunity to allow utilitarian bioethical values. The output of the workshop will be used to write the final report of Bioethics Research.

Workshop (II) on Various Religious and Cultural Perspective on Selected Bioethical Issues in Malaysia

18 March 2011

Katha Seminar Room, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya
(Reported by: Priah Applanaidu)

A workshop to further strengthen the output of the Bioethics workshop (I) on **“Various Religious and Cultural Perspectives on Selected Bioethics Issues in Malaysia”**



From left to right: Miss Siti Hafsyah, Mr. Shaikh, Ustaz Zaky and Dr. Bala

was held on the 18 March 2011 at KATHA Seminar Room. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the bioethics workshop (I) output and to gather extra information from the various experts/resource persons for the final Bioethics Research report writing.

Those present included Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Dr. Mohana Anita, Dr. M. Bala Tharmalingam, Ustaz Zaky, Miss Siti Hafsyah Idris, Mr. Shaikh Mohd Saifuddeen Shaikh Mohd. Salleh, Miss

Noormunirah Isa and Miss Priah Applanaidu. According to the experts/resource persons, universities, researchers, religious councils, ministries as well as NGOs must cooperate and collaborate to accomplish better guidelines for bioethics in Malaysia.

**Public Lecture:
Remembering to be Human: An Islamic Approach to Peace and Justice in
South Asia**

21 March 2011

By Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia

Delivered at KATHA Seminar Room, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya

(Reported by: Chang Lee Wei)

In search of responses for redressing past violence, **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** and **War Criminals Tribunals (WCT)** have been established to document in public the cruelties of the past and expose those who committed violence for determining punishment. The hope is that traumatized communities can move forward through this process of public hearing and public good would be restored by punishing the perpetrators of violence. But a question was raised by Professor Yasmin Saikia in her lecture, “Can TRC and WCT, which produce juridical notions of truth, truly redress individual suffering and heal people after violence to help them to work together for peace in the future?”

Drawing upon **Mahmood Mamdani’s study**, who argues that TRC is a “political compromise”. Professor Saikia argued that TRCs flatten and hide the deep reach of violence and by naming violence it does not resolve the problem. TRCs and WCTs are “pit-stops”, that do not offer conclusive remedies to address the vast and complex enterprise of violence. In fact, commissions for truth telling and selective trials of individuals held accountable for violence, Professor Saikia suggests, take away from people the power to interpret for themselves their experiences and deal with it responsibly to rectify their actions so that the promise of “never again” is sustainable.

Professor Saikia divided her lecture into three subsections. In the first section she talked about the paucity of the archive of the 1947 partition of India and suggested a new site of oral history emerging from below to contextualize the events and experiences of 1971. In the next section, she elaborated on the officially written history of Pakistan alongside the voices of survivors and explored the construction of the figure of the Other or stranger as enemy. The concept of stranger which is absent in Islamic communal thought, in Pakistan, although an Islamic Republic, found strategic use and was carefully developed by the Pakistani military administration between 1956-1970 and was violently deployed during the war in 1971. Reconvening the human collective through a rethinking of *insāniyat*, as suggested by survivors, Prof. Saikia suggests, enables society to function humanely. In the final section of the lecture, she drew upon the regained humanistic approach to redress the violent past, invoking and putting on center-stage the principle of *huhuq al-ibād* to suggest dialogue among survivors for justice and freedom.

According to Professor Saikia, she would rather emphasize a **Quranic-based approach** to redress the rights of people and suggest it as a method for critically ascertaining the abuse of those rights by the powerful against the powerless. This approach is similar to the philosopher Fred Dallmayr’s call for working with “Islamic values”, accommodating religious principles with cultural concerns, keeping in mind the dynamic nature of society and culture.

Professor Saikia concluded that, by implementing the principles of *huquq al-ibad*, we could reinsert the substratum ‘culture of humanity’ or *insāniyat* and could open new pathways to seek and receive forgiveness by perpetrators from victims of 1971. The language of forgiveness in this sense is not a juridical and externally sponsored state directive, but it is a responsibility located in each individual person who can implement the principle to come to terms with the past and deliver justice to the victims.



Professor Saikia responding to a question posed by one of the participants during the Q&A session

**National Workshop on
Creative Leaders Generating Innovative Leadership 2011
Bengkel Pemimpin Kreatif Menjana Kepimpinan Inovatif
Peringkat Kebangsaan 2011**

22—24 April 2011

Bukit Jawi Golf Resort, Penang

(Reported by: Siew Wai Ling)



Final group picture after the closing ceremony

Jointly organized by the Division of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) and the Department of Youth and Sport, Penang and with cooperation from University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), a workshop on **Creative Leaders Generating Innovative Leadership 2011**. The workshop was organized in response to the declaration of the year 2010 as the year of innovation and creativity, known as

Malaysia Innovative 2010 by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Y.A.B. Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, on the 27 January 2010 at Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC).

Objectives of the workshop:

- To expose youth to the importance of creativity in producing innovative leaders.
- To develop potential young leaders and youth who incorporate creativity and innovation into their leadership skills.
- To encourage youth to voice their ideas and ensure that innovative leadership among youth will be developed with time.

The workshop lasting three days and two nights was attended by 179 participants from various states in Malaysia. Associate Professor Datuk Mohamad Ali bin Hasan and Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin were invited as speakers for this workshop and were assisted by 9 facilitators from UMCCD. Facilitators involved in this workshop included Mr. Chang Lee Wei, Miss Lili Fariza Ariffin, Mr. Mohamed Azmi bin Mohd Rasheed Khan, Mr. Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri, Mr. Muhammad Azri Safwat bin Rizan, Miss Norshahzila Idris, Miss Priah a/p Applanaidu, Miss Siew Wai Ling and Miss Zazren bt Ismail.

Based on the module prepared by UMCCD, participants were educated on foresight, future planning, self-motivation and leadership through lectures as well as group activities (LDK) conducted throughout the workshop. Other than that, participants were also exposed to the meaning of and processes of enhancing creativity and innovation in nurturing quality young leaders by referring to famous figures locally and around the world such as Bill Gates, Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Tun Abdul Razak, Tony Fernandes and Mark Zuckerberg among others. In one of the group activities, participants were instructed to produce a proposal in helping to further meliorate Malaysia's National Key Result Area (NKRA) and National Youth Development Policy by using the Blue Ocean

Strategy. Through this, participants were given the opportunity to express their views on the current NKRA and National Youth Development Policy, subsequently, suggested creative opinions in improving the current NKRA and policy. To make the participants more excited about their work, the best group presentation and the best participant in various categories were awarded special awards at the end of the workshop.

Overall, the workshop was smoothly conducted and was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. This workshop created an opportunity for youths from different states in Malaysia to gather under one-roof to enhance their knowledge on innovative leadership as well as to discover and develop their hidden creativity potential.



Picture of the Director and Deputy Director of the Division of Youth together with the award winners



Participants sitting for their pre-test as part of the workshop assessment. Miss Lili Fariza on duty.

179 pemimpin belia berkumpul di Pulau Pinang



BORHAN (duduk enam dari kanan) bersama pemimpin belia yang menyertai Bengkel Pemimpin Kreatif Menjana Kepimpinan Inovatif bergambar di Jawi, Pulau Pinang baru-baru ini.

KEPIMPINAN. Sebanyak 179 pemimpin belia seluruh negara menyertai Bengkel Pemimpin Kreatif Menjana Kepimpinan Inovatif Peringkat Kebangsaan 2011 yang berlangsung di Bukit Jawi Golf Resort, Jawi, Pulau Pinang baru-baru ini.

Program kali keempat itu adalah anjuran bersama Kementerian Belia dan Sukan, Jabatan Belia dan Sukan Negeri Pulau Pinang dan Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

Ia dirasmikan oleh Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Belia dan Sukan, Borhan Dolah.

Dalam ucapannya, beliau memberitahu, budaya kreativiti dan inovasi perlu diterapkan supaya golongan belia dapat mengoptimalkan potensi masing-masing ke arah menyumbang kepada pembangunan negara.



LDK Session: Creative and Innovative Leadership

KOSMO! Newspaper article: Workshop on Creative Leaders Generating Innovative Leaderships 2011 (May 3, 2011)



Participants presenting their project papers



Recreation: Aerobics

External Events & Networking



Official group picture of the signing of bilateral MoU between University of Malaya and Konan University

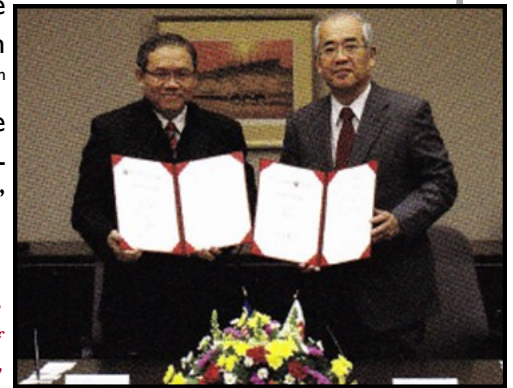
Memorandum of Understanding between University of Malaya and Konan University

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was finally signed between University of Malaya and Konan University, Kobe, Japan on 8 January 2011 after ten years of networking and collaboration between UMCCD and Konan University.

The MoU was signed by the Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya and the President of Konan University, while the Director of UMCCD and Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi witnessed the signing of

this MoU. Professor Fumiaki is a professor of Konan University and a familiar scholar at UMCCD. He had visited the centre more than five times in the past decade. The latest collaboration with the centre was the organization of the “6th International Seminar of Health Behavioural Science (ICBH2010)” on the theme of ‘Dialogue on Well-being & Human Security in Environmental Health’ which was featured in UMCCD’s Bulletin No.16.

Professor Datuk Dr. Ghauth Jasmon, Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya and Professor Dr. Kaoru Takasaka, the President of Konan University



Brainstorming of the concept of Global Movement of Moderates (GMM)

On the 29 & 30 January 2011, UMCCD was invited to the 2nd Brainstorming of the concept of Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia. GMM is a concept put forward by the Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia during his visit to the United States in 2010, during which he was also reacting to several “extreme” incidents such as, the threat of burning the Quran in the United States. The Prime Minister received overwhelming support when he proposed that a GMM should be put in place to balance the voices of extremism in the world. Predictably, the media has to be able to give more spaces to the voices of moderation.

The UMCCD’s efforts thus far at promoting dialogue is inevitably towards a realization of ideas which could be classified as moderate in nature; dialogue aims at the avoidance of extremism which is the opposite of moderation. Besides, aiming at promoting the agenda GMM via its international networking, UMCCD has carried out a roundtable dialogue on “The Concept of Moderation (*Wasatdaniyyah*) of the *Ummah*” to articulate further the meaning of the concept of moderation on the 22 Mac 2011. (*Full report is available on page 4*)

Seminar on 'Bahasa Melayu Kuno dan Klasik'

On 24 February 2011, *Akademi Sains Islam Malaysia* (ASASI) and the School of Malay Language, Literature and Culture Studies of National University of Malaysia (UKM) organized a seminar entitled, 'Bahasa Melayu Kuno dan Klasik' at UKM. Approximately 30 participants were part of the seminar and participation was by personal invitation only.

Dr. Shaharir bin Mohamad Zain, Senior Research Fellow of UMCCD, was invited to present a paper with the title, 'Mantik Melayu Pra-Islam berasaskan Bahasanya di Prasasti' at the seminar. According to Dr. Shaharir's presentation, based on the inscriptions found in Vietnam and Palembang, Sumatra, strong evidence shows that the Malays in the 7th century A.D had already started practicing their reasoning based on a two-value logic which had strong (strict or certain) and weak (uncertain) implicative statements. Researchers still have not found any evidences showing the presence of a three-value logic among the Malays in the 7th century A.D.

The seminar was considered a good starting point for the research group of the Malay Language of *Akademi Sains Islam Malaysia* to plan and construct further research on issues regarding Malay Language and civilization in the future.

Visit of Professor Fumihiko Saito

A meeting with visiting scholar, Professor Dr. Fumihiko Saito was held at the Sustainability Science Research Cluster office on the 28 February 2011. The main topics of discussion was on sustainability and sustainable development practises in Malaysia. Several interesting ideas were exchanged with Professor Saito who came especially to Malaysia to visit the Sustainability Science Research Cluster office at University of Malaya.

Some of the issues discussed were based on the following points:

- Research carried out in the Sustainability Science Research Cluster on greenhouse designs (Associate Professor Puan Sri Nila Inangda Manyam Keumala at Department of Architecture).
- Professor Dr. Jamilah Binti Mohammad described her research in the context of urban planning.
- Professor Dr. Edmund Terence talked about multiculturalism, alternative action as instrument towards social economic justice in Malaysia. He spoke about his recent research which show that liberal moral approaches in economics and development were not successful in the world and that new pathways need to be creatively sought.
- Professor Dr. Danny Wong of the History Department spoke about the problem of sustaining ethnic languages in the rapidly globalized world and society today. He also gave some examples of many Chinese dialects that are in danger of being dominated by Mandarin.
- UMCCD talked about the critical need for dialogue today as a mechanism in negotiating meanings and pathways towards sustainable development and sustainability in light of the epistemological/worldview conflicts among the major players of the world economics, scientific and political powers.

In summary, the meeting with Professor Saito was a very interesting one and Mr. Chang Lee Wei and Mr. Muhammad Azri Safwat Rizan from UMCCD were grateful for the opportunity to interact with Professor Saito in his extra-curricular activities after the meeting.



Professor Fumihiko Saito posing in front of the National Monument of Malaysia

IAIS Malaysia-European Union Roundtable Conference on Religion in the Public Space

The Director of UMCCD, Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin attended a Roundtable Conference on Religion in the Public Space organized by the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia and the European Union (EU) on 2 March 2011. The main objective of the Roundtable Conference was to provide a comparative view of the understanding and experiences of Malaysia and the EU on the sub-



Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar posing with the delegations of the EU and the Ambassador of the Netherlands

ject of religion in the public space and to discuss what the future will hold for them as far as the public role of religion is concerned. The Conference was limited to 60 selected individuals as participants from both Malaysia and the EU.

The dialogue started with opening speeches by Professor Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Chief Executive Officer of IAIS Malaysia and H.E. Vincent Picket, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia. This was followed by presentation entitled, "Freedom of Expression and Religion in the Public Space" by Professor

Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali. A paper with the title, "Why, How and When are Manifestations and Expression of Religion in the Public Space to be Limited?" was also presented by Professor Dr. Maurits S. Berger. Participants were then divided into groups to discuss and were given opportunity to express their views and reactions to the paper presented earlier.

Overall, this Roundtable Conference was a meaningful beginning for a platform of dialogue among the European community and the Malaysians regarding the role of religion in the public space. It allowed fresh views to be made on how religion can help to solve social problems in real life and how policy makers and other stakeholders have to have an open and dialogical frame of mind.

Visit of Professor Malory Nye of the Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education in Dundee, Scotland

The principle of the Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, Professor Malory Nye, visited UMCCD on 21 March 2011 with the aim of discussing collaborations between UMCCD and his college. Professor Malory was very excited and impressed with research conducted by the Centre and expressed his interest to come to UMCCD as a visiting scholar in the future.



Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council Awards 2010

The Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council or commonly known as Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia (MAPIM) invited UMCCD to be a part of the committee of the Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council Awards 2010 for the best journal article for the year 2010. The award giving ceremony was held at the Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on the 24 April 2011.



Visit of the Ambassador of the Netherlands

UMCCD was visited by the Honorable Mr. Paul Bekkers, the Ambassador of the Netherlands on 4 April 2011 to discuss collaboration with the Centre as well as to understand the roles, functions and contributions of UMCCD in the field of civilizational dialogue. A briefing on the UMCCD was given by the Director of the Centre. She introduced the Centre's history, importance and functions as well as its many activities.

The Ambassador offered to help in future activities of the Centre. He also expressed his desire to subscribe to the Journal KATHA, an English journal published annually by UMCCD.



The Ambassador of the Netherlands, the Honorable Mr. Paul Bekkers



Visit of Professor Azam Sazvar of University Alzahra, Iran

Professor Azam Sazvar from the Alzahra University, an all women university located in the area of Vanak, near Tehran, visited UMCCD on 4 April 2011 to explore collaborations with UMCCD as well as to exchange information regarding UMCCD.

Professor Azizan Baharuddin and Professor Azam Sazvar

Question and Answer Session during the seminar



Bandar Pekanbaru 227th Anniversary

On 8 and 9 April 2011, UMCCD's Director was invited to present a paper with the title, 'Pemerkatan Peradaban Melayu Melalui Cabaran Sains dan Teknologi' at a seminar

entitled, 'Pertemuan Memartabatkan Tamadun Melayu Sempena 227 Tahun Pekan Baru' at the Pangeran Hotel, Bandar Pekanbaru, Indonesia. This seminar was held in conjunction with the 227th Anniversary of the formation of Bandar Pekanbaru. In general, the paper presented focused on the importance of Science and Technology to the Malay civilization and its potential to provide ideas in sustainable development today.



Group picture of the organizers and all the presenters of the seminar

Seminar Sehari Epistemologi Islam

Dr. Shaharir bin Mohmad Zain, Felo Penyelidik Kanan UMPDP telah diundang untuk menghadiri seminar tertutup yang dianjurkan oleh Universitas Syiah Kuala, Aceh dan International Institute of Islamic thought, cawangan Asia Tenggara (IIITCAT) yang telah diadakan pada 8 April 2011 di Universitas Syiah Kuala, Aceh. Pembentangan beliau yang bertajuk, "Pengislaman Ilmu yang Sesungguhnya" membentangkan tentang perbezaan sains Barat dengan sains Islam dan kaedah-kaedah pengislaman yang sebenarnya. Menurut beliau, kaedah yang berasaskan Bucailleisme itu bukannya kaedah pengislaman yang sebenar! Jawaban balas kepada pandangan umum bahawa $1+1=2$ dan $2 \times 5 = 5 \times 2 = 10$ adalah neutral (sentiasa benar di mana dan bila-bila sahaja sejak Nabi Adam) sehingga kononnya tiadalah sahnya konsep "pengislaman ilmu" itu juga dipaparkan.

37th Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO Meeting

On 12 April 2011, the 37th Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO meeting was held at the Sri Kiara Meeting Room, Educational Technology Division. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin, who is the President of the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO as well as board member of UNESCO. Other distinguished participants included secretary generals of various ministries. In the meeting, UNESCO Clubs were requested to be set up in all the public universities around Malaysia, with the University of Malaya UNESCO Club as a model and coordinator of the endeavor. The Director of UMCCD and Mr. Mohamed Azmi Mohd Rasheed Khan attended this meeting as representatives of UM.

Study Visit of Senior Officers from the Higher Security Academy, The Republic of The Sudan

Group picture of Senior Offices from the Higher Security Academy together with Associate Professor Dr. Khadijah Md Khalid, the Director of INPUMA and Professor Azizan



This study visit was organised by the University of Malaya and the International Institute of Public Policy and Management (INPUMA) Kuala Lumpur under the sponsorship of Security Higher Academy, The Republic of The Sudan on 20 April 2011. One of its main objectives was to showcase the Malaysian developmental experience which encompasses its nation-building processes in the context of multi-

culturalism, and its relation with security and strategic issues.

During this visit, Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue was invited as a guest speaker to brief the visitors about the activities and role of UMCCD as well as to deliver a presentation on 'Multiculturalism in a Globalising World: Issues and Challenges'.

Visitors from University Malaysia Sabah

Associate Professor Dr. Chua Bee Seok and four of her colleagues from the Psychology and Social Health Research Unit of University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) visited UMCCD on 20 April 2011. The aims of the visit were for the visitors from UMS to gain a better understanding of the activities and research conducted by UMCCD as well as to exchange views on topics of common interests, such as dialogue and issues pertaining to youth development.



Group picture of visitors from UMS and members of UMCCD

Universitas Ahmad Dahlan (UAD), Yogyakarta

On 30 April 2011, UMCCD was invited to participate in an intensive discussion on ‘Epistemology of Science, an Islamic Perspective, for Academic Excellence of University’ that was held at the Universitas Ahmad Dahlan (UAD), Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In the discussion, UMCCD’s Director gave a presentation entitled, ‘An Islamic Perspective of the Epistemology of Science for Academic Excellence: A Case Study of the Critical Need for Islamic Input in the Sustainable Development Discourse’. The Director of UMCCD talked about the role of philosophy/epistemology, the Earth Charter, Islamic concept of gratitude for the gift of life and its implications to religion/Islamic studies in Malaysia.



The speakers of the intensive discussion

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY !

Dr. Shaharir joined the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue recently!

Dr. Shaharir bin Mohamad Zain was born in Pasir Puteh, Kelantan. He studied at the La Trobe University, Australia under the Colombo Plan Scholarship (B.Sc Hons in Maths, PhD in Mathematical Physics) and was an academic staff at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia where he was also the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (1988 - 1992). He was also a Professor of Mathematics at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (2006 - 2007). He is a Fellow of various professional bodies locally and abroad: Fellow of the Malaysian Academy of Science, Fellow of the Institute of Applied Mathematics and Its Applications UK. He was also awarded a prestigious research-academician honor in USA, as a Fulbright Scholar in 1985/86. His fields of research include quantization, mathematical finance, optimization, mathematical consumer behaviour, axiomatisation of leadership & management, indiginisation-Islamization of mathematical sciences, history and philosophy of science and sustainability model.



The Centre for Civilisational Dialogue would like to warmly welcome Dr. Shaharir and wishes him the very best. Congratulations!


ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

A study of the Development of Bioethics in Malaysia with a Special Focus on the Role of Indigenous Values and Systems in the Determination of Attitudes and Regulations of the Applications of Selected Biotechnologies

Malaysia embarked on a strategy to develop the nation as a hub for biotechnology in the region through the National Biotechnology Policy launched on April 28th, 2005. Besides the biodiversity resources available in abundance in the country, Malaysia is also blessed with the diversity of values and principles of its people, who come from multi-religious and multi-cultural backgrounds. Biotechnology is fast developing in Malaysia. However, this development needs to be in tandem with predominant cultural values of the multicultural society surrounding biotechnology applications. There are at the same time socio-economic, health, environmental effects and ethical implications, which if not handled properly, may cause unsustainability in the development of the nation. The checks and balances system must be based on the values and ethics commonly accepted by all Malaysians.

Objectives of the research:

- To investigate the instruments and current policies available which can assist in the shaping of the management and regulation of biotechnology
- To look at the understanding and ways to increase awareness about bioethics among the public
- To ascertain the perceptions and suggestion from various scholars and experts in Malaysia regarding bioethics
- To give inputs and ideas to establish a National Bioethics Committee to the government of Malaysia



Dialogue Practices in Malaysia and Their Impact on the IMalaysia Concept: Case Study of Students at the University of Malaya

The IMalaysia concept was introduced by the current Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, with the aim of creating a more united, vibrant, productive and competitive Malaysia. The concept is built upon the foundations of Malaysia's Federal Constitution, various laws and policies, the Rukun Negara, Vision 2020, and the National Missions and is premised on Malaysians' own ideas, commitment, moral and aspirational values on unity and fairness. The output of this project will include providing information to the Department of National Unity (JPNIN) to encourage greater acceptance among the different segments of Malaysian society, thus strengthening national unity. The research will also assist the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) in enhancing the curricula contents of courses such as TITAS (Tamadun Islam dan Tamadun Asia / Islamic Civilization and Asian Civilization) in Institutions of Higher Education in Malaysia. The research output will be used to improve the current Government's policies on strengthening the IMalaysia concept.

Objectives:

- To identify the level of understanding and the dialogue practices in Malaysia and their impact on the IMalaysia concept
- To develop a theory of civilizational dialogue from Malaysian perspectives that can act as an alternative theory to the Clash of Civilizations Theory by Samuel P. Huntington, which is in line with the IMalaysia concept
- To develop a module or framework that can be used by various sectors as a reference to strengthen their understanding of the role of dialogue and its importance to the IMalaysia concept

ONGOING CONSULTANCY

Kem Dialog Peradaban (Civilisational Dialogue Camp)

The Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE) requested the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue to prepare a module for *Kem Dialog Peradaban*. This module is suppose to be a resource material in a program to expose Malaysian youth to the meaning and application of dialogue as a soft-skill towards embracing the reality of Malaysia’s plural society.

The objectives of the consultative-research are as follows:

- To provide a better understanding of the importance of the concept of the “Malaysian” culture
- To appreciate the importance of respect and celebrating similarities in a multi-ethnic society
- To recognize the importance of knowledge of civilization as an important source of human values
- To produce sensitized individuals, who are able to dialogue and embrace diversity at the national and international levels
- To produce individuals who have leadership qualities, especially in the context of a multiracial society
- To create a community that acknowledges the principle of 'Unity in Diversity'

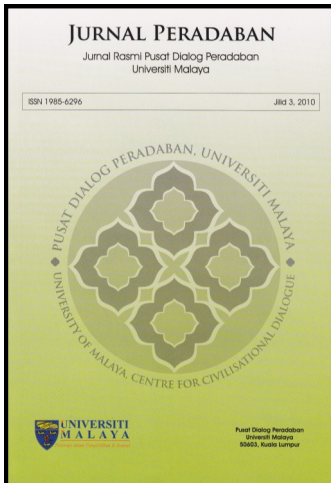
FUTURE EVENTS

14 June 2011	<i>Siri Wacana Keterlestarian dan Tamadun: 'Keperluan Takrif Baru Konsep Keterlestarian' oleh Dr. Shaharil bin Mohamad Zain, Felo Penyelidik Kanan</i>
16—17 June 2011	Conference on Moderation , featuring Professor Dr. Samuel Oluoch Imbo, Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia and Professor Dr. Chad Haines, Visiting Scholars to UMCCD
1 July 2011	Second Workshop on 'Towards Developing an Indigenous Philosophy Module: A Roundtable Dialogue'

UPCOMING VISITING SCHOLARS

- 1. Professor Dr. Samuel Oluoch Imbo**
 Professor Samuel Oluoch Imbo is a Professor of Philosophy and the Director of the African American Studies Program at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. His teaching, writing and research interests are in the areas of comparative philosophy, Africana philosophy and social & political philosophy.
- 2. Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia**
 Professor Yasmin Saikia is Professor of History and the first holder of the Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies at Arizona State University. Her research and teaching interests invoke a dynamic transnational and interdisciplinary dialogue situated at the intersection of history, culture and religion.
- 3. Professor Dr. Chad Haines**
 Chad Haines is a cultural anthropologist whose research engages the complex ways post-coloniality and globalization reshape the Muslim world. His research focuses on everyday lives of Muslims and how they create new identities through such social practices as lifestyle options, consumption, labor, and migration.
- 4. Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi**
 Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi is a Professor at the Department of Literature, Konan University. He has published papers in the areas of environmental ethics and environmental education. He is a trustee member of Japan Academy for Health Behavioral Science and a familiar scholar at UMCCD.

PUBLICATIONS



Jurnal Peradaban (Jilid 3)

Year: 2010
Price: RM30.00

'Jurnal Peradaban' (Volume 3) from the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) contains five articles that discussed on varies issues ranging from cultism to the contributions of the Japanese and Islamic civilizations to the world today.

The first article is by Engku Ahmad Zaki Engku Alwi that analyses the issues related to cultism in Malaysia that are directly affecting Islamic theology and Muslims nowadays. The second paper is written by Ratna Roshida Ab. Razak and Aiza Maslan @ Baharudin that touches on translating activities of the Malay religious scholars and the contributions of these translated books and scriptures to today's society. In the next article, Mohd Syariefudin Abdullah discusses the contributions of the Japanese and Islamic civilisations to the world today in relation to faith and ethics. The

fourth paper in this journal is by Jaafar Jambi and it is on a new breed of people called Wa that set up a country called Yamato. The last article is by Nurdeng Deuraseh that discusses the belief of animism and dynamism to the power and strength of spirit and soul manifested in humans, animals, plants and things that have good and bad effects on humans.

At the end of the journal, Shaharir Mohamad Zain reviewed a book entitled, '*Quran Saintifik. Meneroka Kecemerlangan Quran daripada Teropong Sains*' by Danial Zainal Abidin that was published by PTS Millennia 2009, ISBN 978-983-3604-15-9. The book was first published in the year 2007 and was republished seven times in the past three years.

The Globalization of Language and Culture

Author: Stefan Bucher
Year: 2010
Price: RM12.00

Stefan Bucher brings to light the hegemony and the privilege enjoyed by the English language and its speakers due to its status as the lingua franca of communication among the world's communities. The use of English for academic publication privileges English speakers, who are able to focus on substantive aspects of their work, while native speakers of other languages must focus on both the content of their research, and the linguistic forms of English through which they must express themselves. English as a lingua franca further provides opportunities for monetary gain by its native speakers through language instruction to non-English speaking communities whose members are compelled to learn the language as a tool for success, and for expression in the global milieu.

Bucher offers several suggestions toward 'leveling the playing field,' between native and non-native English speakers engaged in the global milieu. He would like to see the emergence of a non-hegemonic form of globalization, building on the "Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights," (UDLR), which would guarantee both individual and collective rights to speakers of languages other than English. He suggests that a tax might be levied on monolinguals, which would help offset costs incurred by those peoples and communities effectively obligated by the current world order to learn and master the English language. Bucher further suggests that foreign languages be used as a medium of instruction for content-related courses, applying Content and Language Integrated Learning, (CLIL), as the instructional methodology. He advocates the promotion of a cosmopolitan paradigm, which includes an understanding of people as citizens of the world, where humans and their local identities are considered unique and valuable, thereby fostering a sense of commonality which honors and embraces the diversity found within the human community. The author calls for the respect and protection of particular identities within the globalist system, considering the human rights corpus as a framework through which individuals and communities could articulate their struggles against 'oppressive social practices, unjust governments' and the injustices inherent in the global hegemonic structure.

