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MAY—AUGUST 2011

NO. 18

Seminar
**Perspectives on Islam and the West:
The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks**
16 - 17 June 2011
Auditorium, Asia Europe Institute , University of Malaya



Group picture of the presenters and participants of the seminar

In line with our Prime Minister's call for a 'Global Movement of the Moderates' to combat the threat of religious extremism world-wide (as can be gleaned from the statement made in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2010), the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) together with the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organized a one and half day seminar on *Wasaṭiyyah* or moderation as an input to the GMM concept.

Continued on pages 3 & 4

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Public Lecture East and West in Transnational Sufi Networks

By Professor Dr. Rüdiger Seesemann

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

22 July 2011

Reported by Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri

Professor Dr. Rüdiger Seesemann, an Islamicist specializing in the study of Islam started his lecture by giving clarification on the terms he used — “East and West”, on which he drawn based on his fieldwork in Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and Senegal.

In the opening of his lecture, Professor Seesemann stated that most authors predicted the decline and demise of Sufism as an intellectual enterprise and created a social phenomenon on which he quoted others who claimed that Sufism is merely a name without reality. However, in spite of such claims and predictions, against the odds of secularization theory, Professor Seesemann exposed that Sufism has actually flourished in various and often unexpected ways. He highlighted it as a transformation of Sufism.

His lecture was divided into 4 key-points regarding transformation of Sufism, namely; **organization, fragmentation or so-called homogenization, internationalization and politicization**. Professor Seesemann also highlighted the ultimate goal of Sufism which is to get closer to God and thus to perfecting one’s faith by giving their focus on Prophet Muhammad’s teaching. Professor Seesemann also mentioned in his lecture some of the prominent figures on Sufism which were Shaykh Ahmad Tijani (Algerian, founder of the Tijaniyya Sūfī order) and Sheikh Sharif Ibrahim Saleh (Nigerian Sufi). Quoting from Shaykh Ahmad Tijani on Sufism regarding laws:

“If it conform to Syariah, take it...if it against Syariah, leave it”

In his lecture he highlighted that the internationalization of Sufism networking reaches America, Europe, Africa and other region of the world. Besides that, it has been proven that Sufism has such profound impact in today’s world as books on Sufism can be found even in New York.

At the end of his lecture, Professor Seesemann left audiences with open-ended statements as to make them to further explore, understand and justify it:

- Sufism is going to the West
- Sufism is a good Muslim in the eyes of the West.
- Post Modernist Muslim on Sufism?



Professor Seesemann speaking on the 4 key-points regarding transformation of Sufism



Dr. Shaharir bin Mohammad Zain, the moderator of this public lecture, introducing Professor Seesemann to the participants



His Excellency Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari posing questions to Professor Seesemann during the Q&A Session

MAY—AUGUST 2011

Seminar “Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks”

Reported by Siew Wai Ling



His Excellency Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain delivering the opening speech



His Excellency congratulating Professor Imbo during the launching of Professor Imbo's monograph

The theme for this seminar was ‘Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks’. This seminar was conducted with the aim of achieving the following objectives:

- To explore ideas on the relationship of Islam and the West and the significance of the concept of moderation as well as the Global Movement of the Moderates (GMM) in enhancing understanding between the two.
- To find working definitions for the concept of moderation *vis-à-vis* *Wasatiyyah*.
- To look at case studies of the practice of moderation *vis-à-vis* *Wasatiyyah*.
- To explore mechanisms for realizing the aims of the GMM concept.

The director of UMCCD delivered her welcome speech while His Excellency Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain, the Deputy Director General of IDFR, delivered the opening speech of the seminar. His Excellency also did the honour of launching a monograph, entitled, “Towards Developing an Indigenous Philosophy Module: A Roundtable Dialogue” by Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo, visiting scholar of UMCCD. The monograph is relevant to the theme of the seminar as it throws light on the importance of philosophical reflection in the negotiation of the moderate outlook. Overall, four sessions with different themes were conducted over the course of the seminar.

SESSION I

Theme - Islam and the West: Perceived Relationships

Professor Datin Dr. Zahurin Mohamed, Head of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, was the moderator, with Professor Dr. Charles Haines and Professor Dato’ Dr. Mohamad Abu Bakar as speakers.

Professor Haines, visiting scholar at UMCCD from Arizona State University, talked about the importance of dialogue in transcending many western normative assumptions on Islam and narrow perspectives within Islamic studies. According to him, we should question the concepts of ‘moderation’, ‘moderates’ and ‘multicultural’, and not merely be content with receiving information passively. He also argued that new “tools” and perspectives needed to be developed for re-orienting studies of Islam. Professor Abu Bakar, Senior Research Fellow of the Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya, spoke about the concept of moderation or *Wasatiyyah* according to the *Al-Quran*. He said that, in Islam, injunctions by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stressed the importance of living life moderately, be it in eating, spending, or other aspects of life.

SESSION 2

Theme - Working Definitions

The speaker for this session was Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo and was chaired by the Director of UMCCD.

Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo, a professor from Hamline University in Minnesota spoke on the concept of moderation based on the viewpoints of some of the ancient Greek philosophers such as Heraclitus, Plato and Aristotle. He also discussed Aristotle’s Doctrine of the Mean and the idea of one of the modern philosophers, John Locke in his Letter Concerning Toleration which indicated that the standard of what is moderate might vary with the situation one is facing. He concluded that, moderation is a conscious striving to correctly interpret situations one is faced with.

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SESSION 3**Theme - Indigenous Perspectives**

The moderator for this session was Dr. Jay Wysocki, formally Senior Research Fellow of the Department of Administrative Studies and Politics, Faculty of Economic and Administration, University of Malaya with Professor Dr. Habib Chirzin and Dr. Shaharir bin Mohamad Zain as speakers.

Professor Dr. Habib Chirzin, Director for the Centre of Peace and Human Security Studies HAMKA University Jakarta, talked about moderation in daily indigenous practices of the Javanese people in Yogyakarta that can be found in their art and cultural activities, architecture, traditional foods as well as gender equality practices. Dr. Shaharir bin Mohamad Zain, Senior Research Fellow of UMCCD spoke on how moderation or, to use his preferred terminology, 'wustisation' doctrine of leadership have existed and practiced explicitly in Malay traditions or civilisations at least since the 7th century AD up to the 17th century AD. He concluded that the concept of moderation is not a new concept and has been practiced in the pre-Islamic and Islamic traditions since a very long time ago.



His Excellency posing questions to the speakers during one of the Q&A sessions

SESSION 4**Theme - Case Studies**

The seminar proceeded to look at a case study on moderation by Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia. The moderator for this session was Professor Dr. Mohd. Hazim Shah Abdul Murad, a professor in the Faculty of Science, University of Malaya.

Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia, visiting scholar at UMCCD from Arizona State University, explained that moderation should not only exist in the relationship between Islam and the West, but should also exist internally among Muslims. Focusing on the India-Pakistan war in 1971 that led to the dismemberment of Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh, she shared experiences learnt from the rape victims and perpetrators of the war. She argued for these stories to be part of the official history of the war and as a way to fully capture the essence of the losses incurred during the war and for *insāniyat* or 'culture of humanity' (a form of moderation) to become a part of the discourse concerning the war.



Reflection Session: Professor Haines summarizing the four challenges faced towards achieving moderation

REFLECTION SESSION (CONCLUSION)

The seminar ended with a reflection session by Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia and Professor Dr. Charles Haines and it was chaired by Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo.

In this session, Professor Haines summarized four challenges towards achieving moderation. The first challenge is that we have to engage with the constantly changing and remaking of traditions. The second challenge is that there are different ways of engaging religion, as a field of study or religion as a faith. Singularity was the third challenge, where the idea of moderation is in danger of becoming a singular idea. Lastly, the fourth challenge was power. We have to develop ways to engage with the 'power' of government, social elites and society. He also urged the participants not to turn moderation into an empty political rhetoric that is used as a mask to hide the real situation existing in society. Professor Yasmin thought that the seminar was a good opportunity to think and listen to other people's views on the issue of moderation and from her own work to develop a historical and anthropological story that can be projected to the world, coming out from the non-West. These kinds of research can help to create new ideas and opportunities around the concept of moderation.

The University Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue records its appreciation to the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for its financial, moral and intellectual supports for this seminar.

***Siri Wacana Keterlestarian dan Ketamadunan:
Keperluan Takrif Baru Konsep Keterlestarian
Series of Discourse on Sustainability and Civilization.
A Need for A New Definition on Sustainability Concept***

Pewacana: Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain

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

24 Jun 2011

Dilaporkan oleh Siew Wai Ling

Wacana 2, Siri Wacana Keterlestarian dan Ketamadunan ini telah disampaikan oleh Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain, Felo Penyelidik Kanan Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya dan dipengerusikan oleh Profesor Madya Datuk Zainal Abidin bin Borhan, Pengarah Akademi Pengajian Melayu, Universiti Malaya. Wacana yang dianjurkan oleh PDPUM dan dihadiri oleh 17 orang ahli akademik dan pelajar daripada Universiti Malaya dan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Wacana ini merupakan lanjutan perbincangan Wacana 1, Siri Wacana Keterlestarian dan Ketamadunan yang telah dijalankan pada 26 April 2011 di PDPUM. Dalam Wacana 1, menurut Dr. Shaharir, keterlestarian itu melibatkan ilmu ekonomi dan matematik yang amat sarat nilainya kerana melibatkan pengurusan sumber dengan cara yang sebaik-baiknya. Dalam Wacana 2 ini, sebab-sebab kegagalan teori dan pelaksanaan dasar keterlestarian, kelemahan unsur Sains Matematik di dalam keterlestarian, beberapa sejarah konsep dan keterlestarian yang tersirat di dalam kelangsungan Tamadun Malayonesia sehingga abad ke-17 M dan keterlestarian Bahasa, Ilmu dan Agama telah dibicarakan oleh Dr. Shaharir.

Menurut Dr. Shaharir, Barat terlampau menumpukan kepada isu ekologi dan lingkungan di bawah cengkaman dan kawalannya dengan pengabaian isu kemanusiaan terutamanya dimensi kerohanian atau psikologi. Pada pandangan beliau, Barat terlampau menumpukan kepada takrif keperluan manusia yang terlampau sarat kebendaan sahaja. Beliau juga mengutarakan tujuh perbincangan Barat dalam hal keterlestarian. Berikut merupakan perbincangan yang diutarakan oleh beliau:

- Agama mendidik penganutnya negatif-positif terhadap alam tabii
- Isu pertumbuhan ekonomi
- Ekonomikawan ekologi-lingkungan lawan golongan ekonomikawan liberalis/liberalisbaru tentang Hipotesis LKL (Lengkung Kuznets Lingkungan)/EKC (Environment Kuznets Curves)
- Ekonomi lawan lingkungan-ekologi amnya
- Pemanasan sejagat antara pendokong turunisme dengan belakawanisme
- Isu tabii manusia
- Pembangunan lawan bukan pembangunan

Daripada perbincangan wacana ini, terbukti bahawa status keterlestarian Barat tiada faktor kemanusiaan dan makhluk amnya yang mencukupi sehingga terabailah aspek keperluannya dan kesubahagiannya, kebudayaan (terutamanya Bahasa), kerohanian (Agama) dan ilmu; di samping berlakunya penghayatan sains matematik yang meleset. Ini menyebabkan keperluan untuk mewujudkan takrif keterlestarian yang baru. Takrif keterlestarian yang dikemukakan oleh Dr. Shaharir ialah seperti berikut:

“Keterlestarian ialah keadaan tercapainya keperluan jasmani, sosial, politik, ekonomi, ilmu-pengetahuan, rohani-agama dan kelangsungan bahasa dan kebudayaannya sekarang serta pada aras wustdo (moderation) tanpa pengorbanan sumber berkenaan dan sarwa makhluk supaya generasi kelak boleh menikmati kesubahagiaan hidup dunia dan akhirat sekurang-kurang sebaik generasi kini.”



*Dari kiri ke kanan:
Profesor Madya Datuk Zainal Abidin dan Dr. Shaharir*



Sesi soal-jawab bersama peserta wacana

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Workshop on Curriculum Design for Elective Course on History of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) in Muslim Countries for Universities in Malaysia

Conference Room, Faculty of Law, University of Malaya

13—14 July 2011

Reported by Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri



Group picture of all the participants of the workshop

Due to the increasing concern throughout the world that the enrolment of science, engineering and technological (S.E.T) courses in universities which continues to decline, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) has organized the International Conference on Science, Education Policy and Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) for Development on 6—10 December 2010, in Kuala Lumpur.

As a follow-up to that conference, a Workshop on Curriculum Design for Elective Course on History of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Mus-

lim Countries for Universities in Malaysia has been successfully organized by ISTIC in collaboration with University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD). This workshop was attended by 10 representatives from public universities in Malaysia. The main goal of this workshop was to discuss in-depth and in details the development of a curricular (module) for elective course on “History of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (HiSTEM) in Muslim Countries for Universities in Malaysia based on the draft module prepared by ISTIC and University of Malaya.

The workshop started with the opening speech by Academician Dato’ Ir. Lee Yee Cheong, Chairman of the Governing Board of ISTIC followed with welcoming speech by Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, the Director of UMCCD. This two day’s workshop was divided into four main sessions:

- Scene Setting Lecture No. I
- 1001 Inventions in the Muslim World
- Discussion & Break-Out Session
- Closing Plenary Session

Scene Setting Lecture No. I

This introductory session was presented by Academician Dato’ Ir. Lee Yee Cheong. In his presentation, he pointed out that the global society is facing with the critical and urgent challenges in this century which is in twofold: combating global poverty and combating climate change. Besides that, he also addressed such an alarming issue of shortage of scientists, engineers and technologists and how such issue can be overcome through IBSE and STEM educational programmes. At the end of his presentation, he stated that such course or programme will point to the great lessons to be learned from the Golden Age of Islam, in drawing inspiration from the Islamic SET heritage for meeting the two challenges of poverty eradication and climate change.

1001 Inventions in the Muslim World

This introductory session was given to the Chief Executive Officer of 1001 Inventions, Mr. Ahmed Salem. His presentation focused on the book and exhibitions of 1001 Inventions as to give a clearer picture of how the course could give an impact and attract students to take the soon-to-be proposed elective course in the future. He stated at the end of his talk that the 1001 Inventions project has proved its effectiveness to stimulate young people’s interest in science and technology, to instill confidence, and to provide positive Muslim role models for evolving Muslim identities, especially in the West and even the rest of the global society.

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Discussion & Break-Out Session

This important session comprised of discussion among members of the roundtable, presentation and break-out session as to achieve consensus of all members on the objectives, content and the way of conduct of the elective course. Discussion has been conducted in two days, chaired and moderated by Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin and Professor Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah Hj Abdul Murad. Members were divided into two team of four and discussions carried out based on the themes proposed by ISTIC (regarding which chapters will be covered in 1001 Inventions Book) which included Contribution of Science & Technology in Meeting the Basic Needs, Education & Health (Home, School & Hospital), Economic & Urban Planning Perspectives (Market & Town), The Rise of Civilisation: Discovery and Exploration of the World (World), Planetary Management: Exploring the Universe (Universe).

Closing Plenary Session

The final session was attended by ISTIC representatives; Academician Dato' Ir. Lee Yee Cheong (Chairman of ISTIC Governing Board) and Dato' Dr. Samsuddin Tugiman (Director of ISTIC) along with Mr. Ahmed Salem (CEO of 1001 Inventions) with the rest of members of the roundtable. Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin was given the honor to chair the presentation regarding output of the workshop. Some recommendation and suggestions has been highlighted throughout this workshop and the proposed objectives of the course were listed as follow:

- To enhance awareness of the substantial innovation and contributions of Islamic STEM in the history of science and civilisation.
- To create an understanding of the importance of science and technology as a culture for contemporary Muslim society.
- To emulate values and creativity of Muslim scientists of the past who have contributed to the advancement of science and technology for the whole of humanity.
- To relate the principles of science and technology of the Islamic civilisation to the present day issues.

In conclusion, Mr. Ahmed Salem recommended members of the roundtable to emphasised more on the aspect of 'attractiveness' and 'creativity' on the methods of teaching of this course. He suggested students should be exposed with hands-on learning methods with the use of multimedia and so called project-based activities (throughout the conduct of this course) as one of the uniqueness of this course which tries to blend in the common methods of lecture/teaching in a lecture hall/classroom with creative techniques of modern day. Members of the workshop agreed to prepare a proposal on the output of the workshop to be handed out to the Malaysia Ministry of Higher Education through ISTIC and Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation (FSTC) as a follow-up action plan of this workshop.



Group picture of all the participants of the workshop



Mr. Ahmad Salem voicing out his opinions during the Q&A Session



Discussion and Break-out Session: Team A consisting of Dr. Shaharir, Dr. Amran, Dr. Zuhdi and Dr. Abdurezak

The University Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue records its appreciation to the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) for its financial, moral and intellectual support for this workshop.

MAY—AUGUST 2011

Public Forum
Tragedy of Palestine: A Historical Overview
&
The Middle East Conflict: A Christian Perspective on its Origins and Solutions

By Professor Dr. Achin Vanaik and Reverend Dr. Stephen Sizer

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

3 June 2011

Reported by Siew Wai Ling

A public forum was organized by the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue on the 3 June 2011. The speakers of the forum were Professor Dr. Achin Vanaik and Reverend Dr. Stephen Sizer and it was chaired by Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo, visiting scholar to the Centre from the from Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Professor Dr. Achin Vanaik is the founder of the Movement in India for Nuclear Disarmament (MIND) and the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP) which is active with solidarity work in support of Palestine and in opposing the United States invasion of Iraq. He is currently a Professor of International Relations and Global Politics in the Political Science Department of Delhi University, Delhi, India. Dr. Stephen Sizer is the vicar, or senior pastor, of Christ Church, the community church of Virginia Water in Surrey, United Kingdom and he specialises in the historical origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the political agenda of Christian Zionism which shapes the United States foreign policy and its destructive impacts on the Palestinians.

The forum started with a presentation by Professor Achin with the title, “Tragedy of Palestine: A Historical Overview”. The presentation was mainly focused on the rise and growth of Zionism and its political ambitions. He spoke on the resistance of Palestinian nationalism against Zionist expansionism, the 1936 – 1939 resistance to Jewish immigration into Palestine, the Israel’s occupation and blockade, the dismantling of Zionism and the aftereffect of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet bloc on Palestine. Professor Achin also talked about the weakened Israeli dominance and the United States hegemony in Palestine. He added that recently, greater cooperation was formed between the Hamas and Fatah in Palestine and this lay a basis for Palestinian people to in their long-term struggle to achieve justice.

The next speaker, Dr. Stephen spoke on the effects of the European colonisation of the Middle East in the 19th Century as well as the subsequent sponsorship by the United States of the Zionist occupation of Palestine in his presentation entitled, “The Middle East Conflict: A Christian Perspective on its Origins and Solution”. In the presentation, he also discussed the strategy employed by the Zionists to colonise Palestine and the impacts of the colonisation on the Palestinian people. Lastly, Dr. Stephen stressed that changes were important and the Palestinians must be able to accept these changes openly in order to have a diplomatic and civil country.

In conclusion, the public forum was successful and it was attended by approximately 20 participants that came from a wide array of backgrounds. The participants hoped that similar activities will be organized by the Centre in the near future.



Participants of the public forum waiting for the arrival of the speakers and moderator



From left to right: Professor Imbo (moderator), Reverend Dr. Stephen Sizer and Professor Dr. Achin Vanaik during Q&A Session

MAY—AUGUST 2011

Public Forum
**In the Fact of Oppression: Muslims, Resistance and Identity-making in
 Colonial South Asia &
 Dialogical Din: Re-orienting Islam and the Challenge of Western Liberal Normativity**

By Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia and Professor Dr. Charles Samuel Haines

Balai Ilmu, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya

1 July 2011

Reported by Siew Wai Ling

Jointly organized by University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) and University of Malaya Academy of Islamic Studies, a public forum was held on the 1st of July 2011 at Balai Ilmu, Academy of Islamic Studies. The speakers for this forum were Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia and Professor Dr. Charles Samuel Haines with Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain, Senior Research Fellow of UMCCD as the moderator. Both Professor Yasmin and Professor Haines were visiting scholars at UMCCD. The forum was attended by approximately 20 participants from various faculties of University of Malaya.



Professor Yasmin explaining her research paper to the audience

The forum began with a presentation by Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia with the title, "In the Fact of Oppression: Muslims, Resistance and Identity-making in Colonial South Asia". Professor Yasmin is the Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies and a Professor of History at the Arizona State University.

Professor Yasmin's paper was based on her current research on Muslim social and political movements in the early 20th Century. Focusing on three different but interconnected mass movements, namely; the Khilafat and Hijrat movement, the resistance of Faqir of Ipi and the Deendar movement, Professor Yasmin talked about the formation history, the reasons for formation of these movements in response to British imperialism and the impacts of these mass movements on British colonization. In her presentation, Professor Yasmin also highlighted the trauma of South Asian Muslims after the end of the Caliphate and Ottoman Empire as well as the usage of religion and images of religious heroes by Muslim interlocutors to shape a new sense of being Muslim in order to overcome oppression.



Professor Haines delivering his presentation

The second paper presented in the forum was entitled, "Dialogical Din: Re-orienting Islam and the Challenge of Western Liberal Normativity" by Professor Dr. Charles Samuel Haines. Professor Haines is a researcher affiliated with the Centre for the Study of Religion and Conflict and a Professor in the Religious Studies program at Arizona State University.

In his presentation, Professor Haines discussed how people come to understand, study and talk about Islam. According to Professor Haines, new "tools" and perspectives were needed to be developed in order to transcend the limitations of many western perspectives on Islam. Professor Haines also added that, these new "tools" and perspectives cannot be atavistic, meaning; they cannot be related to the reversion of a former or more ancient "tools" and perspectives. As a result, Professor Haines proposed three interwoven perspectives for re-orienting the studies of Islam that were rooted in social theory as well as in Islam:

- Religion as processes of conversion
- Religion as inherently dialogical rather than dogmatic
- Religion as a multiplicity of voices, opinions and debates

In summary, this public forum exposed participants to Muslim history and the importance of religion as a tool to overcome oppression and a sense of hopelessness as well as a public tool for identity making.

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Retreat-cum-Workshop of University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD)

19—21 June 2011

Bayu Beach Resort, Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan

Reported by Siew Wai Ling



Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Jamil Maah sharing his views on the future of UMCCD with UMCCD staff



Discussion session with Professor Nik Meriam (far left) and Professor Azirah (far right) with Professor Imbo as moderator



Group picture of all the staff of UMCCD (Front row) From left to right: Dr. Shaharir, Professor Azizan, Professor Imbo and Dr. Amran

Located along a beautiful stretch of golden sandy beach, seven kilometers from Port Dickson Town, Bayu Beach Resort was the chosen location for UMCCD first ever three-day retreat-cum-workshop with the theme of “Measuring the Achievement and Potential of the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue in the context of The University of Malaya Transformation Plan”.

The aims of this retreat are listed below:

- To examine and measure the achievement and potential of UMCCD in the context of The University of Malaya Transformation Plan
- To boost the ISI output of UMCCD
- To identify the focus areas/fields UMCCD should be venturing into in the near future through inputs and discussion with representatives of higher management and Deans of Research Clusters
- To inculcate the spirit of team building and cooperation amongst the staff of UMCCD in order to improve their work performance

UMCCD was fortunate to be able to have the presence of Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd. Jamil Maah, Deputy Vice Chancellor (A&I) as one of the speakers for the three days and two nights retreat. Other invited speakers included Professor Dr. Nik Meriam Nik Sulaiman, Dean of The University of Malaya Sustainability Science Research Cluster, Professor Dr. Azirah Hashim, Dean of The University of Malaya Humanities and Ethics Research Cluster and Mr. Mohamad Azmi bin Mohd Rasheed Khan. Professor Samuel O. Imbo, visiting scholar at UMCCD as well as Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain, Senior Research Fellow of the Centre were also invited to take part in this retreat-cum-workshop.

In general, 6 sessions were conducted throughout the retreat. In “Session 1: The Role of UMCCD under the UM Transformation Plan Framework”, Professor Dato' Jamil talked about the importance of creating a sense of belonging and togetherness at the Centre as everyone contributes to the success of the Centre. He also encouraged the Centre to increase collaborative projects with other overseas universities and at the same time continue with their consultative works and researches.

Meanwhile, in “Session 2: UMCCD in Sustainability Science Clusters” and “Session 3: Humanities and Ethics Cluster & UMCCD”, together with Professor Nik Meriam and Professor Azirah, all the members of UMCCD discussed the traits of a successful R&D strategy and the possible areas of collaboration between the Centre and the two clusters. Members of the retreat were also introduced to the importance of a SWOT analysis to an organization. Professor Azirah presented the SWOT analysis, R&D strategy as well as the future action plan of the Humanities and Ethics Cluster to the members of the workshop.

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In “Session 5: UMCCD SWOT Analysis & Future Action Plan”, all the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities as well as threats faced by the Centre were identified and listed out in order to further discuss future actions taken to retain the strengths and opportunities and to overcome weaknesses and threats faced. From here, research roadmap of UMCCD and future action plan were proposed by all the members of the Centre together with Professor Nik Meriam and Professor Azirah. Team-building activities and summarization of the three-day retreat-cum-workshop were conducted in the last two sessions.

Overall, the first retreat-cum-workshop for all the staff of UMCCD was smoothly conducted and was thoroughly enjoyed by them. This retreat created an opportunity for all the staff of UMCCD to improve the management processes, developed strategy and future action-plan of the Centre, encouraged better communication and teamwork among staff via team-building activities conducted throughout the workshop as well as to serve as a great platform for staff motivation, inclusion and orientation.



Snapshots of group activities and discussions conducted throughout the retreat/workshop

MAY—AUGUST 2011

Talk Series on Science, Philosophy and Religion (Series 2)

By Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo

Seminar Room, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science,
University of Malaya

10 June 2011

Reported by Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri



Professor Imbo delivering his talk at Seminar Room of Faculty of Science

The second talk in the series on Science, Philosophy and Religion was organized by the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya. The event was successfully carried in the Department's Seminar Room and attended by participants consisting of students and academicians. Professor Samuel O. Imbo, Visiting Scholar at UMCCD, delivered his talk entitled "Relating Faith and Reason" by tapping into the history of Western and non-Western philosophy such as African philosophy to find the proper relationship between faith and reason.

Beginning with Western philosophy's attempts to separate true beliefs from false ones, he discussed the empiricists (such as Hobbes, Locke and Hume) who left little room for faith while the rationalists (such as Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz) were more open to the role of faith in determining what humans can know for certain.

Thus, his presentation aimed to find a middle way in relating faith and reason. In relating faith and reason, he tried to answer the question of where the two traditions (empiricist and rationalist) came from. He described these are deeply embedded in the history of philosophical thinkers in specific contexts, seeking for truth. Besides relying solely on Western philosophy, he mentioned that through other indigenous philosophies such as African philosophy, the discipline of philosophy could cover and explore so many more aspects of life.

Seminar on Ethics and Epistemology: Technology and Culture

By Dr. Ahmad Rahdar

Meeting Room, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science,
University of Malaya

19 August 2011

Reported by Siew Wai Ling

The Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya organized a seminar on "Technology and Culture" by Dr. Ahmad Rahdar on the 19 August 2011. Approximately 16 people attended this forum which was chaired by Dr. Amran Muhammad, Head of The Department of Science and Technology Studies.

Dr. Ahmad Rahdar, an Iranian scholar who obtained his PhD in political science at Human Science and Cultural Study Research Institute of Tehran, explained that technology is not necessarily the representative of a civilization as technology breed from culture; meaning that technology will change when it is exposed to another new culture. He added that religions are the sources that give identities to civilizations. Unlike technology, which can be influenced by another new culture, making it ever-changing, religions are more stable and are more suitable to be used to provide identities to civilizations. According to Dr. Ahmad, technology is only meaningful in terms of things that are touchable and seeable, unlike religion and technology is just a tool to make life easier for humans and humans should not be used as a tool for technology. Dr. Ahmad ended the seminar with five conclusions:

- Technology arise from culture
- The identity given to human beings from technology is not stable and is ever-changing
- The religious rate of growth of a person is much higher than the technological growth
- We should not be dependent on technology to provide an identity to a society as technology is not suitable to be the representative of human growth in life
- Islamic society should create a more stable internal identity and not depend on the identity of the ever-changing technology of the West



Participants of the forum by Dr. Ahmad Rahdar

MAY—AUGUST 2011

External Events and Networking



The National Youth Premier Award 2011

The Director of University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) was elected as one of the committee members for the election of the National Youth Premier Award 2011. The award aims to recognize and give appreciation to the individual and organizations who have contributed

greatly to the development of youth in various fields. The winners for 2011 National Youth Premier Award were announced during the National Youth Day 2011 and UMCCD would like to congratulate Mr. Mohammad Rizan Hassan and Mrs. Haslinda Ahmad, the winners of the National Youth Premier Award 2011.

Bengkel Pemilihan Anugerah Akademik Negara 2010

Sebagai tahun-tahun yang lalu, dalam usaha meningkatkan kualiti tenaga akademik di universiti-universiti dalam negara bagi tahun 2010, Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT) telah mengadakan acara memilih tokoh akademik di dalam pelbagai bidang seperti pengajian, penerbitan dan inovasi. Pengarah PDPUM terlibat dalam proses penilaian Tokoh Akademik Negara dalam pengajaran dan satu bengkel pemilihan telah diadakan di Pan Pacific Kuala Lumpur International Airport Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.



International Seminar on Islamic Moderation and Its Role in Reform and Development

The Centre was invited to deliver a paper entitled, "Islamic Moderation and Dialogue of Civilizations and their Role in Reform and Development" at the International Seminar on Islamic Moderation and Its Role in Reform and Development organized by the Institute for Islamic Moderation, International Islamic University. The seminar was conducted at the Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), International IUM on the 18 July 2011.

The paper looks at inspirations towards a moderate outlook from the perspective of Islam. The presentation also provided the audiences with some further ideas on moderation supported by the ethics of dialogue and highlighted some challenges faced by dialogue as well as the importance of dialogue in development.



Participants of the seminar

From left to right: Dr. Marwan Al-Faori, Dr. Alsadik Alamahdi, Dato' Dr. Mashitah Ibrahim and Dr. Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmud

MAY—AUGUST 2011

Workshop on Dialogue and Religion from the Perspective of Islam

The Director of UMCCD together with Miss Zazren Ismail, Research Assistant of UMCCD, attended the workshop at The Palm Garden Hotel, Putrajaya on the 27 July 2011. This workshop was organized by the Institute of Islam Hadhari, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The objective of this meeting was to map and analyze dialogue activities and programs organized in Malaysia. One of the questions focused on was the response of the Muslim community to dialogue at the national and local level. UMCCD was established in 1996 and is the only dialogue centre in Malaysia so far, UMCCD was honored to be invited to this meeting to share its experiences on dialogue.



Exposure Visit of Thai Officials: Managing Diversity in Multicultural Malaysia

The International Institute of Public Policy and Management (IMPUMA) Kuala Lumpur organized a training program entitled, "Exposure Visit of Thai Officials: Managing Diversity in Multicultural Malaysia" from the 25 to 28 July 2011 at Armada Hotel, Petaling Jaya. The Director of UMCCD was invited to give an input in the form of a lecture. The audiences consisted of civil and government organizations leaders engaged in peace negotiation and programs in Thailand. UMCCD was able to share some of its experiences regarding various meanings and functions of dialogue as well as obstacles in the dialogue process. UMCCD would like to record its appreciation to IMPUMA for providing the opportunity for UMCCD to work closely with them in promoting Malaysia at the global arena through this training program.



Visit of Dr. Ahmad Rahdar

Dr. Ahmad Rahdar, an Iranian scholar who is the Head of the Fotouh Study Center Hujjatul Islam, together with his translator, visited UMCCD on the 15 August 2011. The purposes of his visit were to explore future collaborations with UMCCD as well as to exchange information regarding science and civilisation. He expressed his interest to further understand the roles, functions and researches conducted by the Centre in the field of civilizational dialogue. Dr. Ahmad delivered a seminar on the 19 August 2011 at the Meeting Room, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science. A brief report on the public forum is available on page 13.



Kongres Majlis Profesor Negara & Global Premier Dinner Talk "Knowledge Transforming the Nation"

On the 6 to 8 July 2011, the first *Kongres Majlis Profesor Negara* & Global Premier Dinner Talk "Knowledge Transforming the Nation" was held at Dewan Merdeka PWTC, Kuala Lumpur. This congress was organized by *Majlis Profesor Negara* (MPN) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE). The event was officiated by our Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak and it was attended by more than 1,000 Professors in Malaysia. According to the PM, the *Kongres Majlis Profesor Negara* and MPN are testament to the importance of knowledge and cumulative strengths that intellectual bring to a nation and her people and the intellectuals can act as agents for change and transformation of Malaysia. The Director, a member of MPN was in attendance.

MAY—AUGUST 2011



Science and the Human Person and Global Migration and the New Cosmopolitanism at University of Notre Dame, London

The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies organized a consultation on “Science and the Human Person and Global Migration and the New Cosmopolitanism” on the 8 to 10 July 2011 at The University of Notre Dame. The purpose of this consultation was to review, clarify, define and discuss the formation of working groups and research teams that will bring Catholic, Muslim and secular approaches and perspectives to bear on the pressing social and ethical issues raised by the life sciences and environmental studies as well as the impact of global migration on religious and secular communities. Based on the focus areas of UMCCD and her own area of research, the Director of the Centre was invited to participate in the consultation.



Some of the participants of the consultation



Siri Wacana Teori Einstein dan Teori Quantum

Akademi Sains Islam Malaysia (ASASI) telah menganjurkan Siri Wacana Teori Einstein dan Teori Quantum (Discourse on Einstein’s Theory and Quantum Theory) di Jabatan Fizik, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain, Felo Penyelidik Kanan PDPUM telah diundang untuk menjadi salah seorang pembentang untuk Siri Wacana Ke-3 Teori Einstein dan Teori Quantum yang diadakan pada 28 Mei 2011. Dr. Shaharir telah membentangkan tajuk wacana, “Asal-usul Teori Quantum: Aksiom dan ‘Fakta’ Utamanya”. Pada Siri Wacana Ke-4 yang diadakan pada 11 Jun 2011, “Asal-usul Mazhab Teori Quantum dan Pelbagai Kritikan Ilmuwan Barat Terhadapnya” telah dibentangkan oleh Dr. Shaharir. Pembentangan beliau yang bertajuk, “Tanggapan Muslim dan Khasnya Muslim Pascabima Terhadap Teori Quantum: Telah, Lani dan Kelak” telah dibentangkan di Siri Wacana Ke-5 yang berlangsung pada 25 Jun 2011.

Peserta Siri Wacana Ke-5 di Jabatan Fizik, UKM

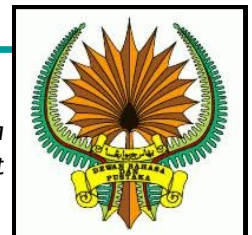


Siri 3 Ceramah Teori Einstein dan Quantum

Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain, Felo Penyelidik Kanan PDPUM telah dijemput untuk menjadi penceramah untuk Siri Ceramah Teori Einstein dan Quantum yang dianjurkan oleh Institut Penyelidikan Matematik (INSPEM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Siri pertama ceramah ini telah dijalankan pada 29 Julai 2011 dan Dr. Shaharir telah menyampaikan ceramah yang bertajuk, “Andaian Teori Kenisbian, Implikasi dan Kelemahannya Terutamanya Daripada Perspektif Melayu & Islam”. Seterusnya, Dr. Shaharir juga menjadi penceramah untuk siri kedua ceramah ini yang berlangsung pada 5 Ogos 2011. Ceramah yang bertajuk, “Andaian Teori Quantum dan ‘Fakta’ yang Tersembul Daripadanya” telah disampaikan oleh Beliau dalam siri kedua itu.

Perbincangan Meja Bulat Isu Bahasa

Pada 31 Mei 2011, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) telah menganjurkan satu perbincangan meja bulat tentang isu bahasa. Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain, Felo Penyelidik Kanan PDPUM telah dijemput untuk menyertai perbincangan meja bulat tersebut.



Advisory Panel Meeting of University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD)



From left to right: Professor Azizan, Professor Fumiaki and Professor Imbo



Advisory Panel listening attentively while the Director of UMCCD delivering her presentation



Professor Chandra expressing his opinions to the other Advisory Panel

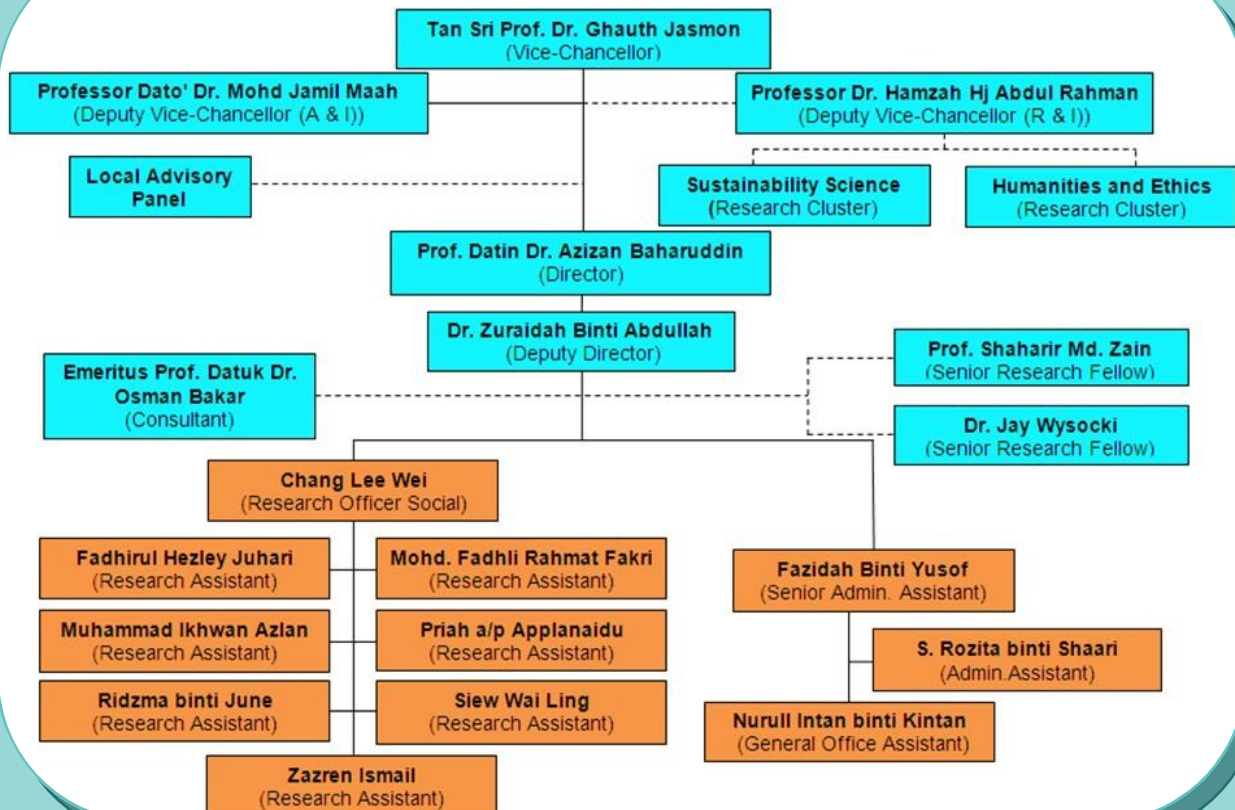


Dato' Jamil delivering his welcoming speech

An Advisory Panel Meeting was held on the 19 May 2011 at the Court Room, Chancellery Building, University of Malaya. The meeting was chaired by Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd. Jamil Maah, University of Malaya Deputy Vice Chancellor (A&I). The welcoming speech was delivered by Professor Dato' Jamil and the Director of UMCCD was invited to give a brief introduction of the Centre and its activities, issues and challenges. The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

The Centre would like to record its highest gratitude to Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd. Jamil Maah and all the members of the Advisory Panel who provided their valuable opinions and suggestions on ways to improve the performance of the Centre.

UMCCD Organizational Structure



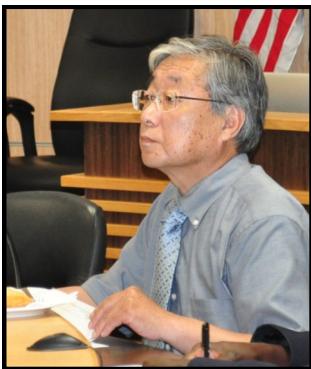
Visiting Scholars

Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo

Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo is Kenyan by birth and American by choice. He is a Professor of philosophy and the director of the African American Studies Program at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. He also held the Hanna Chair in Philosophy at Hamline University from September 2005 until May 2009. He earned his B.A. (Hons) from the University of Nairobi in Kenya. He received both his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.

His interests are in the areas of comparative philosophy, Africana philosophy, and social and political philosophy. His interest in Islam was sparked by teaching a philosophy of religion course and by an international faculty seminar in June 2007. The seminar, organized by the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) took 14 American professors to France and The Netherlands with a focus on the theme of contemporary European Muslims.

Professor Imbo was a visiting scholar at UMCCD from the 2 May 2011 to 16 July 2011. During his visit, Professor Imbo had delivered a number of public lectures at various local universities and Gajah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He was one of the speakers for the seminar '**Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks**' featured in this issue of UMCCD Bulletin. At this conference, his monograph entitled, "Towards Developing an Indigenous Philosophy Module: A Roundtable Dialogue" was launched by His Excellency Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain, the Deputy Director General of IDFR. Professor Imbo was also invited to the Advisory Panel Meeting for the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and to UMCCD's retreat cum workshop at Bayu Beach Resort, Port Dickson.



Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi

Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi obtained his Bachelor's degree in Economics at the KONAN University and later Master degree in Philosophy and Ethics at the OSAKA University. He was appointed Professor in 1995 at the Department of Literature, KONAN University. He is a trustee member of Japan Academy for Health Behavioral Science, a trustee member of The Nature Activity of Osaka Prefecture, the president of International Association of Earth-environment and Global Citizen and the president of Society of Information Exchange for Environmental Education between Japan and China.

Professor Fumiaki visited the Centre from 12 May 2011 to 19 May 2011 and as a member of the Advisory Panel of the Centre, he was invited to attend the Advisory Panel Meeting for UMCCD. The full article is available on page 5.

Professor Dr. Charles Samuel Haines

Professor Dr. Charles Samuel Haines is a Professor at the Arizona State University, U.S.A. He is a cultural anthropologist whose research engages the complex ways post-coloniality and globalization continue to reshape the Muslim world.

His research focuses on everyday lives of Muslims as they create new identities through such social practices as lifestyle options, consumption, labor, and migration. Professor Haines cautions policy makers to understand the detailed histories and causes of revolt in each individual country, warning outsiders not to treat the entire region as a homogeneous entity. It is his belief that the U.S. has often been seen as having "short sighted policy interests at the cost of the people in the region." He also addresses U.S. fears about an Islamist takeover in countries that have been experiencing tumultuous revolts. While some analysts may differ with his conclusions, he is of the opinion that the extremists will not be able to capitalize on (the revolts), because ultimately the revolts are about an aspiration for political voice, and extremist organizations cannot offer political voice through democratic principles and practices.

Professor Haines was a visiting scholar at UMCCD from 6 June 2011 to 5 July 2011. He delivered a presentation at a forum featured in page 9 and was invited as one of the speakers for the seminar '**Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks**' which is the cover story for this issue of UMCCD Bulletin.



MAY—AUGUST 2011

Visiting Scholars



Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia

Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia is a Professor of History and the first holder of the Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies at Arizona State University. Her previous appointments were at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Carleton College, Minnesota. Originally from India, she had her early education at Aligarh Muslim University (India) and completed her graduate and doctoral work at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Her research and teaching interests invoke a dynamic transnational and interdisciplinary dialogue situated at the intersection of history, culture and religion. With a specific focus on the contestations and accommodations in South Asia between local, national and religious identities, she examines the experiences of marginal groups, such as the Tai-Ahom on the border region of Assam and Burma, Muslim experience in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and the discourse on nonviolence alongside the violence against women and vulnerable groups. Professor Saikia has introduced a variety of new courses on South Asia and Islam at Arizona State University. She is the recipient of the Nehru Memorial Library and Museum book-prize for best book on Northeast India (2005).

Professor Yasmin was a visiting scholar at UMCCD from 6 June 2011 to 5 July 2011. She also delivered a presentation at the public forum featured in page 9 and was one of the speakers for the seminar 'Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks'.

Associate Professor Dr. Frederick Colby

Associate Professor Dr. Frederick Colby is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies (Islamic) at the University of Oregon, U.S.A. He specializes in Arabic narratives on a central story in the life of the Prophet Muhammad, his miraculous night journey and ascension. Through a close examination of Arabic manuscripts housed in Damascus, Istanbul, Cairo, and in other major repositories throughout the world, Dr. Colby's research explores the early formation and development of a popular strand of Islamic ascension literature attributed to Muhammad's cousin and companion, Ibn 'Abbas. Dr. Colby joined the religious studies faculty at the University of Oregon in 2008.

While at the Centre, **Dr. Colby** had the opportunity to discuss with our Fellows the cultural practices of Muslims in the month of Ramadan. To deepen his knowledge on this topic, he visited the University Science Malaysia (USM), Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) and National University of Singapore (NUS). He was also able to expand his network through the Centre. Dr. Colby plans to visit UMCCD again for a longer period of research in the future.



Advertisement

Online Course on Deep-Dialogue and Critical-Thinking

The Institute for Interreligious Intercultural Dialogue (IIID) introduced an online course on Deep-Dialogue and Critical-Thinking for participants who are interested in these fields. The course is non-credit and no cost

will be charged. The core ideas of the Institute for Interreligious Intercultural Dialogue (IIID) are Deep-Dialogue and Critical-Thinking. This course will provide a number of exercises to lead the participants to understand deeply their meaning, with the ultimate aim of so imbuing the participants with the mentality of Deep-Dialogue and Critical-Thinking that they will tend to become "second nature" to the participants.



This course will be lead by Professor Dr. Leonard J. Swidler and it can be found at:
astro.temple.edu/~swidler/

For those who are interested to join this online course on Deep-Dialogue and Critical-Thinking, kindly send an email to: dialogue@temple.edu

New Research Projects

A New Sustainability Model Based on Initiatives of Malayunesian Rulers before the Nineteenth Century and Islamic Values

Principle Investigator: Shaharir Mohamad Zain
Research Members: Azizan Baharuddin, Amran Muhammad & Muhammad Ikhwan bin Azlan

The imminence of a global environmental crisis has long been debated and deliberated upon. In recent years, many have endeavored to rigorously identify and objectively deal with some of its root causes and come up with a theoretical and workable model to address this problem. One of these root causes is said to be our current understanding, model and practice of economics that renders the natural resources to be unsustainable to our consumption. If one were to reduce economics as essentially an optimization problem, then one may focus one's gaze on the nature of this optimization. It could be shown that current mathematics dealing with optimization is basically a mathematics of extermination. One may wonder if the generations of old hold the wisdom that could help us sort our mess, that was somehow missed in our careless study of history, that we might perhaps humble ourselves and learn them to our salvation. If sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs, then we obviously owe our ancestors tremendously. Our mathematical model should include variables that represents these aspects in the society and also do away with the extrema and incorporate a newly defined condition that reflects a kind of moderation or middle way, balance and justice.

Objectives:

- To obtain a comprehensive review on the present optimization and sustainability which lead to new paradigms on both fields
- To obtain a new definition of sustainability which is more comprehensive than the present deliberation
- To obtain a mathematical model for sustainability based on the above new definition and paradigms

Studies of the Environmental Ethical Values Inherent in the Indigenous Corpus and Lifestyle of the Malays

Principle Investigator: Azizan Baharuddin
Research Members: Azirah Hashim, Zainal Abidin Borhan, Amran Muhammad, Zeeda Muhammad, Muhd. Zuhdi Marsuki, Lili Fariza, Mohd. Fadhli Rahmat Fakri & Ridzma binti June

Global warming is a planetary phenomenon with causes and effects that are multilayered and multidimensional. Besides the more physical characteristics and solutions of climate change, the body of literature which touches on the social and cultural dimensions of ideas, beliefs, attitudes and lifestyle, affecting the utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources for energy, dwelling, farming, and the whole gamut of life activities affecting or being affected by climate change is now growing and deemed of importance especially in the context for more sustainable ethics and behavior toward the environment to be reviewed and reutilized in the current context of search for material and content for education in sustainable development (ESD). In the context of Malaysia, contents of the corpus of the indigenous communities (pertaining to their knowledge, ethics, and technologies) *vis-à-vis* the environment can be found in sources such as the *pantun*, proverbs, and folk stories for example. All these form the basis of what is known as local wisdom or cultural capital which are all normally also closely associated with the local *adat* and beliefs system as the famous adage '*hidup bersandarkan adat, adat bersandarkan kitab Allah*' maintains.

Objectives:

- To analyze environmental values and principles in the Malay literary corpus such as Malay proverbs of selected texts
- To compare and present environmental ethical principles in the language and format of current, universally applicable environmental ethical component(s) of ESD

On-going Research Projects and Consultation

1. 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 (Principal Investigator: Azizan Baharuddin)

2. Dialogue Practices in Malaysia and Their Impact on the 1Malaysia Concept: Case Study of Students at the University of Malaya (Principal Investigator: Azizan Baharuddin)

3. Kem Dialog Peradaban (Civilisational Dialogue Camp) (Consultation)

MAY—AUGUST 2011

Thank You Mrs. Siti Rukiah Othman

On 15 August 2011, one of the important members of UMCCD was transferred to the Department of Development & Asset Maintenance (JPPHB). Mrs. Siti Rukiah Othman was born in Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan and she started working in UMCCD in 2000 and had served the Centre for 11 years with great dedication.

UMCCD would like to record its appreciation for her many years of dedicated service at the Centre and wishes her all the best at JPPHB and in the future!



Welcome To The Centre!

Four new members joined the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue recently!

Dr. Jay Wysocki

Dr. Jay Wysocki studied Accounting at Pennsylvania State University and later obtained his Ph. D. on Organizational Psychology from University of Utah. In 2002, Dr. Jay was the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) for a project at the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). The project was to improve the quality of public administrative training. In 2008, he was appointed as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) local governance advisor. His research concerns the meaning of work as a multi-dimensional concept integrating three themes: materiality and freedom from the limits of nature; self and identity; and man's search for meaning. He was appointed as a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre from July 2011 to January 2012 and his research mainly is on the Meaning of Work in Asia.

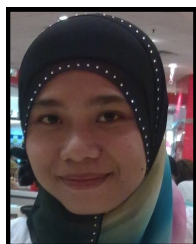


Fazidah binti Yusof

Fazidah binti Yusof was born in Batu Pahat, Johor. She started working in University of Malaya since 1988. She used to work in University of Malaya Sport Centre and the Department of Development & Asset Maintenance (JPPHB) before transferring to the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue on 15 August 2011. She likes to tend the garden during her leisure time.

Muhammad Ikhwan bin Azlan

Muhammad Ikhwan bin Azlan is a graduate from University of Nottingham and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, majoring in Pure and Applied Mathematics. He was born in 1984 and currently residing in Shah Alam, Selangor. He is appointed as a Research Assistant for a period of one year for the project entitled, 'A New Sustainability Model Based on Initiative of Malayunesian Rulers before the Nineteenth Century and Islamic Values'.



Ridzma binti June

Ridzma binti June was born in 1988 and comes from Semporna, Sabah. She is a graduate from University of Malaya, majoring in Language and Linguistics of Academy of Malay Studies. Currently, she is appointed as a Research Assistant for the project with the title, 'Studies of the Environmental Ethical Values Inherent in the Indigenous Corpus and Lifestyle of the Malay'.

The University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue warmly welcomes the new members and wishes them the very best. Congratulations!

University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC)



Coordination Meeting of Representatives from Institute of Higher Learning for the Establishment of UNESCO Club (UC) 2011

Reported by: Siew Wai Ling

A coordination meeting was held on the 9 June 2011 at *Bilik Wawasan*, University Guest House, University of Malaya in correspondence to the call of the Minister of Higher Education to set up UNESCO Club (UC) in all Institute of Higher Learning (IHLs). University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) was appointed as a model and the coordinator of the endeavor. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ahmad Nazri Sulaiman, Under Secretary of Policy & International Division, MOHE and was attended by approximately 28 representatives from various IHLs around Malaysia.



In the meeting, the objectives, roles and functions, benefits and activities conducted by UMUC were introduced to all the representatives. In brief, UMUC was officiated by YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Zulkurnain bin Haji Awang during the Opening Ceremony of the 'International Discourse towards Peace and Unity within ASEAN', an International Conference organized by UMCCD and was sponsored by the National Commission of UNESCO Malaysia. Currently, the club comprises of 115 students (Malaysian and International) and 30 academic and non-academic staffs of University of Malaya.

The meeting ended with an interesting and informative discussion on the idea of establishing UCs in all IHLs around Malaysia. The discussion mainly revolved around the benefits of UCs to all the universities and university students, suggested activities that can be conducted by UCs as well as details for the launching the establishment of UCs in all IHLs during the upcoming 'UNESCO Day Malaysia' in November.

Banner Painting Project 2011

Reported by: Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri

In line with one of UNESCO's thrust areas which is communication, UMUC's secretariat took the initiative to embark on a "Banner Painting Project 2011" to communicate to the campus community "UNESCO Day". This project started in May and is an on-going year-long project that is voluntarily supported by students and staffs of University of Malaya as well as members of UMUC. This project aims to disseminate information (in the form of self-made painted banners) on universal agendas of UNESCO among the campus community and society at large



from time to time throughout the year 2011. Besides that, the idea of hand-made banners is to bring the members closer together.



Among the UNESCO Days commemorated through the banners are:

- World No Tobacco Day (May 31st)
- World Environment Day (June 5th)
- International Day of Cooperatives (July 2nd)
- International Youth Day (August 12th)
- International Literacy Day (September 8th)
- International Day of Peace (September 21st)
- World Food Day (October 16th)

The Celebration of UNESCO Day Malaysia 2011: The Role of University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC)

Reported by: Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri

On the 18 and 19th November 2011, the Deputy Prime Minister-cum-Minister of Education, also the President of the National Commission UNESCO, Honorable Tan Sri Dato' Muhyiddin Yassin will be launching the first ever UNESCO Day in Malaysia. The launching will be accompanied by an exhibition which will be disclosing Malaysia important involvement in UNESCO activities for the past three decades to the public. It is not a surprise that given its relative high success in development effort, Malaysia is an important member of UNESCO. This excellent track record continues today and in the future.

University of Malaya because of its University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC); the first in the Institutions of Higher Learning in the country, established in 2007 has been recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) to be worthy of being given the responsibility to head MoHE's project of establishing UNESCO Clubs in all universities in Malaysia. The specific task given to UMUC in the context of UNESCO Day Malaysia 2011 is to plan and manage preparations for the exhibition section of the celebration. The highlight of the exhibition will be the launching of web-site of the Malaysian Universities UNESCO Club (MUUC).

On the 26th July 2011, a coordination meeting was held at the Policy Coordination & International Division, MoHE to further discuss the preparation of the celebration of UNESCO Day Malaysia. Three representatives of University of Malaya UNESCO Club; Mr. Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri, Miss Zazren Ismail and Miss Priah A/P Applanaidu attended this meeting chaired by Mr. Ahmad Nazri Sulaiman, Under Secretary of Policy Coordination & International Division, MOHE. A committee meeting was also held on the 16th August 2011 at the KATHA Seminar Room, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue to further discuss details of the exhibition that will be held on the 18 and 19th November 2011 at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations and Central Market respectively.



Coordination meeting with representatives from the Policy Coordination & International Division. From left to right (Seated): Miss Halmiza Md. Halil, Professor Azizan and Mr. M. Miandy A/L Munusamy

LIST OF FUTURE EVENTS

22 September 2011

International Conference on *Jalaluddin Rumi: Present and Past, East and West* (Commemorating the 804th Birthday of Mevlana)

30 September 2011

Korea—Malaysia Peace Forum in conjunction with the '5th Global Peace Leadership Exchange'

25 October 2011

Siri Wacana Keterlestarian & Tamadun: Keterlestarian Kebudayaan

10 November 2011

International Seminar Commemorating UNESCO's World Philosophy Day

UPCOMING VISITING SCHOLARS

1. Dr. Syed Nomanul Haq (Nu'man al-Haqq)

Dr. Syed Nomanul Haq is a senior faculty member at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. His research interests are on the history and philosophy of science, postmodern philosophy, history of religion, history of art & history of literature.

2. Professor Dr. Samuel Oluoch Imbo

Professor Dr. Samuel O. 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 research interests are in the areas of comparative philosophy, Africana philosophy, and social and political philosophy.

ISI Publications

Carl W. Ernst. (2011). The Limits of Universalism in Islamic Thought: The Case of Indian Religions. The Muslim World. Vol. 101(1): 1 - 19.

Abstract: Every religious tradition is claimed by its followers in a range of identifications, from exclusivist — holding that we alone are correct, and all others are condemned — to more pluralistic perspectives, recognizing some legitimacy and worth in other traditions, and even universalist positions, such as the notion that all humans are destined for salvation. To what extent have Muslims regarded followers of other religions and faiths as to some extent acceptable? In this paper, I propose to gauge the extent to which certain Muslim writers (especially from the philosophical and Sufi traditions) were drawn to apply universalist understandings to the religions of India. The reason for this choice of Indian religions is simple. While classical Islamic theology, on the basis of Qur'ānic texts, explicitly recognizes only Jews and Christians as “peoples of the book,” the extension of this category of recognized religious groups to other traditions (such as Zoroastrians in Persia) was and is in practice a matter of negotiation in local contexts, requiring the use of analogy with Jews and Christians, or other forms of argumentation.

Samuel O. Imbo. (2011). Islam in Europe: Current Trends and Future Challenges. Philosophia Africana. Vol. 13(2): 53 - 70.

Abstract: Media portrayals of Muslims in Europe are overwhelmingly negative. It is crucial to put in context what is written in the newspapers or said on TV about the everlasting incompatibility between Islam and democracy, Islam and gender equality, Islam and modernity, and relationships between Muslims and non-Muslims. The article is a synthesis of a trip in 2007 to France and The Netherlands to get a look at the types of conflicts that emerge from religious issues and cultural issues in contemporary Europe. It is an exploration for answers to questions such as: How far can secularized European societies cope with religious plurality? Are the public controversies such as the headscarf debate in France and the Swiss ban on Minarets really about religion? How does the public stigmatization of Muslims and Islam affect daily practices of citizens? How do we make sense of the appeal of religious extremism for some young Muslims in Europe? The completely different French and Dutch models of multiculturalism and integration of Muslim immigrants make for an interesting contrast of how best to integrate Islam and Europe.

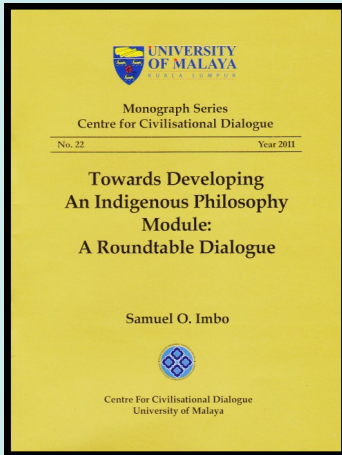
Carolina López C.. (2011). The Struggle for Wholeness: Addressing Individual and Collective Trauma in Violence-ridden Societies. Journal of Science and Healing. Vol. 7(5): 300 - 313.

Abstract: The present article begins with an overview of how staff at the Center for Dialogue and Human Wellbeing (CDBH)—at Tecnológico de Monterrey University in Chihuahua, México—approach the process of conflict transformation. Specifically, it focuses on CDBH's strategies for dealing with historical injury, as well as the individual and collective trauma existing between and among communities engaged in ongoing conflict. It proceeds to examine how traumatic memories are stored in the mind/brain, and how trauma can impact on individuals and communities locked into a cycle of violence. The ensuing section provides an overview of the debate and the literature concerning psychotherapeutic and holistic-kinesthetic approaches for addressing individual and collective trauma. A hypothetical workshop is then offered to give readers a clear idea of how trauma work is actually carried out. The article ends by asking what approaches can best be applied for transforming collective trauma into sacred memories, which can become the driving force for a continuing commitment to building and sustaining peace among segments of communities which had previously been in conflict with one another.

Whitney Bauman. (2011). Religion, Science, and Nature: Shifts in Meaning on a Changing Planet. Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science. Vol. 46(3): (Page number to be confirmed)

Abstract: This article explores how religion and science, as worlding practices, are changed by the processes of globalization and global climate change. In the face of these processes, two primary methods of meaning-making are emerging: the logic of globalization and planetary assemblages. The former operates out of the same logic as extant axial age religions, the Enlightenment, and Modernity. It is caught up in the process of universalizing meanings, objective truth, and a single reality. The latter suggests that the processes of globalization and climate change break open any universalizing attempt at meaning onto a proliferation of different, evolving planetary contexts. Both science and religion are affected by these changes, and the ways in which they shape our understandings of and relationship to the rest of the natural world are changed.

Publications



Monograph Series

Towards Developing an Indigenous Philosophy Module: A Roundtable Dialogue

Author: Samuel O. Imbo

Year: 2011

Price: RM 15.00

The idea for a roundtable dialogue on philosophy emerged out of a series of conversations between Professor Azizan Baharuddin and Professor Samuel Imbo. This is fitting since philosophy itself is best understood as a great conversation extending across the ages and between people of the world. A very fruitful seminar was held at the Center for Civilisational Dialogue on August 2, 2010. The invited participants included prominent scholars representing such diverse institutions as Pure Life Society (INSAF), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia, International Institute of

Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), INTI International University, and various departments within the University of Malaya. Such a broad representation speaks both to the ability of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue to bring people together and to a pool of engaged stakeholders in the outcomes of the dialogue. All the speakers candidly shared their thoughts about the viability of an indigenous philosophy model from their own vantage.

The guiding principle for the roundtable discussion was that philosophy is the love of wisdom. All human develop indigenous wisdom that helps them understand themselves and their place in the world. Since philosophy has no subject matter of its own, it must spring from the local knowledge about religion, culture, ethics, and our relationship to the World around us. The aim is to deepen our understanding of ourselves and others as we examine our values and the reasons for thinking as we do. A better understanding of ourselves prepares us for richer dialogue with others. As such, one benefit of philosophy is its usefulness in articulating and explaining our worldviews. The time is ripe for the promotion of philosophy as a tool of dialogue.

Journal KATHA Volume 6

Year: 2010

Price: RM 30.00

'Kata' is Malay and Indonesian for 'word' and is derived from *Katha* in Sanskrit. [Casparis, J.G. de, 1997, Sanskrit loan-words in Indonesian: An annotated check list of words from Sanskrit in Indonesia and Malays]. In Sanskrit the term denotes talking together, discussion, conversation, speech, story [Cologne Digital Sanskrit Lexicon].

Journal KATHA (Volume 6) from the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) contains six articles that discussed on varies issues ranging from Muslim unity to the shift in cultural traditions and values in a globalized world.

In the first article, Ahmad Shiozaki Yuki discusses the nature of the Japanese culture and their attitude towards Islam and Muslims in Japan itself. The second article is by Carolina Lopez C. that discusses the impact of globalization on underdeveloped and developing countries. In the next article, Karim Douglas Crow touches on ways to achieve Muslim unity, which are by repairing the past and preparing the future. The fourth article is written by Eric Winkel. His article is on ethics and spiritual intelligence by referring to sayings by Ibn' Arabi. The following article is by Saodah binti Abd Rahman that provides the readers with eight interesting characteristics of Islamic Civilizations, some of which are perhaps surprising and could be challenged by critical readers. The last article written by Isham Pawan Ahmad is on the medieval attempts at reconciling faith to reason in Islam and Christianity.

