



BULLETIN

**CENTRE FOR CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE
PUSAT DIALOG PERADABAN**

VICE CHANCELLOR'S NEW YEAR ADDRESS 2023

New year is the best time to make fresh new beginnings and set new targets. On the 23rd February 2023, the Vice Chancellor delivered his 2023 Address at the Dewan Tunku Canselor, Universiti Malaya. The Address was also broadcasted online via Universiti Malaya Youtube page. All staff members of Universiti Malaya were invited.

Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor, the Vice Chancellor, began his speech by sharing an inspirational quote from Hellen Keller, on having a clear vision because greatness starts with a clear vision of the future, backed up by strategic and workable plans. He also stated UM's vision of becoming a global university impacting the world, and its mission to push boundaries of knowledge and nurture aspiring leaders.

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision"

Hellen Keller, *Blind Poet*



Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi reminded the UM community on the core values of UM: **P.O.I.S.E** (Passion, Oneness, Integrity, Sincerity and Empathy). In addition, he presented the Transformation Plan 2021-2030 consisting of 6 elements **C.R.E.A.T.E** (Champion new governance & business model, Reimagine education, Excel in research eminence, Adopt digital enabled lean management process, Transform culture, embrace change, nurture talent, and Enhance learning & work environment). This was followed by a more specific Strategic Plan 2021-2025 which comprised 5 pillars; income generation, teaching and learning, research and innovations, as well as talent and entrepreneurship. The UM Health Project 2021-2025 was also highlighted.


The Vice Chancellor congratulated staff members who received national and international awards. This included the recognition and affiliations awarded to the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) Director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, in 2022. The event ended with new ideas and questions from the staff members with inspiring answers from the Vice Chancellor. Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi closed his speech by reiterating his high hopes and confidence in UM achieving its targets, and fulfilling its vision and mission.


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OUR BULLETIN


The bulletin reports on the activities and events conducted by the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) and our collaborators. All articles and photos are original and belong to the centre (unless stated otherwise).

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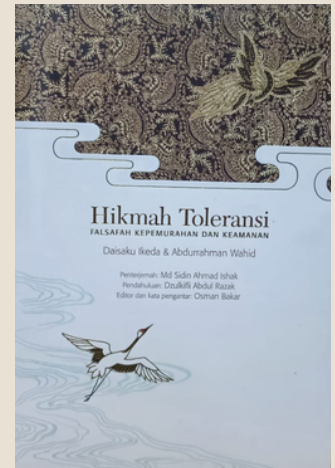
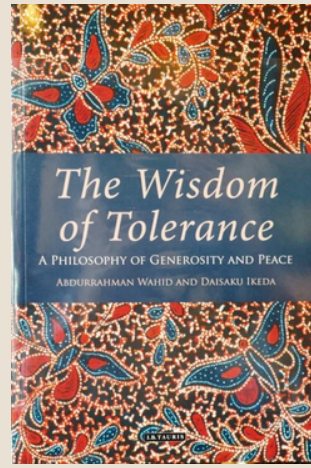
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BOOK LAUNCH & REVIEW "HIKMAH TOLERANSI: FALSAFAH KEPEMURAHAN DAN KEAMANAN" (THE WISDOM OF TOLERANCE)



On the 7th January 2023, the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation of International Islamic University Malaysia (ISTAC-IIUM) and Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM) co-hosted the launching and review of the book *"Hikmah Toleransi: Falsafah Kepemurahan dan Keamanan"*, the Malay edition of *The Wisdom of Tolerance: A Philosophy of Generosity and Peace* written by Abdurrahman Wahid and Daisaku Ikeda. Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Rector of IIUM, presided over the book launch ceremony. He was joined by Mr. Michael Kok, President of SGM, Mr. Koh Sia Feai, General Director of SGM, and Prof. Abdelaziz Berghout, Dean of ISTAC.



The panelists of the book review session included Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar, Al-Ghazali Chair of Epistemology, Civilizational Studies & Renewal at ISTAC-IIUM, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilizational Dialogue (UMCCD), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Imtiyaz Yusuf, Associate Professor at ISTAC-IIUM, Ms. Lee Kam Yit, SGM Young Women's Leader and Dr. Jimmy Tam Kok Chian, SGM Student Division Secretary. Among the topics discussed during the forum/book review were the value of communication and understanding one another, accepting diversity, the shared ideals of Islam and Buddhism, the important role of women and young people, and the significance of culture and education.



The Honourable Dra. Zannuba Arifah Chafsoh Rahman Wahid, Director of the Wahid Foundation and daughter of Abdurrahman Wahid, made a special appearance at the event. She mentioned in her address that she often turns to this dialogue between her father and Daisaku Ikeda for inspiration when she was seeking wisdom, particularly during trying circumstances. She added that the necessity to keep working for a better society is the most crucial lesson to learn from this book. She said, *"There is no such thing as darkness. It is only the absence of light. If you don't want darkness to prevail, then we all need to light our own candles. We all need to be that candle because one candle is not enough. We all need to be Daisaku Ikeda. We all need to be Gus Dur (Wahid). And from there, we can create a more just and peaceful society."* It is hoped that the profound wisdom of tolerance, empathy, kindness, and mutual respect shared by both leading thinkers in this book will serve as a ray of hope that can enlighten our current society, paving the way for the creation of a harmonious and peaceful world.



| The Honourable Dra. Zannuba Arifah Chafsoh Rahman Wahid



PODCAST SERIES "SHE TALKS PEACE" WITH AMINA RASUL

"She Talks Peace" is a podcast series featuring women peacemakers and leaders from around the world. The podcast is hosted by both Apple Podcasts and Spotify. On the 11th January 2023, the UMCCD Director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, was invited to join a series of the podcast "She Talks Peace" moderated by Amina Rasul Bernardo, President of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID). The session discussed the importance of intercivlisational dialogue in peace and security agenda, by women.



| From left: Amina Rasul, Prof. Azizan Baharuddin



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION BY KONG ZI INSTITUTE UNIVERSITI MALAYA

On the 17th January 2023, Assoc. Prof Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, Research Fellow at UMCCD cum Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) advisor, and four UMUC members attended the Opening Ceremony of the Chinese New Year Celebration organised by the Kong Zi Institute Universiti Malaya. The ceremony began with a welcoming speech by Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi Abd. Sukor, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaya followed by an opening speech by His Excellency Ouyang Yujing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia. The attendees of the event were presented with various cultural and traditional performances including the Lion Dance performance and Kung Fu showcase. The event served as a good opportunity for intercultural dialogue among the multiracial society at UM.

PITCHING FOR FUNDING FROM THE MAJLIS PERPADUAN DAN INTEGRASI SELANGOR (MPIS)



On the 27th January 2023, Mr. Chang Lee Wei, Senior Research Officer of UMCCD, was selected to pitch for the "KITA SELANOR" unity grant. Only 19 programs were selected and Mr. Chang were among the few selected pitchers that was awarded the grant, with RM 20,000 per grant. Through the event, Mr. Chang also managed to engaged and expanded the UMCCD networking with the Selangor Unity and Integration Council.

UNIVERSITI MALAYA CENTRE FOR CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE (UMCCD) RESPONDS TO THE 'MALAYSIA MADANI' NATIONAL VISION

Malaysia Madani is a policy framework proposed by Malaysia's 10th Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim. As mentioned by the Prime Minister, **MADANI** is an acronym for a policy that embraces six core values: *keMampanan* (Sustainability), *Kesejahteraan* (Prosperity), *Daya Cipta* (Innovation), *hormat* (Respect), *keyakinan* (Trust) and *Ihsan* (Compassion). The concept is primarily concerned with good governance, long-term development, and racial harmony in the country. UMCCD was given the opportunity to share its response and views on the concept via the UMCCD Director being invited to three different events.

On the 30th January 2023, in the program **Selamat Pagi Malaysia** at RTM, Prof. Azizan described how the MADANI vision can be truly lived and manifested in the administration of the nation. The MADANI vision would become a model that the world would want to emulate in terms of a successful holistic developmental model. She explained how practices such as ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) is very much a part of the sustainable element of the concept which are carried out by the corporate world especially. She also spoke at length about **Ihsan** from the 'I' in MADANI as a critical psycho-spiritual element for individuals who finally are the drivers for MADANI to work. The *Ihsan* principle demands that one always does one's best.

"The Madani Framework for Civilisational Development: Wisdom, Innovation and Compassion" was the topic that was discussed in the forum organised by ISTAC-IUUM on the 27th January 2023. Prof. Azizan was invited as one of the panelists, alongside Prof. Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar and Datuk Seri Dr. Mujahid Rawa. Sharing some reflections on the topic, Prof. Azizan explained that the MADANI framework can show how policies can be carried out. A Madani society is a civilised society, and coming from UMCCD, the dialogue element is very critical to achieve this. Both intra- and inter- civilisational dialogue needs to be practiced in the plural and multi-diverse society of Malaysia.

The **Academy of Professors Malaysia** invited Prof. Emeritus Dato' Osman Bakar to deliver a special lecture on "**Konsep dan Falsafah Madani: Aplikasinya kepada Pembangunan Negara Malaysia**" on the 28th February 2023. Prof. Azizan was one of the two panelists invited to give their views on the lecture as well as on the MADANI concept in general.



Masyarakat Madani: Satu Impian Global



The Madani Framework for Civilisational Development: Wisdom, Innovation and Comparison



Konsep dan Falsafah Madani: Aplikasinya kepada Pembangunan Negara Malaysia

Invitations & Networking

Director of UMCCD was invited to the Climate Action Festival @ UKM on 10 January 2023, organised by UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability together with *Institut Perubahan Iklim, Pusat Strategi UKM, MPOB-UKM Endowed Chair, and Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Berhad.*

Director of UMCCD was invited to IAIS Malaysia Public Lecture on Prosperity through Faith: Creating a Sustainable Madani Society by Dr M. Yaqub Mirza, on 13 February 2023.

Director of UMCCD was the Guest of Honor at the Chrysalis 2022: Recognition and Performance Day Ceremony at the Azwan Hashim Hall, UTM KL, organised by the Islamic School ADNI on 18 February 2023. The paperwork presentation entitled "Relationship between Science & Al-Quran: The Need for Tadabbur"

Director of UMCCD was the speaker at an online talk on Al-Quran and Science on 18 March 2023, organised by Gabungan Dakwah Malaysia & IAIS. The talk entitled "Hubungan Sains dan Al-Quran dalam Memahami Tanda-tanda Kebesaran Allah".

Gold Prize in National Poster CISREP 2023



|Left pic: Gold Prize of the National Poster CISREP 2023. **|Right pic:** Dr. Asmawati Muhamad and fellow co-researcher in front of their poster.

On the 21st March 2023, Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, UMCCD Deputy Director, and her fellow co-researchers won the Gold Prize in the National Poster Competition for Islamic Studies Research 2023 (CISREP 2023) conducted during the *Minggu Terbuka Akademik Akademi Pengajian Islam Universiti Malaya (MiTA '23)*. Their project entitled "Implementation of the Green Mosque Program in Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur: An Exploratory Study



"GOVERNING DIVERSITY, MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES, AND FAITH: A CONVERSATION"



|Front row (Third from left): Prof. Azizan, Dr. Hisham, Dato' Dr. Merican Mahmood, Datin Ragayah Eusoff, Dr. Asmawati. **Second and third row:** Organisers and participants

The Institut Masa Depan Malaysia (MASA) and UMCCD organised a dialogue on "Governing Diversity, Multicultural Societies, and Faith" with Dr. Hisham A. Hellyer on the 8th February 2023. Dr. Hisham is a fellow at the University of Cambridge (UK) and a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (USA).

The dialogue session began with welcoming remarks from Tuan Azril Mohd Amin, Chief Executive Officer of MASA. This was followed by a brief introduction of the honorable guest Dr. Hisham A. Hellyer by the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) Director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, who was also the moderator of the session. Dr. Hisham shared his views on ways to sustain peace amidst the rich diversity of cultures and faith traditions in Malaysia, in the spirit of peaceful coexistence. To govern a multicultural society in the context of faith, religious leaders have to be involved in the public arena. Religious institutions should be recognised as open spaces where people can feel secure to connect and gather. Dr. Hisham also believes that interfaith dialogue is a useful tool to build links and initiate communication between different faith groups.

In his opinion, it is fundamental for people in a multiracial and multi-faith society to at least know about the basic values of others in their country because it informs them about their compatriots, thus inculcates greater understanding and tolerance between each other. The dialogue session received active engagement and positive feedbacks from the participants. A photography session with Dr. Hisham and all attendees marked the end of the session.

WELCOME LUNCH FOR UMCCD VISITING SCHOLARS



|From left: Dr. Eric Winkel & Dr. Lee-Shan Tse



|From left: Mrs. Lisa, Mrs. Norzaliza, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah, Dr. Asmawati, Mrs. Liza, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan, Dr. Eric, Mr. Chang, & Mr. Ahmad

UMCCD and the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) were fortunate to host two visiting scholars, Dr. Eric Winkel and Dr. Lee Shan-Tse from 14 February until 14 March 2023. Dr. Eric Winkel seeks to restore wholeness to the intellectual division of disciplines and knowledge, through an appreciation of what was called natural philosophy – the study of what we now separate as sciences and humanities. He has worked with an artist of the creative imagination to produce An Illustrated Guide to Ibn Arabi. Dr. Lee-Shan Tse is a Swiss-Chinese Cambridge-trained anthropologist. Her research interests are home, migration, diaspora, global cities, oral history, and decoloniality. She is the Art Director of Al-Futuhat, and aims to convey the universal from the particular, through both text and art, and to bring Al-Futuhat from the West to the East and back. On the 15th February 2023, members of the UMCCD together with Dr. Ahmad Badri Abdullah, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Mrs. Norliza Saleh, Head of Publication Unit from IAIS organised a lunch to welcome Dr. Eric and Dr. Lee-Shan to the organisations and to Malaysia. The meeting also discussed future collaborative programs that emphasise intercivilisational dialogue between IAIS and UMCCD.



NETWORKING WITH THE CENTER FOR CIVILIZATIONAL DIALOGUE (CCD) OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ICESCO)

On the 17th February 2023, UMCCD met online with the CCD of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) whose headquarters is in Rabat, Morocco, to discuss collaborative programs on building cooperation in the field of promoting intercivilisational dialogue. During the meeting, directors from both UMCCD and ICESCO-CCD, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin and Ambassador Khaled Fathalrahman, shared their center's key projects and activities, emphasising on the significance of collaborative action, dialogue, and cooperation to promote peace. The two parties also agreed to organise an international conference on the concept and applications of intercivilisational dialogue, as well as to promote intercivilisational diplomacy and make cultural diversity an incentive to achieve harmony, in the near future.



|Top from left: Dr. Sidra Tariq Jamil, Ambassador Khaled Fathalrahman, Prof. Azizan, Dr. Asmawati. **Bottom from left:** Mr. Ahmad and Mr. Chang.

PUBLIC LECTURE ON "PRE-INTELLECT HUMAN COMMUNICATION: SPEAKING FROM THE HEART AND FROM THE IMAGINAL" BY DR. ERIC WINKEL



| From left: Mr. Muhammad Sayuti Mansor & Dr. Eric Winkel



| Participants who attended the event at the physical venue

The concept of communication beyond the realm of conscious thought and intellect was explored in a public lecture by Dr. Eric Winkel, jointly co-organised by the UMCCD and the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia, entitled “Pre-Intellect Human Communication Speaking from the Heart and From the Imaginal”. The lecture was held live on the 8th February 2023 at the IAIS Malaysia Board Room and it was also live via IAIS Facebook. Dr. Eric Winkel is an esteemed Islamic scholar who diligently spent 23 years to study and translate the *al-Futūḥāt al-Makkīyah*, the magnum opus of the famous Muslim philosopher, Ibn Arabi. Mr. Muhammad Sayuti Mansor, Research Fellow of IAIS, was the moderator.

Ibn Arabi (1165-1240) was an Arab Andalusian Muslim scholar, mystic poet and philosopher, extremely influential within Islamic thoughts. The *al-Futūḥāt al-Makkīyah*/ *The Meccan Revelations* is the major work of the philosopher and Sufi written between 1203-1240. The book contains autobiographical elements, encounters: events and spiritual illuminations. Drawing from the works and ideas of Ibn Arabi, the lecture focused on the significance of speaking from the heart which involves a deeper emotional connection, and from the imaginal which involves accessing the power of the imagination to communicate effectively. The lecture also aims to provide a fresh perspective on human communication and its potential to bring about deeper understanding and connection between individuals and communities.



| Opening pages of the Konya Manuscript of the *Meccan Revelations*, handwritten by Ibn Arabi. (Source: Wikipedia)

The well-known obstacles and problems with interfaith and other modes of communication stem from their basis in the intellect. The intellect here is that which constrains and confines and defines; that which plays zero-sum games, and that which sees the world in black and white, 'for' or 'against'. Authentic communication is possible when this kind of intellect is put aside and when in its place mutual respect and openness flourishes through the heart connections, we enter into true dialogue and conversation with one another. We may call this place of authentic communication in the 'Arabi language *shura*, which means gathering honey. Another description is 'the special face which is in every created being'. Informally we also speak of the body and heart, as contrasted with the body and the mind. For the full video of the recording, the following link can be accessed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyoMFKYN7VE>.

FORUM ON THE ART OF DIALOGUE: INTERSECTING ANTHROPOLOGY AND RELIGION



| From left: Mr. Muhammad Sayuti, Dr. Lee-Shan Tse, & Prof. Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey Chiong Meng

In collaboration with the IAIS Malaysia, a forum entitled "The Art of Dialogue: Intersecting Anthropology and Religion" was held on the 1st March 2023. The panelists were Dr. Lee-Shan Tse & Prof. Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey Chiong Meng. Dr. Lee Shan is the Art Director of the **al-Futūḥāt project** while Prof. Boey is the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Malaysian Sokka Kindergarten and also Research Fellow of the Institute of Oriental Philosophy in Japan. The moderator of the forum was Mr. Muhammad Sayuti Mansor, Research fellow of IAIS.

Dr. Lee-Shan shared her insights on the topic as an anthropologist. According to her, identities are very complex, hence it is important to not put external labels on people. To anthropologists, when in a dialogue, observing and mindful listening are among the crucial attributes that are highly required, besides not having the urge to take control of the conversation. This will allow a dialogue to occur naturally. The question of language and to respect others' vernacular expressions are among other skills that are important as well. In addition, in times of disagreement, one should still value and validate the other's opinion and experience without any judgments.

Prof. Boey explained the meaning and purposes of dialogue, and shared thoughts on what makes a good dialogue. Dialogue is not merely an exchange of information, but a profound attempt to connect and understand the other party. The purpose of dialogue is to gain connection and allow a deeper understanding between both parties, with the hope of becoming a better person and contributing to the betterment of the society. Among the main criteria of a good dialogue are having mutual respect and seeing others as equal partners in the dialogue, honoring diversity of views and seeking common ground, openness of heart to understand the other party's perspective, and lastly, listening patiently and deeply. The full video of the recording can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiulVOES8hg>.



| From left: Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin (UMCCD Director) & Dr. Ahmad Badri Abdullah (Deputy CEO of IAIS)

RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON "PIAGAM HARMONI MALAYSIA" (HARMONY CHARTER MALAYSIA)



Front row from left: Dr. Mohd Sani Badron, Dr. Mohd. Farid Mohd Shahrhan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, Prof. Azizan, Mrs. Enizahura Abdul Aziz. **Back row from left:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suraya Sintang, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khadijah Mohd Khambali, Mr. Mohd Noor Omar, Mr. Amiruddin

The reality of living in Malaysia offers the experience of living with a great variety of cultures. Peaceful co-existence is a requirement towards a harmonious and stable life in the country. On the 3rd-5th March 2023, a research workshop on *Piagam Harmoni Malaysia* was conducted.

When completed, the Harmony Charter will lay out principles towards a harmonious nation. These include upholding the foundations of nation building, respecting the noble values and cultures of the community, and respecting the differences that exist among various groups in the society. Only by practicing the do's and don'ts in the promotion of a culture of peace and harmony as a core and important prerequisite, can we build a civilized nation that ensure justice and equality. Researchers of the project include members from IKIM, UMCCD, Academy of Islamic Studies UM (APIUM), and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

KAICIID FELLOW INSTITUTIONAL NETWORK



From left: Prof. Datin Dr. Raihana Abdullah & KAICIID fellows

The KAICIID Fellows Institutional Network (KFIN), a new initiative to expand access to high-quality interreligious dialogue (IRD) education in under served parts of the world, was launched in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 17 & 18 March 2023. The network seeks to advance inclusivity, a spirit of harmony, and respect for religious and cultural diversity within all groups.

Core objectives of KFIN include to improve interreligious relations and foster collaboration among institutions of religious education and formation, to firmly establish IRD culture in institutions of religious instruction and formation around the world, to allow individuals of other religions to collaborate and exchange ideas in a way that respects their values and traditions, and lastly to encourage decision-makers at all levels to incorporate interreligious education into religious education. This will provide as a crucial entry point for religious individuals and perspectives to participate in contextualised IRD learning, which will in turn strengthen tolerance, respect for human rights, and advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 16, and 17. Moving forward, the KAICIID Fellows Alumni Network and the Fellows Institutional Network will grow together and complement one another. Specially trained Fellows from the Alumni Network will form mobile teams to support institutions that need IRD training or technical assistance, like IRD curriculum development. With the gathering of the core members to exchange ideas, this event in Malaysia marks the second phase and official debut of the KFIN. The third phase will involve creating and putting into action the first KFIN activities, anticipated to happen in the second half of 2023. Prof. Datin Dr. Raihanah Abdullah, KAICIID fellow and UMCCD Associate fellow was the representative from UM at the launch.

PUBLIC LECTURE ON "COMMUNICATION THROUGH IMAGERY: EXPLORING A VISUAL LANGUAGE FOR HUMANITY" BY DR. ERIC WINKEL

On the 7th March 2023, a lecture co-organised by UMCCD and IAIS entitled "Communication through Imagery: Exploring a Visual Language for Humanity" was held. The lecture was conducted physically at IAIS and also online via Zoom application. Dr. Eric Winkel, translator and elucidator of *al-Futūḥāt al-Makkīyah*, was the speaker. Dr. Asmawati Muhammad, Deputy Director of UMCCD, was the moderator.



| From left: Dr. Asmawati Muhammad & Dr. Eric Winkel

Dr. Eric started his lecture by talking about the eyes and the mind. According to Ibn Arabi, the eyes see everything and never lie. They always receive the data correctly, but the mind may interpret it in multiple ways. Optical illusions, for example, demonstrates that the eyes see all the data and images, but the mind has to decide what the eyes are looking at. Thus, the mind can constrict and limit the information received by the eyes. In his lecture, Dr. Eric described how the eyes and heart can see all.

In philosophical terms, when the eyes see something during an event but the mind cannot seem to understand it, the situation is called cognitive dissonance. Dissonance is important because it tells the mind to be quiet which allows the heart to speak up. Nowadays, we are so used to working with the mind until we tend to ignore what the heart is saying in terms of what is actually happening out there. In human relationships, you look at people and your mind might immediately start characterizing or classifying them, which may hinder you from looking and understanding into their real personality and attributes. Therefore, to explore communication through imagery, the images that the eyes and heart see need to be explored together, bypassing the early presumptions made by the mind.



| Lecture also being conducted online via Zoom application

Ibn Arabi also mentioned about Mother Earth. He used the analogy of a baby emerging from the womb of his mother and looking to his mother for guidance and education. Humans come out from the "womb" of the Mother Earth and they ought to learn from it but unfortunately they do not, and hence suffer from climate change, pollution, overcrowding, human and social problems. The lecture was very captivating and gained several interesting questions during the Q & A session. The event ended with a photography session. The full link of the video can be accessed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CW0TzOCVO7M>

COURTESY VISIT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF NEPAL FEDERATION OF UNESCO CLUBS, CENTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS (NAFUCAN)



[From left: Mr. Vishal Sahar Puri (Advocate and Member Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh, India), Mrs. Nur Lisa Mohd Yusoff (UMCCD Publication Officer), Mrs. Suhaila Mohamad (UMUC President), Mr. Pradeep Kaphle (Vice President of Nepal Federation Of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations), Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin (UMCCD Director), Mr. Ahmad Mohamad (UMCCD Project Officer), and Mr. Chang Lee Wei (UMUC Liaison Officer and UMCCD Senior Research Officer).

On March the 8th, 2023, Mr. Pradeep Kaphle, Vice President of Nepal Federation Of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations (NAFUCAN), and Mr. Vishal Sahar Puri, Advocate and Member Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh, India, visited the Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) at the (UMCCD). They were greeted warmly by the hosts, which included Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin (UMCCD Director), Mr. Chris Chang Lee Wei (UMUC Liaison Officer and UMCCD Senior Research Officer), Mr. Ahmad Mohamad (UMCCD Project Officer), and Madam Suhaila Mohamad (President of UMUC).

The purpose of their visit was to learn more about UMUC's role and functions, as well as to explore the possibility of establishing the National Federation of Clubs and Associations for UNESCO in Malaysia. The hosts began the meeting by giving an overview of UMCCD and UMUC and their respective roles in promoting civilisational dialogue and preserving cultural heritage.

Following the introductions, a discussion on the current status of UNESCO Clubs and Associations in Malaysia was held. The hosts provided information on the structure of these organisations, including the reporting ministry and the various initiatives they undertake to promote UNESCO's mission. Mr. Kaphle and Mr. Puri expressed their interest in learning more about the operations of these organizations in Malaysia and shared their experiences with similar organizations in Nepal and India. The conversation then shifted towards exploring the possibility of establishing the National Federation of Clubs and Associations for UNESCO in Malaysia. UMUC & UMCCD shared their vision or such a federation, including its objectives and potential impact on promoting UNESCO's mission in Malaysia. Mr. Kaphle and

Mr. Puri provided their insights on the establishment and operations of similar federations in Nepal and India and discussed the potential benefits and challenges of creating such a federation in Malaysia.

The program ended with an exchange of gifts from both sides as a gesture of goodwill and appreciation for the visit. A group photo was taken to commemorate the occasion, and the hosts thanked Mr. Kaphle and Mr. Puri for taking the time to visit UMUC and engage in a fruitful discussion on the establishment of the National Federation of Clubs and Associations for UNESCO in Malaysia.



[Gift of appreciation from NAFUCAN to UMCCD

OFFICIAL VISIT BY CHAIR OF SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT AND HAPPINESS RESEARCH CLUSTER, UNIVERSITI MALAYA



|From left: Associate Prof. Dr. Goh Hong Ching & Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin

On the 10th March 2023, Associate Prof. Dr. Goh Hong Ching, Chair of Social Advancement and Happiness Research Cluster Universiti Malaya visited the office of UMCCD. Dr. Goh was welcomed by the UMCCD Director and UMCCD Senior Research Officer, Mr. Chang Lee Wei. Dr. Goh was briefed about the goals, functions, programs and activities of the UMCCD. She was also presented with the centre's latest book entitled "Islam-Buddhism Eco Dialogue (IBED)" and bulletin. Dr. Goh suggested that UMCCD should make a special publication about its vision, mission and achievements since its establishment 27 years ago. UMCCD records its appreciation for Dr. Goh's kind advice and suggestion for improvements of the centre.

MOU WITH INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC UNDERSTANDING MALAYSIA (IKIM)



|From left: Prof. Azizan, Dr. Asmawati, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah & Dr. Siti Patonah

Following the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) and Universiti Malaya (UMCCD & Academy of Islamic Studies Universiti Malaya (APIUM)) in 2022, UMCCD was invited as guest speakers in 3 slots in the talk show *Resolusi* that focuses on research and 2 slots in *Fas'aluna* that focuses on theological-philosophical issues on IKIM radio. On the 2nd and 9th March 2023, Associate Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, Research Fellow of UMCCD and her co-researcher, Dr. Siti Patonah Mohamad, Lecturer at APIUM, covered two slots on the topic entitled "*Menyantuni Kumpulan Terpinggir: Penghidap Autisme*" while Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, UMCCD Deputy Director, covered a slot entitled "*Advokasi Kelestarian Alam Sekitar Melalui Program Masjid Hijau*" on the 16th March 2023. For the slots in the *Fas'aluna* program, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD, discussed on the topic "*Hubungan Sains dan Al-Quran dalam Memahami Tanda-tanda Kekuasaan Allah*" and "*Memahami I'jaz Al-Quran melalui Ilmu Sains Tabii*" on the 18th and 25th January 2023, respectively. Four more slots in *Resolusi* and four in *Fas'aluna* will be aired in May of 2023. The radio appearances are a valuable opportunity for UMCCD to showcase the research work carried out by its members to the public.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UNIVERSITI MALAYA UNESCO CLUB (UMUC)



|Front row from left: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin. **Back row:** AGM attendees



|UMUC Advisors with new UMUC committee members

On the 16th March 2023, the annual general meeting (AGM) of Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) was held physically and online at the High Impact Research building, Universiti Malaya. Thirty six participants attended the AGM which began with a presentation of the UMCCD corporate video. The video depicted the establishment of UMCCD and UMUC, and highlighted its organizational history, achievements, and past and present events. An ice-breaking session followed. The meeting continued with self-introduction of the previous members of the UMUC committee, followed by the other attendees of the meeting. UMCCD Director presented her welcoming remarks and officiated the AGM 2023. Advisors of the Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club, Associate Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli (Research Fellow of UMCCD) and Dr. Asmawati Muhamad (Deputy Director of UMCCD), also presented their speeches respectively.

Mrs. Suhaila Muhamad was re-elected as the president for 2023. Before the AGM ended, as the President of UMUC 2023, she thanked everyone for making the AGM a success. She also extended her gratitude to the previous committee members for their time and effort, and wished them well for their future endeavors. Moving on, the president welcomed the new team of “UM UNESCO Club 2023/2024”. She expressed her hope and vision for a fresh beginning with new ideas and contributions. She also reminded the new team to always communicate and empower each other. She ended her speech by reminding the new committee that this experience will be a learning process and UMUC will provide the platform for all to grow and learn.



|Top from left: Mr. Chang, Mr. Rafiq Rustamov, Ms. Marina Kunina, Dr. Asmawati. **Bottom from left:** Mr. Tahire, Dr. Durriyyah.

COLLABORATION WITH BAKU INTERNATIONAL MULTICULTURALISM CENTRE

Meeting with Baku International Multiculturalism Centre of Azerbaijan was held on 17th March 2023. The outcome of the meeting were future collaborative plans with UMCCD. Among the programs include online lecture on the Course on **Introduction to Multiculturalism** which will be conducted tentatively in May 2023, and further discussions with CiTRA/AEI/FSSS to hold the course annually, offered to UM students and members.

MEDIA APPEARANCE

ASSOCIATE PROF. DR. ZUL ILHAM ZULKIFLEE LUBES, ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF UMCCD

An article written by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zul Ilham Zulkiflee Lubes, Associate Member of UMCCD, was published by *Berita Harian* on the 9th March 2023. He wrote on the powerful role that Malaysian universities can play in the ESG agenda. The ESG concept is still at the exploratory stage in Malaysia, hence it needs the support from universities to develop research and make specific observations, and ultimately becoming the catalyst for this agenda.



MR. CHANG LEE WEI, SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER OF UMCCD

Senior Research Officer of UMCCD, Mr. Chang Lee Wei was interviewed by a local vernacular daily on the kerfuffle (controversy) relating to the 'Jom Ziarah' programme organised by Impact Malaysia, an NGO under the Youth and Sports Ministry. The full report can be accessed at <https://www.sinchew.com.my/20230322> (22nd March 2023) and <https://twentytwo13.my/opinion/jom-ziarah-lets-talk-about-it/> (24th March 2023).



UPCOMING EVENTS OF UMCCD



DIALOG KELESTARIAN ALAM SEKITAR
1 April 2023



DIALOGUE ON INCLUSIVITY AND PEACE
28 April 2023



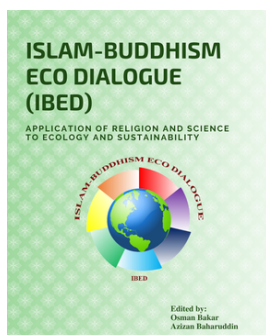
SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP 2023
25 May 2023



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY 2023
15-16 August 2023

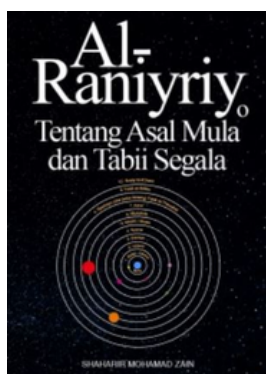
PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS



Islam-Buddhism Eco Dialogue (IBED): Application of Religion and Science to Ecology and Sustainability
Editors: Osman Bakar and Azizan Baharuddin

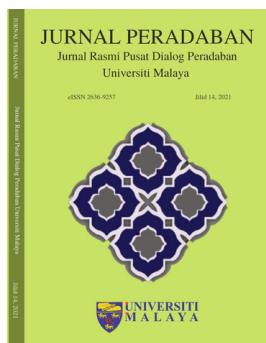
"The authors are confident that the book will be part of the currently much discussed sustainability revolution, which is nothing less than a rethinking and remaking of our understanding and role in the natural world, which is our only home".



Al-Raniyriy: Tentang asal mula dan tabii segala
Shaharir Mohamad Zain

"Penulis berterima kasih kepada Pengarah Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya, Prof. Madya Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, yang bukan sahaja menyokong penuh penerbitan ini sebagai sebahagian daripada hasil penyelidikan kumpulan penyelidikan yang diketuainya, Warisan Melayu, di bawah satu daripada subkelompoknya, "Sains: Sejarah dan Budaya Melayu dalam Manuskrip dan Prasasti Melayu sebelum 1900".

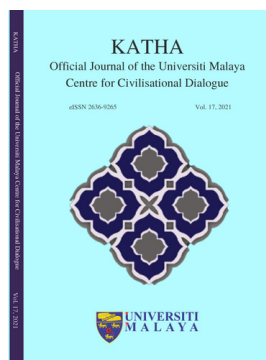
JOURNALS



Jurnal PERADABAN

Jurnal PERADABAN yang telah mula diterbitkan pada tahun 2008 merupakan jurnal berwasit yang diminati pembaca terutamanya dalam bidang kemanusiaan, sains sosial dan sains tabii. Jurnal yang menerbitkan artikel dalam Bahasa Melayu ini juga merupakan satu platform untuk berdialog tentang pelbagai isu berdasarkan pengamatan dan penilaian kritis serta menerima artikel penyelidikan, kertas teori, atau ulasan buku yang menyentuh mana-mana aspek berkenaan wacana tentang peradaban dan dialog antara budaya, pandangan alam serta kepercayaan, falsafah, bahasa dan pengetahuan sains.

[Laman Web: <https://peradaban.um.edu.my>]



KATHA journal

Journal KATHA first published in 2005, is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal with readership throughout the field of humanities, social and natural sciences. It provides a platform for scholars, experts, researchers, practitioners, and students to publish original research, review papers, and other scholarly works. The journal invites research articles, theoretical papers, as well as book reviews touching upon any aspect of intercivilisational or intercultural discourses on worldviews and faiths, philosophies, languages and knowledges of science.

[Website: <https://katha.um.edu.my>]

UPCOMING MONOGRAPHS



Enrique De Malacca and Datu Lapulapu: The Prides of the Malay Archipelago
Md. Salleh Yaapar



Habitat Masyarakat Madani
Azizan Baharuddin

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