

BULLETIN

CENTRE FOR CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE
PUSAT DIALOG PERADABAN



DIALOGUE ON INCLUSIVITY AND PEACE

The Regional Network for Peacebuilders Project (Sangha for Peace), run by the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) together with the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) organised a dialogue on inclusivity and peace on the 28th April 2023 at Rimba Ilmu, Universiti Malaya. The main objective of the dialogue was to allow meaningful engagements at the grassroots level among students, youths, and religious groups who are interested in building peaceful and harmonious societies and to discuss some of the challenges and opportunities presented in today's world. Participants were instructed to join one of 5 parallel dialogue sessions organized around themes of, digital technology, economy and politics, education, gender, and climate.



| Participants discussing on their selected topic of interest

The event was attended by a diverse group of 30 participants including students and members of UMCCD, team members from Family Health International FHI360 and US Agency for International Development (USAID) as well as invited Malaysian professionals from various fields including technology and human rights.


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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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DIALOGUE ON INCLUSIVITY AND PEACE

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In attendance was also YBhg. Dato' Dr. Mahmood Merican (Senior Advisor of UMCCD) and wife, YBhg. Datin Ragayah Eusoff, Mr. K. V. Soon (Executive Committee member of INEB), Ms. Anchalee Kurutach Executive Committee member of INEB) Mrs. Prema Devi Palaniappan, Mr. Somboon Chungprampree (Executive Secretary of INEB), Mr. Santi Nindang (Thailand Country Coordinator FHI360), Mr. Preeyanat Phanayanggoor, Mr. Scott Anderson and Mr. Nils Mueller from the USAID, Mr. Syed Saddiq Albar (Founder, Project57) and Mr. Faisal Abdul Aziz (President, Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement).

Digital Technology: The group agreed efforts are needed to combat hate speech and harmful content shared via digital media, particularly through memes that artificial intelligence struggles to effectively moderate. The potential of blockchain technology was also highlighted, addressing the need for a safe and decentralized space where resources can be freely accessed and community developed. In the Malaysian context, significant regional disparities in access to technology coupled with digital illiteracy has created a digital divide that further exacerbates societal inequality. Enhanced collaboration and networking among civil society organizations was identified as a means of facilitating support and bridging these gaps with effective regional coordination.



| Participants discussing on their selected topic of interest

Economics and Politics: This group featured a particularly diverse array of nationalities including Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, India and the United States. Each participant shared key trends from their national context. The role of youth leadership in Sri Lanka was seen as significant for the larger region as inspiration for younger generations. Religious fault lines were also identified as frequent political tools used to amplify division across multiple country contexts. In general, there was recognition that economic challenges must be directly addressed with political change and should not remain outside of the purview of the religious sphere, completely.

DIALOGUE ON INCLUSIVITY AND PEACE

Education: This group decided to focus on the education landscape of Myanmar in order to offer the wider audience an opportunity to learn more about this complex and under-reported country context. Monastics from Myanmar shared that, due to political instability and extreme violence in the countryside, only schools in cities are open with monasteries. Furthermore, the use of the term 'interfaith' was singled out as particularly triggering in Myanmar where anti-Islamic hate speech continues to fuel violent conflict in parts of the country. During this time of crisis, it was suggested that providing healthy meals could serve as an incentive for parents to send their children to school. Additionally, emphasis was placed on inclusivity as a core value with recognition of the role of villages and local communities in driving social change through investments in education.

Climate: The climate dialogue emphasised the social divisions caused by climate change, particularly affecting marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities. It highlighted the potential for addressing climate change differently at the local level, despite its divisive nature in national politics. The role of religious communities, such as mosques in Malaysia providing shelter during floods, was recognized as influential in climate change initiatives. The dialogue also underscored the importance of incorporating religious perspectives, such as Buddhist and Islamic traditions with ecological practices, to mitigate climate change. Overall, trust-building and engagement with a scientific and academic communities were emphasized as crucial for effective climate change action.

Mr. V. K. Soon provided closing remarks for the session highlighting the role that regular dialogues between diverse groups must play in building a resilient and accepting society. While specific religious teachings were not emphasized during these dialogue sessions, the active participation and deep listening of religious leaders modeled a tolerant and constructive approach to sense-making which is the foundation of positive societal change. UMCCD would like to record its appreciation to Mr. V. K. Soon for the opportunity to hold this dialogue. The event ended with a group photo session.

Report prepared by:
Dexter Bohn,
International Network of Engaged
Buddhists (INER)
July 17, 2023

INAUGURAL LECTURE BY PROFESSOR DATIN DR. RAIHANAH ABDULLAH



| From left: Prof. Dr. Raihanah, Her Royal Highness Raja Puan Muda Perlis Tuanku Hajah Lailatul Shahreen Akashah Khalil, Prof. Dr. Shaliza Ibrahim



| Prof. Dr. Raihanah delivering her inaugural lecture

On the 12th May 2023, Prof. Datin Dr. Raihanah Abdullah gave her inaugural lecture entitled "**Indelible Scars on an Injured Soul: An Appraisal of Islamic, Cultural and Legislative Issues Related to Violence Against Women and Girls**" at the Academy of Islamic Studies UM. Prof. Datin Dr. Raihanah was a former director and currently, **Associate Member of UMCCD**. The lecture was graced with the presence of **Her Royal Highness Raja Puan Muda Perlis Tuanku Hajah Lailatul Shahreen Akashah Khalil**.

The inaugural lecture focused on the global reality of violence against women and girls, summarising international procedures and the extent to which Islamic principles are involved in resolving the issue. Violence against women and girls has become an increasing global concern, looming ominously over the daily lives of often naive women. Ignoring its negative consequences on the welfare of women and girls is plainly contrary to Islamic beliefs. Women have been the target of violence from the beginning of time. For many women living in combat zones, peace is an unknown reality. Prof. Datin Dr. Raihanah emphasised the point that her involvement with Dialogue of Civilisations (DoC) helped to universalise her cause for more justice for women in the context of violence against women.



| Academicians and UM members that attended the lecture. Third from left: Prof. Dr. Fauzi Hamat, Prof. Dr. Che' Zarrina Sa'ari, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan, Prof. Dr. Raihanah, Prof. Dr. Shaliza Ibrahim (Deputy Vice -Chancellor (Research & Innovation)).

Prof. Datin Dr. Raihanah is adamant that in order to confront the uninformed abuse of power, the principle of gender justice, as it is applied in Islam, must be understood and be more properly embraced. The concept of gender justice as it is understood in the modern world is consistent with the principles of Islam as they are expressed in the Qur'an. Additionally, it works hand in hand with SDG No. 5: Achieving gender justice and empowering all women and girls. As a result, the agenda for women's empowerment needs to be strengthened.

SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP 2023



Sustainability and environmental social and governance (ESG) is a growing field in which more organisations and institutions are becoming involved. On the 25th May 2023, the UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability in cooperation with Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment UKM, Institute of Climate Change UKM and UMCCD, organised the **Seminar on Sustainability Leadership 2023** at Putrajaya. The seminar was a hybrid program, opened to public via Zoom and Facebook platforms. **YB Tuan Nik Azmi Nik Ahmad, Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change officiated the seminar.** The keynote speakers were YBhg. Datuk Muhammad Umar Swift, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bursa Malaysia Berhad and YM Datuk Tengku Muhammad Taufik Tengku Kamadjaja Aziz, President and Group CEO, Executive Director of PetroliaM Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS).



| Honorable leaders from the government and private sectors



| Moderator and panelists of the second session

The seminar comprised two sessions where in the first session, lectures were delivered by YBrs. Dr. Hjh. Yatela Zainal Abidin (CEO, Yayasan Sime Darby), YBhg. Datin Tpr. Hjh. Noraida Saludin (President, Malaysian Institute of Planners), YBhg. Prof. Emeritus Dato' Chm. Dr. Mazlin Mokhtar (Deputy Head (Research) & Director, Ecological Systems Program, UN SDSN ASIA, Sunway University) and YBhg. Prof. Cheah Kok Hoong (President ESG, Association of Malaysia & Executive Chairman, SteerQuest Sdn. Bhd.).

In the second session, a forum entitled "Sustainability Forum: Realising Sustainability through Young Generation Leadership" was held. The forum was moderated by Assoc. Prof.

Dr. Wan Hanna Melini Wan Mokhtar, Head of the Environmental Management Centre, Institute of Climate Change UKM. The panelists were Mr. Affan Nasaruddin (Co-Founder of Water Warriors UM), Mr. Mogesh Sababathy (Co-Founder of Project Ocean Hope), Ms. Sharifah Norizah Syed Ahamad Kabeer (CEO of Asian Youth Network Resources), and Ms. Jolene Tan (Co-Founder of Green Steps Malaysia). Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD, as well as Chairholder of the UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability and also advisor to the organising committee, delivered the closing remarks in which she emphasised on the need for leaders in the government and private sectors as well as the older and younger generations, to all work together in building collaborative efforts on sustainability practices based on principles of ethics and morality.

RAMADAN-SYAWAL GO GREEN



| **From left:** Dr. Asmawati, Mrs. Ummy Kalthum, Dr. Muhammad Alihanafiah



| **From left:** Dr. Asmawati, Mrs. Ummy Kalthum, Prof. Azizan Baharuddin, Ustaz Mohd Abd Nasir Abdullah, Tuan Haji Mohd Aizul Adnan, and Dr. Ali Hanafiah

It is an undeniable fact today that the sustainability agenda cannot not be assisted by the values and morality impetus. Empirical research has also clearly shown the role of religion and religious groups in effecting behavioural changes that can be important drivers for the SDGs. In line with this, the UMCCD together with the Environmental Sustainability Advocacy Research through the Green Mosque Program, Zaid bin Haritsah Mosque Committee, Department of Islamic Religion (JAWI), Universiti Malaya Sustainability Development Centre, SWCorp, MGTC, Ijarah Eco-Friends (IEF) Club Academy of Islamic Studies UM, co-organised the **Ramadan-Syawal Go Green** program on the 1st April 2023. The program was held at the **Zaid Bin Haritsah Mosque**, Kuala Lumpur.

The program began with welcoming remarks from the Chairman of the Zaid bin Haritsah Mosque, Tuan Haji Mohd Aizul Bin Adnan, followed by a keynote address from UMCCD Director. Ustaz Mohd Abd Nasir Abdullah, JAWI Religious Administration Official of Zone 2, officiated the ceremony. The aim of the program was to spread awareness on the importance of sustainability issues and to highlight the role of mosques in informing the community that it is in fact their **religious obligation to mitigate climate issues**.

A dialogue on environmental sustainability entitled "Ramadan-Syawal Go Green" was also held. Dr. Asmawati Muhammad, Deputy Director of UMCCD, was the moderator. The panelists were Mrs. Ummy Kalthum Shuib, Director of SWCorp Malaysia (Federal Territory) and Dr Muhammad Alihanafiah Norasid, Senior lecturer from the Academy of Islamic Studies UM. The dialogue emphasises the significance of systematic and long-term **waste management which is greatly related to our daily activities and religious practices**. An interactive session waste management via composting by SWCorp was also conducted during the visit to SWCorp Booth. Before the program ended, all participants were invited to visit the Lestari (Sustainable) Shop Corner run by the students from the **IEF Club**. The program which aimed to instill sustainability awareness and responsibility among the local community received a huge support from the local community.



| **From left:** Dr. Alihanafiah, Tuan Haji Mohd Aizul, Dr. Asmawati, Prof. Azizan

"PAHALA KOMPOS" ACTIVITY WITH THE MOSQUE COMMUNITY

Deputy Director of UMCCD, **Dr. Asmawati Muhamad**, has successfully carried out her **research** in regards to the **greening of mosques** (RUU2021 CE[05]). Furthering this project, together with major partners including SWCorp, Masjid Al-Ikhlasih community, Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation, Universiti Malaya Sustainability and



Development Centre, UM Zero Waste Campaign, and UMCCD, Dr Asmawati and her team strives to communicate green sustainable practices through the program called "**Pahala Kompos**", held on the 17th June 2023 at Masjid Al-Ikhlasih, Bukit Kerinchi. It was very gratifying to see the involvement of composting industry, Bio Terra Solutions Sdn. Bhd. There was a demonstration of composting unit which showed in practical terms, a simple but critically important method of composting applicable by residents even living in high rise buildings. It was also heartening to see the mosque administrator explicating the exercise in the context of harmonising religion and science and the environment. On the whole, SDG number 15 and 17 was being worked out and supported.

INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE ON MALAYSIA MADANI

In line with the need to understand the vision and mission of the **Madani philosophy** of the current government, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) held a hybrid intellectual discourse on the 12th June 2023, to explain and debate the **concept of Madani**. The event was organised by the **Peace and Human Well-Being Thought Center (PEMIKIR)**, Faculty of Language Studies and Human Development. It was attended by 800 staffs and students of UMK as well as non-government organisation leaders in the Bachok and Kota Bharu area. UMCCD Director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin was invited as **one of the speakers**. The other speaker was Prof. Zaid Ahmad, Professor of the Department of Nationality and Civilisation Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia. The moderator was Dr. Muhammad Razak Idris, political secretary to the minister in the Prime Minister's department (Religious Affairs). There was also a very lively Q & A session where participants queried about the mechanisms for making the Madani principles operable in life.



NETWORKING WITH UIN RADEN FATAH PALEMBANG FAKULTAS USULUDDIN & PEMIKIRAN ISLAM



A networking and collaboration proposal was discussed between the UMCCD and UIN Raden Fatah Palembang Fakultas Usuluddin & Pemikiran Islam on the 6th April 2023. The Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Thought wishes to contribute to developing the treasures of Usuluddin's and promoting dialogue between civilisations to achieve a harmonious society. Following the meeting, Prof. Dr. Ris'an Rusli, Dean of the Faculty of Usuluddin and Islamic Thought and Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD, hoped that a strong academic partnership would materialise soon. An international seminar on pertinent civilisational issues and the role of theology will be held in November 2023.



| Mr. Chang Lee Wei (third from right) receiving the award

DATA STEWARDSHIP AWARD AT LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF MALAYSIA OPEN SCIENCE PLATFORM (MOSP)

On the 16th May 2023, The Malaysia Open Science Platform (MOSP) was launched by the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof. MOSP aims to strengthen the country's open science ecosystem by constructing the infrastructure for research data sharing, as well as providing open scientific guidelines, capacity building and awareness activities. The platform was initiated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and the pilot effort has been run by ASM since 2019. **Mr. Chang Lee Wei, UMCCD Senior Research Officer, received the Data Stewardship Award, which recognises his exceptional contributions to the improvement of scientific data stewardship of the MOSP.**



DISCUSSION WITH BAKU INTERNATIONAL MULTICULTURALISM CENTRE

A meeting with the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre of Azerbaijan was held on the 19th May 2023. The meeting was to discuss the possibility of the offering of the Course on Introduction to Multiculturalism at Universiti Malaya. The discussion was also a platform to strengthen the networking of UMCCD and other international civilisational centres of the world.

PUBLIC FORUM ON SCIENCE COMMUNICATION "TRANSLATING SCIENCE INTO PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE: ENCULTURATING THE SUSTAINABILITY NARRATIVE FOR PUBLIC GOOD"

On the 6th June 2023, a Public Forum on Science Communication entitled **"Translating Science into Public Knowledge: Enculturating the Sustainability Narrative for Public Good"** was held at Universiti Malaya in conjunction with the **UM Sustainability Festival**. The public forum was hosted by the **Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science UM**, co-organised with **SEMARAK** and **UMCCD**.



The invited speaker was **Director of the Sejahtera Centre for Sustainability and Humanity International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)**, Associate Professor Dr. Zainal Abidin Sanusi while the moderator was Director of UMCCD, Datuk Professor Dr. Azizan Baharuddin. Dr. Zainal Abidin shared that to achieve a balance, Malaysia's research infrastructure must move away from its **traditional notions of research and development** so as to allow **synergy between top-down government activities with grassroots**, bottom-up movements. He emphasised that prior to the arrival of unsustainable products such as plastics and fossil fuels, sustainable practices could already be found in communities. Communities, particularly in the Global South, such as Brazil, South Africa, and South East Asia, have community ideologies that predate industrialisation and are still relevant to today's age. When dealing with the difficulties of sustainability, scientific policy must include both content and context. Leveraging this heritage has the potential to inspire communities to improve their existing practices while also instilling ownership of the principles so that they can be passed down to future generations.

Datuk Professor Dr. Azizan added that sustainability must resonate with the heart of society for it to truly take root. It cannot succeed if only top-down direction is applied. For society to fully adopt sustainable practices, simply appealing to head knowledge is insufficient. The event also discussed the **role of evidence-based and citizen science** in the Malaysian society.



| Associate Professor Dr. Ng Boon Kwee, Head of Department of Science and Technology Studies



| **From left:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Sanusi, Prof. Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Boon Kwee, Dr. Kenneth Fung



| Participants of the public forum



MIDDLE PATH AS ANTIDOTE TO EXTREMISM

Prof. Osman Bakar, Honorary Fellow of Academy of Professors Malaysia (APM) and Holder of Al-Ghazali Chair ISTAC-IIUM, shared his thoughts and knowledge on the topic of **"Middle Path as Antidote to Extremism"** on the 31st May 2023 in an online webinar organised by APM. Discussants of this event included Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD, and Prof. Dr. Chin Yee Whah, Chair of Social Cohesion and National Unity APM, Universiti Sains Malaysia. The topic is of great relevance to the UMCCD as moderation is one of the main goals of Dialogue of Civilisations.

COURSE ON THE FUNDAMENTALS AND SKILLS OF DIALOGUE



Dr. Alwani Ghazali, UMCCD Associate member, Senior lecturer at APIUM, and alumni fellow of the International Fellows Programme of the King Abdullah bin AbdulAziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) together with UMCCD is offering a course on the Fundamentals and Skills of Dialogue. The course is planned to be conducted online, from 15th July 2023 until 30th September 2023. The modules of the course include concepts, forms and challenges of dialogue, the importance of dialogue, interfaith and intercultural dialogues.

POTENTIAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH DARUL QURAN JABATAN KEMAJUAN ISLAM MALAYSIA (JAKIM)



Front row (From left): Prof. Rosli Ramli, Dr. Asmawati Muhammad, Prof. Azizan Baharuddin, Tn. Hj. Mohd Ansarullah Mohd Hashim, **Back row (From left):** Mr. Ahmad, Mr. Chang Lee Wei, Mrs. Nur Lisa, Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, Mrs. Norzila

On the 30th May 2023, a meeting was conducted between UM representatives from UMCCD and Prof. Rosli Ramli from Faculty of Science with the Darul Quran team. The meeting began with a welcoming speech by the UMCCD Director, followed by an introduction speech on the research collaboration by Tn. Hj. Mohd Ansarullah Mohd Hashim, Director of Darul Quran (DQ) JAKIM.

Dr. Asmawati Muhammad, Deputy Director of UMCCD, presented the research proposal entitled **"Advokasi Kelestarian Alam Sekitar di Masjid Darul Quran JAKIM: Pendekatan Islam dan Sains" (Advocacy of Environmental Sustainability at JAKIM's Darul Quran Mosque: Islamic and Scientific Approaches)**. Through the research collaboration, both parties hope to firstly solve the environmental problem at the DQ mosque and after that to also instill awareness on the importance of sustainability and biodiversity in the religious context.

ACTIVITIES OF UMCCD ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

THE ROLE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN GLOBAL DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT



In conjunction with International Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, Dr. Alwani Ghazali, UMCCD Associate member, Senior lecturer at APIUM, and former Deputy Director of UMCCD was invited to share her views on the role of cultural diversity in global dialogue and development on the 29th May 2023. According to Dr. Alwani, Malaysia has a great social landscape but as of now, is still lacking in-depth dialogues. Moving forward, Malaysians can start at the individual level by communicating with one another. On the societal level, being honest with each other allows open discussions of more difficult issues. Besides that, the involvement of government and non-government institutions in empowering dialogue among people is also crucial.



IBRAH FROM USA: A SHARE OF EXPERIENCES

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zul Ilham Zulkiflee Lubes of the Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science UM, UMCCD Associate member and former Deputy Director of UMCCD was granted the scholarship of JW Fullbright Visiting Scholar, a prestigious program under the Fulbright International Programs which receive funding from the United States State Department, in 2022. He conducted his research at Cornell University, New York. On the 25th May 2023, he shared his experiences and lessons learnt from his time in the USA at IKIM radio. One of the examples of sustainability efforts that impressed him was the fact that the USA has 63 official national parks, and over 400 gazetted national parks in their states. Among the good value that he observed and should be pondered upon by fellow Malaysians is that the **sustainability and wild nature of the parks were well-maintained and protected by the laws**. The people and the laws fully support the preservation of their national parks.



ALIGNMENT OF ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On the 15th May 2023, a seminar entitled "Alignment of Islamic Philosophy with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" was organised by the Applied Science & Islamic Studies programme, Academy of Islamic Studies UM. The keynote speakers were UMCCD Associate member, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zul Ilham Zulkiflee Lubes, UMCCD Deputy Director, Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, and senior lecturer of Faculty of Science, Dr. Adi Ainurzaman Jamaludin. They discussed on SDGs, sustainability principles from the Quran and Sunnah perspectives, and the challenges of sustainable development.

RESEARCH WORKSHOP OF MALAYSIA HARMONY CHARTER (PIAGAM HARMONI MALAYSIA)

Under the research collaboration between the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM), UMCCD, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, and Academy of Islamic Studies UM, researchers involved attended a research workshop on the Harmony Charter Project at the Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on the 27th and 28th May 2023. The draft of the Malaysia Harmony Charter was discussed prior to the Focus Group Discussions (FGD) 1, 2, 3, and 4 held at UM in June 2023 (Refer page 14).



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

MOU WITH INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC UNDERSTANDING MALAYSIA (IKIM)



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, on the 3rd and 10th May 2023, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin filled in the slot in the program called *Fas'aluna* (Ask us) at IKIM radio. Amongst others, she dwelled on the meanings of **fitrah in the context of Eidul Fitri** and **relationship of fitrah to tawakkal**, which is one of the main pillars of *tazkiyah al-nafs* (education of the self in Islam) between *fitrah*, *taqwa* and *tawakkal*. On the 7th and 11th May 2023, Associate Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, Research Fellow of UMCCD covered two slots in *Resolusi* on the topic entitled "**Menyantuni Ibu Bapa/Penjaga Individu Autisme**" while Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, UMCCD Deputy Director, covered a slot entitled "**Islam dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar**" on the 18th May 2023. These radio appearances provide an excellent platform for UMCCD to publicise its research activities. Other radio inputs under the MoU was also by UMCCD's former director, Prof. Dr. Raihanah Abdullah. The net media value of these appearances is approximately RM 30,000. Radio IKIM is one of the top-ranking radio in Malaysia, the only radio station broadcasting 24 hours daily focusing on a greater understanding of Islam in the world.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE MALAYSIA HARMONY CHARTER (PIAGAM HARMONI MALAYSIA)



FGD 1



FGD 2



FGD 3



FGD 4

Focus Group Discussions (FGD) involving experts from various fields were held on the 7th, 8th, 14th and 23rd June 2023. The FGDs were conducted to provide inputs to IKIM to improve and refine the **framework and content of the Malaysian Harmony Charter**. The four FGDs looked at the five main sections contained in the Malaysian Harmony Charter, namely: **Core, Values, Context, the Do's and the Don'ts**. Through these FGDs, the framework and principles of the Malaysian Harmony Charter can be refined by obtaining views from interest groups that involved **academicians, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and representatives of Muslim and non-Muslim religions**.

The FGD team from UMCCD included Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, Mr. Chang Lee Wei, Mr. Ahmad Mohamad, and Mrs. Nur Lisa Mohd Yusoff. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suraya Sintang of UMS (Core researcher) was also in attendance, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin (Principle Researcher), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khadijah Binti Mohd Khambali @ Hambali, were the core research team member alongside Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, Dr. Mohd. Farid Mohd Shahrar, Mrs. Enizahura, and Mr. Amiruddin.

The construction of the Harmony Charter aims to highlight the current level of unity of plural societies in Malaysia, discuss the main principles that are necessary in the effort to form sustainable unity among the Malaysian community. The document called the Harmony Charter acts as a vehicle for uniting Malaysians. Besides the FGDs, the construction of the Harmony Charter has been implemented in parts by organising a series of discussions with experts. Inputs from experts on aspects of the Constitution and Islamic views have also been included in the initial draft of the charter. The Harmony Charter concept has also been consulted and supported by the Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA), UKM. This is to ensure that this Charter of Harmony will be a document that is comprehensive and can be accepted by various levels of society and become a guide to the efforts of unity and harmony for Malaysia, alongside the *Rukun Negara* and the National Constitution.

WEBINAR ON "CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW AND WHAT CAN BE DONE"

Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperature and weather patterns, and climate scientists have demonstrated that humans are to be blamed for nearly all global warming over the previous 200 years. On the 15th June 2023, the **Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC)** and UMCCD organised a webinar entitled "Climate Change: What We Need to Know and What Can Be Done?". Moderated by Mrs. Suhaila Mohamad, President of Umuc, the webinar was honoured to have the **Honourable Dr. Iyad Abu Moghli**, Founder and Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Faith for Earth Initiative, to give his speech on the topic.



The panelists were Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zul Ilham Zulkiflee Lubes, Associate Professor from the Faculty of Science UM and also associate member of UMCCD and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Helena Muhamad Varkkey, Associate Professor from the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences UM. In his address, **Dr. Iyad emphasized the importance of Islamic teachings which guaranteed positive results if one follows the Islamic practices.** He also introduced the "Islamic Declaration on Climate Change". The declaration reiterates a demand to **reject human abuse of natural resources, to preserve nature's "perfect equilibrium," and to recognise the "moral obligation" to conserve.** In addition, Dr. Zul Ilham reminded the participants to embrace all proactive measures and strategic approaches taken by the professionals while Dr. Helena encourages bitesize steps for climate action towards mitigation of the climate change issues.

PROGRESSING TOGETHER: MUCP CONTRIBUTIONS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

UNESCO in partnership with the National Commission for UNESCO Malaysia, organised the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Program (MUCP) Achievement Event with the theme **"Progressing Together: MUCP Contributions to A Sustainable Future"** from 22-24 June 2023 at the Grand Hyatt, Kuala Lumpur. The event's main goal is to demonstrate the cumulative impact of Malaysia and UNESCO's relationship over a decade of MUCP implementation. UMUC advisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah attended the event with UMUC members. Dr. Durriyyah and Mr. Ahmad Mohamad, UMUC Vice President, held discussions with **Mr. Ahmadul Mokhtar Mohd Hayani**, Executive Secretary of the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM).



| From left: Mr. Ahmad, Dr. Durriyyah, and Mr. Ahmadul Mokhtar



PUBLICATIONS



Monograph 30: Enrique De Malacca and Datu Lapulapu: The Prides of the Malay Archipelago

Md. Salleh Yaapar

The context of this monograph was presented in the Kuala Lumpur conference titled "Southeast Asia Views the Quincentennial", organized by the Philippines Embassy. It tells us the heroic deeds of the renowned figure Datu Lapulapu and the outstanding achievement of Enrique de Malacca.



Monograph 31: Pre-Intellect Human Communication: Speaking from the Heart and from the Imaginal & Communication through Imagery: Exploring a Visual Language for Humanity

Eric Winkel

Drawing from the works and ideas of Ibn Arabi, this monograph aims to provide a fresh perspective on human communication and its potential to bring about deeper understanding and connection between individuals and communities.

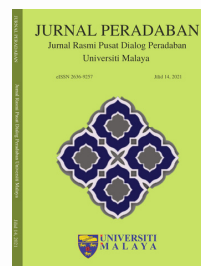
KATHA journal



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>]

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>]

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