



BULLETIN



CENTRE FOR CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE
PUSAT DIALOG PERADABAN



AUA UI-UM DEEP DIVE PROGRAM 2023: ASIAN CIVILIZATION

Asian Universities Alliance
Universitas Indonesia-Universiti
Malaya (AUA UI-UM) Deep Dive
Program 2023: Asian Civilization

The AUA UI-UM Deep Dive Program 2023: Asian Civilization is an intensive cultural experience aimed to provide students with a thorough understanding of Asia's diverse cultures and communities. This year's programme seeks to expand knowledge and enhance multi-cultural communication among students, building on the success of the previous AUA Asia Deep Dive Programme 2020 in the United Arab Emirates. Participants from major AUA member universities, including Universitas Indonesia (UI) and Universiti Malaya (UM), embarked on an exploration of Asian civilizations' rich past, current advancements, and future potentials. Participants received insights into the region's socioeconomic situation and also created meaningful connections with their peers, transcending cultural borders. On the UM side, the program was made possible by the great efforts of the Global Enrichment & Mobility (GEM) Division, headed by Madam Vigneshree King.


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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 Associate Members. All articles and photos are original and belong to the centre (unless stated otherwise).

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ASIAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE UNIVERSITAS INDONESIA-UNIVERSITI MALAYA (AUA UI-UM) DEEP DIVE PROGRAM 2023: ASIAN CIVILIZATION

by Siti Nur Husna binti Tukiran

From 7th to 11th August 2023, participants virtually explored Asia's cultural richness, with a particular focus on Malaysia. The virtual sessions, guided by experts from the Universiti Malaya and led by the UMCCD, delved into the depths of Malaysian heritage and history, offering participants profound insights. The program began with a warm welcome from Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD). The topics discussed highlighted on cross-cultural dialogues, promoting the exchange of cultural backgrounds and fostering mutual learning among participants.

Continuing the journey, the on-site program (13th to 19th August 2023) began with a warm welcome to participants to Indonesia, where they embarked on an immersive cultural and educational adventure. Distinguished speakers from UI shared lecture sessions, delving into various facets of Asian civilisation, encompassing Western and Islamic civilization, Chinese and Indonesian cultures, and themes of youth leadership and sustainability. The program also offered hands-on cultural experiences through *Batik* and *Gamelan* sessions, allowing students to actively learn the classic Indonesian arts. Enriching field trips were also thoughtfully scheduled to coincide with Indonesia's Independence Day on the 17th of August.

The program concluded with a special closing ceremony with art performances that highlighted Indonesia's rich culture and talents. The AUA UI-UM Deep Dive Program 2023 successfully achieved its goal of fostering cultural understanding, promoting dialogue, and enriching participants' appreciation of Asian heritage and civilisations.



[The officiation of the program at UI



[The happy faces of participants during the program



[Virtual Forum on 7-11 August 2023

DEBAT PERDANA MADANI 2023



On the 22nd August 2023, the first *Debat Perdana MADANI* was held at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Intellectuals and researchers used it as a platform to explore ideas and express varied perspectives on MADANI. The *Debat Perdana MADANI* is a national project, and a specific effort by the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) to collectively raise consciousness of the Malaysian MADANI discourse, according to Minister of Higher Education Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin. In his keynote speech, he emphasised the importance of translating the MADANI vision via wider perspectives in a more critical and creative manner.

The debate featured ten panelists from various backgrounds, with three main slots: **MADANI's Prosperous Malaysia Talk**, Three panel presentations, and Malaysia MADANI Forum. For MADANI's Prosperous Malaysia Talk, the slot featured a casual discussion about Malaysia MADANI scenario from a social and economic standpoint, with renowned economist Prof. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali from UKM, **civilisation studies and sustainability perspective by the Director of the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogues (UMCCD)**, and social studies perspective by Dr. Charanjit Kaur from Tunku Abdul Rahman University (UTAR). The prominent national religious scholar, Prof. Associate Dato' Dr. Mohd Izhar Ariff Mohd Kashim from UKM moderated the forum.

The program was attended by approximately 2,000 guests and the following dignitaries: The Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Dato' Haji Mohammad Yusof Apdal, Deputy Secretary General (Management and Development), Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Dato' Dr. Mohd Zabri Yusoff, Director General of Higher Education, Prof. Dr. Azlinda Azman, Chairman of UKM's Board of Directors, Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Mohammad Abd Razak, and Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Mr. Ts. Dr. Mohd Ekhwan Haji Toriman. The Vice-Chancellors and Rectors of public and private universities, UKM's top management, Chairman and members of the University Board of Directors were also in attendance. On behalf of Universiti Malaya, UMCCD was a part of the steering committee of the event.

OPEN FORUM: HARMONY & PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE



On the 2nd July 2023, the topic “Harmony and Peaceful Co-existence” was discussed by Prof. Azizan in the program OPEN FORUM at IKIM radio, hosted by Mrs. Enizahura Abdul Aziz, Fellow, Centre for the Study of Shari’ah, Law and Politics IKIM. She emphasised the importance of dialogue among cultures for a harmonious co-existence. Malaysia has a history of peaceful co-existence between people of different religions, races and ethnic backgrounds. In managing this unique character of the nation, we must not take for granted our independence and current peaceful status. The revitalisation of being tolerant and showing mercy towards each other especially among the youths today is crucial in maintaining a well-built civilisation for the present and the future.

SELF THERAPY WITH AL-QURAN IN “APA KHBAR MALAYSIA”



Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, Deputy Director of UMCCD, was invited to give a talk on “*Terapi Diri dengan Al-Quran* (Self Therapy with Al-Quran)” in the Apa Khabar Malaysia program on the 6th July 2023. Dr. Asmawati explained that a verse in Surah Al-Isra mentioned that the Al-Quran is not only a source of healing, but it is also a mercy from Allah to the believers. To further understand the meaning of the verse, Muslims can refer to Ibn Kathir in his Tafsir Al-Quran Al-Azim, regarding the ‘healing’ mentioned in the Al-Quran which refers to the healing of both spiritual and physical diseases of human beings. From the scientific perspective, studies have revealed that the Al-Quran can be a source of therapy for autistic children as it is proven to be able to reduce their tantrums, assist in their psychomotor developments and enhance speech progress.

DISCUSSION ON A TRANSFORMATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP MODULE FOR THE NATIONAL PLANETARY HEALTH ACTION PLAN

On the 13th September 2023, a discussion on the Transformational Sustainability Leadership Module for National Planetary Health Action Plan led by UMCCD Director was conducted with Prof. Dr. Noorsaadah Abdul Rahman, Head of Research & Education pillar under the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, and other co-researchers. The direction and planning of the module development was the focus of discussion. An FGD involving experts from the sustainability and leadership field will be conducted in November 2023 to kickstart the module preparation.



Front row (from left): Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Prof. Noorsaadah. **Back row (from left):** Mrs. Nur Lisa, Mr. Ahmad, Mr. Chang, Mr. Mohd Noor, Dr. Mas, Dr. Asmawati, Dr. Ng Boon Kwee.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY 2023 (ICON-ST'S'23)



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
International Conference on
Science, Technology and Society 2023
iCON-ST'S 2023 | *Rejuvenating STS for Sustainability Transitions*

15-16 August 2023
VIRTUAL

SUB THEME

- Science and Technology Policy
- Public Engagement in Science and Technology
- Science Communication
- Dialogue and Science Diplomacy
- Ethics and Law in Science and Technology
- Philosophy of Science and Technology

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

IMPORTANT DATES

EXTENDED	IMPORTANT DATES
15 June Abstract Submission	30 June Early Bird Registration Closed
20 June Abstract Acceptance Notification	28 July Payment Confirmation Deadline
	15-16 August Virtual Conference

The International Conference of Science, Technology and Society 2023 (iCON-ST'S 2023) was held on the 15 and 16 August 2023 virtually, co-organised by the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, UM and UMCCD. The theme of the conference was "Rejuvenating STS for Sustainability Transitions." The conference provided a platform for scholars to engage in meaningful dialogue about the evolving landscape of science and technology in our interconnected world. The exchange of ideas and perspectives underscored the **importance of a balanced and ethical approach to harnessing the potential of emerging technologies for the benefit of society**. The conference concluded with a sense of shared commitment to addressing the complex challenges that lie at the intersection of science, technology, and society.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON UPHOLDING HUMAN DIGNITY FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE



[From left: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khadijah Hambali, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suraya Sintang, Madam Mariammah Subramaniam and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli

The concept of human dignity recognizes that human beings possess a special value intrinsic to humanity, which abhors injustice and any forms of discrimination towards other human beings based on religion, race, colour, gender, language and nationality. These principles were the basis of the International Symposium on Upholding Human Dignity for Peaceful Coexistence held recently on 5-6 July 2023, at the Sri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The symposium was organised by IKIM, Brigham Young University School of Law, USA, the Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, and Unity in Diversity (UID-Sejahtera Malaysia).

YBhg. Prof. Dato' Dr. Muhammad Nur Manuty (Chairman of IKIM) officiated the symposium. UMCCD was represented by its Research Fellow, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli. A few UMCCD Associate Members, including Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khadijah Hambali (UM) and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suraya Sintang (UMS), also made up the 60 attendees, whilst Madam Enizahura Abdul Aziz and Mr. Mohd. Amiruddin Kamarulzaidi, also UMCCD Associate Members, were part of the symposium secretariat from IKIM. Active in-depth discussions took place after each presentation by both the local and international speakers from Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, United States of America, Qatar, and United Kingdom.

MEETING WITH THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF NATIONAL UNITY, YB DATUK AARON DAGANG



On the 8th August 2023, the UMCCD Director, being a member of the research team on the Harmony Charter led by IKIM, was a member of the entourage to visit YB Minister of National Unity at his office. Important points discussed with the minister included the importance of the Harmony Charter (*Piagam Harmoni*) as a complementary document to the *Rukun Negara* and *Perlembagaan Persekutuan* with regards to National Unity. The head of the delegation was the Director General of IKIM, and the members of the delegation were other researchers from IKIM, UMS and UM who are also involved in the Harmony Charter project. The UMCCD Director also presented the YB Minister with publications of the UMCCD.



NATIONAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE SUMMIT 2023 (5-7 SEPTEMBER 2023)

On the 6th September 2023, the UMCCD Director was a panelist of a forum entitled “Climate Risk & Governance in Malaysia - Broadening Our Horizon”, together with Prof. Dato’ Dr. Azizan Hj. Abu Samah from National Antarctic Research Centre & Institute of Ocean & Earth Science UM, Dr Renard Siew from Centre for Governance and Political Studies Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and Ms Aroe Ajoeni from KLIMA Action Malaysia. The moderator was Assoc. Prof. Dr Helena Varkkey from Department of International and Strategic Studies, UM.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad, Director of UMSDC, gave a welcome and introductory remarks. The forum stood as a satellite to the National Climate Governance Summit 2023 and explored broader facets of climate risks and governance that hold immense relevance for Malaysia. Congratulations to UMSDC for organising the event which was broadcasted live from the studio of the Information Technology Centre, UM. In the forum, among others, Prof. Azizam highlighted the inner dimension of being human and that spirituality in the context of climate change is a very neglected topic. She talked about two different worldviews in which human beings have different perspectives on what nature is: (1) The man-centered worldview, where nature is looked at as something that has utilitarian value only, and (2) Man is a part of nature and is not apart from it. According to her, climate problem is a moral problem and nature is a responsibility entrusted to human beings to protect and sustain.

SEMINAR ON “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG): BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL”

The Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment in collaboration with the UKM-YSD Sustainability Chair organised a "Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Seminar: Building a Better Future for All" on the 21st September 2023. The seminar was officiated by YBhg. Prof. Dato' Roslee Rajikan, Pro Vice Chancellor (Strategy & Corporate Development) of UKM. UMCCD Director, Prof. Azizan was invited as the speaker for the seminar.

She talked on the concept and significance of SDGs in the seminar. Global and national actions to ensure the achievement of this agenda were also described, as well as how teaching, research, and operational activities can be aligned with SDG standards. The lecture was followed by a sharing and lively Q & A session with the staffs (academic and administrative), postgraduates, and researchers at UKM.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON “ISLAM & KEHARMONIAN MASYARAKAT MALAYSIA MADANI”



On the 27th September 2023, a Roundtable discussion on “Islam & Keharmonian Masyarakat Malaysia Madani” was organised by the Academy of Professors Malaysia (APM). The online discussion began with welcoming remarks by Prof. Dr. Abdullah Mohd Zin, APM Treasurer. Prof. Dato’ Seri Dr. Md Salleh Yaapar was the moderator of the discussion. The invited panelists include Prof. Dato’ Dr Muhammad Nur Manuthy, Chairman Chairman of IKIM, Prof. Dato’ Dr Sivamurugan Pandian, member of the National Unity Advisory council, Dr Choi Hean Beng from Persatuan Dhammaduta Malaysia and UMCCD Director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin.



JKR SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE, PUTRAJAYA

On the 16th and 17th August 2023, the JKR Green Day was held with the theme “Ace-ing development, Protecting nature”. The event was organised by the Ministry of Works Malaysia and the Environment & Energy Efficiency branch of Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR). UMCCD Director was invited to deliver a talk on “Sustainability Literacy: An Imperative in Sustainable Development”. In the talk, Prof. Azizan underscored the critical importance of awareness amongst policy-makers, society, businesses, as a whole on the concept of sustainable development and sustainability leadership. YB Dato Sri Alexander Nanta Linggi, Minister of Works Malaysia, who officiated the event, also outlined new green policies embarked by the ministry in general and JKR in particular.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2023

As according to the United Nations, the theme for International Youth Day in 2023 is “Green skills for youth: towards a sustainable world”. The globe is currently undergoing a green shift. The transition to a more environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly world is crucial in addressing the global climate problem, and also meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. The development of green skills is critical towards a successful transition to a greener world. "Green skills" refer to the "knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society" .



On the 22nd September 2023, Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) organised a special “International Youth Day 2023” program which was held at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Universiti Malaya. The event began with opening remarks by Prof. Dr. Yatimah Alias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) UM. **Deputy Minister of Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia, YB Tuan Adam Adli Bin Abd Halim, officiated the event.** After the officiating ceremony, a 3-minute-violin performance was presented by Breydon Lim, a talented youth with autism.

The event continued with a panel discussion on “Nurturing Changemakers: Panel Discussion on Education, Environment, Leadership, STEAM and Entrepreneurship”. The distinguished panelists were Dr Ir Muhammad Akram, Chief Executive Officer of Mega Jati Academy Sdn Bhd, Dr Fong Chng Saun, Senior Lecturer from Institute of Advanced Studies UM, Assoc. Prof. Datin Dr Nurasyikin Mahmud, Dean of Faculty of Education, Arts and Humanities UPTM and Dr Donnie Adams, Senior Lecturer from Faculty of Education UM. The discussion was moderated by Mrs. Suhaila Mohamad, President of UM UNESCO Club.



| Deputy Minister of Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia, YB Tuan Adam Adli Bin Abd Halim



| Breydon Lim



| Official guests of the IYD 2023



Indian Classical dance

After lunch break, the event was continued with talent and cultural performances. The audience were entertained with three types of dance. Firstly, an Indian classical dance by Mr Neranjan Maniam, a youth with special educational needs (SEN). Secondly, Malay traditional dance by Adiratna Seni and finally, the famous traditional Kadazan and Daling-daling dance performed by learners with SEN from Permata Gemalai Sari, SMK Damansara Perdana. Following the performances, a youth empowering workshop session was conducted. The participants were divided into different groups and assigned to different activities. The different activities comprised DIY workshop mini terrarium, DIY tie dye workshop and scone making. The participants had a rich learning experience and were very excited to be given the opportunity to join the workshops and hands-on learning sessions.



Malay traditional dance



Scone making workshop



Kadazan & Daling-daling dance



DIY Mini Terrarium workshop



Tie dye workshop

As the event draws to a close, the Deputy Director of UMCCD, Dr Asmawati Muhamad, gave her closing remarks that resonated with gratitude and reflection on the event. She also congratulated both organising committee and participants for their effort and cooperation throughout the whole event. A prize and certificate ceremony followed, to appreciate all speakers for their expertise and performers for their wonderful performance. Before the event adjourned, everyone gathered together at the front of the stage for a photography session.



IUMCCD Deputy Director, Dr Asmawati, UMUC President, Mrs. Suhaila, Dr. Fong, with performers, participants, and collaborators

UMCCD ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zul Ilham Zulkiflee Lubes was invited as:

1. Keynote Speaker in the International Conference on Environment, Sustainability Issues and Community Development (INCRID 2023) on the 6th September 2023.
2. Invited Speaker in the 5th AFOB Malaysian Chapter International Symposium 2023 on the 18th September 2023
3. Speaker at the Awareness Talk in conjunction with MoU Signing Ceremony between UM and UEM Sunrise on 26th September 2023



WRITERS WORKSHOP ON RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN BORNEO

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suraya Sintang



The two-day writers' workshop held at ISEAS (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies), Singapore on August 23-24, 2023 was a significant event focusing on Borneo studies in the field of religion, ethnicity and society. The workshop brought together invited-scholars and researchers from Kalimantan Indonesia, Brunei, East Malaysia and Singapore. A total of eleven papers were presented during the workshop. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suraya Sintang from Universiti Malaysia Sabah presented on "Interfaith relations in Sabah".

The workshop also aimed to work on a publication that explores how key actors in Borneo manage diversity, encompassing aspects of religion, ethnicity and society. This publication aligns with the goals of the Regional Social and Cultural Studies Program at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION & EXHIBITION OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ON ISLAMIC STUDIES AND HUMAN SCIENCES

On the 25th July 2023, a project on marginalised community conducted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, UMCCD Research Fellow, with her co-researchers, Dr. Siti Patonah, Dr. Mohd Yaakub @ Zulkifli Mohd Yusoff and Dr. Karen Jennifer Golden won the Gold Award for Impactful Research in Human Sciences at the International Competition & Exhibition of Research & Innovation on Islamic Studies & Human Sciences (ICONISHS 2023), organised by International Islamic University Malaysia and Sultan Azlan Shah University.



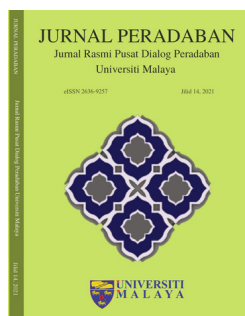
Dr Siti Patonah, presenter and winner of the Gold Award

VISIT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION



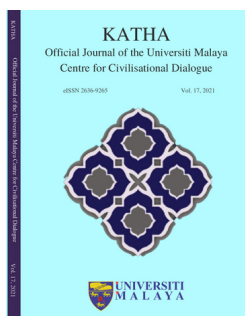
On the 31st August 2023, UMCCD received a visit by Dr. Sidra Tariq Jamil, Communications Expert, Center for Civilizational Dialogue, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO). The meeting began with welcoming remarks and appreciation to Dr. Sidra for her visit to UMCCD. Proposals of future collaborations in research and intercivilisational dialogue with the centre was the discussion that followed. UMCCD Deputy Director, Dr. Asmawati Muhammad, UMCCD research fellow, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, and UMCCD research officers, Mrs. Nur Lisa and Mr. Ahmad, and Mr. Abulliamée also attended the meeting.

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>]

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