



BULLETIN

CENTRE FOR CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE
PUSAT DIALOG PERADABAN



Participants of the *Program Keharmonian Agama* (PKA) at the Dataran Universiti Malaya posing for a photograph prior to leaving for their program on the 21 October 2023

#KitaSelangor

PROGRAM KEHARMONIAN AGAMA

In an increasingly interconnected world, where borders blur and diversity becomes the heartbeat of communities, the necessity of promoting open and meaningful discussions within a multi cultural community cannot be overemphasized. *Program Keharmonian Agama* (PKA) was a bold initiative by the UMCCD, with the support of the Selangor Unity and Integration Council, delved into the multifaceted significance of dialogue in a multi-cultural society.



PKA
Opening
ceremony
at Masjid
Sultan
Abdul Aziz,
Petaling
Jaya

cont'd pg. 3

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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On October 21, 2023, led by its Senior Research Officer of Universiti Malaya Center for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), Mr. Chang Lee Wei, successfully held the **Program Keharmonian Agama** (Program on Harmony between Religious Adherents). The program was funded by the Selangor Unity and Integration Council (*Majlis Perpaduan dan Integrasi Selangor* (MPIS)). The 100 participants that joined the program were students and staffs of Universiti Malaya of different gender, faith groups and ethnicities.

This program offered a rare opportunity for the participants to recognise, comprehend, and embrace Malaysia's religious diversity while also enhancing awareness and fostering a spirit of unity among the races and ethnicities. In order to promote harmony and peace in a society where many racial and religious backgrounds co-exist, this program also assisted participants in getting to know one another and understand the various cultures and religions that are practiced in Malaysia.

The program began with a launching ceremony at Tun Abdul Aziz Mosque. Following the launching ceremony, participants were brought for a tour at the mosque in smaller groups. Explanations about Islam were given by their respective facilitators. After the mosque, participants visited the other houses of worship of various religions in the Petaling Jaya area which included the St. Paul Church, Tao Hung Shing Kung Temple, Sri Sithi Vinayagar Hindu Temple, the Thai Buddhist Chetawan Pagoda, and the Baha'i National Centre.

Participants from the diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds at Universiti Malaya enthusiastically welcomed this initiative and reported that it increased their understanding about religious diversity and the importance of dialogue for unity.

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PROGRAM KEHARMONIAN AGAMA



| Masjid Sultan Abdul Aziz



| St. Paul Church



| Sri Sithi Vinayagar Hindu Temple



| Tao Hung Shing Kung Temple



SEMARAK SISWA CAKNA MADANI UNIVERSITI MALAYA WEEK OF WELCOME

The Semarak Siswa Madani program is the latest initiative of the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT), which hopes to bring innovation and new ideas by focusing on the close ties between students and the community. The 4 main programs designed under the Semarak Siswa Madani KPT are KPT *Prihatin Madani*, Students for Society (S4S), Knowledge Transfer Program (KTP), and Civil Community @ Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). On October 2, 2023, UMCCD Director was invited to talk on the topic of Semarak Siswa Cakna Madani to Universiti Malaya's new students at the UM Week of Welcome (UMWOW). The concept, aims, and efforts of the Madani philosophy were explained to the students especially in the context of sustainability and civilisational values. The full talk can be accessed at: Explaining MADANI Concept 2023-Week of Welcome (WOW) UM <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsckUeYXpwE>.



CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (CORECS2023)

[Scholars from all religions, including Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Catholicism and others

The Conference on Religion and Climate Change - Southeast Asia 2023 (CORECS2023) held on 4th October 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia brought together more than 150 scholars, religious leaders, policy makers, and environmentalists from across Southeast Asia to explore the connections between religion and climate change. With the theme "Efforts to Revitalize Local Religious and Cultural Values in Overcoming Climate Change, Preserving the Environment and Sustainable Development," this conference aimed to explore the contribution of local religion and culture in efforts to preserve the environment and sustainable development. UMCCD Director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin was invited to make a presentation on "Religion & Climate Change: Perspectives & Experiences". The presentation delved into the relationship between religion and climate change, exploring the various views and experiences that different faiths bring to the conversation about environmental stewardship. Drawing on a multidisciplinary approach, Prof. Azizan emphasised on how religious beliefs such as Islam influence attitudes, behaviours, and responses to the challenges posed by climate change.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON GOVERNMENT AND CIVILIZATION (ISOGOC IV) AT IBN HALDUN UNIVERSITY (IHU), ISTANBUL

Written by Asmawati Muhamad



| Researchers and team members of the Green Mosque Program at ISOGOC IV in front of Ibn Haldun University |

During her visit, Dr. Asmawati had the opportunity to meet and discuss with Prof. Mustafa Yilmaz, Vice President of IHU and Associate Professor Dr. Bensaïd of Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University (IZU) regarding potential collaborations between UMCCD with IHU and IZU. Opportunities of collaborative research projects, international conference and publications on the topics of Islam and Environmental Sustainability, as well as the global implementation of Green Mosques were focused upon.

On October 21, 2023, UMCCD Deputy Director, Dr. Asmawati Muhamad presented a paper entitled "Exploring Students' Knowledge and Awareness of Environmental Sustainability: A Case Study of Ijarah-Eco Friends Involvement in the Green Mosque Program, Kuala Lumpur," at the International Seminar on Government and Civilization (ISOGOCIV) 2023, held at Ibn Haldun University (IHU) in Istanbul. The paper presentation was one of the outcomes of collaborative research work with the community through the Green Mosque Program involving partnerships with stakeholders such as the Federal Territory Islamic Religious Department (JAWI), Malaysian Green Technology And Climate Change Corporation (MGTC), SWCorp, UMCCD, UMSDC, mosque authorities, and students from the Ijarah Eco-Friends Club, Academy of Islamic Studies, Universiti Malaya.



| From left: Dr. Bensaïd, Dr. Asmawati and Dr. Fatin Majdina, UMCCD Associate member



SEMINAR "SHARED TRADITION: ASIA'S CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL LANDSCAPE IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN ERA"

On the 1st November 2023, UMCCD Director was invited to present a paper entitled "Asian Cultural and Biodiversity: As the Basis for Civilisational Renaissance Today", in the Seminar "Shared Tradition: Asia's Cultural and Spiritual Landscape in The Light Of Modern Era" at the Sofitel Kuala Lumpur Damansara, organised by The Institute of Spirituality in Asia. The conference brought together scholars from Thailand, China, the Philippines, and Italy, to strategise on how spiritual values are in need of revisiting in today's world.



CONFERMENT OF PROFESOR EMERITUS TITLE FROM UNIVERSITI MALAYA

The UMCCD Director was conferred the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus from Universiti Malaya on the 28th November 2023, a testament to her contributions, dedication, and accomplishments throughout her career which included very much of her work at the UMCCD 2000-2011 and 2021-2023.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON MADANI-CIVILISATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND TRANSFORMATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION



International Expert Roundtable Discussion on MADANI- Civilisational Framework and Transformation in Higher Education: The Case of Islamic Studies/Islamic Civilisation (Curriculum and Delivery) was held on November 2-3, 2023, at ISTAC-IIUM. Scholars from around the world deliberated on contemporary challenges and opportunities in the field of Islamic Civilisation. Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin was invited to deliver a paper on "The State of Teaching Islamic Civilisation and Sciences in the Institution of Higher Education: Challenges and Recommendations for Future Transformation". She highlighted the importance of revisiting and updating Islamic Civilisation curricula to address contemporary challenges and meet the needs of diverse student populations.



| **From left:** Ms. Fan Xinheng (South China University of Technology), Prof. Datuk Dr Azizan Baharuddin, Mr Muhammad Faisal Abdul Aziz (ABIM President), Mr. Nathaniel Tan (Moderator)

ISLAM-CONFUCIANISM LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE

On 28th November 2023, the Islam- Confucianism Leadership Dialogue themed 'The Idea of Enlightened Leadership: Islamic-Confucian Perspectives' was held at Renaissance Kuala Lumpur Hotel & Convention Centre. The YAB Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim officiated the event and the Honourable Ouyang Yujing, Ambassador of the Republic of China to Malaysia also graced the event. In a forum on “Globalisation, Youth and Cultural Exchanges”, UMCCD Director was invited to present a paper entitled "How Asian Civilisational Values Can Help Resolve the Present Planetary Health Crisis?". The conference was organised by Al-Ghazali Chair of Epistemology and Civilizational Studies and Renewal in collaboration with the Southeast Asia Research Centre of Humanities (SEARCH) and the Centre of Regional Strategic Studies (CROSS).



| Ms. Fatma Yekta is fourth from left

COURTESY VISIT BY MS. FATMA YEKTA INCI ZULFIKAR FROM IRCICA

On the 5th December 2024, Ms. Fatma Yekta Inci Zulfikar, Executive Assistant and Rapporteur at the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), a cultural subsidiary of the OIC in Turkey, visited the UMCCD to exchange ideas about civilisational values and intercultural dialogue. Ms. Fatma was in Malaysia to attend the International Expert Roundtable Discussion on Preparation of Guiding Document for the Promotion and Implementation of Islamic Values and Ethics to Enhance Women, Children and Family Moral Wellbeing in Member Countries in Kuala Lumpur.

RESEARCH PROJECT WITH GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY-QATAR FOUNDATION



An online discussion of the Qatar Foundation- Georgetown research and education working group was conducted on the 9th November 2023. The discussion was on the Global Environment Challenge-Islamic and Christians Perspectives. The research on this topic is currently one of the focus areas of the UMCCD. The UMCCD will take part in a conference which will be held in Georgetown University at Washington DC in June 2024.

INTERCULTURAL-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE ON INTEGRITY AND CORRUPTION



UMCCD and the Universiti Malaya Integrity Unit in collaboration with Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) organised the 2023 University of Malaya Integrity and Anti-Corruption Day celebration by holding a dialogue session entitled "Intercultural-Religious Dialogue on Integrity and Corruption" (*Dialog Antara Pelbagai Budaya-Agama Mengenai Integriti dan Rasuah*) on the 16th November 2023. With an estimated 250 participants, the program was successfully held at the Auditorium, High Impact Research Building, Universiti Malaya, physically and via online virtually. The objective of this program was to provide a platform to share information on the perils of corruption and its detrimental impacts on the nation, and to discuss current topics in the framework of Malaysia's heterogeneous society. The dialogue session was a part of the effort and initiative to educate and raise awareness among the youths and students about integrity and corruption.



SEMINAR NASIONAL PERADABAN MADANI 2023 "KEBANGKITAN NUSA DAN ANJAKAN GLOBAL"

On the 9th Dec 2023, Seminar Nasional Peradaban Madani 2023 in conjunction with the 7th National Harakiy Conference was organised by WADAH-ABIM-PKPIM (WAP) at The Everly Hotel, Putrajaya. The seminar was officiated by the YB Minister of Foreign Affairs, YB Senator Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Bin Abdul Kadir. With the theme "*Peradaban Madani Kebangkitan Nusa & Anjakan Global*", this seminar also marked the one year establishment of the Malaysian Unity government. UMCCD Director was invited to present a talk entitled "*Gagasan Negara Madani dan Relevansinya Terhadap Kebangkitan Umat Global*". The concept of *Gagasan Negara Madani* and its relevance to the resurgence of global communities were explored. Her talk also highlighted how this concept offers valuable insights and potential solutions for addressing contemporary challenges while promoting harmony and progress on a global scale.

PUBLIC LECTURE "INEVITABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE PALESTINIAN PLIGHT"



The public lecture titled "Inevitable Solutions for the Palestinian Plight" addressed the ongoing struggle and challenges faced by the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination and justice. On the 28th November 2023, UMCCD in collaboration with the Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine Studies Universiti Malaya, held a public lecture which aimed to explore viable pathways towards resolving the complex and longstanding conflict in Palestine. Dr. Stephen Robert Sizer, Director of Peacemaker Trust - Chair of the Convivencia Alliance, was the invited speaker. The lecture was moderated by Prof. Dr. Mohd Nazari Ismail, Director of Hashim Sani Center for Palestine Studies Universiti Malaya.



|Prof. Dr. Mohd Nazari Ismail, Director of Hashim Sani Center for Palestine Studies UM



|Dr. Stephen Robert Sizer, Director of Peacemaker Trust - Chair of the Convivencia Alliance giving his lecture|

The lecture provided a comprehensive overview of the historical background of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, highlighting the displacement and dispossession of the Palestinian population since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. Besides that, it discussed the challenges and opportunities inherent in diplomatic approaches to conflict resolution. Drawing upon insights from various perspectives, the lecture explored potential pathways to achieving peace in the region. After the lecture, an exciting Q & A session was held, where various questions concerning the topic were discussed. Following the session, a token of appreciation from UMCCD was presented to both Dr. Stephen Robert Sizer and Prof. Dr. Mohd Nazari Ismail, for the insightful sharing session.



|Active participation from the respectable attendees from various organisations during the Q&A session

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION TRANSFORMATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP MODULE FOR NATIONAL PLANETARY HEALTH ACTION PLAN



Front row (from left): Dr. Loo Yen Yi, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharina Abdul Halim, Mr Yusaimi Md Yusof, Dr. Minhaz FaridAhmed, Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Dr. Khalid Abdul Hamid, Datuk Hj. Mohamad Ali Hasan, and Dr. MuhammadHusni Mohd Amin. **Back row (From left):** Ms Nuratikah Mohd Zainodin, Mrs. Nur Lisa Mohd Yusoff, Mr. Chang LeeWei, Mr. Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri, Mr. Affan Nasaruddin, Dr. Fong Chng Saun, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ng Boon Kwee, Dr.Asmawati Muhamad, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad, Mr. Ahmad Mohamad.

In an era characterized by escalating environmental challenges, social inequities, and economic uncertainties, the need for effective leadership in sustainability for addressing planetary health has never been more pressing. Transformational sustainability leadership emerges as a beacon of hope in navigating the complex landscape of global sustainability issues. In addressing the importance of it, UMMCD was awarded a research grant by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) to research on the module. On the 30th November 2023, as part of the research, a focus group discussion (FGD) involving experts from the government and non-government sectors was held. The FGD was moderated by the UMCCD Director. The main issues was focused on the development of transformational sustainability leadership module for National Planetary Health Action Plan (NPHAP). The definition of planetary health and the necessity for the transformational sustainability leadership module beginning with civil servants in departments of the various ministries were reviewed. Besides that, a framework for a TSLM and additional approaches to improve the module was also described and discussed.

HARMONY CHARTER RESEARCH ANALYSIS WORKSHOP



Researchers led by the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) and involving the UMCCD, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, and Academy of Islamic Studies UM participated in an analysis workshop on a series of focus group discussions results on the Harmony Charter (*Piagam Harmoni*). The workshop was held at the Tamu Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from December 9th to 10th, 2023. The Harmony Charter is expected to be launched in 2024.

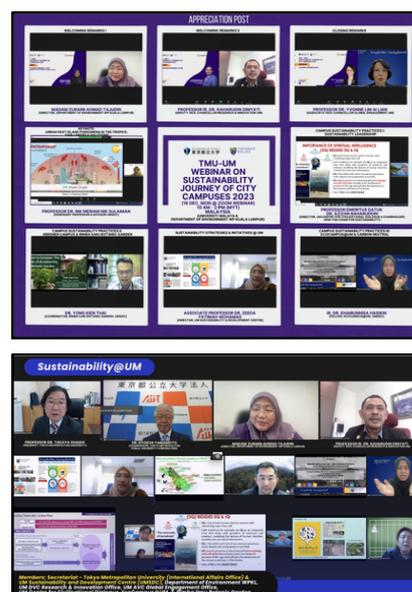
WEBINAR ON ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY AND THE HERITAGE OF ISLAMIC CIVILISATION

The "International Seminar on Islamic Philosophy and the Heritage of Islamic Civilisation" convened on 13 December 2023 with the aim of exploring and celebrating the rich tradition of Islamic philosophy and its enduring impact on the broader Islamic civilization. Hosted by UMCCD and Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Raden Fateh, Palembang, the seminar brought together researchers and enthusiasts from Malaysia and Indonesia to delve into various facets of Islamic thought and heritage. The seminar featured two keynote speakers: Prof. Dr. Nyanyu Khodijah, Rector, UIN Raden Fateh and Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director of UMCCD. The guest speakers were Prof. Dr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Dr. Nur Fitriyana, Dr. Alwani Ghazali, Dr. Idrus Alkahf, Mrs. Siti Maryam Aj-Jalilah, and Dr. Anisatul Mardiyah. The seminar was moderated by Ms. Jenika Susanti. Overall, the seminar served as a testament to the enduring relevance and vitality of Islamic philosophy, affirming its place as a vibrant and dynamic intellectual tradition. The organisers expressed their gratitude to all participants and speakers who contributed to the success of the seminar.



WEBINAR ON "TMU-UM'S SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY OF CITY CAMPUSES 2023"

The webinar entitled "TMU-UM's Sustainability Journey of City Campuses 2023", held on the 18th December 2023, shed light on the transformative initiatives undertaken by universities in collaboration with their stakeholders to foster sustainability within its urban campuses. The webinar, jointly organized by Tokyo Metropolitan University and Universiti Malaya under the Universiti Malaya Sustainability Development Centre (UMSDC), served as a platform to showcase the significant strides made towards building greener campuses. The UMCCD Director presented a topic on "Sustainability Leadership". Other presentations included 'Toward CO2 Utilization' by Profesor Dr. Tetsuya Shishido (TMU), 'Urban Heat Island (UHI) Phenomena in The Tropics - Challenges and Proposed Solutions' by Professor Dr. Nik Meriam Nik Sulaiman (UM), and 'Green to Greener: The Role of a University Botanic Garden' by Dr. Yong Kien Thai (UM).



PUBLICATIONS

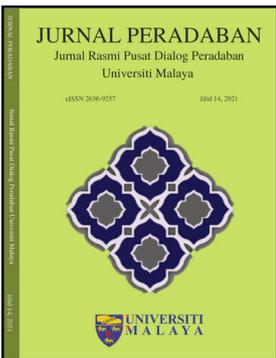


Tujuh Ilmu Pilihan Dalam Bahasa Melayu yang Mendahului Bahasa Inggeris

Shaharir Mohamad Zain & Maisarah Hasbullah

This book is for especially important for those interested in the achievements of scientific knowledge of the Malay civilisation. Knowledge in the Malay language before 1900 reached a high level of achievement in the three fields that are now known as astronomy and cosmology, medicine, and significant advances in the areas of leadership and management is discussed in this book, which were comparable to knowledge in Europe, at that time.

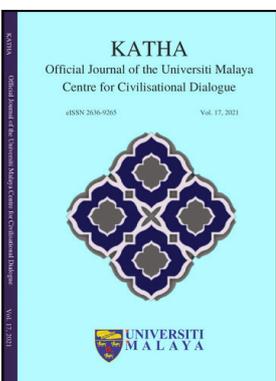
Jurnal Peradaban



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>]

