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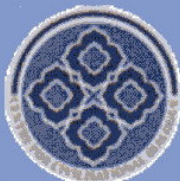
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BULETIN PUSAT DIALOG PERADABAN UNIVERSITI MALAYA

OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2008

No. 9

SEMINAR ON "UNITY AMONG MUSLIMS: AN INTRACIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE" - DECEMBER 16, 2008

When we mention the Islamic world today, what images are conjured? In the west journalistic expose' reveal words of terrorist intrigue and plots against the west. Islamophobia and demonisation of Islam are in the same league as other critical world concerns as climate change and physical catastrophes. Wither the true face of Islam? Who speaks for Islam? are two issues needing the most urgent attention. At the recommendation of the Islamic Republic of Iran the year 2001 was declared by the



United Nations as the International Year of the Dialogue of Civilisation. Since then intercivilisational and interreligious dialogue have grown in popularity all over the world, especially in the face of Samuel Huntington's theory of the clash of civilisations.

Much more difficult to do it seems is intra-civilisational dialogue, especially Islamic intracivilisational dialogue. Are Muslims united enough to face, the challenges they commonly face together? If not how can unity be created despite their differences? Because the future of peace and sustainability of the world also depends on the Muslims who make up one quarter of the world's total population, the initiative taken by the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and the Cultural Counsellorship, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

in Kuala Lumpur to hold a Seminar entitled "Unity Among Muslims: An Intracivilisational Dialogue" is perhaps very timely.

The Cultural Counsellorship, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was formally established in the year 2007. The Cultural Counsellorship officially undertakes cultural exchanges between the two countries, Iran and Malaysia. It is interested to share with Malaysia Iran's rich cultural heritage that comes from 7,000 years of civilization. Based on the belief of the effectiveness of dialogue and peaceful co-existence, they hope to contribute towards strengthening the multi-cultural co-operations with Malaysia in

the areas of culture, knowledge, Islamic thought and Persian Language with the aim of uniting people based on positive and progressive traits. The organisers records its appreciation to YBhg. Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd. Amin Jalaluddin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Internationalisation for taking time to officially declare the seminar open. (Continued on page 5).



VISIT OF THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION, OCTOBER 13, 2008.

The Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and various other departments and faculties of the University were very happy to receive the visit by Mr. Danny Burkhard, Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission on October 13, 2008. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss collaborative efforts between the 2 parties (University of Malaya and the New Zealand High Commission) in dialogue as well as related areas. The meeting started by Azizan explaining the role, functions and activities of the Centre. Mr. Burkhard did the same on behalf of the High Commission in the context of dialogue.

Some highlight of the issues/matters discussed included:

1. Seminar "Asia-Pacific Regional Media Programme 2008: Journalism at the Intersection of Politics, Religion and Culture"
2. Phnom Penh Dialogue 2008 on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and Harmony. Mr. Burkhard also highlighted this event which took place 3-6 April 2008. He drew attention to the Action Plan which included:
 - Building Network & Relationship
 - Education & Capacity Building
 - Conflict Resolution & Peace Building
 - Media Promoting Interfaith Understanding
3. Working together in a project for intercultural understanding through documenting the culture of different ethnicities and religions to create greater understanding among youths (New Zealand and elsewhere).
4. Mr. Burkhard announced the plans for the setting up of an Islamic Studies Department, the first of its kind, possibly at the University of Wellington.
5. The Centre offered a proposal for "Youth's Role in Intercultural Dialogue: Dealing with Fanaticism and Terrorism" as a joint seminar between UM student leaders and New Zealand's.



Mr. Burkhard (centre) Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand High Commission and representatives of the Arts Faculty, Islamic Studies, Academy and Student Affairs Office

The meeting was adjourned in the afternoon with both parties optimistic about working together in the future.

PUBLIC LECTURE ON "THE JAPANESE MUSLIM COMMUNITY: ITS INTERACTION WITH THE JAPANESE SOCIETY" BY MR AHMAD YUKI SHIOZAKI

On October 15, 2008, the Centre once again organised its series of public lectures, this time by Dr. Ahmad Yuki Shiozaki, Visiting Research Scholar, CISMOR, Doshisha University, Japan entitled "The Japanese Muslim Community: Its Interaction with The Japanese Society".

During his lecture, Dr Shiozaki touches on the history of the Muslim community in Japan, which is less than 100 years. The World War II saw the first large scale interaction between the Japanese and the Muslims. However, the Japanese did not consider Islam as relevant for them until 1980s. Dr Shiozaki also highlighted that, in the era of economic development in 1980s, thousands of Muslims came to Japan as workers, trainees, and students and as a result. Iranians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, and Indonesians formed their community in city areas. Since the

1980s, however thousands of native Japanese have embraced Islam, mostly to marry the foreign Muslims. According to him, the Muslim population in Japan today is about 100,000 and native Japanese Muslims are almost 10,000 in number. For thousands of years, the Japanese society has been very homogeneous. They consider Buddhism and Shinto as their traditional religion. Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism, Taoism have been synthesised in Japanese history while Christianity has impacted the Japanese society since the 16th century, although the Christian population is about 1 million now.

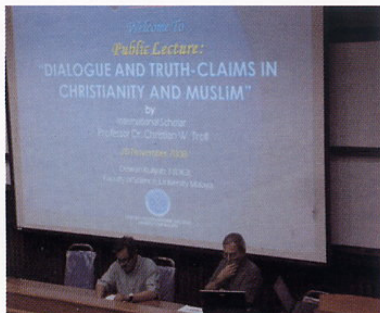
In any case, the Muslim community in Japan is still considered as 'foreign' community today. Most Japanese consider Islam and Muslims as very extraneous to their culture; although the Muslim community is growing

today, they are still a long way from being totally accepted. Today the Muslim community in Japan is still in the process of formation. They need to strive for their identity as Japanese Muslims, while at the same time, showing their signifi-



Dr. Ahmad Yuki Shiozaki

PUBLIC LECTURE ON “DIALOGUE AND TRUTH CLAIMS IN CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM” BY PROFESSOR DR CHRISTIAN W. TROLL*



Dr Wan Suhaimi & Prof Troll



Dr Raihanah delivering her welcoming remarks.

On November 20, 2008 the Centre had its series of public lecture by Professor Christian William Troll, entitled “Dialogue and Truth Claims in Christianity and Islam” at Lecture Hall 3, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya. This public lecture received a good crowd with more than 60 people attended. Associate Professor Dr Wan Suhaimi Wan Abdullah from the Department of Akidah and Islamic Thoughts, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya moderated his lecture which received a lot of questions during Q&A session.

During his lecture, Professor Troll highlighted the questions of can Christians and Muslims work in partnership together for the good of all? Furthermore: Is it possible, on the basis of Christian and Islamic doctrinal and ethical teachings, to develop together a system of values which, with the corresponding moral conviction and motivation, appears to be essential for the flourishing of pluralist democratic societies and also for co-operative activ-

ity at the international level?

These themes were addressed only at the normative level, but he hopes to provide an impetus towards discussion of the practical opportunities and difficulties, the possibilities and obstacles involved in Christian-Muslim co-existence and co-operation in our plural societies. At the end of this public lecture, the Deputy Director of Centre for Civilisational Dialogue also touches on the importance of dialogue, especially interfaith dialogue in order to live serenely in peaceful coexistence.

*Prof Troll was born in Germany in 1937. He studies Philosophy and Theology at the Universities of Bonn and Tubigen (1957-1961) and Arabic and Islam at the Universite St. Joseph in Beirut (1961-63). Prof Troll is currently an Hon. Professor for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at the Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule St. Georgen, Theologische Fakultät SJ, Frankfurt.

JSPS-VCC GROUP 1 WORKSHOP – ETHICS, REGULATION & ECONOMY

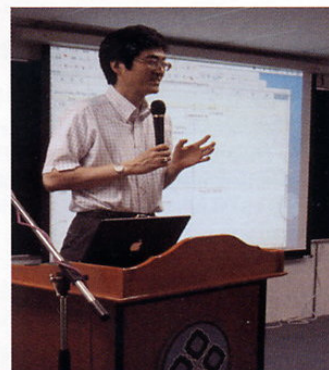
A workshop of Group 1, JSPS/VCC research project was held on October 20, 2008 at Katha Hall, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue. Group 1 consists of 20 members in Japan and Malaysia, led by Professor Azizan Baharuddin on the Malaysian side. The Group’s research is on Environmental Ethics, Regulation & Economy (alongside with Kyoto as well as other Universities in Japan. This workshop aims to discuss the report to be presented at the Comprehensive Seminar which was going to be held at Kyoto University on November 27-28, 2008. Seven representatives of Group 1 were at the seminar:

1. Professor Datin Dr Azizan Baharuddin (UM)
2. Professor Dr. Nik Meriam Nik Sulaiman (UM)

3. Professor Dr Shaliza Ibrahim (UM)
4. Associate Professor Dr Siti Korota Aini Omar (UiTM)
5. Puan Rosta Harun (UPM)
6. Cik Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad (UM)

Professor Dr Yoshihisa Shimizu (Group Leader Japan) gave a thorough explanation on the JSPS Comprehensive Seminar which was to be attended by 9 other groups from Malaysia and Japan.

Besides that, the direction of the project up to the year 2010 was also discussed amongst others.



SEMINAR ON "COMMEMORATING WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY": THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE THROUGH PHILOSOPHY.



The seminar which was held on the 17th November 2008 is a collaboration between the Centre, National Commission for UNESCO Malaysia (Nat Com) as well as Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. The main aim of the seminar commemorating The World Philosophy Day is to call public attention to the enlightening role that philosophical reflection and knowledge can play in public life and in facing world problems, especially in the context of the encounter of different cultures and civilizations due to globalization. The seminar was also attended by the representatives of the Ministry.

The seminar was held with the objectives—to find ways of developing capacities for critical thinking, self-resilience and respect for others in the context of a plural world, through philosophy; to promote and popularise philosophical reflection and to show the role of universities in promoting dialogue as a manifestation of philosophical reasoning; to share local experiences in the educating of subjects/

disciplines related to philosophy.

During the seminar 3 main themes were discussed meticulously:

1. Ways of developing capacities for critical thinking and philosophical reasoning
2. Role of universities in promoting dialogue through philosophy
3. Sharing experiences in teaching philosophy.

About 70 people which consisted of policy makers, academics (from various universities), and the media, together with a number of students attended this seminar. The seminar was also attended by representatives of the Secretary General of Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Puan Sharifah Nazira Syeh Baser Ahmad and Ms Neila Shuhaime.

In general, this seminar succeeded in stimulating the thinking of the participants regarding the understanding of the themes and related issues being discussed. It reached its aims through interesting discussions during the Q&A section after every session. The audience really showed their interest throughout the seminar during these discussions. Issues

like the current approaches to philosophy and philosophical reasoning from the perspective of science were discussed among other topics. A good network was also formed through this seminar via contacts made. The Centre and the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development record its highest appreciation to the National Commission for UNESCO Malaysia for their support in the organisation of this important seminar which succeeded in promoting philosophy amongst the Malaysian public. A proceeding of the seminar is being prepared.



Representatives of Min. of Women, Family & Community Development

FRGS WORKSHOP—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH

In its effort to establish the Module on Youth Moral Enhancement, the Centre organised a camp on December 2-3, 2008 at the Shah Village Hotel, Petaling Jaya, with a group of 20 youths. The workshop was divided into 6 sections:

1. **Mengenal Diri** (Knowing your self)
2. **Tujuan Hidup** (Purpose of life)
3. **Moraliti** (Morality)
4. **Peranan & Tanggungjawab** (Role & Responsibility)
5. **Cabaran & Halangan** (Challenges & Hindrances)
6. **Kepimpinan** (Leadership)

The main objective of the camp was to test the module which is one of the Centre's FRGS research projects. Its aim was to create awareness and better understanding on the meaning and purpose of life among youth in carrying out their role and responsibility towards them selves, family and society.

The workshop was made a success by inputs

from

1. **Professor Dr Suradi Salim**, Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling, Faculty of Education
2. **Associate Professor Dr. Ananda Kumar a/I Palaniappan**, Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling, Faculty of Education
3. **Associate Professor Dr. Chang Lee Hoon**, Department of Educational Foundation and Humanities, Faculty of Education
4. **Mr. Lau Chee Loong**, Social Economic Development Services
5. **Prof. Azizan Baharuddin**, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue

The centre records its highest appreciation to the trainers. Ms. Mawar Ainie, Mr. Firdaus, Mr. Mohamed Azmi, Ms. Muhainie & Mrs Siti Rukiah helped in facilitating the workshop which according to the students (in their evaluation forms) was very good and effective.



VISIT BY DR. ALHAGI MANTA DRAMMEH, AL-MAKTOUM INSTITUTE, SCOTLAND, NOVEMBER 19, 2008

On November 19, 2008, the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and University of Malaya received a visit by Dr Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of Department of the Study of Islam and Muslims, Al-Maktoum Institute, Scotland. The aim of his visit was to discuss collaborations with the Centre as well as the University to activate the

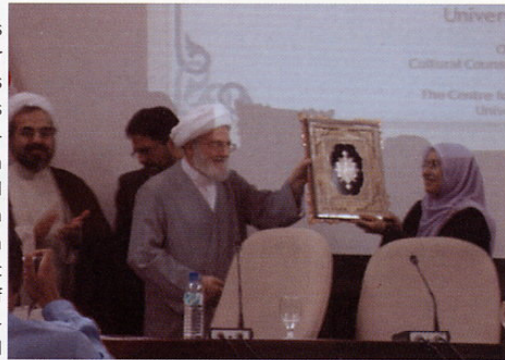
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed between University of Malaya and Al-Maktoum Institute. Besides the Centre and representative of the International Corporate Relation Unit, representative of the Academy of Islamic Studies was also an important party at the meeting. Some of the main points

discussed and agreed upon during the meeting were the student exchange program and collaboration to organize a seminar in the year 2009. It was also agreed that the MoU should be renewed in order that the collaboration planned, could be carried out.

SEMINAR ON "UNITY AMONG MUSLIMS: AN INTRACIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE" - DECEMBER 16, 2008 (from page 1)

The seminar was held on December 16, 2008 at the Conference Hall, Faculty of Language and Linguistic, University of Malaya. It received positive response with more than 100 people attending the seminar from both Iran and Malaysia. The seminar aimed to identify factors that cause disunity among Muslims; form strategies that could be agents of unity between Muslims; and identify fundamental (internal) challenges to unity faced by Muslims. In the closing session, Muhammad Hasan Vahedi, Director General of the Cultural Counsellorship, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuala Lumpur and Professor Datin Dr Azizan Baharuddin, Director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue gave some closing

remarks in which among others was highlighted the need for Muslims to do a SWOT analysis of their condition and to focus on development as one important way to promote unity. On the whole, the seminar managed to achieve its main objectives in bringing Malaysian and Iranian Muslims together in the context of reinvigorating the values of the Islamic Civilisation. The Centre records its thanks also to all the speakers and moderators who helped make it a success.



Allamah Ayatollah Ali Tashkiri presenting his token of appreciation to the Centre and the University of Malaya

THE NIKKEI ASIA PRIZES NOMINATION

The Nikkei Asia Prizes, awarded each year, are designed to recognize outstanding achievements that improve the quality of life in Asia and contribute to regional stability. **Nikkei Inc.**, the sponsor of the Nikkei Asia Prizes, publishes Japan's leading business newspaper, The Nikkei. The company's other operations include online information services, book publishing and compilation of the nation's most widely watched stock index. Nikkei established these awards in 1996 in commemoration of the company's 120th anniversary. The Nikkei Asia Prizes are awarded annually in three areas of achievement: regional growth, science, technology and innovation, and culture. The Centre was invited by the Vice Chancellor to be nominated by the University under the category of culture for the year 2009.

This year, **Mr. Wang Canfa**, Director of the Center of Legal Assistance to Pollution

Victims in China at China University of Political Science and Law, received the Nikkei Asia Prize for Regional Growth for his efforts to promote public awareness of the environment, law-abiding spirit, and to supervise the proper enforcement of environmental laws by supporting legal actions by pollution victims.

UM had experienced being awarded the Nikkei Asia Prize for Technological Innovation when the **Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya**, received the prize, for Technological Innovation its work in successfully isolating the Nipah virus, the cause of the animal-borne encephalitis that killed more than 100 people a few years ago.

The Nikkei Asia Prizes also recognised the significant contributions of Nobel

Laureates **Dr. Muhammad Yunus**, Managing Director of Grameen Bank, Bangladesh, who was awarded the Nikkei Asia Prize for Regional Growth in honour of his outstanding role in developing and spreading the unique "microfinance" scheme as a tool for helping the poor out of financial hardship in 2004.

With this nomination, the Centre hopes that its efforts in promoting the culture of dialogue and the field of civilisational studies for peace *en route* global sustainability especially in multicultural countries like Malaysia will be an eye-opener for people to see the importance and value of the field.

SEMINAR ON “BAHASA MELAYU SEBAGAI BAHASA INTELLEKTUAL DALAM KONTEKS TAMADUN ALAF BARU” - DECEMBER 19, 2008

Alongside the launching of its Journal Peradaban (Journal of Civilisation), the Centre, in collaboration with the Academy of Islamic Sciences (ASASI) organised a seminar on “Bahasa Melayu sebagai Bahasa Intelektual dalam Konteks Tamadun Alaf Baru” (Malay Language as an Intellectual Language in the context of Contemporary Civilisation) on December 19, 2008 at the Rumah Universiti. On the question of the status of the Bahasa Malaysia there are still many questions that need to be discussed. Thus, ASASI and the Centre took the initiative to organize this seminar together with the launching of the Centre’s Jurnal Peradaban (Journal of Civilisation).

The seminar’s objective was to discuss the need for the fact that the Malay language is an intellectual language in the context of philosophy, religion and all areas of knowledge to be understood properly. Malay language is also

a basis of the identity of Malaysians. The seminar also wanted to find strategies for strengthening the policy of Malay language being an intellectual language within the Malay world as well as globally.

Critical historical arguments such as the language being the philosophical and religious catalyst for the Malay civilisation were also discussed among others. During the forum session entitled ‘Towards the Improvement of Malay Language as Intellectual Knowledge’, many suggestions and opinions as well as in-depth elaboration of the issue were put to the surface by the panelists and participants.

The centre expresses its appreciation to YBhg Professor Dato’ Mohd Amin Jalaluddin, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic & International) who officiated the seminar and launched the Centre’s journal.



PUBLIC LECTURE ON “EVOLUTION BIOLOGY AND GLOBALISATION” BY DR ELISABET SAHTOURIS

The Center for Civilizational Dialogue (CCD) hosted a talk entitled “Dialogue on Evolution Biology and Globalization” on the 5th of December, 2008. The talk was held at the Institute of Postgraduate Studies, University of Malaya. The guest speaker was Dr Elisabet Sahtouris, a Greek-American biologist who resides in Spain. Co-organizers of the talk were the **International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies, Malaysia (IAIS), the Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya, and the University’s Center of Malaysian Pribumi Studies.** Emeritus Professor Datuk Osman Bakar, Senior Research Fellow at the CCD moderated the lecture. Professor Osman told the audience that he came to know about Dr Sahtouris’ interest in non-western sciences, including Islamic science, when he was invited by her to a small group symposium in Hokkaido, Japan last July focussing on a critical re-examination of the foundational assumptions of modern western science.

Dr Sahtouris who refers to herself as an evolution biologist delivered an interesting and thought provoking lecture on the topic. She criticized Darwinian biological evolution for its exaggeration on competition between species in the world of na-

ture. According to her, new knowledge in biology does not support Darwin. Instead the new biology shows that there is both cooperation and competition in nature. Human beings can learn a lot from nature, she said. Dr Sahtouris believes that just as Darwinian biological evolution has been used in the past to justify the negative social philosophy of a fierce and unethical competition in human society, the new evolution biology that posits both cooperation and competition could provide a good justification and strong support for a social philosophy that believes in cooperation and healthy competition.

The linkage between evolution biology and globalization in her talk was provided by what she sees as a new interesting phase in the evolution of global human cultures. Dr Sahtouris believes in a culturally pluralistic world in which there is both cooperation and competition. It is in this context that she comes out in favor of **non-western indigenous scientific**

traditions co-existing with western science. She thinks that Islam has the potential to develop a true science of economics in the twenty-first century, which the rest of humanity is likely to emulate. After her presentation there was a lively question and answer session. Dr Sahtouris is in Malaysia at the invitation of IAIS and MOSTI (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation). Apart from delivering her public lecture at the University of Malaya she also gave talks at IAIS and to MOSTI’s staff at the Putrajaya Convention Center. She also presented a talk at the State Islamic University (UIN), Jakarta organized by the University’s Center of Islamic Epistemology and the private Center for Islamic Philosophy and Science (CIPSI).

Group photo of Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris (5 from left), guests and the organisers.



SHORT-TERM GRANT RESEARCH PROJECT (PJP): PERKEMBANGAN DAN PERJUANGAN NGO WANITA ISLAM DI MALAYSIA: KAJIAN TERHADAP PERANAN DAN SUMBANGAN DALAM MEMARTABATKAN KEDUDUKAN WANITA ISLAM DI MALAYSIA

A research project entitled *Perkembangan dan Perjuangan NGO Wanita Islam di Malaysia: Kajian Terhadap Peranan dan Sumbangan dalam Memartabatkan Kedudukan Wanita Islam di Malaysia* (The Development & Endeavor of Islamic Women NGOs in Malaysia: A Study on its Role & Contribution in Improving the Status of Muslim Women in Malaysia) was approved under the Short-Term Grant (PJP) to be carried out within 1 year (September 2008-September 2009). This research project is led by Associate Professor Dr Raihanah Abdullah with the help of a Research Assistant, Wan Muhainie bt. Wan Muhammad. It is aimed to identify the development and issues of Islamic women NGOs' endeavors, identify the basis, principles, approaches, roles and

functions in improving the status of Muslim women.

During its initial stage, information pertaining to NGOs in Malaysia, including their background, role and function, as well as development were gathered to distinguish the purpose of its establishment in order to address the issues regarding Muslim women. The RA has carried out field work by conducting a survey on respondents in Terengganu to see women's involvement in social activities. The survey was also conducted to investigate public views on the issue of women's freedom in taking part in social activities.

Interview with several experts and people in NGOs will be carried out to obtain their views on the development

as well as ideology of Muslim women movement in Malaysia, especially on issues regarding Islamic feminism which has been put forward by some NGOs in order to ensure justice between men and women from the perspective of al-Quran and al-Sunnah. It is aimed to see how far the ideology and understanding on Islamic Feminism are accepted by Muslim women NGOs in Malaysia.



Research Assistant:
Wan Muhainie Wan Muhammad

UM UNESCO CLUB – KICKSTART FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

As the secretariat for UM UNESCO Club, the Centre organised its very first meeting of its members on December 22, 2008 at the Katha Hall, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue. Currently the Club has more than 100 members comprising student and professionals at the University of Malaya. The meeting is a kickstart of future activities in the year 2009.

The main aim of the meeting is to explain to its members the objectives, role and functions of the UM UNESCO Club. It was also organised to plan future activities for the year 2009 as well as to elect the committee members. However, since there was not enough attendance, the election was postponed to the next meeting which will be held somewhere in January next year.

Some activities suggested to be carried out in the year 2009 include:

1. Intercultural dialogue (Malaysia—Indonesia—Iran)
2. Seeds of Change Exhibition (a collaboration with Sokka Gakkai Malaysia)

3. Celebration of International UNESCO Day

4. Involvement the National Commission for UNESCO Malaysia in the next meeting/activity.

The meeting also discussed several important items to ensure the smooth running of the Club such as a room for members to have activities (meetings, discussions, etc), activities to be focused on several thrust areas such as culture, dialogue, and environment.

After the meeting, members worked hand-in-hand to plant the **Peace Pole** and flower plants. The Peace Pole is a contribution of Taiping Peace Initiative (TPI) group to the UM. UM is the second Institution of higher learning in Malaysia to plant the Peace Pole after the University of Science Malaysia (USM) in Penang.



The members working together to plant the Peace Pole along with several flower plants

AZIZAN BAHARUDDIN

OCTOBER 17-19, 2008—BANDUNG, INDONESIA

The Centre is invited to attend Seminar *Tajdid Pemikiran Islam* held at the Savoy Homann Hotel in Bandung. It was organized by YADMI (Yayasan Dakwah Islamiah Malaysia dan Indonesia), YADIM Malaysia and the Centre for Moderate Islam Indonesia. This event was officiated by the Governor of West Java and was attended by 100 participants representing various Muslim groups in Malaysia and Indonesia.



Bincang pegangan Ahli Sunnah
150 cendekiawan bentang lapan kertas kerja dalam Seminar Tajdid Pemikiran Islam di Bandung bermula hari ini

The main themes of the 2 day paper presentation/discussions focused on the need to understand the context of deviationist thinking and behaviour amongst the ummah who need to constantly strive to keep the principles of the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jama'ah pure whilst keeping the spirit of 'openness' of Islam alive. The seminar also underscored the critical importance of dialogue as a mechanism for unity and the need for research in this field to be intensified.

**OCTOBER 30, 2008
SUNWAY PYRAMID CONVENTION CENTRE**

Between October 29-31, 2008 Malaysia played host to some 1,500 international and local delegates at the **18th IAEWP World Peace Congress (WPC)** and the **1st International Martial Arts Festival (IMAF)** which was held at the Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa and Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre. YAB Dato' Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia was the Patron of the event. The Director of Centre was invited as a distinguished chairperson of the congress. This world congress is organized under the auspices of the USA base International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP), the United Nations affiliated NGO and designated Peace Messenger of the UN since 1987. IAEWP has active chapters in over 70 countries and representatives in over 100 countries. Membership of educators in IAEWP exceeds 50,000 worldwide (www.iaewp.org)

OCTOBER 21, 2008—MOSTI, PUTRAJAYA

The Centre is invited to plan a Bioethics Workshop organized by MOSTI, ISTIC and UNESCO office in Bangkok. Among the objectives of this workshop to be held in March 2009 are:

1. Participants will learn what are the means, methods and resources to examine ethical issues
2. Participants will demonstrate their conclusions, receiving feedback from experienced experts
3. Participants will discuss and identify needs and gaps in current governance structures, and potential areas of overlap in portfolios between different Ministries in Malaysia vis-à-vis bioethics.

The involvement of the Centre in this program is due to the fact that the Bioethics has ramifications for a multidisciplinary and multi-cultural approaches and strategies.

NOVEMBER 27-28, 2008—KYOTO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN—JSPS-VCC COMPREHENSIVE SEMINAR

A report of the research of the group one was presented at Katsura Campus, Kyoto University on Nov. 28. At the comprehensive seminar of the JSPS-VCC Core Program, Professor Dato' Muhamad Rasat Muhamad (Coordinator of JSPS-VCC), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Prof. Nik Meriam Sulaiman (head of Program were also in attendance.



**NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2008
WASEDA UNIVERSITY, JAPAN**

The Centre received an invitation from Waseda University to present a paper on "Islam, Economics and Education in the Muslim World: Challenges of Muslims in Asia". Azizan Baharuddin spoke about the need for a self analysis of the current Muslim situation. Amongst other things she also spelled out 9 challenges that need to be addressed by Muslims. Professor Hasegawa and Kitamura of the Waseda University will be visiting the UM to strengthen networking.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OSMAN BAKAR**OCTOBER 17-19, 2008 - OXFORD**

An international conference on Islam and the Environment was held on 17-19 October 2008 at Ditchley Park, Oxford. Organized by the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies (OCIS), whose Patron is HRH Prince Charles, the conference was attended by about 30 invited participants from different parts of the world. Most of the participants were Muslim scholars and public intellectuals, but several of them were non-Muslims noted for their commitment to the preservation of environmental quality.

Among the invited participants was Emeritus Professor Osman Bakar, CCD's Senior Research Fellow. Another noted Malaysian present was Dr Jomo K. Sundaram, who was invited to the conference in his capacity as Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations. Also present were Professor Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi, Chairman of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Dr Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, the Executive Secretary of ROPME (Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment), Kuwait, and Mr. Martin Palmer, Secretary-General of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, United Kingdom.

The main purpose of the conference was to provide an updated assessment of the state and extent of Muslim responses to environmental issues in the Islamic world, both theoretical and practical. In particular, participants were expected to provide input that would help OCIS plan the needed course of action for the Islamic world at both the national and regional levels in the coming years. Three major topics were discussed in the plenary sessions during the three-day conference. These topics were Islam and the Environment: an Overview; Economic Development and Environmental Challenges; and Social Consequences and Environmental Change. Group discussions were also held with participants divided into three groups. The respective topics deliberated by the three groups were Islamic Teaching and Environmental Ethics (conducted in Arabic), Economy, Technology and the Environment, and Society, Culture and the Environment.

The conference ended on the 19th October with a plenary discussion of the theme The Way Forward. During this discussion many constructive suggestions were made by participants that could be taken up by OCIS for its further deliberations as well as by other Muslim organizations and outfits whose representatives were present at the Conference.

DECEMBER 6, 2008**STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, INDONESIA**

On the 6th of December 2008 *Tauhid dan Sains*, the Indonesian translation of the new edition of Tawhid and Science authored by Emeritus Professor Osman Bakar, a senior research fellow at CCD, was launched at the State Islamic University (UIN), Jakarta. The book was launched in conjunction with a public lecture at the University given by Dr Elisabet Sahtouris, an evolution biologist interested in issues of science and religion and spirituality. Professor Osman who accompanied Dr Elisabet to Jakarta responded to Dr Sahtouris' lecture. The lecture was attended by Indonesian academics from various academic disciplines. They came not only from universities in the Jakarta area but also as far as from Sumatra.

The first English edition of Tawhid and Science was translated into Bahasa Indonesia in 1992 and published in Bandung by Pustaka Hidayah. The new Indonesian edition of the book is also published by Pustaka Hidayah whose officials were present at the launch ceremony.

RAIHANAH ABDULLAH**OCTOBER 2008 - SALZBURG, AUSTRIA**

In last October, Dr Raihanah Abdullah attended a Salzburg Global Seminar one of the Europe's most prestigious forums. The Salzburg Global Seminar is a leading global institution that challenges current and future leaders to involve in panelist and group discussions in order to develop ideas for solving international issues and problems. She attended a week-long sessions focusing on Islamic and International Law: Searching for Common Grounds. She was involved in discussion and dialogue with 10 other members in a small working group pertaining to family law, International Convention on gender equality, Islamic Inheritance Law and the interpretation of the Qur'an. The Seminar provides an opportunity of meeting and exchange of ideas with people all over the world who has the same interest and concern. Other two Malaysians Fellows, Dr Md. Khalil Ruslan, Associate Professor in Law Faculty, University of Malaya and Ms Elina Noor Ismail who is an analyst at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies were also at the Seminar.

During one of the Seminar free afternoon session, Dr Raihanah take a self-guided walking tour and enjoy the surrounding areas at the 18th century castle, Schloss Leopoldskron, the setting for the Salzburg Global Seminar. The Castle is at the outskirts of Salzburg and was one of the most important location for the timeless movie "The Sound of Music".



SPEECH TEXT OF SPEECH DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR DURING THE LAUNCHING OF 'JURNAL PERADABAN' (JOURNAL OF CIVILISATION)

The Centre's Jurnal Peradaban (Journal of Civilisation) was officially launched by Deputy Vice Chancellor, YBhg Professor Dato' Dr Mohamad Amin Jalaluddin during the Seminar on Bahasa Melayu sebagai Bahasa Intelektual di Alaf Baru at Wau Seminar Room, Rumah University last December 19, 2008.

Yang dihormati para pembentang kertas kerja dan moderator, jemputan-jemputan khas dan para hadirin yang dihormati sekalian,

Assalamualaikum wbt.

Pertama sekali, terima kasih saya ucapkan kepada Pusat Dialog Peradaban kerana telah menjemput saya ke majlis hari ini.

Seperti yang tuan-tuan dan puan-puan sedia maklum, Pusat Dialog Peradaban telah pun wujud dan berkembang dengan pesatnya sejak 1997. Penekanan utama peranan dan fungsi Pusat Dialog Peradaban (PDP) terangkum di dalam aktiviti utamanya seperti penyelidikan penerbitan dan penyebaran maklumat melalui seminar dan dialog. Sehingga kini diantara kejayaan Pusat Dialog Peradaban yang boleh di banggakan termasuklah penerbitan 30 buah judul buku, 14 monograf dan beberapa "occasional paper" atau kertas berkala. Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan, pada tahun 2004 PDP telah menempa sejarah dengan terlancarnya Jurnal Pengajian dan Dialog Peradaban yang di beri nama KATHA dalam bahasa Inggeris.

KATHA yang berasal daripada perkataan Sanskrit bermaksud wacana, perbincangan dan juga dialog. Salah satu tumpuan KATHA adalah membina pemikiran mengenai peradaban yang bertumpukan warisan tamadun-tamadun timur khasnya bagi tujuan mengimbangi pendapat-pendapat, khasnya, yang di tekankan oleh tokoh-tokoh seperti Samuel Huntington dengan teori konflik peradaban atau "Clash of Civilization" beliau.

Alhamdulillah KATHA telah dapat di terbitkan secara mampan dan tahun ini merupakan tahun ke 4 kewujudannya.

Kini, KATHA telah pun memasuki jilid ke 4 nya.

Melalui KATHA PDP berharap akan dapat menyatukan pemikiran sarjana-sarjana dalam negara dan rantau kita kearah keamanan sejagat berlandaskan falsafah "peaceful co-existence" atau kehidupan bersama secara aman damai.

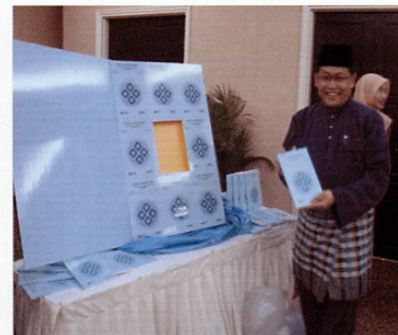
Hari ini sekali lagi PDP mencatat sejarah dengan terlancarnya sebuah lagi Jurnal pengajian dan dialog peradaban yang diberi nama PERADABAN dalam Bahasa Melayu. Jurnal ini kami pasti mempunyai signifikan yang amat tinggi khasnya dalam konteks pewacanaan mengenai bahasa Melayu termutakhir ini. Walau apapun, bagi pihak UM, saya mengucapkan tahniah kepada Pusat Dialog Peradaban di atas usaha gigih mereka memartabatkan bahasa kita. Harapan kami adalah jurnal peradaban juga akan menjadi wahana yang dapat menyatupadukan segala kearifan dan ilmu, mengenai peradaban di dalam negara dan dirantau kita mengenai prinsip-prinsip keamanan sejagat dan segala penyelidikan ke arah matlamat tersebut.

Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan, saya juga mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan terima kasih kepada pihak Akademi Sains Islam Malaysia (ASASI) yang juga merupakan satu organisasi ilmiah yang penting. Saya difahamkan bahawa ASASI juga ditubuhkan juga pada tahun 1997. Saya merasakan ASASI adalah pertubuhan yang unik, kerana anggotanya terdiri daripada para akademik, dan professional Melayu-Muslim yang mendukung cita-cita kesatuan dan kesepaduan ilmu ke arah menguatkan umat dan negara. Kerjasama antara ASASI dan Pusat Dialog merupakan sesuatu yang amat berharga yang harus diperkuatkan pada masa hadapan. Saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah kepada ASASI dan PDP di atas kejayaan mengadakan seminar hari ini.

Tuan-tuan dan puan-puan, bagi pihak UM saya sekali lagi mengucapkan

tahniah di atas kejayaan menerbitkan jurnal Peradabannya. Oleh itu dengan rendah hati dan sukacitanya dan dengan lafaz Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, saya melancarkan jurnal ini. Semoga ia mendapat sokongan mantap kita semua.

Sekian, wabillahitaufik walhidayah wassalamualaikum wbt.



FAREWELL TO THE FAMOUS "CLASH OF CIVILISATION" AUTHOR & POLITICAL SCIENTIST, SAMUEL HUNTINGTON



S a m u e l P. Huntington - a Harvard University professor, an influential political scientist, and mentor to a generation of scholars in

divergent fields - passed away on Dec. 24 at the age of 81.

Huntington retired from active teaching in 2007, following 58 years of service at Harvard. Huntington was the author, co-author, and editor of 17 books and over 90 scholarly articles. His principal areas of research and teaching were American government, democratization, military politics, strategy, and civil-military relations, comparative politics, and political de-

velopment.

Huntington graduated from Yale College at age 18 and was teaching at Harvard by age 23, was best known for his views on the clash of civilizations. He argued that in a post-Cold War world, violent conflict would come not from ideological friction between nation states, but from cultural and religious differences among the world's major civilizations. He identified these major civilizations as Western (including the United States and Europe), Latin American, Islamic, African, Orthodox (with Russia as a core state), Hindu, Japanese, and "Sinic" (including China, Korea, and Vietnam).

"My argument remains," he said in a 2007, "that cultural identities, antagonisms and affiliations will not only play a role, but play a major role in relations between states."

Huntington first advanced his argument in an oft-cited 1993 article in the journal *Foreign Affairs*. He expanded the thesis into a book, "The Clash of

Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order," which appeared in 1996, which has since been translated into 39 languages.

Towards the end of his life, the potential for conflict inherent in culture was prominent in Huntington's scholarly pursuits. In 2000, he was co-editor of "Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress." And just before his health declined, in the fall of 2005, he was beginning to explore religion and national identity.

It is perhaps of significance that one of the reasons for the establishment of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue was the need to balance Huntington's Clash of Civilisations views. To this end an international conference was held in 1996 which led to the establishment of the Centre. Significantly, Huntington was also invited to attend this conference.

Classification of knowledge was an important intellectual and scholarly activity in Islamic civilization. This activity was pursued with the following objectives in mind. First, Muslim scholars were greatly interested in cataloguing, systematizing and classifying all the known sciences according to principles that would help to protect and preserve the Islamic worldview and belief system. Second, they wanted to uphold the unity of the sciences which is an important corollary of the principle of al-tawhid, the core teaching of Islam. Third, they wanted to put in place an educational curriculum that would maintain a harmonious balance between the permanent needs of man and society and their changing needs. Fourth, they wanted to secure a good balance between generalization and specialization in the human pursuit of knowledge.

All the above mentioned objectives are not merely of historical interest to us today. These are perennial problems confronting all highly civilized societies. These objectives are certainly relevant to Malaysia and the global community at large, not only to Muslims but to all humankind. The Muslim intellectual tradition of classification of knowledge is therefore important to be studied and discussed in our contemporary civilizational setting.

ALL ARE INVITED

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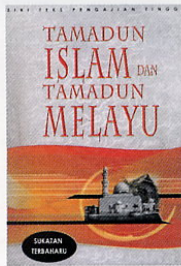
Public Lecture :

"CLASSIFICATION OF KNOWLEDGE IN ISLAM"

BY
PROF. EMERITUS DATUK DR. OSMAN BAKAR

Date: 20 February 2009
Time: 3.00 p.m - 5.00 p.m
Venue: Balai Ilmu, Academy of Islamic Studies, UM
Tel: 03-79675697/5477

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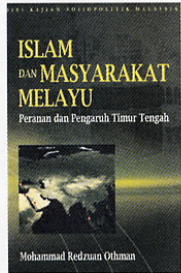


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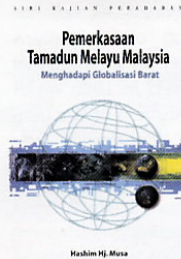


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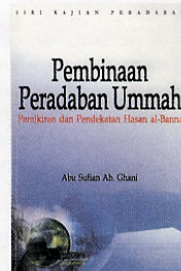


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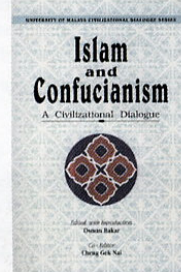


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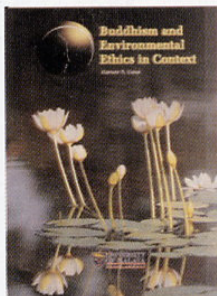
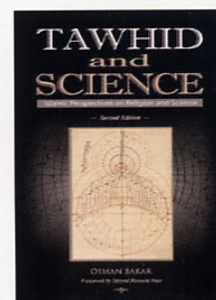
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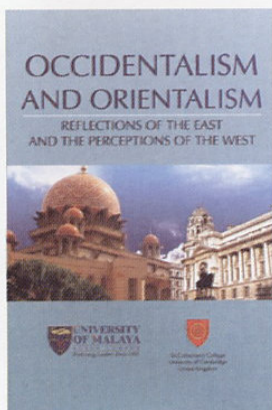
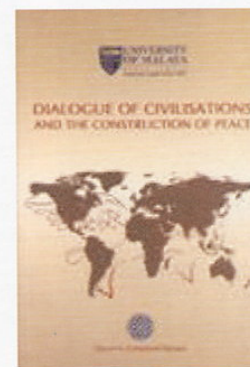


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SHCHEDULE OF EVENTS IN 2009 (YEAR PLAN)

NO.	MONTH	ACTIVITY
SEMINAR		
1.	16 Jan 2009	Visit by Assoc. Professor Yoshio Shimizu, Leader of JSPS-VCC Core University Programme and Professor Matsuoka, Coordinator of Programme, University of Kyoto, Japan
2.	8-20 Jan 2009	Visit by Professor Thomas W. Simon, International Studies American University of <i>Sharjah</i> , United Arab Emirates
3	26-27 March	National Seminar on the Role of Science & Technology in the Building of Civilisations - A collaboration with (Yayasan Dakwah Islamiah Malaysia (YADIM) and Ilmuan Foundation
4	April	International Conference on Gender & Civilisation
5	May	Seminar on Science Literacy via Literary Works
6	June	Seminar on Ibn Arabi and Civilisation Values - A collaboration with Iranian Cultural Counsellorship
7	July	Conference on "The Establishment of National Bioethics Committee"—Collaboration with National Commission of UNESCO
8	August	Seminar on Sustainability collaboration with Kyoto University, Japan
RESEARCH		
1	Sept 08 – Sept 09	<i>Perkembangan dan Perjuangan NGO Wanita Islam di Malaysia: Kajian Terhadap Peranan dan Sumbangan dalam Memartabatkan Kedudukan Wanita Islam di Malaysia</i> - Short-Term Grant (PJP)
2	Jan – Dec	Digitalization of Documented materials
3	Jan – June	Handbook Philosophy of Unity - Department of National Unity
PUBLICATION		
1	March, June, September, December	Bulletin
2		<i>Book on "Islam Hadhari: Pembelaan kepada Kumpulan Minoriti di Malaysia"</i>
3		Proceedings on "World Philosophy Day"
4		Book on "Gender & Civilisation"
5		Book on "Islamic Studies Curriculum"
6		Journal of Civilisation
7		Monograph on "Civilisation of Dialogue and the Philosophy of Religion" – Douglas Pratt
8		Book "Values, Environment and the Future of Civilisation"
10		<i>Book "Kongres Kebangsaan Tamadun Malaysia"</i>
11		Proceedings "Seminar Bahasa Melayu sebagai Bahasa Intelektual"
12		Proceedings of Seminar on Unity Among Muslims: An Intra-civilisational Dialogue
13		Journal Katha
14		Monograph "Rediscovering the Real: Some Dimensions of Spirituality (<i>walāya</i>) in Everyday life"

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**Subjected to further confirmation. Please contact the Centre for more information.