

**CENTRE FOR CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA**

- (1) **Title of Conf. :** **SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF NGOS IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE ACROSS VALUES & CULTURES**
- (2) **Date :** **August 18-19, 2009**
- (3) **Venue :** **Auditorium Faculty of Law, University of Malaya**
- (4) **Jointly organised by :** **Department of National Unity & Integration and University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue in collaboration with Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations (ISESCO) & Kuala Lumpur City of Islamic Culture (KLCIC)**

(5) **Introduction:**

In our increasingly interconnected existence, violent conflicts and untold human suffering is constantly presented in our living rooms. In a world of uprooted identities, shifting values and clashes between tradition and modernity as well as between moderation and extremism, the voices of reason and harmony seem to be marginalized. Negative stereotypes and the politics of fear and suspicion tend to polarize perceptions and deepen divides, making bonds of friendship difficult to sustain across ethnic lines. NGOs have the potential to address some of these issues especially in the context of dialogue towards greater understanding of different cultures and values. To this end, the United Nations declared the year 2001 as the **year of the dialogue of civilizations**. This UN's year of the DoC (dialogue of civilization) was initiated by Iran. Together with ISESCO's desire to promote the peaceful spirit of Islam, the Department of National Unity and Integration and the University of Malaya Centre For Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) has taken the initiative alongside ISESCO and KLCIC to organize the conference on the **Role of NGOs in Promoting Dialogue Across Values & Cultures**.

(7) **Objectives:**

The conference has the following objectives:

1. To educate and promote dialogue as a means to manage issues and conflicts;
2. To bring together NGOs and organisations to share experiences and work on dialogue across cultures;
3. To build a network of NGOs for more effective dialogue across cultures and values;
4. To link with international initiatives to promote dialogue as a culture of peace.

(8) Participation:

Participants will be leaders of NGOs, the academe, policy makers, higher learning-institutions, student leaders, the media and all interested parties.

(9) Suggested Speakers:

1. Emeritus Professor Dr. Osman Bakar (UM)
2. Professor Dr. Syed Farid Al-Attas (NUS)
3. Mrs. Zabariah bt Hj. Matali (CEO Islamic Information Centre, Sarawak)
4. Dr. Amer Farid Ishak (Inter-faith)
5. Dr. Ghazali Basri (Academy of Civilisational Studies)
6. Professor Dr. Karim D. Crow (IAIS)
7. Dr. Moner A. Rasheed (Muslim Consumer Association of Malaysia)
8. Assoc. Professor Dr. Shanti Thambiah (UM)
9. YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Ismail Hussein (GAPENA)
10. Associate Prof. Lee Kok Kheng (Vice-President SGM)
11. Professor Dr. Shad Saleem Faruqi (UiTM)
12. Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin (CCDUM)

(10) Theme:

The Role of NGOs in Promoting Dialogue: Understanding Dialogue
The Role of NGOs in Promoting Dialogue: Sharing Successful Experiences
The Role of NGOs in Promoting Dialogue: Challenges and Issues
The Role Of NGOs In Promoting Dialogue: The Relevance Of The Earth Charter
The Role of NGOs in Promoting Dialogue: Dialogue for Building of Bridges of Understanding.

**Seminar On The Role of NGOs In Promoting Dialogue Across Values
& Cultures on August 18-19, 2009
at Auditorium Faculty of Law, University of Malaya**

Programme:

Day 1: August 18, 2009

- 8.00 a.m. - Registration
- 9.00 a.m. - Welcome speech by Professor Datuk Khaw Lake Tee, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Development), University of Malaya
- Speech by Dr. Abdul Aziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations (ISESCO)
- Speech and Opening by YBhg. Dato' Azman Amin Hassan Director General, Department of National Unity & Integration
- 10.00 a.m. - Refreshments
- 10.30 a.m. - SESSION 1: THE ROLE OF NGOs IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE: UNDERSTANDING DIALOGUE**
- Moderator: Professor Dr. Mohd. Hazim Shah (UM)
- Speakers:
1. Emeritus Professor Dr. Osman Bakar (UM)
 2. Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin (UM)
- Q & A
- 12.30pm - Lunch
- 2.30 p.m. - SESSION 2: THE ROLE OF NGOs IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE: SHARING SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES**
- Moderator: Assoc. Professor Dr. Raihanah Abdullah
- Presenters:
1. Professor Dr. Syed Farid Al-Attas (NUS)

- 2. Mrs. Zabariah bt Hj. Matali
(CEO Islamic Information Centre, Sarawak)
- 3. Mr. Azizuddin Ahmad (Malaysian Youth Council)
- Q & A
- 4.30 p.m. - Tea break

Day 2: August 19, 2009

9.00 a.m. - **SESSION 3: THE ROLE OF NGOs PROMOTING IN DIALOGUE: CHALLENGES AND ISSUES**

Moderator: Assoc Prof. Dr. Carol Elizabeth A/P A G Leon (UM)

Presenters:

1. Dr. Ghazali Basri (Academy of Civilisational Studies)
2. Professor Dr. Karim D. Crow (IAIS)
3. Dr. Moner A. Rasheed (Muslim Consumer Association of Malaysia)

- Q & A

10.30 a.m. - Tea break

11.00 a.m. - **SESSION 4: THE ROLE OF NGOs IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE: THE RELEVANCE OF THE EARTH CHARTER**

Moderator: Professor Dr. Lee Chai Peng (UM)

Presenters:

1. YBhg. Tan Sri Dr. Ismail Hussein (GAPENA)
2. Associate Prof. Lee Kok Kheng (Vice-President SGM)
3. Dr. Amer Farid Isahak (Inter-faith Association)

- Q & A

1.00 p.m. - Lunch

**2.30 p.m. - SESSION 5: THE ROLE OF NGOs IN PROMOTING
DIALOGUE: DIALOGUE FOR THE BUILDING OF BRIDGES**

Moderator: Assoc. Professor Dr. Shakila Yaacob (UM)

Presenters:

1. Professor Dr. Shad Saleem Faruqi (UiTM)
2. Assoc. Professor Dr. Shanti Thambiah (UM)
3. Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi (Konan University, Japan)

- Q & A

4.00 p.m. - Dialogue/Summary

5.00 p.m. - Tea

- End

Secretariat:

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