

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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and
Department of National Unity and Integration
gratefully, acknowledge the strong support given by**

Y.B. Dato' Murugiah a/l Thopasamy
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Director General, Department of National Unity & Integration

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All Paper Presenters, Moderators and Participants



SEMINAR "THE ROLE OF NGOs IN PROMOTING DIALOGUE ACROSS VALUES & CULTURES"

18-19 AUGUST 2009

**TUN MOHD. SUFFIAN AUDITORIUM
FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA**



Organised by:

**Department of National Unity & Integration
and
University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue
in collaboration with
Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
(ISESCO) & Kuala Lumpur City of Islamic Culture (KLCIC)**

Civil Society Organisations. She was also responsible for initiating a *Civil Society Dialogue*, among NGOs and CBOs in Sarawak. Zabariah is also responsible for collaborating closely with UNESCO to support and contribute towards the **Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014** through knowledge and information sharing especially with the media and Civil Society Organisations. One of them being pilot-testing the UNESCO Media Resource Kit in Malaysia as one of the 4 countries where the kit was tested. Also, responsible for coordinating and facilitating the workshop on *Media and Sustainable Development* with UNESCO at the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education, Ahmedabad India.

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**.

OBJECTIVE

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.

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.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: AUGUST 18, 2009

- 8.00 a.m. - Registration
- 9.00 a.m. - Doa Citation by Ustaz Ahmad Yusoff
Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya
- Welcome Speech by Professor Datuk Dr. Khaw Lake Tee, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Development),
University of Malaya
- Speech and Opening by Y.B. Dato' Murugiah a/l
Thopasamy, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's
Office
- 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

published more than 20 research papers at local and international seminars and Journals He received gold, silver and bronze medals at local and international exhibitions invention, innovations and research findings.

Shakila Yacob is associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Malaya and is also the current Deputy Director of The International Institute of Public Policy and Management (INPUMA). She received her Ph.D. in business history at the School of Business, University of Reading. Her research interests have been in the areas of international business and business history with a focus on US foreign direct investment in colonial Malaya and postcolonial Malaysia. She is the author of *The United States and the Malaysian Economy* (Routledge, U.K. 2008) and various other publications on business history in local and international journals. Her most current research centres around indigenous knowledge and religion in brand building amongst Malaysian beauty entrepreneurs. She has appeared on national radio and television programs to give interviews about current issues in the United States and also US-Malaysia relations. She writes regularly for *Utusan Malaysia* and other newspapers and magazines on a wide range of issues concerning the United States.

Dr. Syed Farid Al-Attas is Professor in the Department of Malay Studies, Faculty of Arts, National University Singapore.

Zabariah Haji Matali is Chief Executive Officer Islamic Information Centre, Sarawak. Received her BA in English Language Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Executive MBA, Ohio University, Athens As the Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Information Centre, Zabariah's responsibilities include planning, managing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the programmes and activities of the Centre so as to achieve its vision and mission of promoting a better understanding of the ideals, principles, values and universality of Islam. Zabariah was formerly the General Manager of Angkatan Zaman Mansang (AZAM) Sarawak, a leading NGO in Sarawak whose core business was communicating for development with sustainability as its underlying goal. Zabariah also presented papers at national and international arena on topics relating to community development and community participation. She is a regular contributor to the local newspaper in Sarawak for the column *The 3rd Voice*, which discusses issues and concerns on sustainability from the perspectives of

Chinese Muslims in Malaysia & Da`wah To the Non-Muslim Chinese Community in Malaysia. He is the Associate member of Malaysia Institute of Quality, Malaysia. And also passed IQCS Certification, ISO 9000:2000 Series Auditor/Lead Auditor Training Course no 18021 certified by IRCA on 9th-13th June 2003 Certificate No A 18021/384/2003. He also delivered a paper of Konosuke Matsushita's Total Quality Management. At the Asia Pacific Quality Conference held On 15-17 October 2001 at Hotel Renaissance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dr. Raihanah Abdullah is the Deputy Director of Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and also a lecturer at the Department of Shariah and Law, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya. She has published numbers of articles in local and International Journals and carried out research in the area of Islamic Family Law, Islamic Law and Gender and also Islamic Law and Society. She actively involved in Muslim women's NGOs especially in creating legal awareness for Muslim women in Malaysia. She is a registered Shariah lawyer.

Dr. Shanti Thambiah is Associate Professor and coordinator of the Gender Studies Programme. She studies at the University of Malaya, University of Cambridge and the University of Hull, U.K. She obtained her PhD in 1995 from the University of Hull and her M. Phil from the University of Cambridge in 1989. Her area of specialization are social anthropology and gender studies. She has conducted research and published widely on cultural change and changing gender relations in indigenous communities in Sarawak and amongst the Orang Asli. Besides that she has also researched and published on gender and development and gender, work and family. Her current research interest is in examining public and social policy from a gender perspective.

Lee Kok Kheng is Associate Professor at the Faculty Sains Gunaan, UiTM Shah Alam. Received his BSc (Hons) in chemistry from University of Malaya in 1971, Diploma in Education 1973, MSc 1986 and a short course on EIA from University of Salford, England in 1993 under the British High Commissioner's Award. His area of research and interest on Wastewater treatment and promoting of environmental consciousness and human values to foster peace and mutual understanding. He has

Speakers:

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:

2. Professor Dr. Karim D. Crow (IAIS)
3. Dr. Moner A. Rasheed (Muslim Consumer Assoc. 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. Associate Prof. Lee Kok Kheng
(Vice-President SGM)
2. 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. Assoc. Professor Dr. Shanti Thambiah (UM)
 2. Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi (Konan Univ. Japan)
 3. Dr. Osman Chua (MACMA)
- Q & A
- 4.00 p.m. - Dialogue/Summary
- 5.00 p.m. - Tea
- End

Civilizational Dialogue; Professor, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, International Islamic University, Malaysia; Senior Fellow at the Prince al-Waleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington DC; and Visiting Research Fellow at Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. Formerly the Deputy Vice Chancellor/ Vice President (Academic), University of Malaya (1995-2000) and the holder of Malaysia Chair of Islam in Southeast Asia at Georgetown University (2000-2005) Dr Bakar was educated in London University, where he obtained his B. Sc and M. Sc in Mathematics. He earned his doctorate in Islamic philosophy from Temple University, Philadelphia. A Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard University (1992) he has published 14 books and more than 200 articles on various aspects of Islamic thought and civilization, particularly Islamic philosophy and science, contemporary Islam, inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogues. His books *Tawhid and Science* and *Classification of Knowledge in Islam* have been translated into many Muslim languages. The founder of Center for Civilizational Dialogue at the University of Malaya, Dr Bakar has also served as advisors and consultants to various international academic and professional organizations and institutions, including UNESCO and The Qatar Foundation. He is a member of The West-Islamic World Initiative for Dialogue established by the World Economic Forum based in Switzerland. He was awarded with a Datoship by the Sultan of Pahang (1994) and another Datoship by the Malaysian King (2000).

Dr Osman Chuah obtained B.A.Econ (Hons.) IIUM in 1987; Master of Islam Revealed Knowledge and heritage IIUM in 1992 & subsequently his Ph.D. on " Ethnic Relationship" UM in 1999 . His specializations includes Economics, Quality Management and Islamic Studies, minority group problems. Among the research in progress & plan : "*the rise of Japan as a second economic power*"; *Konosuke Matsushita Quality Management, Chinese Muslims*. Dr Osman Chuah is the recipient of the Ph.D Award from PHP Institute of Japan . Among his study interest is the rise of Matsushita Electric Corporation of Japan, the biggest Industrial Group in Japan which is responsible for 5% of GNP of Japan. Presently, Dr. Osman Chuah serves as an *Associate Professor* at the Department of Usul Ad-din and Comparative Religions, International Islamic University, Gombak, Malaysia. Dr.Osman Chuah's recent publications are Introduction to Islam,

“You’re not in the Sales Business...You’re In The Relationship Business”

His human performance and team building expertise is also sought for: facilitating strategy planning processes; customer focus programs; integration of merging and acquired firms; manufacturing; organizational development and implementation of change. His more than 20 year career has taken him around the globe. He’s consulted with and coached government officials, banks, law personnel, educational institutions, telecommunications, manufactures and developers. His knowledge of English, Chinese and French helps him to be more effective as an international consultant. He can help you:

- develop internal leaders to sustain the business
- adapt to change
- compete effectively in international markets
- streamline and simplify manufacturing operations
- establish operations in Asia

Utilizing timeless Islamic principles in today’s hectic environment!.

Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah holds a Bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies in Science from Manchester University, England, a Master’s degree in Philosophy from the London School of Economics, and a PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Pittsburgh, U.S.A. In 1993 he was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of History & Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourne, Australia. He is currently an Professor and Head of Department, in the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University of Malaya, where he teaches the history, philosophy, and sociology of science. He has been the Deputy President of the Malaysian Social Science Association since 2000. He has edited a book with Prof. K.S. Jomo and Dr Phua Kai Lit entitled *New Perspectives on Malaysian Studies* (2002). His most recent book, edited together with Dr Phua Kai Lit, is entitled *Public Policy, Culture, and The Impact of Globalization in Malaysia* (2004). He has published in journals such as *American Journal of Islamic Social Science*, and *Studies in Contemporary Islam*. His research interest includes a comparative study of Islamic and Western epistemologies.

Dr. Osman Bakar is concurrently Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Science at the Department of Science and Technology Studies at the University of Malaya; Senior Research Fellow at the university’s Center for

BIODATA

Dr Amir Farid is a medical specialist practising holistic integrated medicine. He has been engaged in interfaith work for over 20 years, and in promoting ecological health & sustainability for over 10 years. He is a Global Trustee of the United Religions Initiative (URI), Chairman of Interfaith Spiritual Fellowship (INSAF), committee member of Malaysian Interfaith Network (MIN) and adviser/committee member of several local Islamic NGOs. On the ecological front, he is supporting several groups promoting organic farming, permaculture, biodynamic farming, agnihotra farming, LOHAS (Lifestyle of Health and Sustainability) and the gaia ecological movement

Dr. Amran Muhammad is a BSc holder in Economic from University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is also a MA holder in History and Science Philosophy at Institute of International Thought and Islamic Civilization (ISTAC). He had furthers his study in PhD at Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Manchester in Science Policy and technology. From 1998 until now, he is a lecturer at Institute of Science and Technology Studies, University of Malaya. Before this, he was taught at Center for Civilization Dialogue and became a President of the Malaysian Civilization Dialogue Club.

Dr. Azizan Baharuddin received her BSc. (Hons) Biology, University of Tasmania, Australia in 1978, MSc. UCL (Lond.) 1979 and PhD from the University of Lancaster 1989. She is currently professor at the Department of Science and Technology Studies as well as Director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue. Her areas of interest include environmental ethics and bioethics, science and religion, interfaith/intercivilisation dialogue. She has published widely in the above areas. She is also member of the Administrative Board of the Puteri Islam NGOs.

Azizuddin bin Ahmad was born on 8th August 1967 at Ipoh, Perak and now staying at Kepong, Kuala Lumpur. He is holding a Diploma in Business Studies from UiTM and Bachelor Business Administration from UIAM. He is the Manager of a Blue T Communication Sdn Bhd. He has involved in plenty of organizations from 1987 until 2008. On 2002-2006, he was an

Exco of Malaysian Youth Council and became a Deputy President on 2006-2008. He is also the President of the Committee of Education, Training and Leadership (MBM). He is also the committee of 'Youth Forum' Komanwel of Education Minister 2009 at Kuala Lumpur, 2008-2009. In his organization activities, he has many time presented Malaysia for the charity works like presented Global Peace Malaysia as the delegation leader in sending the aid to Baghdad, Najaf, Karbala in Iraq on 2001. He was also the group leader for aid mission to Tsunami victims at Aceh, Indonesia. He was present Malaysia to 'Youth Forum on Culture and Tourism' at Yunnan, China. And the latest, he had presented paperwork of leadership at Malaysian Assembly at Manchester, United Kingdom, Seminar of Leadership at Kaherah, Mesir, Seminar of Leadership at London and seminar and conference at national level. He was being rewarded as the Member of Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah (A.I.S), Selangor, on 11th December 2007. Besides that, Pingat Bakti Belia, Majlis Gabungan Belia Negeri Melaka, 2008 and Ahli Mangku Negara ((A.M.N) on 21 August 2008.

Dr. Carol Leon is Associate Professor of English at the English department, faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the University of Malaya. Her research on postcolonial and travel writings has appeared in several journals. She is currently in the process of completing a book on travel writing in the Indian Ocean region. Her interests include diaspora studies, travel narratives and postcolonial concerns.

Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi obtained his Bachelor's degree in Economics at the KONAN University in year 1969 and later Master degree in Philosophy and Ethics at the OSAKA University in 1977. Later he was appointed Professor in 1995 at the Department of Literature, KONAN University since then. Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi has published papers in the areas of environmental ethics and environmental education. He is a trustee member of Japan Academy for Health Behavioral Science since 1993 and a trustee member of The Nature Activity of Osaka Prefecture since 2002. Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi is also the president of International Association of Earth-environment and Global Citizen since 1999 and the president of Society of Information Exchange for Environmental Education between Japan and China since 2000. Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi also travels abroad frequently, giving lectures and speaking at seminars and conferences. He has been working as a visiting Professor at Center of

Environmental Education, Rajabhat Institute Phranakhon, Thailand and also School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria, Canada. He also worked as honorary visiting Professor at The School of Education, Hebei University, China in year 1997 and at the Center of Environmental Science, Peking University, China since 2001.

Dr. Karim Douglas Crow is Principal Research Fellow at the *International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies* (IAIS) where he researches on civilisational Islam. Dr. Crow took his university education in Beirut and Cairo, and his Doctorate from the *Institute of Islamic Studies* at McGill University. During 1980–1992 he taught Islamic Studies and Arabic Language & Literature at: Columbia University, New York University, Fordham University, The University of Virginia, and the University of Maryland. In 2000–2005 he taught philosophy, theology and intellectual traditions at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC) in Kuala Lumpur; and during 2006–2008 was Associate Professor of Contemporary Islam at the *S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies* at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He has published articles and book chapters on Islamic metaphysics, contemporary Islamic intellectual and spiritual currents, Islamic Peace studies, and values & ethics; and an edited volume *Facing One Qiblah: Legal and Doctrinal Aspects of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims* (Singapore, Pustaka Nasional, 2005). He has conducted research for many years on Islamic understandings of intelligence reason, and his preparing to publish *When God Created Wisdom': Islamic 'Aql Creation Narratives*. Dr. Crow is working on an historical survey of *Islam and Rationality*, and a monograph on the life and thought of Ja'far al-Sadiq (d. 148 H/ 765 CE). He also serves as Advisor for several non-governmental programs and institutions treating Islamic peace issues in North America, the Caucasus and in Aceh (Indonesia).

Dr. Muneer A. Rasheed is specializing in organizational development; Muneer assists organizations with process improvement, cultural change, change management, facilitation, and executive coaching among both the Islamic and general community. As an independent consultant a registered consultant with the Gerson Lehrman Group and the International Consultant for **Persatuan Pengguna (PPIM) Islam Malaysia / World Muslim Consumers Association of Malaysia** He has been interviewed by Taiwan and Malaysia's leading business magazines, newspapers and TV! He is also the author the to be released books "**Leadership from a Quranic Perspective**"...**And,**