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**Visit of the Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin
Vice Minister**

**State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), People's Republic of China
To University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue**

14 January 2011

Court Room, Chancellery Building, University of Malaya



The Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin presenting a token of appreciation to the Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya

Due to its relevance in the context of intercultural/intercivilisational dialogue and its collaborative activities with the Department of National Unity and Integration (JPNIN) especially via the context of national unity programs for the past seven years, University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) was chosen by JPNIN to be one of the places of interest to be visited by the **Honorable Mr. Wu Shimin**, Vice Minister for State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC), People's Republic of China who was visiting Malaysia from the 13 to the 22 January 2011.

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PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

EDITORIAL

Professor Datin Dr. Azizan Baharuddin
Professor Dr. Samuel Oluoch Imbo
Siew Wai Ling

CONTRIBUTORS

Siti Rukiah Othman
Chang Lee Wei
Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakri
Muhammad Azri Safwat Rizan
Zazren Ismail

LAY-OUT & DESIGN

Siew Wai Ling

ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS

Centre for Civilisational Dialogue
2nd Floor, Siswarama Building
University of Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
Tel: 603-79675697
Fax: 03-79675692
E-mail: dialog@um.edu.my
Website: <http://civilisationaldialogue.um.edu.my>



External Events & Networking



Official group picture of the signing of bilateral MoU between University of Malaya and Konan University

Memorandum of Understanding between University of Malaya and Konan University

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was finally signed between University of Malaya and Konan University, Kobe, Japan on 8 January 2011 after ten years of networking and collaboration between UMCCD and Konan University.

The MoU was signed by the Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya and the President of Konan University, while the Director of UMCCD and Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi witnessed the signing

of this MoU. Professor Fumiaki is a professor of Konan University and a familiar scholar at UMCCD. He had visited the centre more than five times in the past decade. The latest collaboration with the centre was the organization of the "6th International Seminar of Health Behavioural Science (ICBH2010)" on the theme of 'Dialogue on Well-being & Human Security in Environmental Health' which was featured in UMCCD's

Professor Datuk Dr. Ghauth Jasmon, Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya and Professor Dr. Kaoru Takasaka, the President of Konan University



Brainstorming of the concept of Global Movement of Moderates (GMM)

On the 29 & 30 January 2011, UMCCD was invited to the 2nd Brainstorming of the concept of Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia. GMM is a concept put forward by the Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia during his visit to the United States in 2010, during which he was also reacting to several "extreme" incidents such as, the threat of burning the Quran in the United States. The Prime Minister received overwhelming support when he proposed that a GMM should be put in place to balance the voices of extremism in the world. Predictably, the media has to be able to give more spaces to the voices of moderation.

The UMCCD's efforts thus far at promoting dialogue is inevitably towards a realization of ideas which could be classified as moderate in nature; dialogue aims at the avoidance of extremism which is the opposite of moderation. Besides, aiming at promoting the agenda GMM via its international networking, UMCCD has carried out a roundtable dialogue on "The Concept of Moderation (*Wasatdaniyyah*) of the *Ummah*" to articulate further the meaning of the concept of moderation on the 22 Mac 2011. (Full report is available on page 4)

ONGOING CONSULTANCY

Kem Dialog Peradaban (Civilisational Dialogue Camp)

The Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE) requested the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue to prepare a module for *Kem Dialog Peradaban*. This module is suppose to be a resource material in a program to expose Malaysian youth to the meaning and application of dialogue as a soft-skill towards embracing the reality of Malaysia's plural society.

The objectives of the consultative-research are as follows:

- To provide a better understanding of the importance of the concept of the "Malaysian" culture
- To appreciate the importance of respect and celebrating similarities in a multi-ethnic society
- To recognize the importance of knowledge of civilization as an important source of human values
- To produce sensitized individuals, who are able to dialogue and embrace diversity at the national and international levels
- To produce individuals who have leadership qualities, especially in the context of a multiracial society
- To create a community that acknowledges the principle of 'Unity in Diversity'

FUTURE EVENTS

14 June 2011	<i>Siri Wacana Keterlestarian dan Tamadun: 'Keperluan Takrif Baru Konsep Keterlestarian' oleh Dr. Shaharil bin Mohamad Zain, Felo Penyelidik Kanan</i>
16—17 June 2011	Conference on Moderation , featuring Professor Dr. Samuel Oluoch Imbo, Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia and Professor Dr. Chad Haines, Visiting Scholars to UMCCD
1 July 2011	Second Workshop on 'Towards Developing an Indigenous Philosophy Module: A Roundtable Dialogue'

UPCOMING VISITING SCHOLARS

1. **Professor Dr. Samuel Oluoch Imbo**
Professor Samuel Oluoch Imbo is a Professor of Philosophy and the Director of the African American Studies Program at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. His teaching, writing and research interests are in the areas of comparative philosophy, Africana philosophy and social & political philosophy.
2. **Professor Dr. Yasmin Saikia**
Professor Yasmin Saikia is Professor of History and the first holder of the Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies at Arizona State University. Her research and teaching interests invoke a dynamic transnational and interdisciplinary dialogue situated at the intersection of history, culture and religion.
3. **Professor Dr. Chad Haines**
Chad Haines is a cultural anthropologist whose research engages the complex ways post-coloniality and globalization reshape the Muslim world. His research focuses on everyday lives of Muslims and how they create new identities through such social practices as lifestyle options, consumption, labor, and migration.
4. **Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi**
Professor Fumiaki Taniguchi is a Professor at the Department of Literature, Konan University. He has published papers in the areas of environmental ethics and environmental education. He is a trustee member of Japan Academy for Health Behavioral Science and a familiar scholar at UMCCD.