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MAY—AUGUST 2011

NO. 18

Seminar
**Perspectives on Islam and the West:
The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks**
16 - 17 June 2011
Auditorium, Asia Europe Institute , University of Malaya



Group picture of the presenters and participants of the seminar

In line with our Prime Minister's call for a 'Global Movement of the Moderates' to combat the threat of religious extremism world-wide (as can be gleaned from the statement made in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2010), the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) together with the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) organized a one and half day seminar on *Wasaṭiyyah* or moderation as an input to the GMM concept.

Continued on pages 3 & 4

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Advisory Panel Meeting of University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD)



From left to right: Professor Azizan, Professor Fumiaki and Professor Imbo



Advisory Panel listening attentively while the Director of UMCCD delivering her presentation



Professor Chandra expressing his opinions to the other Advisory Panel

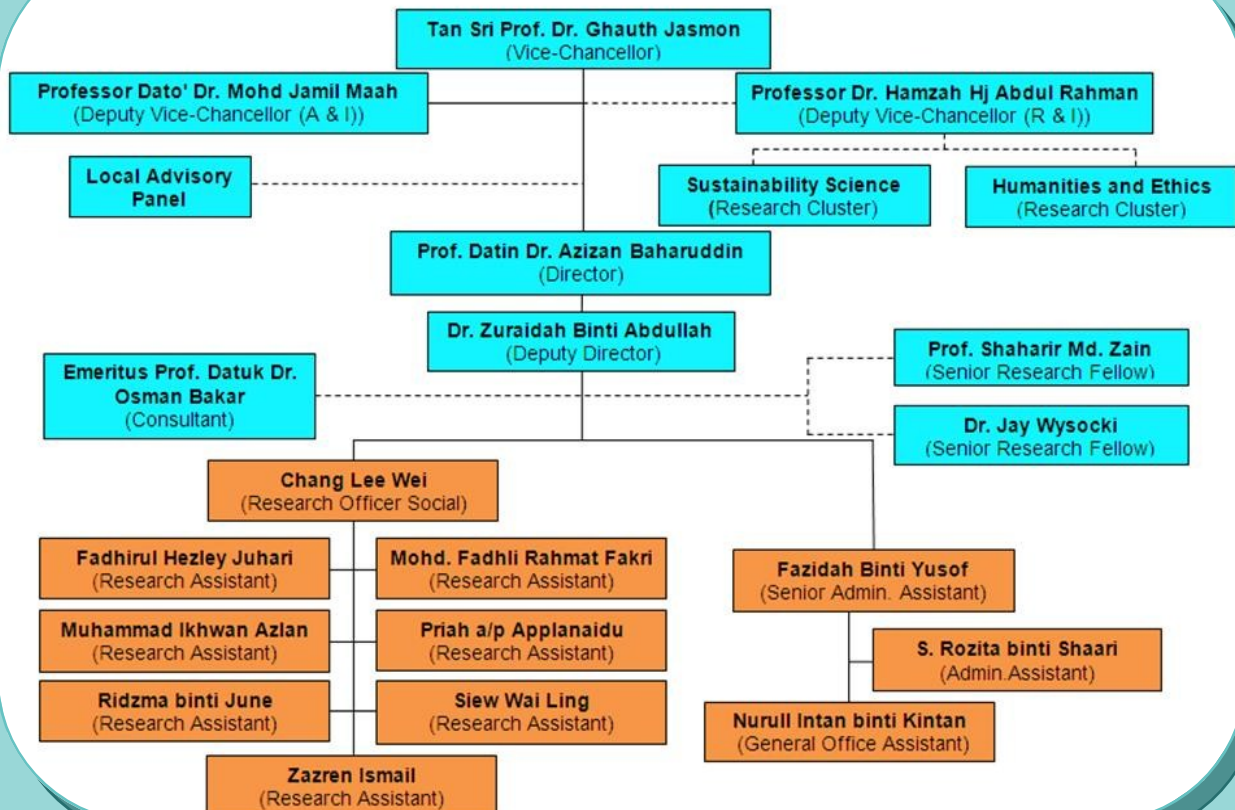


Dato' Jamil delivering his welcoming speech

An Advisory Panel Meeting was held on the 19 May 2011 at the Court Room, Chancellery Building, University of Malaya. The meeting was chaired by Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd. Jamil Maah, University of Malaya Deputy Vice Chancellor (A&I). The welcoming speech was delivered by Professor Dato' Jamil and the Director of UMCCD was invited to give a brief introduction of the Centre and its activities, issues and challenges. The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

The Centre would like to record its highest gratitude to Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd. Jamil Maah and all the members of the Advisory Panel who provided their valuable opinions and suggestions on ways to improve the performance of the Centre.

UMCCD Organizational Structure



Visiting Scholars

Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo

Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo is Kenyan by birth and American by choice. He is a Professor of philosophy and the director of the African American Studies Program at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. He also held the Hanna Chair in Philosophy at Hamline University from September 2005 until May 2009. He earned his B.A. (Hons) from the University of Nairobi in Kenya. He received both his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A.

His interests are in the areas of comparative philosophy, Africana philosophy, and social and political philosophy. His interest in Islam was sparked by teaching a philosophy of religion course and by an international faculty seminar in June 2007. The seminar, organized by the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) took 14 American professors to France and The Netherlands with a focus on the theme of contemporary European Muslims.

Professor Imbo was a visiting scholar at UMCCD from the 2 May 2011 to 16 July 2011. During his visit, Professor Imbo had delivered a number of public lectures at various local universities and Gajah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He was one of the speakers for the seminar '**Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks**' featured in this issue of UMCCD Bulletin. At this conference, his monograph entitled, "Towards Developing an Indigenous Philosophy Module: A Roundtable Dialogue" was launched by His Excellency Ambassador Abdullah Faiz Zain, the Deputy Director General of IDFR. Professor Imbo was also invited to the Advisory Panel Meeting for the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and to UMCCD's retreat cum workshop at Bayu Beach Resort, Port Dickson.



Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi

Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi obtained his Bachelor's degree in Economics at the KONAN University and later Master degree in Philosophy and Ethics at the OSAKA University. He was appointed Professor in 1995 at the Department of Literature, KONAN University. He is a trustee member of Japan Academy for Health Behavioral Science, a trustee member of The Nature Activity of Osaka Prefecture, the president of International Association of Earth-environment and Global Citizen and the president of Society of Information Exchange for Environmental Education between Japan and China.

Professor Fumiaki visited the Centre from 12 May 2011 to 19 May 2011 and as a member of the Advisory Panel of the Centre, he was invited to attend the Advisory Panel Meeting for UMCCD. The full article is available on page 5.

Professor Dr. Charles Samuel Haines

Professor Dr. Charles Samuel Haines is a Professor at the Arizona State University, U.S.A. He is a cultural anthropologist whose research engages the complex ways post-coloniality and globalization continue to reshape the Muslim world.

His research focuses on everyday lives of Muslims as they create new identities through such social practices as lifestyle options, consumption, labor, and migration. Professor Haines cautions policy makers to understand the detailed histories and causes of revolt in each individual country, warning outsiders not to treat the entire region as a homogeneous entity. It is his belief that the U.S. has often been seen as having "short sighted policy interests at the cost of the people in the region." He also addresses U.S. fears about an Islamist takeover in countries that have been experiencing tumultuous revolts. While some analysts may differ with his conclusions, he is of the opinion that the extremists will not be able to capitalize on (the revolts), because ultimately the revolts are about an aspiration for political voice, and extremist organizations cannot offer political voice through democratic principles and practices.

Professor Haines was a visiting scholar at UMCCD from 6 June 2011 to 5 July 2011. He delivered a presentation at a forum featured in page 9 and was invited as one of the speakers for the seminar '**Perspectives on Islam and the West: The Need for Cultivating Moderate Outlooks**' which is the cover story for this issue of UMCCD Bulletin.

