MALAYSIA UNESCO DAY 2015
in conjunction with the organisation’s 70th anniversary with the theme of ‘Togetherness’

Dialogue
Reflection of Peace: Muslim-Buddhist Dialogue

Public Lectures
ECAI Mapping Resources: Early Historic Religious Maritime Networks in Monsoon Asia Based on New Austronesian Evidence
Binomials in English: Structure and History
Inclusive Education Through and With Language - Language Matters

UNESCO Club
UMUC Welcomes IIUM-UNESCO
Educational Visit from UMTUC
Batik Workshop
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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Public Lectures
ECAI Mapping Resources: Early Historic Religious Maritime Networks in Monsoon Asia Based on New Austronesian Evidence
Professor David Blundell, Invited Speaker

Binomials in English: Structure and History
Professor Han Sauer, Visiting Professor at UMCD

UNESCO Club
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February 2015 - May 2015

This bulletin reports on the activities and events conducted by the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) and our collaborators.

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Malaysia UNESCO Day 2015

The University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) participated in the historic celebration at Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur.

UNESCO FACTS

- United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) was founded on 16 November 1945.
- UNESCO has 195 Members and eight Associate Members. It is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board. The Secretariat, headed by the Director-General, implements the decisions of these two bodies.
- The Organization has more than 50 field offices around the world. Its headquarters are located at Place de Fontenoy in Paris, France, in an outstanding, modernist building inaugurated in 1958 and recently renovated.

Extracted from www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/about-us

Malaysia’s UNESCO Day 2015 was recently celebrated from 22 to 24 May 2015. This fifth annual celebration is aimed to raise awareness and promote UNESCO’s role in ensuring sustainable development, eradicating poverty, promoting intercultural dialogue and maintaining peace. It was held in conjunction with the Organisation’s 70th anniversary.

This year’s theme of ‘Togetherness’ stands at the heart of UNESCO’s mission to strengthen humanity as a single community. It encompasses the human aspect of socializing, communicating, interacting, reacting as well as empathizing and understanding one another.

Role

As the first UNESCO Club in the country, UMUC was given the opportunity to participate in this glorious event. Based on the theme, club members decided to organise interactive activities that express the act of ‘togetherness’.

Club members spent about a week to plan and construct some of the exhibition pieces from scratch. On the day of the exhibition, UMUC offered visitors to try batik painting. A photo booth was available for visitors to take photos while donning Malaysian traditional costumes. The main centrepiece was a batik painting, created by University of Malaya (UM) Resident Artist at the Museum of Asian Art, Mr Sam Karuna.

Highlight

The most memorable moment for UMUC was when the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Tan Sri Dato’ Haji Muhyiddin Yassin, in the capacity as the President of the Malaysian National Commission of UNESCO, and Her Excellency Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO visited the club’s
booth. They autographed the batik painting, with the assistance of Mr Sam Karuna followed by a group photo session with UMCCD staff and UMUC members.

Although it was an exhaustive day, UMUC members enjoyed every single minute of it. The encouraging feedback from Suruhanjaya Kebangsaan UNESCO Malaysia (SKUM), the main organiser and the public had definitely reiterated UMUC's position as the oldest and one of most fun clubs in the UM campus and Malaysia!

Activities happening at UMUC Booth

A girl posing with her hibiscus-motif batik

Visitors at the photo booth

UMUC's photo booth section

A UMUC member holding a donation box

A little girl trying on a traditional costume

Painting batik on a white canvas

Author of Mah Meri Series, Dr Faridah Noor (far right) posing with Mr Samri anak Abdul Rahman, Mah Meri mask carver and storyteller and Safia Najwa, RA of the project

A group of visitors taking a "we-fie" clad in Malay headress and Mah Meri top made from tree bark
Reflection of Peace: Muslim-Buddhist Dialogue

An interfaith dialogue between Muslims and Buddhists in the spirit of social harmony.

To promote socio-religious harmony and the spirit of living together in Malaysia, the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) in collaboration with the Young Buddhist Association of Malaysia (YBAM) and the Department of National Integrity organised ‘Reflection of Peace: Muslim-Buddhist Dialogue’ on Saturday, 16 May 2015.

The event was held from 8am to 1pm at Seminar Room 2, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya (UM) and was officiated by the honorary guest, Mr. Ho Khek Hua, Director of Institut Kajian dan Latihan Integrasi Nasional (IKLIN).

The Sessions

The dialogue saw Dr Chandra Muzaffar, the founding Director of UMCCD and President of Justice for the World (JUST), and the Venerable Kumara Bhikkhu from Sasanarakha Buddhist Sanctuary, delivering their talks on the perception of Muslims on Buddhism and the perception of Buddhists on Islam, respectively. This session was chaired by Dr Shahreen Mat Nayan, Deputy Director of UMCCD.

Then, the following session was joined by Dato’ Ang Choo Hong, Consultant from YBAM, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamar Oniah Kamaruzaman, Director of International Centre for the Alliance of Civilisations (INTAC) and Dr. Mohammad Ismath Ramzy Mohammad Ismail from UMCCD. This dialogue on ‘Youth in Islam-Buddhism Dialogue: Issues and Challenges’ was moderated by Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, Director of UMCCD.

Summary

The Reflection of Peace offered an opportunity for participants to better understand and discuss how Islam and Buddhism can co-exist in Malaysia. It also served as a platform to dialogue on some rampant current issues that reflect poorly on both faiths including the plight of the Rohingyans and how the intervention of ASEAN countries can tackle the crisis.

Overall, the response from the audience was positive and many expressed desire to attend such dialogue in the future.

The speakers:

1. Dr. Chandra Muzaffar (JUST)
2. The Venerable Kumara Bhikkhu (Sasanarakha Buddhist Sanctuary, Taiping)
3. Dato’ Ang Choo Hong (YBAM)
4. Associate Professor Dr. Kamar Oniah Kamaruzaman (INTAC)
5. Dr. Mohammad Ismath Ramzy Mohammad Ismail (UMCCD)
ECAI Mapping Resources: Early Historic Religious Maritime Networks in **Monsoon Asia** Based on New Austronesian Evidence

This public lecture was conducted at the Conference Hall, Centre for Creative Content and Digital Innovation (CCCDI) on 25 February 2015.

This lecture was a collaboration between the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) and the Centre for Creative Content and Digital Innovation (CCCDI). Professor Blundell’s visit was partly in association with the on-going project on Immortalising Cultural Heritage.

This particular lecture addressed the project on Maritime Buddhism by the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI), an international collaboration of scholars and researchers to create a networked, dynamic digital atlas.

According to Professor Blundell, the purpose of the project is to explore information on transport networks of religions in Monsoon Asia, based on documentation by pilgrims and their routes, ethnology of ship technology, navigation, and archaeology.

His research enabled him and his team to explore the physical feasibilities of the stitched sea craft ‘oru’ and its variations across the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia.

As the project is currently on-going, the expected outcome is an Atlas of Maritime Buddhism, a multi-dimensional interactive Web-based visual anthropology/cultural atlas. It will also serve as a local community bulletin board for scholarly exchange.

The ECAI project does not only rely on the written records of trade and travel, but also the archaeology of the sites by using state-of-the-art technology. This has garnered interests from the local scholars and researchers who attended the lecture. The exchange of opinions and questions made the session lively and informative.

**SPEAKER’S CV**

David Blundell is a Professor in Anthropology at the National Chengchi University, Taiwan. He is a member of the Austronesia Team at the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI), University of Berkeley, California, USA. He is involved with interdisciplinary GIS projects on spatial temporal digital mapping. He was invited to UMCCD as a speaker in February 2015.

Among the audience attending the lecture

A photo of a bronze idol from Makassar Sulawesi
Binomials in English: Structure and History

This public lecture was conducted at the Conference Hall, Faculty of Language and Linguistics (FLL) on 26 February 2015.

Professor Sauer’s lecture was in collaboration with the Department of English Language, Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya (UM). His visit was in conjunction with a project initiated between the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) and the Institute of Philosophy (IOP), Japan, as an outcome of the meetings held during the Lotus Sutra exhibition held by the Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM) in 2014.

In his lecture, Professor Sauer elaborated on a linguistic feature, binomials that refer to word-pairs consisting of words of the same word-class that are connected by conjunctions such as “and”, “but also” and “or”. Binomials also have a semantic relation in phrases such as “to have and to hold”, “begin and commence”, “lord and master” and so forth.

According to him, binomials have been used at all periods of the English language and are also found in other languages. They are commonly used in many genres and text-types, e.g. in literary texts (poetry and prose) and legal language. Their functions often overlap and tend to add emphasis to statements.

Binomials can be analysed and classified according to various criteria, for example, in different word class as in nouns, adjectives and verbs, their etymology (native words, loan-words, or a combination of native and loan-word) and their semantic relation (synonymy, antonymy, or various kinds of complementarity). The on-going study is on the use of binomials in the translated English text of the Lotus Sutra.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Asmah Haji Omar who attended the lecture had a very interesting exchange with the speaker on binomials found in the Malay language. Similarly, Professor Dato’ Dr. Christopher Boey, who is the Vice-President of SGM, initiated an interesting discussion on identifying binomials. In summary, this lecture provided linguistic students and the audience with an in-depth understanding of the history and functions of binomials.
UNESCO’s International Mother Language Day 2015

Inclusive Education Through and With Language – Language Matters

Penggunaan Bahasa Ibunda Secara Inklusif dalam Pendidikan

On-campus celebration of three major languages of Malaysia at the Department of Media Studies, FASS.

UNESCO’s International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually to encourage mother tongue-based bilingual or multilingual approaches in education—an important factor for inclusion and quality in education.

Thus on Wednesday, 18 March 2015, the University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) took this opportunity to collaborate with the Academy of Malay Studies (APM) and the Department of Malaysian Languages & Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Languages and Linguistics (FBL) to organise various activities. The celebration was held at the Auditorium and Foyer, Department of Media Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya (UM).

The ceremony was officiated by Professor Dr. Mohamad Mokhtar Abu Hassan, Director of APM, followed by speeches from three keynote speakers representing the country’s three main languages, that is Malay, Tamil and Mandarin. The keynote speakers were:

1) Dr Salinah Jaafar, Head of Department of Linguistics, APM
2) Mr Manarmanan, Senior Lecturer, FBL
3) Mr Cheng Zhong, Director (China), Kong Zi Institute, University of Malaya (UM)

Students from FBL performed songs in Chinese with English translation and recited poems in Tamil with Malay translation. The event also saw exhibitions such as Chinese calligraphy, traditional costumes, cultural displays and book sales.
UMUC received its first visit of the year by the International Islamic University Malaysia UNESCO Club (IIUM-UNESCO) on 6 February 2015.

The visit was intended to reestablish the link between both clubs as well as share their experiences in conducting activities and events within their campuses.

Eighteen representatives from IIUM-UNESCO, who were also the main committee members, took part in the programme.

Mr. Faysal Khan, President of IIUM-UNESCO, began by explaining the objective of the club's visit to UMUC. He then deliberated on the club's main goals and activities before he concluded by expressing his club's hope to collaborate with UMUC in the future.

As the representative of UMUC, Project Officer Nik Maisarah Akmal Nik Mustafa followed through by giving a briefing on the history of UMUC, its past activities and the upcoming events for 2015.

Afterwards, IIUM-UNESCO members mingled and discussed possible future collaboration with UMUC. The programme ended at 12pm.

Following the visit from IIUM-UNESCO, another UNESCO Club from the east coast of Malaysia paid an educational visit to UMUC on 29 April 2015.

Twelve students and their club advisor, Dr. Madzli Harun, from the Maritime Management from the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu UNESCO Club (UMTUC) arrived with a mission: to establish a networking relationship with UMUC and to organize a mini exhibition on maritime management.

Dr. Madzli delivered an introduction on maritime and its management. Among his interesting points was that within the country's maritime line, lies many treasures as a result of sunken ships and wrecks back in the old days. These treasures have yet to be salvaged and protected by the current maritime law in Malaysia.

The mini exhibition was a part of the students' final year project, designed by Dr. Madzli, who is also their lecturer. Marks given were based on the design of the poster, its content and the student's presentation. With experience and broad knowledge in media, Dr. Shahreen Mat Nayan, Deputy Director of the Centre of Civilisational Dialogue, did the honour of evaluating and giving comments on the overall presentation.

The visit proved to be beneficial to both parties and both clubs are going to plan possible future collaboration.
In its continuous effort to introduce and promote University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC), the club held a roadshow on Wednesday, 22 April 2015 at the Department of Media Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya (UM).

Students and prospective members were invited to take part in planning UMUC activities for the year 2015, meeting UMUC Project Officer and getting to know of UMUC’s upcoming competitions.

UMUC membership is open to UM’s students, alumni, academicians, staff and outsiders.

For more information on UMUC, please visit our website at http://unesco.um.edu.my or contact us at unesco.um@gmail.com.

**Batik Workshop**

On Saturday, 9 May 2015, University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) organised a half-day Batik Workshop for its members and the public at the Museum of Asian Arts, University of Malaya (UM).

Apart from introducing the participants to the batik techniques and how to create one, it was also aimed to draw volunteers for Hari UNESCO Malaysia 2015 to be held from 22 May 2015 to 24 May 2015 at Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur.

The campus community who joined the programme learned the initial step of drawing (mencanting) batik up to the difficult but interesting process of dying and maintaining the colour of the batik pieces. The workshop was conducted by Mr Sam Karuna, UM’s Resident Artist and his three assistants.

At the end of the workshop, all participants gained new experiences and learned more on the history of batik Malaysia. All in all, it was a fun and educational experience!
University-Community Engagement in the Asia-Pacific

The second Emergent Scholar Seminar was held from 23-25 March, 2015 in Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand.

The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) held its 30th Annual Conference from 20 to 24 March 2015 at Soka University, Japan. The theme of the symposium was 'Intercivilizational Dialogue: Toward the Mutual Understanding of Buddhism and Islam'.

IOP is a close partner of University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD). UMCCD's Director, Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, UM’s Deputy Dean of Humanities Research Cluster, Associate Professor Dr. Raihanah Abdullah and UM’s Deputy Dean of Faculty of Medicine and IOP’s Overseas Research Fellow, Professor Dato’ Dr. Christopher Boey Chiong Meng, were among the distinguished guests.

Dr. Raihanah gave a speech on 'Gender Equality in Islam' and highlighted that the concept of equality between men and women in Islam has often been misunderstood. Meanwhile, Dr. Faridah Noor presented on 'The Language Features of the Parable of the Medicinal Herbs' based on the analysis of the Burton Watson (2009) translation. Linguistic features including imagery and binomials were found in use to impart the message of impartiality and highlight the Parable as a didactic text.

Other scholars such as Dr. Francesca Corrao, IOP Overseas Research Fellow, focused on 'The Good for the Community in Islam and Buddhist Perspectives: A Comparative Analysis’ while Prof. Boey presented on 'Dialogue between Islam and Buddhism in Medicine', which represented his background as a medical practitioner.

The conference brought together scholars, Muslims and Buddhists who agreed on a common theme that people of different background, status and gender can live together in harmony while respecting each other's rights. Dr Faridah Noor emphasized on the Centre’s role to hold open dialogues for the furtherance of peaceful coexistence and understanding.

The 30th IOP Annual Conference in Japan

Designed for beginning scholars in the academia, it was attended by University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue’s (UMCCD) Deputy Director, Dr. Shahreen Mat Nayan, along with academicians from various Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership (APHERP) institutions, including those from Hawaii, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Australia, and Japan.

The participants presented work in response to a concept paper prepared by seminar coordinators, Dr. Christopher Collins of Azusa Pacific University, California (APHERP Associate Director) and Dr. Deane Neubauer of East-West Center, Hawaii (APHERP Co-Director).

The three-day seminar was based on a concept paper focused on university-community engagement, and was aimed to assist up-and-coming scholars in developing manuscripts suitable for international publication.
NEWS

Promoting Interaction and Knowledge Exchange between UNESCO Natural Sciences related Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific

UNESCO Natural Sciences Related Centres and Chairs organised a regional workshop on 'Promoting Interaction and Knowledge Exchange between UNESCO Natural Sciences Related Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific'.

It was hosted by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), in collaboration with the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) and was held at the Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 26 and 27 May 2015.

Associate Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor, University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue's (UMCCD) Director, Professor Dr. Zanariah Abdullah, Dean, Faculty of Science, attended the workshop on behalf of University of Malaya.

One of the notable speakers during the workshop was Professor Shahbaz Khan, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) from the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, who presented on ‘UNESCO Natural Sciences Regional Support Strategy 2014-2021’

The main purpose of the workshop was to gather local and international researchers to discuss and share ideas, and at the same strengthening South-South collaborations with Malaysia’s Centres for Excellence and Natural Sciences Category II Centres and Chairs in the Asia Pacific region.

Through this workshop, UNESCO hoped to accomplish the Development Agenda 2015-2016 which includes:

- Scientific development in the safety of food and water sources
- Decreasing the risks of natural disasters
- Renewal of energy sources
- Combating climate change
- Eradication of poverty
- Sustainable development

The workshop’s closing remarks was delivered by Ms. Flavia Schlegel, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences.

2015 Integrity Oratorical Competition

The 2015 Integrity Oratorical Competition with the theme ‘Menyakatkan Agenda Integriti’ closed its curtain on 18 May 2015.

It was organized by the Malaysian Institute of Integrity (IIM), in collaboration with Majlis Debat Universiti Malaysia (MADUM) and hosted by Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) from 15 to 18 May 2015.

Debaters from the Higher Education Institutes (HEI) and Teaching Institutions from all over Malaysia participated in this competition.

Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, Director of University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), attended the closing ceremony on behalf of University of Malaya’s (UM) Vice Chancellor.

The closing ceremony was held at the Main Auditorium, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) and attended by Dato’ Seri Idris bin Jusoh, Minister of Education II, as the guest of honour.

In this year’s competition, International Islamic University Malaysia’s (IIUM) orator emerged as the winner while University of Malaya’s contestant was placed fourth in the overall results.
The Internet in Asia: Looking Ahead to 2025

The 2015 Asia Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Internet Business Off-site “The Internet in Asia: Looking Ahead to 2025” was held from 10 to 11 March 2015 in Tokyo’s International House of Japan.

Hosted by Keio University, the event was an ‘untraditional conference’ with interactive and engaging conversation from the participants to approach Asian internet usage issues that are rapidly coming to dominate the understanding of the Internet economy.

Jim Foster, Executive Director of Keio International Centre for the Internet & Society (KICIS), conveyed his welcoming speech to the attendees from 16 countries, who acted as facilitators and discussants, to the conference.

During the two-day conference, Professor Jun Murai from Keio University, also known as the ‘Father of Japan’s Internet’, shared his ideas during the ‘Evening Triialogue: Embedding the Multistakeholder Process in Asia’s Internet’. Meanwhile, a very prominent figure in Korean Internet sector, Professor Emeritus Kilnam Chon from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), contributed his findings on Internet during Research Perspective session, ‘What will the Internet Become in 2025?’ with other discussants from eight universities.

Associate Professor Dr Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, Director of University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) represented the University during ‘The Future of the “Global” Internet in Asia Looking Back from 2025’ session. They discussed on whether a distinctly ‘Asian’ model for the internet might emerge over the next decade and to what extent it will converge or diverge from trends elsewhere in the world. Another issue is on how state and non-state actors in the region will interact to define and shape that future.

At the side meeting of the conference, Dr Faridah Noor was invited to attend a preliminary planning meeting with Professor Abu Bakar Munir, Faculty of Law, UM to plan the APRU Internet Policy Summer Session to be held in August 2015.

APRU Internet Policy Summer Session is a curriculum to educate young officials on Internet economy and governance that will take place for three consecutive years.

Educational Forum and Young Speakers’ Contest

The 15th ASEAN University Network (AUN) and 4th ASEAN+3 Educational Forum and Young Speakers’ Contest was held in Malaysia from 18 to 25 January 2015. The forum was hosted by University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) with “Developing ASEAN+3 Economic Integrated Community: Issues on Gender Equality, Minority Groups, and Persons with Disabilities” as the theme.

Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, Director of University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), attended the forum as the representative from University of Malaya on the 19th of January to listen to the Special Lecture on ASEAN+3 Economic Integration.

The forum’s main aim is to build up in-depth ASEAN awareness to the future leaders of the region and its dialogue partners, China, Japan and Korea. It also serves as a platform for the youths of ASEAN+3 to express their concerns for the region and their perception of its future through policy oriented proposals. Four main academic and non-academic activities during the forum include:

- Round table discussion and presentation of ASEAN+3 issues
- Speakers’ Contest
- Special Lecture
- Cultural Programme

Delegates of APRU

Participants of the forum

Dr Faridah Noor with Prof. Jun Murai (left) and Prof. Emer. Kilnam Chon

Photo credit: Faridah Noor Mohd Noor

Dr Faridah Noor with Prof. Jun Murai (left) and Prof. Emer. Kilnam Chon
Selected Publications

**Theme: Dialogue**

**Title:** Dialog Intraperadaban Melayu: Wagas Islam, Warisan Melayu dan Weltschauung Malaysia  
**Author(s):** Mohd Nakhaie Hj Ahmad, Mohamad Abu Bakar & Mahmood Zuhdi Ab. Majid  
**ISBN:** 983-3070-05-1  
**Year:** 2013  
**Price:** RM20.00

**Title:** Ibn Khaldun: Pemikiran Ibn Khaldun & Relevansinya dalam Tamadun Kontemporari  
**Editor(s):** Azizan Baharuddin, Zaid Ahmad, Nurdeng Deuraseh, Sri Rahayu Ismail & Haslinda Abdullah  
**ISBN:** 978-983-3070-26-8  
**Year:** 2009 (2nd reprint)  
**Price:** RM30.00

**Title:** Dialogue of Civilisations and the Construction of Peace  
**Editor(s):** Thomas W. Simon & Azizan Baharuddin  
**ISBN:** 978-983-3070-24-4  
**Year:** 2008  
**Price:** RM25.00

**Title:** The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Roots of Christianity and Islam: Re-erecting the Fallen Tent of David in a Land North of Damascus  
**Author(s):** Robert Eisenman  
**ISBN:** 978-983-3070-42-8  
**Year:** 2012  
**Price:** RM20.00

*For more info, contact us at dialog@um.edu.my.*
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