

# BULLETIN

CENTRE FOR CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE  
PUSAT DIALOG PERADABAN



UNIVERSITI  
MALAYA



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC)  
Member of the Network of Clubs, Centres and  
Associations for UNESCO  
(Since 2007)



IA photograph taken after the morning session on 13 June 2024 (Second day of ICASAS'24) at the auditorium, Institute of Advanced Studies, UM.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENHANCING ARTSCIENCE IN THE AGE OF SUSTAINABILITY (ICASAS'24)

Artsience is about knowing, analysing, experiencing and feeling simultaneously. More recently and especially in light of the unsustainability crisis dominating the global scenario as underlined by the current imperatives of Planetary Health and Climate Change, the Artsience movement is now gaining momentum with the aim of ensuring that the intuitive, imaginative methods of the “Art” and the rational rule-oriented methods of Science, are brought together again. In other words, in the context of the search for solutions for today's needs, the focus of science to seek an understanding that is objective and unambiguous and the focus of Art on an understanding that is unique, and that are based on open-ended subjective experiences, need to be harmonised and harnessed.

On the 12th & 13th June 2024, the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS), Universiti Malaya, Azman Hashim Chair of Music Universiti Malaya and Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) jointly organised an **International Conference on Enhancing ArtScience in the Age of Sustainability (ICASAS'24)**.

>> More on Page 3

# OUR BULLETIN

The bulletin reports on the activities and events conducted by the Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD), Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) and our Associate Members. All articles and photos are original and belong to the centre (unless stated otherwise).

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Centre for Civilisational Dialogue  
Level 1, Door C6,  
High Impact Research Building,  
Universiti Malaya,  
50603 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA.

03-7967 5697 / 7790 / 5522

dialog@um.edu.my

<https://dialogue.um.edu.my/>

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr.  
Azizan Baharuddin  
Mrs. Nur Lisa Mohd Yusoff

## CONTENT MANAGER

Mrs. Nur Lisa Mohd Yusoff

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. S Rozita Shaari  
Mr. Muhammad Abdullamee  
Makhtar

## HIGHLIGHTS

- International Conference on Enhancing ArtScience in the Age of Sustainability 1
- Special Appreciation to Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Azizan baharuddin 5

## PROGRAMS & RESEARCH

- Azerbaijan Independence Day 6
- Refleksi Buku: Islam dan Isu Makanan Kontemporari* (Book Reflection: Islam and Contemporary Food Issues) 6
- Collaboration with ICESCO, Morocco 7
- Research with the ASEAN Institute for Peace & Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) 7
- Public Forum: Guarding Our Water Together 7
- International Conference on Religious Traditions and Sustainability Culture (RTSC) 8
- Visit to Institute of Oriental Philosophy 9
- International Discourse on Islamic Science and Civilisation 9
- International Conference on Tradition and Religious Studies (IC-TiaRS) “Exploring Contemporary Muslim Religious Expressions in the Digital Age” 10
- Special Public lecture “Islam for Sustainability and Well-being: A Civilisational Dialogue” by Prof. Dr. Yusof Morishita 11
- World Conference on Islamic Thought & Civilisation “Together We Stand: Muslims and Global Humanity” 12

## UNIVERSITI MALAYA UNESCO CLUB (UMUC)

- Annual General Meeting of UMUC 13
- Official UMUC Committee Meeting 13
- Bengkel Pemerkasaan Perkembangan Mental Orang Kurang Upaya Pembelajaran* 14
- Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU) Network Dialogue 2024 14

## RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

- Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, Recipient of the ‘Anugerah Tokoh Maal Hijrah’ Federal Territory Level 1446H/2024M 15
- Mr. Chang Lee Wei, Project Lead “Guarding Our Water Together” 15

Upcoming Programmes 16



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENHANCING ARTSCIENCE IN THE AGE OF SUSTAINABILITY (ICASAS'24)

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## >> From Page 1

Sub-themes of the conference include: ArtScience for Achieving a More Complete and Universal Understanding of the Sustainability Imperative, ArtScience for Understanding Human Experience of Nature through the Synthesis of Scientific Exploration and Artistic Expressions, Teaching Art, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in an Integrated Manner, ArtScience for the Rehumanisation of all Knowledge.

The conference started with an introductory note by Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director, Universiti Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) followed by a welcoming speech by Professor Dr. Abrizah Abdullah, Dean, Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) whilst Professor Dr. Yatimah Alias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Universiti Malaya officiated the ICASAS'24. Also present at the opening ceremony was Prof. Dr. Mohd Nasir Hashim, Dean, Faculty of Creative Arts and Holder of the Azman Hashim Chair of Music.

The conference featured several distinguished keynote speakers who are leaders in their respective fields. Among them were Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Osman Bakar, Al-Ghazali Chair of Epistemology and Civilizational Studies and Renewal, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC), International Islamic University Malaysia who spoke on "Restoring the Unity of the Arts and the Sciences: An Imperative for Malaysia Madani", Dr. Jillian Ooi Lean Sim from Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya who delivered on "Artscience for Understanding Human Experience of Nature through the Synthesis of Scientific Exploration and Artistic Expression", Associate Professor Dr. Mona El-Sherbini, Founding Director, Narrative Medicine and Planetary Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Cairo, Egypt who presented on "Beyond Boundaries: The Anthropocene, Artscience and the Quest for Planetary Health, Emeritus Professor Dr. Azirah Hashim who focused on "Global Challenges: The Role of the Social Sciences and Humanities". The moderator for both morning and evening sessions of Day 1 was Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, Research Fellow, UMCCD.



|The invited VIPs at the front seats during the opening ceremony of ICASAS'24.

The keynote speakers and titles of their presentations on Day 2 of the conference were Emeritus Professor Dr. Ng Kwan Hoong from the Department of Biomedical Imaging, Faculty of Medicine, UM on “Polymathic Thinking and Holistic Knowledge as a Driver for a Sustainable Future”, Datuk Professor Dr. Abdelaziz Berghout, Dean, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC), IIUM on “Artscience for Achieving a More Complete and Universal Understanding of the Sustainability Imperative”, Professor Dr. Hazim Shah Abdul Murad from School of Languages, Civilisation, and Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia on “Artscience for the Rehumanisation of All Knowledge” and Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Director, UMCCD on “Artscience in the Context of Transformational Sustainability Leadership”.

Other presentations included topics in diverse fields such as “Sustainability Leadership Fieldwork (SLF): Enhancing Arts and Science Integration for Global Impact in the Age of Sustainability” by Mr. Mohd Fadhli Rahmat Fakhri, “Preserving Soundscape Heritage as Part of Immersive Planetary Health and Psycho-Social Wellbeing Indicator” by Professor Dr. Sithi Vinayakam A/L Muniandy, “The Lotus Sutra - A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence Exhibition and Its Impact: An Analysis” by Mr. Eiichi Tsutaki, “The Science and Art of Well-Being” by Professor Dr. Raymond Ooi, “Exploring Service Learning from Different Religious and Belief Systems” by Associate Professor Dr. Vishalache A/P Balakrishnan, “Social Enterprise Incubation through the Rezeki Tani Project at MARDI” by Mr. Kamaruzaman Ahmad, “Artscience as a Pathway to Sustainability: Reimagining Knowledge Through Contemporary Art and Cultural Initiatives in Southeast Asia” by Dr. Farid Mohammadi, and “Usable Interior Design for Ageing in Place” by Dr. Noranita Mansor. For more information on the conference, please refer to this link:

<https://dialogue.um.edu.my/Proceedings/Proceedings%20ICASAS'24.pdf>.

The ICASAS'24 successfully brought together a diverse group of professionals dedicated to addressing the urgent sustainability challenges of our time. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and promoting the integration of art and science, the conference demonstrated the potential for innovative, creative solutions to global environmental issues. ICASAS'24 highlighted the vital role that both art and science play in shaping a sustainable future, laying the groundwork for continued partnerships and impactful initiatives in the years to come.



**[From left:** Professor Dr. Abrizah Abdullah, Professor Dr. Yatimah Alias, Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Osman Bakar, Emeritus Professor Dr. Azirah Hashim, Dr. Jillian Ooi Lean Sim, Professor Dr. Sithi Vinayakam A/L Muniandy.



# SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO EMERITUS PROF. DATUK DR. AZIZAN BAHARUDDIN

The UMCCD team would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation to Emeritus Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, who has served as the Director of UMCCD from 2021 to August 2024. Under her visionary leadership, UMCCD experienced significant growth, both in terms of research achievements and international recognition. Prof. Azizan's dedication to promoting innovative research, fostering global collaborations, and enhancing the center's contributions to the community has left an enduring impact on all of us.

During her tenure, Prof. Azizan spearheaded numerous successful initiatives, including organising high-impact international conferences, securing research grants, and facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations. Her tireless efforts in advancing the center's mission have positioned UMCCD as a key player in various research fields, especially in dialogue and sustainability.

Once again, thank you, Prof. Azizan, for your remarkable leadership and unwavering commitment. Your impact on UMCCD will be remembered for years to come. Your legacy of excellence will undoubtedly inspire the next chapter of UMCCD's journey.



Warm regards,  
The UMCCD Team

## *Snippets of Memories from 2021 - 2024*



MoU signing with IKIM



With Dr. Sidra from  
ICESCO



With Mike Waltner  
from KAICIID



With Governor of  
Tokyo

## AZERBAIJAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



**From left:** Mr. Elsevar, Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, Mrs. Shabnam, Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah and Mr. Ahmad



**From left:** Dr. Asmawati, H.E. Irfan Davudov, Mrs. Shabnam and Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah

On May 28, 2024, the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Malaysia hosted an official reception to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the declaration of Azerbaijan's Independence Day at the Mayang Sari Grand Ballroom, JW Marriott Hotel in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur. UMCCD was represented at the reception by Associate Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli (UMCCD Research Fellow), Dr. Asmawati Muhamad (UMCCD Deputy Director) and Mr. Ahmad Mohamad (UMCCD Project Officer). Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. Irfan Davudov, highlighted Azerbaijan's accomplishments since regaining its state independence and the exceptional contribution of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev to bolstering Azerbaijan's independence and his interest-based political path. He also acknowledged Malaysia as a trusted partner in international relations during his speech. Additionally, the UMCCD representatives were able to briefly discuss upcoming activities with First Secretary Mrs. Shabnam Karimova and Counselor Mr. Elsevar Salmanov.

## BOOK REFLECTION: ISLAM & CONTEMPORARY FOOD ISSUES (ISLAM & ISU MAKANAN KONTEMPORARI)



In conjunction with the International Kuala Lumpur Book Fair 2024, IKIM launched several books, one of which was entitled “Islam dan Isu Makanan Kontemporari”. Emeritus Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin was invited in a special book review program for reviewing, commenting and promoting the book. The program was held at IKIM’s booth at the book fair held at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur on the 1st June 2024. The book is based on the latest research concerning issues surrounding foods in contemporary times. For video of the event, see Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wbp1YCPxw1E>.





PUBLIC FORUM  
"GUARDING OUR WATER  
TOGETHER"

Lee Wei, UMCCD Senior Research officer) conducted the forum “Guarding Our Water Together” on the 8th June 2024, as part of the World Environment Day Symposium 2024, hosted by the UM Sustainable Development Centre (UMSDC) in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and sustainability partners. Moderated by Dr. Michelle Yap from Monash University Malaysia, the forum featured a panel of experts, including Dr. Faddrine Jang (Monash University Malaysia), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurhidayatullaili Muhd Julkapli (NANOCAT, UM), and Mr. Affan Nasaruddin (UMSDC & Water Warriors). Topics that were discussed include effective water management strategies, community involvement in conservation, innovations in sustainable water use, and the roles of academic institutions and sustainability initiatives in protecting water resources.








**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY SYMPOSIUM 2024**

# PUBLIC FORUM: 'GUARDING OUR WATER TOGETHER'

*Meet Our Water Warriors:*



**PAVELIST D. FADHORRE**  
DEPUTY DEAN  
HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITY MALAYA



**PAMELY E. NUR HAFIZAH**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
NANOCAT, UNIVERSITY  
MALAYA



**PAMELY E. NUR HAFIZAH**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
NANOCAT, UNIVERSITY  
MALAYA



**PAMELY E. NUR HAFIZAH**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
NANOCAT, UNIVERSITY  
MALAYA



**DR. MICHELLE YAP**  
DEPUTY DEAN  
UNIVERSITY MALAYA



**8 JUNE 2024**  
**SATURDAY**  
9 AM - 11 AM  
MICROSOFT TEAMS

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**THE GLOBAL GOALS**

**FORUM COLLABORATORS:**

- P3 SEED SO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PROJECT: GUARDING OUR WATER TOGETHER: UNVEILING THE HIDDEN WORLD OF WATER SECURITY AND ECOSYSTEMS (BY UM RESEARCH OFFICER GROUP)
- MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
- NANOCAT, UNIVERSITY MALAYA
- WATER WARRIORS, UMSED

<https://sites.google.com/um.edu.my/um-world-environment-day-2024>

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE



In an effort to foster communication and improve sociocultural ties throughout Asia, the UMCCD, in partnership with the **Japan Da'wah Centre, Osaka**, the Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC), and other universities, hosted the International Conference on Religious Traditions and Sustainability Culture on the 22nd & 23rd June 2024. Through meaningful dialogue on universal values, this initiative sought to strengthen socio-cultural linkages between Asian Muslim and Japanese populations, with a focus on religious traditions and sustainable cultural practices.

Esteemed speakers shared their knowledge, with keynote topics such as “Religious Traditions and Sustainability Culture” by Emeritus Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin from UMCCD and “Muslim Cemeteries and Local Communities: Focusing on External Actors” by Dr. Yoshida Masahiro from **Osaka Metropolitan University**. Other presentations explored green mosque practices, leadership in sustainable mosque initiatives, and cross-religious perspectives on environmental conservation from Islamic and Shinto traditions, underscoring the value of integrating sustainable practices rooted in religious teachings into daily life. These included “Green Mosque Practices and Japanese Values” by Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, “Good Leadership Practices for Effective Green Mosque Implementation” by Associate Professor Dr. Siti Arni Basir, and “Green Mosque Implementation from The Prophetic Traditions” by Dr. Muhammad Alihanafiah Norasid from Universiti Malaya, “Shintoism and Islamic Civilization Worldview” by Madam Nadiyah Abdul Rahman from Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology, “The Role of Humanitarian Volunteers in Assisting The Community's Spirituality After Disaster (Case Study Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center, Indonesia)” by Associate Professor Twediana Budi Hapsari from Universitas Muhammadiyah **Yogyakarta, Indonesia**, “Islam for Well-Being: Implications, Possibilities, and Ways Ahead from Cultural Perspectives” by Sensei Yusuf Morishita and “Harmony with Nature : Environmental Conservation in Islam and Shintoism” by Dr. Nur Fitriyana from **UIN Raden Fatah Palembang, Indonesia**. Abstracts of the presentations can be accessed via this link: <https://dialogue.um.edu.my/Proceedings/Programme%20Book%20ICRTSC'24.pdf>.



|Online participants joining the conference



|Researchers and participants at the conference



|A photo of the Universiti Malaya team before departing Malaysia



## VISIT TO INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL PHILOSOPHY

On the 26th June 2024, Dr. Asmawati Muhamad and her research team from Malaysia, which included Dr. Muhamad Alihanafiah Norasid, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Arni Basir, Ms. Nurulain Natasha and Ms. Nadiah Abdul Rahman, visited the **Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP) in Hachioji**. The visit facilitated a series of insightful discussions, wherein each shared perspective contributed to an enriched dialogue, fostering a stronger foundation for future exchanges.



IA photo of the UM & IOP team

The session provided both teams with an expanded view on collaborative possibilities. Both parties expressed enthusiasm about upcoming opportunities for continued dialogue. Anticipation was particularly high for the events of **Lotus Sutra Exhibition at ISTAC, KL** scheduled in September as well as in Johor Bahru in December. These events will serve as platforms for fruitful cultural understanding and shared learning.

## INTERNATIONAL DISCOURSE ON ISLAMIC SCIENCE AND CIVILISATION



AUGUST 6TH, 2024	
9.15 am	Arrivals of Guest
9.30 am	Introduction by Emcee
9.45 am	Opening Remarks by Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, Applied Science with Islamic Studies Program / Deputy Director, UMCCCD
10.00 am	Representative Speech from CHIBA Islamic Cultural Centre (CICC)
10.15 am	Hajj Kyoichiro Sugimoto (Chairman)
10.30 am	Topic 1: Dr. Osman Rasip: First Graduate Programme, Academy of Islamic Studies, Universiti Malaysia
10.45 am	Q & A
11.00 am	Topic 2: Dr. Madiha Baharuddin: Golden Age of Islam: Muslims Contributions in the History of Science and Technology
11.15 am	Q & A
11.30 am	Topic 3: Dr. Madiha Baharuddin: Golden Age of Islam: Muslims Contributions in the History of Science and Technology
11.45 am	Q & A
12.00 pm	Closing ceremony and photography session
12.30 pm	End of session

On the 6th August 2024, the Applied Science with Islamic Studies Programme, Academy of Islamic Studies and UMCCCD co-organised the International Discourse on Islamic Science and Civilisation, held at the Academy of Islamic Studies, Universiti Malaysia. The program was an intellectual platform that explored the profound contributions of Islamic science and civilisation to the development of human knowledge and culture. The topics presented by the invited speakers included Dr Osman Rasip on “First Graduate Programme, Academy of Islamic Studies, Universiti Malaysia”, Dr. Mohd Hafiz Mohd Saadon on “Astronomy in Islam”, and Dr. Madiha Baharuddin on “Golden Age of Islam: Muslims Contributions in the History of Science and Technology”. Hajj Kyoichiro Sugimoto, Chairman of CHIBA Islamic Cultural Centre (CICC) also presented a speech at the program. This discourse fostered dialogue on how Islamic principles and values can address current global challenges, emphasising sustainability, innovation, and the ethical integration of science in diverse societies. This initiative served as a nexus for reviving the spirit of inquiry and collaboration that characterised the Islamic Golden Age.

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADITION AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES (IC-TIARS) "EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM RELIGIOUS EXPRESSIONS IN THE DIGITAL AGE"



The Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Thought- UIN Raden Fatah Palembang hosted the third International Conference, IC-TiaRS III (The Third International Conference on Tradition and Religious Studies) on the 17th and 18th July 2024. The theme for IC-TiaRS III 2024 is "Exploring Contemporary Muslim Religious Expression in the Digital Age".

The first day of the conference began with the opening ceremony held at the Rafa Tower building, Campus A, UIN Raden Fatah, Palembang. The Deputy Chancellor III, Dr. Hj. Hamidah, officiated the 2024 International IC-TiaRS III seminar on behalf of UIN Chancellor Raden Fatah Palembang, Prof. Nyayu Khodijah. Following that, keynote speakers who were present in person or via Zoom Online presented the findings of their scientific work. Important international speakers were invited at this conference. Dr. Asmawati Muhamad from Universiti Malaya represented **Malaysia**, Dr. Abdulloh Mama from Ma'had Tarbiyah, High Institute for Islamic Education, **Thailand**, and Dr. Imam Malik Riduan represented **Australia**. Dr. Rachmat Baihaky from UIN Syarif Hidayatullah **Jakarta**, together with three additional keynote speakers from UIN Raden Fatah Palembang, including Dr. Nurfitriyana, Dr. Arpah Nurhayat dan Dr. Apriyanti also presented at the IC-TiaRS.



**From left:** Dr. Asmawati, Dr. Hj. Hamidah and Prof Ris'an Rusli



**Dr. Asmawati and other invited speakers together with Deputy Chancellor III (four from right) and Dean of Fushpi (four from left).**

Dr. Asmawati Muhamad, UMCCD Deputy Director, was the first keynote speaker with her work entitled "Transformational Sustainability Leadership in The Digital Age". She explained about how leaders today use digital tools to promote sustainable practices and solve environmental and social challenges. This approach encourages a culture of learning and teamwork through digital platforms, helping leaders inspire change and build a sustainable future.



# SPECIAL PUBLIC LECTURE

## "ISLAM FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND WELL-BEING: A CIVILISATIONAL DIALOGUE"

On the 12th August 2024, UMCCD organised a special public lecture entitled "Islam for Sustainability and Well-being: A Civilisational Dialogue". The lecture was presented by Professor Dr. Yusuf Morishita, Sociologist Fellow/ Collaborator from Hokkaido University, Japan. The presentation explored on how Islam relates and contributes to, and potentially enhances sustainability in Japan's social environment through sociological and cultural perspectives, focusing on SDG3 (good health and well-being), SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG17 (partnerships for the goals).

According to Prof. Dr. Yusuf Morishita, Japan, often associated with values such as respect, harmony, dedication, and cleanliness, faces issues of loneliness severe enough to warrant the appointment of a minister in 2022. He explained that the Islamic concept of *Ummah*, a type of inclusive community similar to *gemeinschaft*, offers traits like borderlessness, inclusivity, and quality social bonds, which could help address Japan's loneliness issues and foster well-being. Non-Muslim Japanese visitors to mosques, for example, often find comfort and connection there, illustrating how spiritual well-being supports physical and mental health.

His discussion also addressed the expansion of the Islamic Ummah in Japan and the role of individual Muslims in contributing to harmonious communities. Challenges however, arise, such as negative opinions by non-Muslims based on contact with some Muslims. It is suggested that by embodying Islamic principles and practicing respect and integration with Japanese standards, Muslims can contribute to a more harmonious, inclusive community, benefiting both Muslims and non-Muslims. Sustainability here refers to not just maintaining well-being but also facilitating growth via shared ideals and mutual respect, ensuring that communities thrive. The lecture ended with a Q&A session, followed by a photography session with the participants.



|Token of appreciation from UMCCD given to Prof. Dr. Yusuf by Prof. Dr. Mohd Fauzi Hamat, accompanied by Dr. Asmawati.



|Professor Dr. Yusuf Morishita giving a lecture on the topic.



|Photography session with Professor Dr. Yusuf Morishita and all attendees.

# 7TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC THOUGHT & CIVILIZATION (WCIT 2024)



UMCCD Director was invited as a guest speaker



Panelists and moderator of Session VII

The 7th World Conference on Islamic Thought & Civilization (WCIT 2024) was held from 29th to 31st July 2024 at the Casuarina Convention Centre in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia, under the theme “Together We Stand: Muslims and Global Humanity.” The World Conference on Islamic Thought & Civilization (WCIT) is a Perak State event, and has been organised by **Universiti Sultan Azlan Shah (USAS)** since 2012, with participants coming from more than 21 countries. The event featured a Special Address by **YAB Dato’ Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia**, followed by a Royal Keynote Address by **Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah**. A **Distinguished Royal Session** also took place, with prominent speakers including H.E. Dr. Jusuf Kalla, H.E. Dr. Naledi Pandor, H.E. Mr. George Yeo, Prof. Fawaz A. Gerges, and moderated by Dato’ Dr. Afifi Al-Akiti, on the same day. WCIT 2024 offered a valuable platform for advancing Islamic thought and civilisation within the framework of global humanity.

UMCCD Director, Emeritus Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin, was invited as a guest speaker for Session VII “Green Technology and Environmental Sustainability”. Together with her on the stage were Prof. Dr. Tariqullah Khan (Professor of Islamic Economics & Finance, INCEIF University) and Ms. Charlotte Wolf-Bye (Vice President Chief Sustainability Officer PETRONAS). The session was moderated by Dr. Heazar Ismail (Acting Group CEO, UiTM Holdings Sdn Bhd). In her presentation, Prof. Azizan emphasised on several keypoints which include the critical importance of the topic today - current state of our earthly home, the reality of the Anthropocene, sustainability is not a choice for humans’ and planet’s survival, Islamic Declaration for Climate Change (2015), Interfaith Declaration of Stockholm+50 conference (2022), Al-Mizan Covenant for the Earth (2024), Laodato Si’, Laodate Deum, Malaysia’s National Planetary Health Action Plan (2023-2024), examples of practical initiatives and efforts by religious groups, transformational sustainability leadership - An imperative, and Bringing science (knowledge and values) together.

Other sessions included topics on education and research, global politics, economic cooperation and development, the rule of law, governance and integrity, and art and humanity. The 7th WCIT was more than a conference; it was a catalyst for change, a place where people connected through a shared hope for a world where Islamic values can contribute to justice, compassion, and progress across cultures and nations.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITI MALAYA UNESCO CLUB (UMUC)\*



Attendees of the AGM with UMCCD Director & UMUC advisor



New committee members having a brief discussion

The Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) held its annual general meeting (AGM) on July 11, 2024, both physically and online at the HIR building, Universiti Malaya. The AGM opened with a presentation of the UMCCD corporate video, which included the accomplishments and past and present events of UMUC. An ice-breaking session followed, where all the attendees introduced themselves. The UMCCD Director, Emeritus Prof. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin presented a brief welcoming remarks. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Hasan Adli, the advisor of the Universiti Malaya UNESCO Club also introduced herself and presided over the 2024 AGM.

Attendees were given the opportunity to participate in a vote to establish the new committee. Following the vote count, Mrs. Norzetty Md Zahir was officially elected as the president and Mr. EMEH Benjamin as the vice president. The positions of secretary, vice secretary, and treasurer were officially filled by Ms. Elliyyan Mizati Mohd Ismail, Mrs. Nany Adifah Abd Kamal, and Ms. Nurulain Natasha Muhammad Aris Fadzilah, respectively. In her capacity as UMUC 2024 President, Mrs. Norzetty welcomed the new committee and thanked everyone for their trust in her. She urged everyone to communicate and empower one another. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah encouraged the members by emphasizing that this experience will be a learning opportunity and platform for everyone to grow and learn.

## OFFICIAL UMUC COMMITTEE MEETING

On the 5th August 2024, the UMUC committee held an official meeting to discuss upcoming initiatives. The meeting commenced with opening remarks by UMCCD Director who highlighted recent milestones and set the tone for proactive engagement. This was followed by a brief



explanation on the previous UMUC activities by UMUC advisors, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Durriyyah and Dr. Asmawati, ensuring all members were aligned on past programs. The committee then engaged in a productive discussion on ideas for upcoming activities, exploring various possibilities to enhance member involvement and outreach. A special gift presentation to UMCCD Director was also held, to recognise her contributions and dedication to UMUC. The meeting concluded on a positive note and ended with a photo session together.

\*UMUC is an entity under the purview of the UMCCD

## BENGKEL PEMERKASAAN PERKEMBANGAN MENTAL ORANG KURANG UPAYA (OKU) PEMBELAJARAN



A photo of participants and organisers

The Department of Science and Technology Studies, in partnership with the National Science Center (PSN), UMUC of the UMCCD, and the Permata Impian Academy Organization (APIM), organised an Empowerment Workshop for People with Disabilities (OKU) on June 26, 2024, aimed to support the mental development of individuals aged 19 and above with learning disabilities, promoting lifelong learning in science and social skills.

This event was part of the Sapphire Jubilee Celebration of the Faculty of Science. The program that involved 40 participants with learning disabilities from Semenyih, Selangor, included a knowledge-sharing session about mental education and social challenges, led by Mr. Firdaus from the Disabled Counseling and Empowerment Unit, along with Ms. Syafawati Abd Haris and her mother, Mrs. Mazni Muhammad, a disabled student from the Faculty of Science. There were also interactive science experiments conducted by members of the Association of Laboratory Technologists of the University of Malaya (PJMUM). Participants had the chance to explore several science exhibition galleries, including the Marine and Freshwater Aquarium, Eureka Gallery, Path to the Realm of Science, I-Rays, and others. They also took part in science activities designed for the disabled, guided by volunteers from UMUC. Overall, the event successfully highlighted the Faculty of Science's efforts to empower the disabled community.

## MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO (MNCU) NETWORK DIALOGUE 2024



UMUC committee members and advisors at the event.

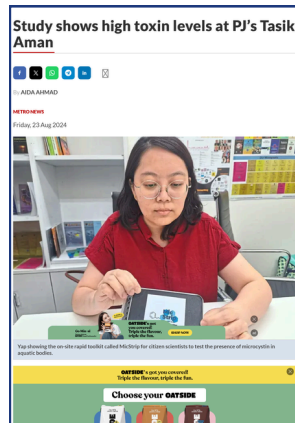
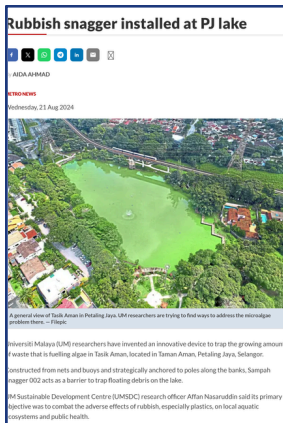
The Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU) Network Dialogue 2024 brought together key groups, including the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNESCO, schools, student bodies, and NGOs. The event marked the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals in Curriculum (SDGiC) Micro-credentials course, created by the APU UNESCO Chair. Held on 8th August 2024 at APU's campus, the event's theme was "Cultivating Peace, Celebrating Diversity." The UMUC committee and advisors attended the significant event. Key speakers included Education Minister YB Fadhlina Sidek, who emphasised the importance of peace, kindness, inclusivity, and innovation in addressing global challenges with a focus on sustainability and equity.



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF UMCCD STAFF & MEMBERS

**DR. ASMAWATI MUHAMAD**  
**RECIPIENT OF THE ‘ANUGERAH TOKOH**  
**MAAL HIJRAH’**  
**FEDERAL TERRITORY LEVEL**  
**1446H/2024M**

Dr Asmawati Muhamad, UMCCD Deputy Director, also Senior Lecturer, Academy of Islamic Studies UM, received the Special Award for Scholar Category. She is actively involved in research projects related to the development of Green Mosques in Malaysia and abroad. The prize was presented by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar.



**MR. CHANG LEE WEI**  
**PROJECT LEAD**  
**“GUARDING OUR WATER TOGETHER” PROJECT**

Mr. Chang Lee Wei, UMCCD Senior Research Officer, and Ms. Nuratiqah Mohd Norpi, Senior Social Research Officer UM, are project leads of the “Guarding Our Water Together” project. The project is a cooperation between Monash University Malaysia, the Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences (IOES) UM, the Department of Research Management UM, the M Sustainable Development Centre (UMSDC), UM STEM, and the Department of Science and Technology Studies UM. Their activities and efforts to address water management issues in Tasik Aman, Petaling Jaya, were highlighted in the local newspapers multiple times (See The StarMetro on May 24, August 21 & August 23, 2024).

# UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

**PANGILAN KERTAS KERJA SAMMA 2024**  
**SEMINAR ANTARABANGSA PENGHAYATAN MALAYSIA MADANI 2024**

Penghayatan gagasan Malaysia Madani telah menjadi salah satu tema utama dalam perancangan pembangunan negara. Di dalam pentadbiran halaju Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi 2024 pada 12 Januari 2024 yang lalu, Yang Berhormat Menteri Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir telah mengemukakan 5 fokus utama serta 20 hala tuju Pengajian Tinggi dalam usaha mencapai cabaran zaman pasca-normal (post-normal) global hari ini yang dirikan dengan 3C (Complexity, Change, & Contradiction). Di antara landasan yang telah diutarakan adalah:

- Pendidikan "nilai dan watak" – kecenderungan akademik dan ketegangan sains, yang merangsang perkembangan ilmu, pembangunan karakter, pemenuhan atak dan abiliti serta pengalihan integriti. Oleh itu, pendidikan tinggi negara harus mampu menjadi sebuah "human transformer" dan "culture builder".
- Angkasan paradigma pendidikan tinggi mesti menyeimbangkan di antara yang berpacutan teknologi (technology-centric) yang mengutamakan pemerolehan kecakapan materialistik dengan yang berpacutan kemanusiaan (humanity-centric) yang dapat menyinari nilai-nilai kemanusiaan, etika dan moral pelajar. Ini dapat memastikan buktai masa hadapan negara bukan sahaja mempunyai ilmu pengetahuan dan teknologi yang tinggi malah mempunyai nilai dan budaya watan yang akan melahirkan buktai negara yang berkilauan Excellence with a Soul. Di atas semangat ingin menghidupkan gagasan Malaysia Madani di dalam konteks pengajian tinggi yang ingin mencapai Excellence with a Soul ini, pihak pengorganisasi akan melaksanakan Seminar Antarabangsa Penghayatan Malaysia Madani 2024 dengan sub tema seperti berikut, tempat beramai-ramai menyumbang kertas kerja SAMMA 2024:

**SUB TEMA**

1. Keperluan Falsafah dan Karamaduan Masyarakat Malaysia
2. Dialog Silang Budaya
3. Mendepan Keperibadian Diri dan Budaya
4. Matriks Pendidikan Masyarakat (SDG)
5. Agama, Spiritualiti dan Etika
6. Ekonomi Inklusif, Inklusif, Endemik dalam Ekonomi Kitaran Circular Economy
7. Pendidikan dan Teknologi
8. Politik, Keadilan dan Kemajuan
9. Mendepan Cabaran 3C
10. Lains tema berkaitan

**BAHASA**

1. Bahasa Melayu
2. Bahasa Inggeris

**YURAN**  
 Pendaftaran Akademik: RM50

**FORMAT PENULISAN ABSTRAK DAN KERTAS KERJA PENUH**

• Pembayaran yuran melalui akaun UPM: <https://bayar.upm.edu.my>

**PENERBITAN**  
 ARTIKEL TERPILIH AKAN DITERBITKAN OLEH PENERBIT UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA / PENERBIT MAJLIS

**Tarikh akhir pengantaraan abstrak**  
 10-11 September 2024 | Selasa - Rabu

**Tarikh akhir bayaran pendaftaran**  
 27 Ogos 2024 | Selasa

**Tarikh akhir bayaran pengantaraan Kertas Kerja Penuh (untuk penerbitan)**  
 10 Oktober 2024 | Khamis

PENGANTARAN ABSTRAK DAN KERTAS KERJA PENUH melalui alamat email berikut: [skemma2024@gmail.com](mailto:skemma2024@gmail.com)  
 Maklumat lanjut sila hubungi: [umcccd@um.edu.my](mailto:umcccd@um.edu.my) / 011-159545717 (WhatsApp)

**Seminar Kebangsaan Penghayatan Malaysia MADANI 2024 (SKEMMA 2024),**  
 10-11 September 2024

**10th SSEASR Conference**  
**Sustainability in Cultural and Religious Traditions in South and Southeast Asia**  
 A Regional Conference of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Member of CIPSH under the auspices of UNESCO

Date: 02-04 December (Monday-Wednesday) 2024  
 Host: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In conjunction with its 65th anniversary, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Malaysia is proud to collaborate with the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) to organize and host the 10th SSEASR conference entitled "Sustainability in Cultural and Religious Traditions in South and Southeast Asia" to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference is also a regional conference of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Member of CIPSH under the auspices of UNESCO.

South and Southeast Asia is home to numerous cultures and religious traditions that have evolved from the various instrumental and intellectual practices of the dwellers for thousands of years. Through this conference scholars and students will explore diverse and distinct cultural practices in all its domains, varieties and wealth, trace the changes and development over time and ascertain the historical link between past and present cultures. The conference will also bring to light recent global methodological trends for academic study of religion to achieve sustainable development goals of the 21st century.

Purpose of the 10th SSEASR conference is to encourage world academia to initiate the academic dialogue on the subject in order to better understand, relate, interpret and examine unsustainable traditions and practices of the South and Southeast Asian communities.

**Sub-themes**

- Arts, Architecture and Archaeology
- Malayesian Culture and Religion: Past and Present
- Community based sustainable tourism
- Issues of South and Southeast Asian Diaspora
- Language and Literature
- Pilgrims and Pilgrimage Centres
- Rethinking the Study of Religion in the Region
- Traditions: A Center of Culture and Religion
- Personalities and Organizations

Scholars, early career researchers, research students and other relevant social scientists are invited to participate in the conference and present the findings of your research related to the sub-themes mentioned above. Panels are also welcome.

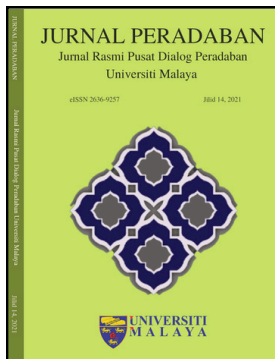
Submitted papers shall be in either English language or Bahasa Malaysia.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- 31 August 2024 | Deadline for panel title and abstract submissions
- 12 September 2024 | Deadline for individual paper title and abstract submission
- 30 September 2024 | Deadline for registration and payment
- 02-04 December 2024 | Conference

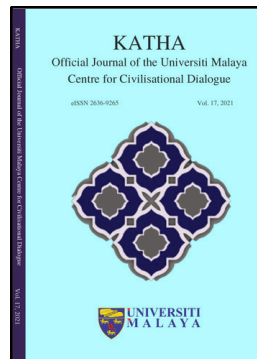
**10th SSEASR Conference Sustainability in Cultural and Religious Traditions in South and Southeast Asia, 2-4**  
 December 2024

# UMCCD JOURNALS



**Jurnal Peradaban**

*Jurnal PERADABAN yang telah mula diterbitkan pada tahun 2008 merupakan jurnal berwastit yang diminati pembaca terutamanya dalam bidang kemanusiaan, sains sosial dan sains tabii. Jurnal yang menerbitkan artikel dalam Bahasa Melayu ini juga merupakan satu platform untuk berdialog tentang pelbagai isu berdasarkan pengamatan dan penilaian kritis serta menerima artikel penyelidikan, kertas teori, atau ulasan buku yang menyentuh mana-mana aspek berkenaan wacana tentang peradaban dan dialog antara budaya, pandangan alam serta kepercayaan, falsafah, bahasa dan pengetahuan sains.*  
 [Laman Web:  
<https://peradaban.um.edu.my>]



**KATHA journal**

Journal KATHA first published in 2005, is a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal with readership throughout the field of humanities, social and natural sciences. It provides a platform for scholars, experts, researchers, practitioners, and students to publish original research, review papers, and other scholarly works. The journal invites research articles, theoretical papers, as well as book reviews touching upon any aspect of intercivilisational or intercultural discourses on worldviews and faiths, philosophies, languages and knowledges of science.

[Website: <https://katha.um.edu.my>]

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