



BULLETIN

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PROMOTING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOUTH - SOUTH COOPERATION (ASIA-AFRICA)

1st International Conference of the Africa-Asia Development University Network (AADUN) and the Africa's Asian Options (AFRASO) Project

Dialogue

Public Lecture

UNESCO Club

Siri Dialog Ilmu 3: Seminar Etnosains Malayonesia III

"Peace and Harmonious Coexistence" - A Buddhist/Islamic Dialogue
"Soka Gakai International and the Lotus Sutra"

- Dr Yoichi Kawada, Director of IOP, Japan

"Private vis-a-vis Public Philosophical Investigations After Wittgenstein"

- Prof. Dr Jose Nandhikara, Visiting Scholar at UMCCD

A Cyber Performance to Mark UNESCO's 2014 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM UMCCD'S NEW DIRECTOR

Greetings from the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD).

Coming back to the Centre as the Director brings back memories of working as its first Deputy Director back in 2006. Since then, the Centre today has indeed expanded in its structure, scope and functions.

As of 2014, the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue has been identified as one of the research entities under the Humanities Research Cluster. Administratively, the Centre is parked under the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation. This marks another leap in the Centre's history. Given this mandate, the Centre has to transform its role as a research unit but I must add, with a difference.

The Centre for Civilisational Dialogue will remain active in advocating dialogue as means to promote peace and sustainability of human civilisations. Hence, dialogue and related activities conducted with the UNESCO Club will continue to uphold the Centre's initial set up in February 1997. With new directions, the Centre will work towards extending and giving greater emphasis on research in the area of dialogue of civilisations. We hope to have pre- and post-dialogue activities that will support our research in the area.

We hope to collaborate and strengthen our network with existing partners and foster new partnerships across Malaysian and global centres, faculties and universities.



The role of CCD at the cluster is in support of the Humanities Research Cluster's pivotal role to gain a deeper understanding of the human condition in contemporary societies. As such, the Centre will partake in dialogue and welcome trans-discipline research collaborations to examine issues related to humanity.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Professor Awang Bulgiba Awang and the Dean of Humanities Research Cluster, Professor Dr. Azirah Hashim, for taking this Centre under their wings. I look forward to the support of the staff at the Centre to make this change happens. The Centre should take advantage of the foundation laid by its past Directors in making what CCD is today.

Do read on about the Centre's activities in this bulletin that has been given a fresh, new look. I hope you too will welcome the change.

Warm regards,
Faridah Noor Mohd Noor
Director, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue

Majlis Penghargaan & Penyerahan Tugas

Pada 20 Februari 2014, sebuah majlis penghargaan dan penyerahan tugas telah diadakan di Pusat Dialog Peradaban, Universiti Malaya. Mantan pengarah, Profesor Madya Dr. Raihanah Abdullah menyerahkan simbolik penyerahan tugas kepada Pengarah, Profesor Madya Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor sambil disaksikan oleh Timbalan Naib Canselor Penyelidikan & Inovasi (TNC P&I), Profesor Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud. Majlis turut dihadiri oleh Timbalan Pengarah Pusat Dialog Peradaban, Dr. Zuraidah Abdullah, felo-felo pelawat serta kakitangan.

Selain itu, majlis turut meraikan perpisahan seorang kakitangan, En Shamsudin bin Abdul Rahman yang bakal bertugas sebagai Pegawai Kementerian Kesihatan di Perlis.



Gambar atas dari kiri: Prof. Madya Dr. Raihanah Abdullah, Prof Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud dan Prof. Madya Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor.

Seluruh warga Pusat Dialog Peradaban mengucapkan Selamat Datang kepada Profesor Madya Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor dan Selamat Maju Jaya kepada Profesor Madya Dr. Raihanah Abdullah dan En. Shamsudin bin Abdul Rahman!

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICA - ASIA DEVELOPMENT UNIVERSITY NETWORK (AADUN) AND THE AFRICA'S ASIAN OPTIONS (AFRASO) PROJECT

11TH - 13TH MARCH 2014



Above photo: Prof Dato' Dr. Amin Jalaludin observed a minute of silence in remembrance of MH370 tragedy with Prof Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud dan Prof. Dr. Azirah Hashim.

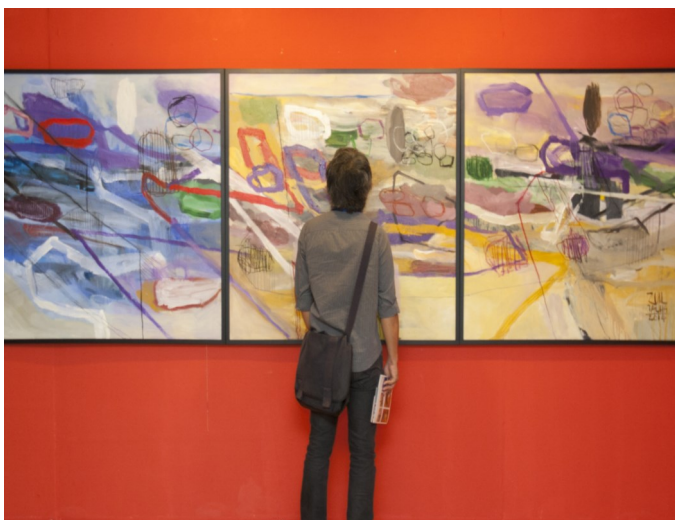
The 1st International Conference of the Africa-Asia Development University Network (AADUN) and the Africa's Asian Options (AFRASO) Project

The following is the summary of the event held on 11 – 13 March 2014 at Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya.

The relationship between Asian and African nations in recent years have assumed an unprecedented significance in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. The bonds between the two continents are projected to grow even stronger and will leave decisive impact in the 21st century. In line with this strategic planning, an increasing number of Asian countries have made an effort to be active players in numerous sectors in Africa; governments, businesses, research institutes, NGOs etc. Likewise, more African nations are embarking on a journey to forge ties and strengthen existing

relationships with their Asian counterparts.

The first international conference of AADUN-AFRASO 2014 (Africa-Asia Development University Network - Africa's Asian Options) was jointly organized by the Africa-Asia Development University Network (AADUN), based at the University of Malaya Centre for Civilizational Dialogue (UMCCD) and Africa's Asian Options (AFRASO), based at the Goethe-University of Frankfurt, Germany. It aims to raise awareness on the untapped potentials between the two continents and to promote the significance of South-South (i.e. Asia-Africa) cooperation.



A participant viewing an art work at the Arts Gallery, University of Malaya.

new opportunities and challenges generated by this African-Asian encounter, under four major thematic headings: (1) Markets on the Move; (2) Transnational Civic Networks between Africa and Asia; (3) New Avenues for Civilizational Dialogue between Asia and Africa; and (4) Improving the living habitats by Africa-Asia universities cooperation.

Over 80 papers were presented discussing various issues including public health, educational policy, China-Africa trade relations to political economy, women in science and technology and renewable energy. It had attracted presenters and participants from Malaysia, Japan, Ghana, Nigeria, Germany and the United States, among many others.

For more information regarding the event, please visit <http://umconference.um.edu.my/AA2014>

The three-day conference was officiated by Professor Dato' Dr. Morshidi Sirat, Director-General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education Malaysia. The University of Malaya was represented by a team led by Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Amin Jalaludin, Vice Chancellor; Professor Dr. Awang Bulgiba Awang Mahmud, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation); and Professor Dr. Azirah Hashim, 1st AADUN-AFRASO 2014 Chairperson and Dean, Humanities Research Cluster, University of Malaya. Also present were Professor Dr. Arndt Graf, Director, Interdisciplinary Center of East Asian Studies (IZO) and Chair, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Goethe-University of Frankfurt, Germany and Honorary Guest Ms. Mami Yamada Sakurai, Assistant Director for Partnerships and Triangular Cooperation, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, New York.

The conference, in particular, was organised to examine various angles of African-Asian relations and explore



Introduction given by Mr Abd Aziz bin Abd Rashid, Head of the Museum of Asian Arts to the participants who joined the tour of the museum.



Participants discussing their views and thoughts in the forum moderated by Professor Dr. Sarinah Low Wah Yun.

The Lotus Sutra Exhibition - A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor (*far right*) attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, along with Prof. Lokesh Chandra (*in white*) and Dr. Yoichi Kawada, Director of IOP, Japan (*in grey suit*).

The following is a report on The Lotus Sutra Exhibition held at Wisma Kebudayaan Soka Gakkai Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, which has attracted over tens of thousands visitors from Southeast Asia Region and around the world.

The Lotus Sutra Exhibition was held at Wisma Kebudayaan Soka Gakkai Malaysia (WKSGM) from 15 February until 11 May 2014, and was officially opened to the public on 16 February 2014. It was co-organised by Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM) and Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Japan (IOP) in co-operation with Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya (CCDUM). The exhibition was supported by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia; Department of National Unity and Integration, Prime Minister's Department; Department of Museums Malaysia; and National Department for Culture and Arts. It has also received international support from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Dunhuang Academy and the International Academy of Indian Culture. The media partners were *Sin Chew Daily* and Astro QuanJia HD channel.

Mr Ho Khek Hua, Deputy Director-General, Department of National Unity and Integration, Prime Minister's Department represented on behalf of Y.B. Tan Sri Datuk Panglima Joseph Kurup, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. Also present were Professor Lokesh Chandra, Director of the International Academy of Indian Culture; Dr Yoichi Kawada, Director of IOP; Malaysian and overseas academics as well as local personalities.

In his welcoming speech, SGM General Director Mr Koh Sia Feai expressed his appreciation to the representatives of the international and Malaysian partners for making this exhibition possible. He also noted that the Lotus Sutra is the most widely translated and transmitted Buddhist sutra due to its uplifting and peaceful message. He added

that the Lotus Sutra contains solutions to solving various challenges faced in modern life and it is a precious spiritual heritage of humanity. The organizers, he said, would be most honoured if the exhibition can help share the message of peace and harmonious coexistence with the Malaysian society.

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Lokesh Chandra on the 'Universal Values and the Lotus Sutra.' Following the address, guests were taken on a tour of the exhibition with IOP's Research Fellow, Dr Hideyuki Matsumori. After lunch, Dr. Kawada proceeded to deliver a lecture entitled, 'Soka Gakkai International and the Lotus Sutra.'

The exhibition was presented through valuable historical photographs, illustrations, descriptions, animation in addition to more than 100 pieces of artefacts which include manuscripts of the Lotus Sutra in various languages as well as replicas of the Dunhuang Grottoes and relics. This exhibition was rich with historical education, aesthetic significance and academic values that introduce the profound messages of the Lotus Sutra in a simple and easy-to-understand format. All content displays were both in English and Chinese languages.

The Lotus Sutra remains one of the most influential and widespread sutras. Translated into numerous languages, the Lotus Sutra emphasizes that every human being possesses the unlimited inner potential, promotes profound philosophy and thoughts such as dignity of life, humanism and harmonious equality, revealing the fundamental principles for happiness and peace of humanity.





Above photo: Dr. Yoichi Kawada presenting the manuscript to Mr. Abd Aziz bin Abdul Rashid, Head of Museum of Asian Arts, accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raihanah Abdullah and Prof. Dr. Christopher Boey.

Lotus Sutra Manuscripts in Sanskrit to Display at Museum of Asian Art, University of Malaya

This is a report on an academic exchange between the University of Malaya and the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP), Japan.

On 17 February 2014, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Japan (IOP) presented four manuscripts from the Lotus Sutra Manuscripts Series to the Museum of Asian Arts, University of Malaya. The ceremony was held in conjunction with "The Lotus Sutra: A Message for Peace and Harmonious Coexistence Exhibition" at Wisma Kebudayaan Soka Gakkai Malaysia (WKSGM).

Mr Abd Aziz bin Abdul Rashid, Head of Museum of Asian Art, represented the University of Malaya to receive the manuscripts for future display at the museum.

Commissioned by the Soka Gakkai to carry out research and editorship of the Lotus Sutra, IOP has been promoting the publication of the Lotus Sutra Manuscript Series. As part of academic exchange, IOP has presented the following manuscripts:

1. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscripts from the National Archives of Nepal (no. 4-21) Romanized Text (2001);*
2. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from University of Tokyo General Library (No. 414), Romanized Text (2003);*
3. *Gilgit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Nation-*

al Archives from India, Facsimile Edition (2012);

4. *Sanskrit Lotus Sutra Manuscript from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SI P/5, etc.), Facsimile Edition (2013).*

The Lotus Sutra is one of the most important and influential of the sutras or scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism and is revered by almost all branches of Mahayana teaching. It represents an unlimited philosophy of happiness and peace, a sacred text eternal in nature and unending in the creation value.

In order to study the origin of the philosophy of the Lotus Sutra and ascertain its course of development over time, an investigation into its process of development, namely, the study of its various written manuscripts, is deemed essential. However, the manuscripts themselves are rare and practically inaccessible. IOP has taken the necessary steps to produce more publications, including clear-colour facsimile editions and romanized texts of the manuscripts, and has contributed greatly to the unprecedented development of research on the Lotus Sutra.

“Peace and Harmonious Coexistence” – An Islamic-Buddhist Dialogue



Above photo from left: Dr. Mohammad Ismath Ramzy Mohammad Ismail; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, moderator; and Prof. Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey, Deputy President of Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM).

An interfaith dialogue aims on sharing and understanding peace and harmony from the perspectives of Buddhism and Islam was jointly organized by Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM), the Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP), Japan and the Centre for Civilizational Dialogue, University of Malaya (UMCCD), with the support of the Department for National Unity and Integration, Prime Minister's Department (JPNIN).

The panelists were Dr. Mohamad Ismath Ramzy Mohammad Ismail, Research Fellow of the Centre for Civilizational Dialogue (UMCCD), representing the Islamic

This dialogue was held in conjunction with The Lotus Sutra Exhibition: A Message of Peace and Harmonious Coexistence at the International Conference Hall, Wisma Kebudayaan Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM).

Reported by Nur Shahidah Abu Hanifah and Dr Angela Ng (SGM)

view and Professor Dato' Dr. Christopher Boey, Deputy President of Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM) and Deputy Dean of Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya and representing the Buddhist view. It was moderated by Associate Professor Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor, Director, Centre for Civilizational Dialogue (UMCCD). The discussion drew on parables and anecdotes from sacred texts of Holy Quran and Hadith and also the Lotus Sutra.

Mr. Koh Sia Feai, the Director-General of SGM delivered the welcoming remarks and YBhg. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, was the guest of honour and keynote speaker of the day.

Islamic Perspective

As the first speaker, Dr. Mohamad Ismath Ramzy began by noting an interesting parable in Lotus Sutra about Buddha rescuing people from a burning house by preaching the message of peace, which is similar to a parable in Al-Quran that the message of Islam is to protect

people from hellfire. He explained that Al-Quran is a divine revelation from God to Prophet Muhammad S.A.W and was recorded and documented during his lifetime. The Hadith is a practical explanation of the Al-Quran and contains the reports of his sayings, deeds and quotes of Prophet Muhammad S.A.W during his lifetime and some were transmitted 50 years after his death. The Muslims do not accept any interpretations contrary to Al-Quran and Hadith.

Islam promotes peace and harmony. This is reflected in the greetings among Muslims which means, "Peace upon



Dr. Mohammad Ismath Ramzy Mohammad Ismail speaking to the crowd from the Islamic perspective.

you.” The God in Islam is described as God of All-Merciful and in a Hadith, Allah is said to love His creations more than a woman loves her child. The Prophet S.A.W. is also known as a Prophet of Mercy, or *Rahmatan lil-Alamin* and the believers are called Muslims or peace-makers.

Peace in Islam, he explained, is the absence of violence and fear other than fear of Allah. There are three basic principles for peace. Firstly, the existence of human being is sacred. Secondly, human being is not peaceful as human in nature is violent. Finally, human has weaknesses in knowledge and emotions and it is God who guides people to peace. He added that there are two methods of peace in Islam, that is establishing and managing peace. To establish peace, it should start within a person by ensuring that he or she is peaceful. Meanwhile, managing peace falls under two types of responsibilities; the individual responsibility which stands on one’s consciousness, that is *taqwa*, or fear of Allah and the social responsibility.

Buddhist Perspective

The second speaker, Prof. Dr. Christopher Boey took his turn on the stage. He began by stressing that an interfaith dialogue is crucial in today’s world which is one characterized by so much separation, distrust and loneliness. He cited technological advancements over the last century in communication enabling data to be easily transmitted to different parts of the world in a matter of moments. He raised the question whether in spite of these advances, people were truly able to communicate and conduct dialogue in the truest sense of the word. He also noted the many wars which had been fought and continued to be fought today in the name of religion and highlighted the need to return to the prime point, examining the underlying philosophies of these religions and the thinking or ways of life of the founders of these religions. He was convinced that all the founders of these religions love peace, love life and love humanity, and if they had the opportunity to get together, they would become the best of friends.

The speaker noted that this conviction was strongly shared by the second President of the Soka Gakkai, Mr Josei Toda, who once remarked, “All the problems will be solved if only the founders of the world’s religions and

schools of philosophy would get together to talk things out .” Buddhism places great emphasis on dialogue. It is the very tradition of Buddhism and the tradition of all the founders of the world’s religions. He also noted that the sutras which contain teachings of Buddhism are collections of dialogues conducted by the Buddha with the different people facing diverse problems as he travelled across India amidst a background of power strife and societal turmoil.

Question and Answer (Q&A) Session

Several questions were posed during the Q&A session. The first question was from Mr. Taka, a Japanese student from University of Malaya. He asked why Sri Lanka is not as peaceful as Malaysia even when the people are also diversified. Dr Ramzy, who hails from Sri Lanka, opined that the current political unrest has no religion involvement. Prior to colonialization, no record of violence among the Sri Lankan in terms of religious dispute. However, during colonial period, many quarters employed anti-colonial concepts to go against colonializa-



Prof. Dr. Christopher Boey continued the session by speaking from the Buddhist perspective.

tion by disseminating ideologies which implied that Sri Lanka is an island of Buddhism and others with different ideologies or religions are not accepted. Even after the nation’s independence, some politicians continue to use these to profit themselves.

The next question was posed by Dr. Zobaida, Senior Research Fellow at Centre for Civilisational Dialogue. She asked the panels on how to be peaceful within one self. Dr Ramzy replied that people could change their nature to be peaceful with and in Islam, prayer is the best way to attain peace. Prof. Boey added that from the Buddhist perspective, people must reflect on their own lives and develop a solid sense of self. It is the important role of religion to enable people to perceive the true nature of their own lives and bring forth their own unique potential, thereby contributing to the betterment of society.

Conclusion

This dialogue has proven that more sincere dialogue between religions and within religion must be encouraged. People of goodwill have to realize that they are the messengers of peace in order to make the universal values of Islam and Buddhism accessible to all.

Siri Dialog Ilmu 3: Seminar Etnosains Malayonesia III

Dilaporkan oleh Dr. Shaharir Mohamad Zain

Seminar Etnosains Malayonesia III ini adalah kesinambungan daripada dua seminar terdahulu yang telah diadakan di Pusat Dialog Peradaban (PDP), Universiti Malaya. Matlamatnya adalah sebagai pentas untuk melatih lebih ramai ilmuwan muda untuk berkecimpung dalam dunia penyelidikan dan penulisan, terutamanya berkaitan dengan Tamadun Melayu. Siri Dialog Ilmu anjuran PDP dengan kerjasama Akademi Sains Islam Malaysia (ASASI) telah diadakan pada Sabtu, 19 April 2014 bertempat di Bilik Katha, Pusat Dialog Peradaban, Universiti Malaya. Sesi dialog ini dihadiri sekitar 30 orang peserta daripada pelbagai bidang, terdiri daripada para akademik, mahasiswa dan wakil daripada badan bukan kerajaan (NGO). Ia berlangsung dari pukul 9.00 pagi hingga 5.30 petang.

Sesi pembentangan dimulakan oleh saudara Megat Hanis dari Jabatan Sains Politik UIAM dengan makalah yang bertajuk, 'Konsep Ketamadunan Huntington: Satu Telahan Kritis.' Pembentangan ini telah menghurai pemikiran Huntington yang diluahkan di dalam bukunya, *'The Clash of Civilizations: The Remaking of New World Order.'* Beliau menyeru supaya teori Huntington ditolak kerana ia meremehkan ciri-ciri ketamadunan Melayu yang unik sambil menggesa agar penyelidikan diteruskan bagi menemui lebih banyak ciri-ciri kemajuan sejagat.

Pembentang seterusnya ialah saudara Mohd Izuan Razali dengan tajuk penyelidikannya, 'Sintesis Falsafah Sejarah Hegel: Sedikit Kaitan dengan Tamadun Melayu.' Semasa sesi pembentangan ini, beliau cuba untuk menjawab kemungkinan mensintesis data yang sedia ada dalam tamadun Melayu dengan falsafah sejarah Hegel. Saudara Izuan berpendapat sudah tiba masanya untuk membumikan sejarah filsafis

Hegel kerana menurutnya, sejarah Melayu dari segi keupayaan filosofis dapat dianalisis menerusi kaedah tersebut.

Giliran pembentang seterusnya iaitu Dr. Alinor Abdul Kadir yang membentangkan hasil penyelidikan yang bertajuk, 'Funan/banang dan kesusasteraannya.' Beliau mendapati bahawa penyelidikan dalam bidang ini sukar untuk diteruskan kerana kekurangan sumber dalam Bahasa Inggeris. Pembentangan beliau diakhiri dengan gesaan agar penyelidikan dalam bidang ini terus digiatkan kerana masih banyak perkara yang belum diketahui tentang perputakaan Funan.

Siri Dialog Ilmu ini merupakan siri terakhir Seminar Etnosains Malayonesia yang diadakan di Bilik Katha, Pusat Dialog Peradaban, UM

Harun Thalatha yang membentangkan makalah bertajuk, 'Hubungan Ekonomi Alam Melayu dan Tamadun Luar.' Beliau berpendapat sejak awal kurun ke-13 lagi, orang Melayu telah membina hubungan ekonomi dengan dunia luar dan karya-karya hikayat yang dibentangkannya adalah sebuah ensiklopedia bagi menjawab semua persoalan penting tentang ketamadunan Melayu masa lampau. Karya-karya ini perlu diteliti bagi mengembalikan jiwa Melayu dalam kalangan masyarakat yang makin memudar.

Pembentangan kelima ialah daripada saudara Fauzi Naeim yang bertajuk, 'Metafizik 'kekosongan': Al-Quran, Nagarjuna dan Heidegger.' Menurut saudara Fauzi, tujuan metafizik kekosongan ini adalah untuk memastikan penyelidikan lanjutan dapat dijalankan bagi memahami intipati kekosongan ini dari sudut pandangan keagamaan Islam-Buddha dan pandangan ketidaktuhan Heidegger. Ini bagi

menghasilkan pandangan baru yang dapat difahami tentang kekosongan yang masih kekal sebagai sebuah misteri.

Saudara Zahrin Affendi meneruskan pembentangan dengan makalah yang bertajuk, 'Suhrikkha: Sumber Kepimpinan dan Kepengurusan Masyarakat Srivijaya.' Menurut beliau, masih terdapat beberapa kitab lain yang perlu dikaji bagi memperkukuhkan kefahaman terhadap kepimpinan dan pengurusan masyarakat Srivijaya.

Selepas itu, 'Respons Masyarakat Melayu Terhadap Perubahan Moden: Satu Kupasan mengenai Sains dan Rasionaliti' oleh Dr. Zuhri Mamat menekankan bahawa kajiannya adalah khusus terhadap psikologi dan penerimaan masyarakat Melayu terhadap perubahan moden berbanding perubahan tradisional. Beliau merumuskan bahawa penerimaan masyarakat Melayu terhadap perubahan moden adalah bersyarat, terutamanya berkenaan penglibatan unsur-unsur yang bersifat keagamaan dan tradisi Melayu.

Dr. Yunus Sharum meneruskan lagi sesi pembentangan dengan tajuk makalah, 'Kesan Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi (TMK) Terhadap Masyarakat.' Ia berpandukan hasil pembacaan beliau selama beberapa tahun yang memerihalkan kesan atau impak teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi terhadap masyarakat yang mencetuskan revolusi peradaban pengetahuan.

Dr. Hanif Ahamat menutup tirai seminar dengan makalah yang bertajuk, 'International Law and the External Relations of the Malay States in the Colonial Era.' Ia memfokuskan kepada hubungan luar negeri Melayu pada zaman Kolonial sehingga pembentukan negara Malaysia.

Seminar ini mendapat sambutan daripada semua pihak yang hadir dan mereka berpendapat seminar atau dialog seperti ini harus kerap diadakan agar dapat membantu masyarakat lebih memahami, mendalami dan menghargai sejarah ketamadunan Melayu di Malaysia.

“Soka Gakkai International and the Lotus Sutra” - Dr. Yoichi Kawada



From left: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raihanah Abdullah, former Director of UMCCD and Dr. Yoichi Kawada, Director of IOP, Japan.

On 16 February 2014, the Institute of Oriental Philosophy's (IOP) Director, Dr. Yoichi Kawada delivered a lecture in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the Lotus Sutra Exhibition. The lecture entitled, “Soka Gakkai International and the Lotus Sutra” was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr Raihanah Abdullah, former director of the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) and the current Deputy Dean, Humanities Research Cluster, University of Malaya. The lecture at the Wisma Kebudayaan Soka Gakkai Malaysia (WKSGM) saw an audience consisting of academicians, interfaith activists, SGM members and the general public.

The lecture gave an overview of the key themes of the Lotus Sutra and Soka Gakkai International (SGI). The SGI's philosophy and activities are inspired by the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. Known as “the King of all Sutras”, the Lotus Sutra speaks about opening the path of Buddhahood for all people. The SGI, based on this central tenet of the sutra, conducts activities that enable people to open up the limitless potential within themselves and contribute to the positive development of society.

In this lecture, Dr. Kawada elucidated to the humanistic philosophy promoted by the Soka Gakkai and the SGI that is inspired by the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. The Soka Gakkai and SGI endeavour to foster capable people in the fields of peace, culture and education who will contribute to the betterment of humanity.

Dr. Kawada first introduced the Lotus Sutra by defining the central ideas of the provisional teachings

and the essential teachings as expounded by T'ien T'ai.

The former teaching, expounded in the “Expedient Means” (2nd.) chapter of the Lotus Sutra, is the concept that all life contains the Buddha nature, which provides a basis for the equality of all life.

This lecture was delivered in conjunction with the opening of the Lotus Sutra Exhibition on and had attracted numerous visitors from various institutions.

Dr. Kawada then introduced the Soka Gakkai as an organisation dedicated to the mission of spreading the ideals of the Lotus Sutra. Founded by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda on November 18, 1930, it was first known as the Soka Kyoiku Gakkai, as its founding members were educators who sought to implement value-creating education.

He spoke on how the Soka Gakkai founders Makiguchi and Toda were persecuted due to their efforts to propagate the Lotus Sutra's life-affirming teachings, which contradicted the propaganda of Japan's militarist government of the time. They were both imprisoned, and Makiguchi died in prison on the anniversary of the Soka Gakkai's founding in 1944.

While in prison, Toda experienced profound awakenings and that he was a Bodhisattva of the Earth, destined to carry out the mission of spreading the Lotus Sutra. After his release from prison, he rebuilt the Soka Gakkai and achieved a membership of 750,000 households before his death in 1958.

Dr. Kawada also explained that SGI's movement of peace, culture and education are an extension of the Buddhist ideal of nurturing Bodhisattvic individuals as expounded in the Lotus Sutra.

A question-and-answer session peppered with humour was carried out after the lecture and the audience gained valuable insights from the lecture.



“Private vis-a-vis Public Philosophical Investigations After Wittgenstein” - Prof. Dr. Jose Nandhikkara

This is a summary of the public lecture given at Katha Room, Centre for Civilisational Dialogue.



Rev. Jose Nandhikkara CMI is a Carmelite Priest residing at Dharmaram College, Bangalore. He is the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Head of the Department of Philosophy at Christ University, Bangalore, and also serves as the Director of the Centre for the Study of World Religions. He was the Visiting Scholar at Centre for Civilisational Dialogue for the month of May 2014.

Following Wittgenstein's latter remarks on Private Language, this lecture addressed the attempts to limit religion in the private sphere is neither desirable nor possible, though modernity, secularism and liberal democracy would prefer it otherwise, i.e. by maintaining a divide between state and religious institutions. Religion is very much alive in all walks of spheres, including politics, economics, literature, and environment. Wittgenstein's investigations into meaning and its uses, as well as rules and rule-following have helped us to clarify the interconnectedness of the personal and social spheres of our lives.

Religion provides fundamental concept to humans in regards to their relationships with fellow human beings and God(s). It also shows us who we are and how we ought to live. Following a religion is a human form of life – a product of nature, nurture, and grace. Secularism needs not be interpreted as anti-religious or a-religious. With dialogues and Fellowship in Religious Experience (FIRE), a remarkable effort by Prof. Jose and his colleagues in India, these activities have helped to cultivate an attitude of respect to all religions and make use of religions as agents to

promote harmony of life locally, nationally and globally.

Discussions with fellow audience had touched on various issues that are related to the religious scene in Malaysia. As a multi-cultural and multireligious nation, Malaysia has definitely had a share of challenges brought by extremism by the so-called fundamentalist. Prof. Jose gave a valuable advice on receiving negative responses. He said when one's opinion is challenged in a negative way, one should stand firm to one's opinion and not to be swept away by emotions.

This lecture had brought many new ideas not just to the Centre, but also to the experts and those interested in the field of religion. His expertise was fully utilized through this public lectures and dialogue sessions organized by the Centre. Based on the statistical analysis of survey obtained from the participants, it showed that most participants were very satisfied with the lecture given. His visit to the Centre has also strengthened the academic connection, networking and relationship of the University of Malaya with other institutions internationally.

How to Write and Publish a Research Paper

The following is the summary of a writing workshop conducted by Prof. Dr. Jose Nandhikkara, Chief Editor of the Journal of Dharma at the Academy of Islamic Studies, UM.

Writing a research paper for publication can be quite demanding. Many researchers find themselves at their wits' end trying to produce a paper that will demonstrate their research and be accepted in major Scopus- and ISI-listed journals. However, more often than not, they fail to do so because they are not equipped with the skills required to write one.

A good research paper should present proper arguments to support the thesis/claim. It has to remain modest but at the same time provide strong reasoning systematically, critically and creatively.

Among the objectives of writing a research paper is to demonstrate the researcher's contributions to his/her field of study. This can be achieved by answering the following question:

Why should I write about a topic and why should anyone read it?

The Early Stage

Before writing, the researcher should be doing a lot of reading and note-taking. Keep the deadline one week before the due date. While collecting data, discussions with friends, academics and experts who have experiences in writing academic papers can be helpful.

Thesis Sheet

Start writing by providing the thesis/claim for the paper. This will be the core guidance throughout the whole journey.

Quote Sheet

Jot down quotes relevant to the papers in a quote sheet. Then, write your own versions or elaboration of the quotes. This will avoid plagiarism later on.

Definition → Explanation → Argument

Diagram 1: The process from definition to argument

Definition Sheet

Do not give definition from the dictionary. Take an important word and try to define the concept it represents in your own words. Provide definitions that are crucial to the research paper.

Argument Sheet

In academic writing, there are three types of arguments:

- Authoritative arguments, by providing quotes from

any authority such as Holy Quran and the Bible;

- Demonstrative arguments, by proving that the argument is true; and
- Probable arguments, by revealing the percentage of the arguments posed in the paper.

The strength of the paper equals to the solidity of its arguments. State your argument for each paragraph as it will help to enhance the quality of the paper.

Cognitive Map

Link all the sheets and connect the features and ideas with lines and circles to show the goal and what the objectives are to achieve it. In fact, the cognitive map will be essential during the writing process.

Make an outline

The outline should answer the three following questions: (1) What is my thesis/claim?; (2) How am I going to argue my claim?; and (3) Why is this thesis/claim important? This will help to arrange the features of the thesis and gives strength to the hypothesis of the research work.

Writing a Draft

By referring to the cognitive map, sketch out an outline of the paper as it will guide the flow of the paper. While writing, convert the phrases in the outlines into sentences and paragraphs. Use only one point per paragraph and apply connecting expressions or "sign posts" for the ideas. It is advisable to use simple and straightforward prose rather than complex sentences. Also, the readiness to change the outlines might enhance the paper, but it must always be within reason.

More tips

- The author must be honest with the direction of his/her paper. Be concise, but also be wary of points that might need further justification.
- Quotations are not explanations. You may quote as many research as you want, but you must be able to elaborate your points.
- While assessing the views of others, make [constructive] criticisms and provide alternative suggestions.
- Anticipate objections to your views and be willing to respond to the criticisms.

And finally, rewrite and keep writing.

A Cyber Performance to Mark UNESCO's 2014 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (Vietnam-Korea-Malaysia)

Dancers from the University of Malaya (UM) performed at Katha Room, Centre for Civilizational Dialogue. Reported by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is marked by UNESCO on May 21st annually to acknowledge the importance of embracing the diverse cultural history and cultures of various nations. This event this year was commemorated by the UNESCO Club and CCD on Sunday, 18 August 2014 with a collaboration of a cyber performance (CP) between three NRENs (National Research and Education Network), namely, VINAREN (Vietnam) and KOREN (Korea) and MYREN (Malaysia). The CP was jointly organised by VINAREN and Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) eCulture Working Group with sponsorship from the TEIN*CC.

On the Vietnam's side, the NASATI of Vietnam had its "First Cyber Performance in Vietnam on TEIN Network" to celebrate the 55th anniversary of Vietnam's Ministry of



Screen shot in the computer showed how the telecast was viewed in Vietnam



Performers getting ready for their performances

Science and Technology. The University of Malaya and the University Putra Malaysia supported the telecast of this CP with the MYREN team.

This event was successfully conducted by dancers from the University of Malaya and the Cultural Centre and coordination by the Chair of eCulture Working Group of APAN and the Digital Culture and Humanities Working Group of MYREN, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor.

A live broadcast of this CP was watched globally at <http://110.35.66.5:1000/live.html?src=1> at 8.00am (Vietnam time) and 9.00 am (Malaysian time) - ICT, GMT+7). It was telecast from the Centre's Katha Seminar Room to Vietnam's National Convention Centre in Hanoi.



From Katha Room at UMCCD...



...the performances were shot and captured in the system...



...and telecast live to Vietnam

ACTIVITIES JANUARY – MAY 2014

February 2014



March 2014



April 2014




May 2014



UPCOMING UMCCD EVENTS 2014

DATE	EVENTS
17 - 18 June	Seminar on Malay and Chinese Philosophy of Sciences, in collaboration with Akademi Sains Islam Malaysia (ASASI) & University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)
18 July	Forum on Education for Peace: A Need for Change in Malaysia 2014., in collaboration with International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) & University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC)
2 September	Workshop on Gender Awareness: An Introductory Workshop from Gender Lens by Dr. Zobaida Akhter (Senior Research Fellow at UMCCD from Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh) & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Noor Mohd Noor (Director, UMCCD), in conjunction with the celebration of UNESCO's International Youth Day 2014 at SMK (P) Sri Aman
18 - 20 October	International Conference on Library Space and Content Management for Networked Society (IC.LISCOM-2014), in collaboration with Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore, India
5 November	Seminar on Indigenous Cultural Heritage: Preserving the Past to Sustain the Future in conjunction with the celebration of UNESCO International Day of the World's Indigenous People 2014, in collaboration with Center for Malaysian Indigenous Studies (CMIS), University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC) & Faculty of Law, UM
20 November	UNESCO's World Philosophy Day, "Inter-cultural Dialogue in the Context of Social Transformation: Be the Change You Want to See in the Future", in collaboration with University of Malaya UNESCO Club (UMUC)
24 November & 8 December	UNESCO's World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2014: "Archives at Risk: Much More to Do", in collaboration with Department of Media Studies, UM
12 December	UNESCO's International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2014, in collaboration with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), UM & Za'ba Residential College, UM
13 December	<i>Seminar Falsafah dan Hikmah Melayu</i> , in collaboration with International Relation Unit, Higher Education Sector, Ministry of Education & Akademi Sains Islam Malaysia (ASASI)

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