



# @ FASS PULSE

E-Bulletin of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

ISSUE 02 | 2020

## THE COVID-19 EDITION



The Dean giving a talk to the Faculty members



Lecturers of FASS attending the Faculty meeting

2020 will be remembered by all as the year of great survival. The COVID-19 pandemic has mercilessly impacted economies, governments and communities worldwide but at the same time, it offered us all an opportunity for solidarity, camaraderie and deep reflection. It is through this we learn newer ways of keeping interconnected and human all at once. In memory of those who have been impacted by the Covid-19 global pandemic, this month's PULSE will feature the small ways we at FASS are attempting to do better, for ourselves and those around us, in the "new normal".

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Disclaimer: This e-newsletter is an essential communication link between the FASS, UM and the wider community. It is imperative that the newsletter is accurate, informative and contain information that will mutually benefit both Faculty and community members.

Supervised by PROF. DATUK DR. DANNY WONG TZE KEN \* MR. AHMAD HILMI MOHD NOOR Ed. in Chief DR. VILASHINI SOMIAH Asst. Ed. in Chief NADHWAH TUL IMAN MIZAM



# FASS IN THE NEW NORMAL

The Malaysian Government announced the imposition of the Movement Control Order starting 18 March 2020 as part of the measures to contain the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic, and the Faculty, along with the rest of the University was closed until further notice. During this period, the FASS worked from home. Staff and students learned to adapt and began conducting meetings, lectures and discussions online.





# REACHING OUT ONLINE



## No Student Left Behind: Inclusive & Compassionate Remote Teaching during COVID-19 Pandemic

8 May 2020 (Friday) | 2.30pm

with



**Dr. Wendy Yee Mei Tien**  
Director,  
Centre for Internship Training and  
Academic enrichment (CITRA)



**Dr. Rusaslina Idrus**  
Department of Gender Studies,  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**SYNOPSIS**  
e-Learning during COVID-19 can be a real struggle for some students. Digital divides, socioeconomic background, physical and psychological challenges puts vulnerable students at a risk of falling behind in their studies. Challenges include:

- > unreliable internet service in low-signal areas
- > having to share one computer with multiple siblings and WFH parents
- > cramped homes uncondusive for learning
- > stress, anxiety and depression
- > loss of income
- > illness, including COVID-19

The MCO and ensuing Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT) calls upon us to be inclusive and compassionate in our online teaching. Join us for a chat with two dedicated lecturers making small, simple efforts to ensure their students are not left behind.

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Social media pages : [bit.ly/ADeC\\_Pages](https://bit.ly/ADeC_Pages)

**LINK TO STREAM :**  
[bit.ly/2SZTv4](https://bit.ly/2SZTv4)

Note : This session will be streaming using Microsoft Teams. You may participate in the Q&A session via Chat

**#UMTeachOnline**

The Movement control Order (MCO) was certainly not a hindrance for many faculty members, who participated in and contributed to webinars, articles and online dialogues ranging from academia and general well being. The following is a glimpse of the various online events that were available.



## Diversity & Inclusivity in Teaching & Learning: Remote Teaching Students with Disabilities

6 May 2020 (Wednesday) | 2.30pm

with



**Dr. Vilashini Somiah**  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**SYNOPSIS**  
Throughout her academic career, Dr.Vila has had the opportunity to work with students of various disabilities across three universities and two continents. Join us for an engaging, entertaining and insightful look at teaching differently-abled students and the multiple ways educators can help make distant learning accessible to them.

**LINK TO STREAM :**  
[bit.ly/2YvPmaj](https://bit.ly/2YvPmaj)

Note : This session will be streaming using Microsoft Teams. You may participate in the Q&A session via Chat

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**#UMTeachOnline**

Above and Right:  
University of Malaya Webinar on Remote Teaching  
by Dr Rusaslina Idrus and Dr Vilashini Somiah

Article by Dr Helena Varkkey in Asia Global Online



ISSUES COUNTRIES AND REGIONS COVID-19 ASIAGLOBAL VOICES HOWTO CONTRIBUTE ABOUT [Subscribe](#) Search

**ENVIRONMENT**

## AIR POLLUTION AND COVID-19 MORTALITY: CONSIDERATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

Thursday, April 23, 2020

**A**s the world struggles to contain the coronavirus pandemic, preliminary research findings highlight how air quality and Covid-19 death rates may be linked, says Helena Varkkey of the University of Malaya. While this correlation may seem tenuous at first, it is not entirely surprising: After all, acute respiratory distress syndrome, which has long been linked to polluted air, has been a major cause of Covid-19-related deaths. The new information on air quality could inform the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, especially

**AUTHOR**



**Helena Varkkey**  
University of Malaya

Helena Varkkey is a senior lecturer in the Department of International and Strategic Studies at the University of Malaya. Her interest in sustainable development has evolved to focus on transboundary pollution in Southeast Asia, particularly the role of

Dr Lai Suat Yan on Unconscious Bias

Organised by KLBC Gender Equality and Diversity Committee

THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2020  
3:00 PM TO 4:30 PM  
Via ZOOM

**PANEL SESSION ON UNCONSCIOUS BIAS**

**HOW STEREOTYPES, FALLACIES AND INGRAINED PREJUDICES COLOUR OUR VIEWS AND DECISIONS**

Unconscious biases are acquired/learned stereotypes that are deeply ingrained within our beliefs and affect how we treat and view other people. From the friends that we choose to have, to the people we hire into the workforce and whether or not to be accepting of our colleagues/subordinates. Though most of us have difficulty admitting or acknowledging it, we all do it - some unconsciously, some maybe not. Gender, race/ethnicity, disability, sexuality, body size, profession are factors that influence the assessments we make and how we form relationships with other people. This session seeks to kickstart much needed discourse within the legal profession on a difficult subject and talk about how to recognise bias in yourself and others and learn the benefits of addressing it for yourself and your organisation.

**PANEL SPEAKERS**



**Honey Tan**  
Advocate & Solicitor  
Tan Law Practice



**Raj Kumar Paramanathan**  
Managing Partner of CnetG Asia  
IRC Global Executive Search Partners



**Rodziah Zaimudin**  
Head of Legal  
Shell Malaysia



**Dr. Lai Suat Yan**  
Coordinator & Senior Lecturer  
University Malaya, Gender Studies  
Programme (Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences)

**MODERATOR** Thulasy Suppiah  
Koh Dipendra Jeremiah Law

For information, contact: Melissa at [melissadass@kibar.org.my](mailto:melissadass@kibar.org.my)  
This Webinar is FREE but advance registration is required. Limited to 490 pax ONLY.  
Registration Form below. You will receive a confirmation email once your registration is successful.

(1) No recording of the event is permitted via any means at any time.  
(2) No part of the event content may be used / reproduced in any form without the written and explicit consent of the KLBC.  
The personal information that you provide to the KLBC, whether now or in the future, may be used, recorded, stored, disclosed or otherwise processed by or on behalf of the KLBC for the purposes of facilitation and organisation of this event, research and audit, maintenance of a participant database for the promotion of this event, and such ancillary

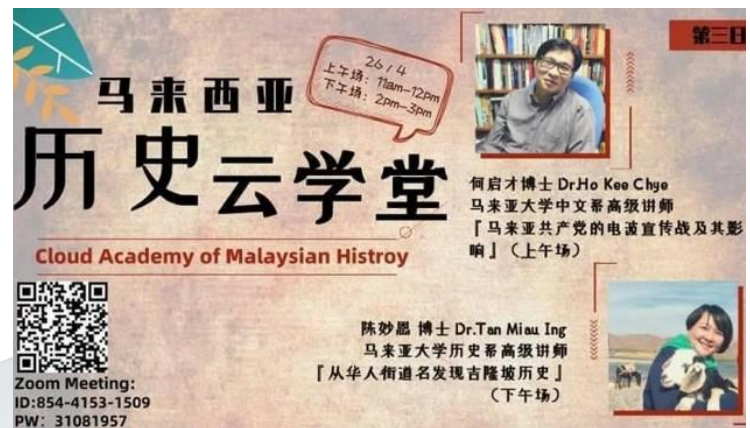


## WEBINARS ON MALAYSIAN HISTORY

By Dr. Tan Miao Ing

A series of publicly accessible webinars, known as "Cloud Academy of Malaysian History", was organised by Dr Tan Ai Boay, Assistant Professor, Department of Chinese Studies, University Tunku Abdul Rahman, and Professor Song Yanpeng of China Social Sciences Press, started from 24 April 2020. Due to the Movement Control Order (MCO), the five-day webinars delivered by eight academicians from different institutions in Malaysia and China was conducted via ZOOM video conferencing. Each session drew about 450 participants, and this number could have hardly achieved through face-to-face seminars. Dr Ho Kee Chye and Dr Tan Miao Ing from Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya were invited to present their research findings. Their papers were entitled "The Radio Propaganda of the Communist Party of Malaya and its influence" and "Discover the History of Kuala Lumpur from its Chinese Street Name" respectively. Dr Ho worked on the Communist Party of Malaya and its radio station, "The Voice of the Malayan Revolution" that had been operated in Hunan, China from 1969 to 1981.

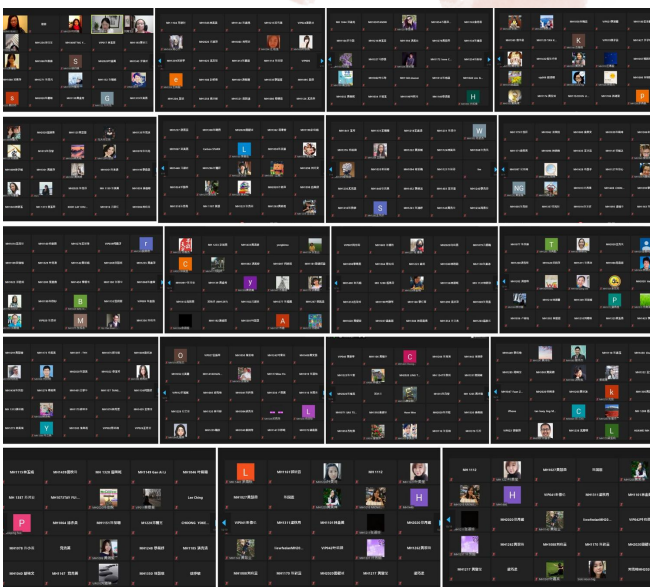
Right: Dr Ho Kee Chye (Chinese Studies) and Dr Tan Miao Ing (History) on Cloud Academy of Malaysian History



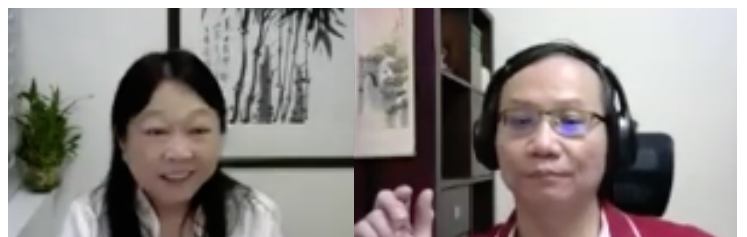
## APPRECIATION COURSE ON MAHUA LITERATURE IN MALAYSIA'S CHINESE TEXTBOOK

The Department of the Chinese Studies, the Writers Association of Chinese Medium of Malaysia, and the Malaysia Secondary School Chinese Language Teachers Association organized a series of "Appreciation Course on Mahua Literature in Malaysia's Chinese Textbook" started from 5th June 2020 via Zoom Video Communications.

The course selects 20 Mahua literary works from Chinese primary and secondary textbooks and invites tertiary lecturers, professional readers, poets and literary researchers as speakers and tutors to analyze the connotation and writing skills of these works from a literary perspective. The course attracted 500 participants of teachers from primary and secondary schools, students and public. The course lasts for 10 weeks and will end on 6th August 2020.



Some of the 500 participants attended Zoom meeting



Lecturers giving talk via Zoom





## FIGHTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: DRAWING HISTORICAL INFERENCES FROM THE WORK OF DR WU LIEN-TEH, A PIONEERING CHINESE MALAYSIAN IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY CHINA

Prof. Danny Wong gave a Keynote speech entitled, Fighting the Covid-19 Pandemic: Drawing Historical Inferences from the Work of Dr Wu Lien-teh, a pioneering Chinese Malaysian in Early 20th Century China, to Workshop on "Ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asian Covid-19 Fighting", organised by the Center for China and Globalizing Asia Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University 11-12 July 2020.

### WU LIEN TEH, A FORGOTTEN PIONEER DOCTOR

Prof. Danny Wong gave an interview to the Radio France Internationale on 24 May 2020, on the topic of Dr Wu Lien Tieh and his pioneering efforts in plague fighting in Manchuria in 1910-1911 as lessons in the fight against Covid-19.

#### Title: Wu Lien Teh, a forgotten pioneer doctor

The coronavirus crisis has already given rise to a good number of historical comparisons, with SARS, the Spanish flu, more rarely with the pneumonic plague of 1910. However, it was during this epidemic in China that the Malaysian doctor Wu Lien Teh proposed for the first time the general wearing of masks, among other innovative measures. Forgotten today outside the circles of historians or Malaysian Chinese communities, Gabrielle Maréchaux unearths her work with historian Danny Wong.

Right poster:

Prof. Danny Wong gave an online/webinar at the Xiamen University, Malaysia, Chinese Studies Department, on the topic of, "On Doing Chinese Studies in Malaysia", 6 July 2020.

### WEBINAR AT THE

### XIAMEN UNIVERSITY, MALAYSIA

**XIAMEN UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA**  
廈門大學馬來西亞分校

**IAP 线上见面会**

在马来西亚就读中文系

**黄子强教授**  
讲座时间: 3PM - 4PM  
• 马来亚大学文学院历史系教授  
• 马大马来西亚华人研究中心兼  
马大全球计划与战略中心主任

**理念无疆**  
**许春先生**  
讲座时间: 4PM - 5PM  
星洲媒体集团执行董事兼  
首席执行官  
“海到無涯天作岸，山登絕頂我为峰”  
希望大家传递的，是建立积极的人生  
观，也不要为自己设限。相反的，应该海  
阔天空，追求自己的理想

**讲座详情**  
日期: 2020年7月6日 (星期一)  
时间: 3PM - 4PM / 4PM - 5PM  
媒介: MICROSOFT TEAM  
CODE: vgun15o



# COVID-19 POSTERS IN ORANG ASLI LANGUAGES

By Dr Rusaslina Idrus



In response to the Covid 19 Movement Control Order, Dr. Rusaslina Idrus initiated a participatory-community project designing and translating posters on Covid 19 for the Orang Asli and Orang Asal communities. The project

started with the realisation that many of the posters available at the time were designed with urban residents in mind. Instructions to stay at home and order online delivery for example are not relatable to those living in villages as they still need to go to their farms to be able to have food on the table. We also got word from the ground that many Orang Asli villagers were not aware about the virus or the start of the Movement Control Order.

With this in mind, the content of the poster was designed with consultation with several Orang Asli elders. A team of Orang Asli volunteers then translated the posters into 15 languages and dialects. The posters were first shared on the 20th of March with updates in the coming weeks. It was shared widely through social media in particular via WhatsApp. Some volunteers also made and shared audio recordings of the poster content in order to reach community members who may not be able to read. The posters have been widely circulated and also used by government agencies such as JAKOA and KKM. We hope that this small intervention can assist in the fight against Covid-19.

**BAHASA SEMAI**

## Ma ajeh Covid-19?

Covid-19 adeh penyakit ju virus de bahaya, de ya kimerbak ku jap-jap tempat ku dunia. Penyakit adeh kibejangkit ju numom sengoi ku sengoi yang de kilek melalui kenghol, neramoh, teu lehig, lehem ru amen hitercap mai de nyik.

### Perintah Dea Hipekurang Ceknip

Ku jap-jap tempat ku Malaysia hunen ya bipekema Perintah Dea Hipekurang Ceknip (mula ju 18/03/2020 lei nu 28/04/2020). Itujuan binyek penyakit adeh kena nu jap-jap mai. Jadi, dikdij mai mesti hot naigek ku kampung taleh dan pek buleh bihol dari kampung. Dikdij kerjak biasa de hibehe ku kampung bagei himutong, hibekebon ru hiet nu serag lekat buleh hibehe bagei biasa. Tapi, aguk et nu pekan kecuali amen tedesak. Mai luar juga biget muj nu kampung hik ku mase perintah adeh pekesg dij itimpoth.

**Tanda-tanda ya hikenay nyaknik ju Covid-19**

Amen mong tanda-tanda de bagei ajeh telas engkey ya tededah nu mai pesakit Covid-19 adeh, atau ya engkenyik terok - cip aderah nu klinik atau hospital de paling rek ju engkek.

Asingkan diri engkek dan aguk becampur ru mai kilek supaya pek kikenay nu mai kilek juga.

## Bei Sama-sama Hik hentikan penyebaran Nyaknik ju Covid-19 supaya Pek Kikenay nu Mai Kilek



1. Wes aguk bekumpul hijengoi (icuntuh: pebatan majles senuka, kenduri ru runggen).
2. Selalu suj teg ya sabun ru teu.
3. Tutop empag engkek amen engkeramoh atau engkekehol.
4. Aguk toh ratah, lagi-lagi ku tempat mai jengoi.
5. Mamuh ru sah pakaian engkek telas engkejug dari tempat luar.

Poster Bahasa Semai diterjemahkan oleh Team Jik Semai

**BAHASA TEMIAR**

## Ni'lok Nak Covid-19?

Covid-19 doh adalah janik virus berbahaya hoj na mere'bak ma seluruh mawak. Covid-19 na berjang'kit num se'oi ma Sen'oi um kehol, sedwad, helyeg, hemhum bok agok pek.

### Ner Or ter'gag nep cip

Kenembek Tanjung pukdoh n'deg Ner Or m, ter'gag nep cip nom (18.3.2020-28.4.2020) reknak eh eak ter'gag ce'nek doh. Nadoh geknak, kenembek senoi gel'gerl n'deg bek agok hel'wal bek ner'cer pok, selai bok nekwek mabeg. Agok wek ma kedel pu'doh nak kalow tom mok loklok. Sen'oi jeruk agok umwek madeg eak doh bil pudoh tereng'gag janik doh.

**Ce'nek**

Kalow mok tanak-tanak gereknak huj nateg bok janik COVID-19, bil mok janik wek ma klinik bok hospital en'nyon, atau bil keadaan hoj rasak serius nak ter'wex u'low ma klinik atau hospital en'nyon. GerlPimoi-pimoi gereknak agok of nam cak ma senoi moi wel.

## Nam hoi Janik Covid-19



1. Agok ga'gerl beramei-ramei
2. Suj tig samak og bok sabun.
3. Nep'kub nyag bil ha ge'ces bok kehol bek suj tig geknak.
4. Agok ge'toh n tempat tek alah.
5. Nehmoh bok suj bajuk neng'ngeng bil hoj nekma nom beg kedel atow nom beg nak.

Kandek senoi Temiar kim peryat ma kenembek janik virus doh agok tehu huntek-huntek eak jagak nyawak rik eak.

Poster Bahasa Temiar diterjemahkan oleh Kande nom Pus Simpor, Gua Musang, Kelantan

**BAHASA JAKUN (JOHOR)**

## Apak yak Covid-19?

Covid-19 adalah penyakit virus bahaya yang leh merebak ke seluruh dunia. Covid-19 berjangkit dari orang ke orang dengan cara batuk, bersin, air liur, hembusan nafas dan sentuhan.

### Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan

Seluruh Malaysia sekarang dibawah Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (18.3.2020-28.4.2020) untuk mengawal penyebaran penyakit ini. Nib berakhlak, sentuhan orang keneh ditalan dari kampung dan 100 yarak keluar. Aktiviti harian seperti pergi membeli, berkebun dan ke hotel keneh ditalan. Jangan ke bandar besar untuk membeli barang. Orang luar juga leh debar masuk kampung untuk membeli barang keperluan.

### Tandak-tandak sakit

Kalau ada tandak-tandak macam tak menang terendah kepada penyakit Covid-19, atau jika keneh sakit, copotkan ke klinik atau hospital terdekat.

Duduk bebeh supaya leh berjangkit dengan orang lain.

### Dahieh yak menyibar Covid-19

1. Jangan duduk bepagap (contoh batakan bekak-bekawan, berakak-kendak dan jagot)
2. Teren cucuk tangan dengan air dan sabun
3. Tutup mulut bilak bersin dan batuk dan cuci tangan selepas ya
4. Jangan meludah ditempat awam
5. Mandi dan cuci baju selang selang dari kawasan luar

Poster Bahasa Jakun diterjemahkan oleh Mazzer, Kampung Pengkalan Temi, Johor

**BAHASA TEMIAR (SEMPUR)**

## Apak ituk Covid-19?

Covid-19 c'ak nah penyakit virus bahaya nang merebak ke seluruh dunia. Covid-19 berjangkit dari orang ke orang melalui batuk, bersin, air liur, hembusan nafas dan sentuhan.

### Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan

Seluruh Malaysia sekarang dibawah Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (18.3.2020-28.4.2020) untuk mengawal penyebaran penyakit ini. Nib berakhlak, sentuhan orang keneh ditalan dari kampung dan 100 yarak keluar. Aktiviti harian seperti pergi membeli, berkebun dan ke hotel keneh ditalan. Jangan ke bandar besar untuk membeli barang. Orang luar juga leh debar masuk kampung untuk membeli barang keperluan.

### Tande-tande kemak penyakit Covid-19

Kalau ada tande-tande macam tak menang terendah kepada penyakit Covid-19, atau jika keneh sakit, copotkan ke klinik atau hospital terdekat.

Asingkan diri supaya ngak berjangkit dengan orang lain.

### Hentik'kan Penyebaran Covid-19

1. Paksa bekumpul begang-gemang (contoh bek batakan apak-apak kendak dan jagot)
2. Kenek cucuk tangan dengan air dan sabun
3. Tutup mulut bilak bersin dan batuk cucuk bilak ru gan lepas tak
4. Paksa meludah meratah tempat awam gema
5. Mandi dan cuci baju selang selang dari kawasan luar

Poster Bahasa Temiar (Sempur) diterjemahkan oleh Zuridabura, Kampung Selo, Negeri Sembilan

The posters and more information can be accessed via this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cHbS7ZlMaS8qju4tL-SoqlZ25Q-11ix?usp=sharing>



# UMCSRG 2020-2021

## Universiti Malaya Covid-19 Related Special Research Grant (UMCSRG) 2020-2021

FASS congratulates the following faculty members who have successfully received the Universiti Malaya Covid-19 Related Special Research Grant for the year 2020-2021.

We wish you all a productive research.

Project leader: Associate Professor Dr. Rosmadi Fauzi  
Co-Researches: Dr. Mariney Mohd Yusoff & Dr. Abd Rahman Roslan

### Capabilities of Small-Scale Business to Survive and Evolve During and After the COVID-19 from the Geographic Perspective

#### Synopsis/summary

This study is to examine how the small-scale businesses can survive and evolve during and after COVID-19 from the perspective of Economic Geography of twelve districts in Kedah. As a result of the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO), all physical activities are limited and this situation adversely affects the small-scale businesses which generally depends only on daily sales income. Therefore, in order to understand this scenario more deeply, the data will be analyzed using



geographical quantitative methods and GIS mapping. These findings will provide an understanding on how the small-scale businesses react during this pandemic and help the government to formulate new policies.

Project leader: Associate Professor Dr. Firuza Begham Mustafa  
Co-Researches: Professor Dr. Subha Bhasu (Faculty of Science),  
Assoc. Professor Dr. Yusniza Kamarulzaman (Faculty of Business & Accountancy)  
& Dr Rosazlin Abdullah (Faculty of Science)



#### Synopsis/summary

The novel coronavirus pneumonia (Covid-19) earlier was known as novel coronavirus, a severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). The Covid-19 outbreak that began in Wuhan, in Hubei province, China has quickly spread to at least 215 other countries. The World Health Organization to officially (WHO) had declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic. The report showed that 215 countries and territories of the world have recorded a total of 4,624,034 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 and a death toll of 308,450 deaths, while Malaysia has recorded 6,855 confirmed cases and 112

### COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Food and Agriculture in Malaysia

death (Worldometer, Saturday, 16th May 2020). In the efforts to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, Malaysia government had embarked on Movement Control Order (MCO) and Movement Control Order Condition (MCOC) impose travel restrictions and movement controls. In Malaysia, the agricultural sector is one of the most directly affected by the movement's control order. Smallholder farmers experience the problem of dumping of agricultural products due to the closure of several supporting sectors such as transportation, retails and logistic. Lack of cash reserves has worsened the impact as their earnings rely on daily sales revenue. The question is what are the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture food production system and practices in Malaysia. The impact of the pandemic to agriculture food supply system especially on smallholder farmers.



# Social Administration Symposium



Participants at the conference

The 1st "International Symposium on Community Led Social Work Interventions for Sustainable Development (ISCSD)" was held on 6th and 7th January 2020, jointly hosted by Department of Social Administration and Justice and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The purpose of this two days international symposium was to gather some pioneers in the field of community development and social work who are engaged in teaching, research and community practices broadly defined. This symposium achieved a milestone in community development era which open opportunities for community development practitioners from the different corner in Asia to share their research findings in community led development practices.

A total of 100 participants, including delegate from 13 universities, 2 government ministries, 2 keynote, 5 panel session, 15 presentation, 12 panelists, 3 NGOs sharing sessions form 5 different countries including USA, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Bangladesh participated in the ISCSD.

The opening session was addressed by YBhg. Professor Datuk Dr. Danny Wong Tze Ken, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, who declared the Symposium officially open at the end of his statement. YBrs. Associate Professor Dr. Haris Abd Wahab Head, Department of Social Administration and Justice chaired the opening session. Professor Dr. Joseph Wronka, Springfield College, USA given his keynote speech on "Creating a Human Rights Culture to Enhance the Sustainable Development Goals: An Advanced Generalist Perspective". The opening ceremony of the symposium concluded with group photo and refreshment.

A total 3 panel discussion session was held in day one. A total of 8 presenters presented their paper under 3 session themes namely community development and social justice: climate change, disaster management and community development, community development and SDGs.

These three-session chaired by Professor Dr. Azlinda Azman; YBhg. Professor Dato' Dr. Mohammad Shatar Sabran and Professor Dr. Joseph Wronka respectively.



Opening ceremony of the Symposium

Professor Dr. Tan Ngoh Tiong from Singapore University of Social Sciences, given his keynote speech on "Social Innovation and Sustainable Community Development in a Digital Age". A total 2 panel discussion session was held in day two. A total of 7 presenters presented their paper under 2 session themes namely community-based NGO's intervention and community development and migration. These two-session chaired by Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan and Associate Professor Dr. Haris Abd Wahab.

In concluding session, Prof Dr.Rezaul Islam summing up all two days discussion and shared the publication possibilities of the presented papers. Symposium convener Dr. Haris Abd Wahab given his vote of thanks to all delegates and presenters for making successful of this esteem ISCSD 2020. We are grateful to all delegates, presenter and guest from 13 universities and 5 countries.

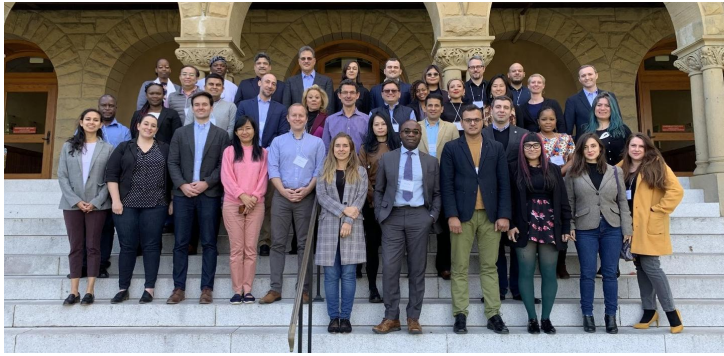


A panel in session at the new FASS Cube



# DIGITAL TECH CAMP

By Dr. Khoo Ying Hooi



Dr. Khoo Ying Hooi from the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences participated in the Digital Tech Camp from 2-4 February 2020 in Stanford University, United States. This program is co-organised by the Global Digital Policy Incubator (GDPi) in Stanford University and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

27 participants coming from different parts of the world from all the regions joined in this program that aimed to deepen the understanding of emerging and pressing digital policy topics and explored the ways in which they intersect with free expression and other human rights principles. David Kaye, the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression delivered his keynote speech on artificial intelligence's intersections with freedom of expression in the global context.



Korean participants from the Summer Enrichment Programme performing Chinese Fan Dance

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, along with the Department of Chinese Studies held a Chinese New Year celebration on 4th February 2020.

More than 140 faculty members were invited for the celebration. The celebration began with an opening speech by Datuk Professor Dr. Danny Wong Tze Ken, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The Dean

# FASS STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2020-2024



The Faculty Management and the Heads of Departments attended a Strategic Planning workshop on 22 February 2020.

The workshop's main objectives was to set new directions and goals for the faculty. New targets were also being established for the five-year plan.

# FASS CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

expressed his upmost gratitude and welcomed faculty members who attended the celebration. He also hoped colleagues from all ethnic groups will be able to learn and appreciate part of the Chinese culture through this event.

The celebration proceeded with a performance of erfu, a Chinese traditional musical instrument by Chan Wei Chuen, a member of the University of Malaya Chinese Orchestra (UMCO). Then, a group of Korean students, also participants of the faculty's Summer Enrichment Programme delighted the guest with a traditional Chinese Fan Dance. Additionally, the faculty also invited calligrapher Adam Ng to write Fai Chun and send the word 'Fu' as a blessing to faculty members and other guests.



# LLOYD FERNANDO SEMINAR SERIES: FOREIGN INFLUENCES ON 20TH-CENTURY MALAY LITERATURE

By Looi Siew Teip

Russian academic Dr Evgenia S. Kukushkina gave a talk on 22 Jan, the first in the Lloyd Fernando Seminar Series this year, on the topic of foreign influences on 20th-century Malay literature. In a wide-ranging talk, Dr Kukushkina made the point that some of the earliest works of modern Malay literature in the early decades of the 20th century were in the genre of detective stories, modelled on the works of authors writing in English such as Nick Carter. Another example of foreign influence is in the domain of Malay dramaturgy.

Dr Kukushkina pointed out that although early plays were steeped in the local bangsawan tradition, their authors often sought to create something 'in the vein of Shakespeare'. She also argued that the Malay novel of the mid-20th century seems to have absorbed a degree of considerable influence from Pear S. Buck's famous trilogy, *The House of Earth* by American Nobel Prize winner Pearl S. Buck.

Dr Kukushkina summed up her talk by making the point that even under limited circumstances, including the lack of access to a British-style education in English, as well as the lack of access to higher education, Malay authors in the earlier part of the 20th century found opportunities to engage in a dialogue with the wider context of world literature. Dr Kukushkina's field of research is the history of Malay/Malaysian Literature with a particular interest in dramaturgy. Her most recent publications include articles on Malay playwriting of the 1960's, as well as the history of the detective genre in Malay and the evolution of the image of Hang Tuah in Malay culture.



Dr Evgenia S. Kukushkina, Head of the Department of Philology of Southeast Asia, Korea and Mongolia, Institute of Asian and African Studies, Lomonosov Moscow State University

Besides that, she is actively involved in interdisciplinary studies, participating in projects on cross-literary East-West contacts and Christianity in Southeast Asia, having completed two chapters in monographs devoted to these subjects. Dr Kukushkina has been Head of the Department of Philology of Southeast Asia, Korea and Mongolia, Institute of Asian and African Studies, Lomonosov Moscow State University since 2008. She first came to Malaysia in 1987 to carry out research for her doctoral dissertation and has since returned regularly to collect material for her research on Malay literature. She also held the position of Russian language lecturer at the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics at UM in 1998-2001.

## ENGLISH DEPT. HOSTS EDWIN MALACHI TALK

By Dr. Sharifah Aishah Osman



On 28 February 2020, the Department of English, under the Lloyd Fernando Seminar Series, hosted a talk by Professor Dr. Malachi Edwin Vethamani from the School of English, University of Nottingham, Malaysia, on the topic of "The Malaysian Albatross of May 13, 1969". His presentation examined the literary works of several Malaysian writers in

English who explored the May 13, 1969 riots from as early as 1970 to 2019, depicting it as "the incident that has left a strong psychic scarring on this nation" with both "caution and sensitivity". The writers discussed were Ee Tiang Hong, Ghulam Sarwar Yousuf, Lloyd Fernando, Preeti Samarasan, and Hanna Alkaf. Professor Dr. Malachi Edwin Vethamani is a professor, poet, critic, and bibliographer, and currently Professor of Modern English Literature at the School of English, University of Nottingham, Malaysia. He is also an alumnus of the Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya. His most recent publications include *Ronggeng-Ronggeng: Malaysian Short Stories* (2019), *Coitus Interruptus and Other Stories* (2018), *Malchin Testament: Malaysian Poems* (2017), and *Complicated Lives* (2016).



# PROJECT IN COLLABORATIONS: SLOVENIA, UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA & INDONESIA (2020 – 2022)

By Dr Welyne Jeffrey Jehom



**Main project board members:** Andrej Korpar (EMC club, Slovenia), r. Welyne Jeffrey Jehom (Center for Malaysian Indigenous Studies & Emporoh PLT, Malaysia) Dr. Nerijus Miginis (Institute for Policy Research and Analysis, Lithuania), Dr. Marius Ulozas (Institute for Policy Research and Analysis, Lithuania), Anna Korjakina (Media Sapiens Network, UK),

**Invited youth participants:** Martina Lončarek (EMC club, Slovenia), Aaron Herman (EMC club, Slovenia) Hermanto Hermanto (Act Global, Indonesia), Trianingsih (Act Global, Indonesia), Agata Losa (Media Sapiens Network, UK), Shona Malberg (SAAA, Australia), Neža Muzič de Vries (SAAA, Australia), Brandon Scott (CMIS, Malaysia).

Recently, Dr. Welyne Jeffrey Jehom committed to attend a series of meetings that has been set for the “Project Interception” funded by Erasmus +. Led by Ptuj, Slovenia the first meeting kick-started on the 17-22 February 2020. Set dates meetings (preliminary): Melbourne, Australia (June, 2020), Lithuania (December, 2020), Indonesia (April 2021), Malaysia (December, 2021), and final meeting in London, UK (August, 2022). It is an ongoing designing modules and guidelines for NEET youth coaching. The discussions to prepare the modules and guidelines are conducted via teleconferencing and meetings setups are to test the modules in respective country participants.

About the project: Erasmus+ project Interception is about strengthening social inclusion through inclusive entrepreneurship. Social excluded youth is under-represented or disadvantaged in entrepreneurship. Increasing entrepreneurship among them, as well as improving the quality of their business start-ups, represents an opportunity to increase their social inclusion as well as participating in the labor market and boost economic growth. Social excluded youth typically face greater barriers to business creation than the mainstream population. Challenges include a lack of entrepreneurship skills, difficulty in accessing finance for business start-up, difficulties navigating the regulatory framework, a fear of failure and a lack of confidence. Inclusive entrepreneurship

Business creation by under-represented and disadvantaged groups as social excluded youth helps

create jobs and fight social and financial exclusion, while stimulating economic growth. While entrepreneurship plays an important role in stimulating innovation and driving job creation, only a relatively small part of the youth is involved in starting a business, and not all of them have the same opportunities to create and run a business. The objective of inclusive entrepreneurship is to ensure that all young people have an opportunity to start up and operate in business or self-employment, regardless of their personal characteristics and background.

Project Interception gives social excluded youth opportunity to be successful entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship offers an opportunity for social-excluded youth to be more active members of society and building their local community. While not everybody who receives entrepreneurship training or support will start a business, individual young people participating in entrepreneurship training programs, interacting with a coach or mentor, will acquire skills and experience that make them more employable. Project Interception addresses social-excluded youth, especially those that have high potential to become NEET (not in employment, education or training) or those that are already NEET. Based on Eurostat info in year 2017 there were almost 17 million young people aged 20-34 who were neither in employment nor in education and training. For the Malaysian representative, focus and target group is the Orang Asli youth at the Peninsular Malaysia.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.oecd.org>



# IN MEMORIAM





# IN MEMORY OF K.S. MANIAM

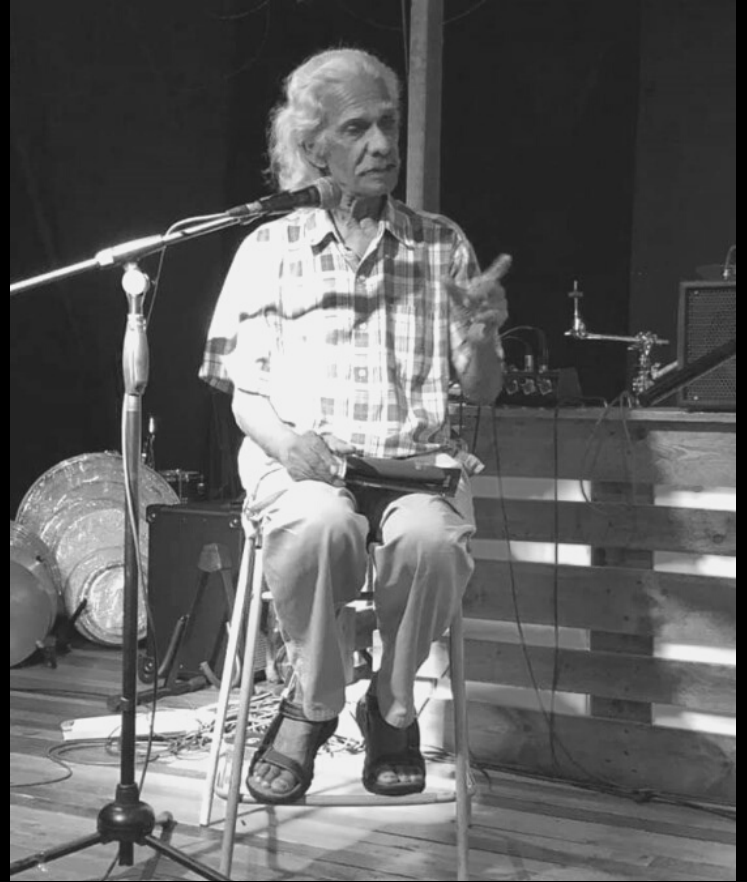
By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Carol Elizabeth A/P A G Leon

The passing of award-winning local author and academic K.S. Maniam on February 19, 2020, has left a gaping hole in the Malaysian literary scene. Maniam who taught at the English Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the University of Malaya from 1980 to 1997, was a prolific writer and was influential in shaping the course of Malaysian Literature in English. The talented author had the unique ability to write, and to write well, in the different literary genres. His novels, plays, short stories and poems covered a wide range of themes, from politics, multiculturalism and race identity, to relationships, love, the role of women in today's society and the cycle of life. However, one subject that Maniam wrote about with particular passion and astuteness was the challenges and issues facing the Indian diasporic community living in Malaysia and this is perhaps his most celebrated contribution to Malaysian Literature in English.

Maniam was born in the small town of Bedong, Kedah in 1942. His early experiences are vividly reflected in his first novel, *The Return*, a much-loved work which was on the Malaysian school English Literature syllabus for five years. His writings won him local and international recognition. "The Loved Flaw" and "Haunting the Tiger" won top prize for the New Straits Times short story competitions in 1987 and 1990 respectively. In 2000, he became the inaugural recipient of India's Raja Rao Award for outstanding contribution to the literature of the South Asian diaspora. Maniam was also revered in theatre circles and was one of the founding members of the local performing arts group, Five Arts Centre. His plays, *The Cord* (1983), *The Sandpit: Womensis* (1990) and *The Skin Trilogy* (1995), are significant contributions to the Malaysian canon of performing arts.

To some, Maniam might have come across as somewhat introverted. But for me, as both his student and later colleague, he was very passionate and dedicated to the course of literature borne of the belief that literature opened us to ideas, other worlds and ultimately our own humanity. On March 9, 2019, members of the English Department along with other guests, came together to pay tribute to Maniam at a book launch in his honour.

It was a wonderful opportunity for us to reconnect with him. Maniam's passing is a true loss to the literary scene in Malaysia.



A humble and reserved man, he wrote with creativity and courage and his works will continue to inspire us.

K.S. Maniam was a former Associate Professor and Head of Department.

Our  
deepest  
condolences

from the Faculty of Arts and  
Social Sciences



# IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR DR. S. SINGARAVELU: ICON OF THE INDIAN STUDIES

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krishanan A/L Maniam



Professor Dr. S. Singaravelu Sachithanantham was born in 1936 in South Street, Topputhurai in Chennai, India.

The eldest of nine children, he demonstrated academic fortitude from early years. Singaravelu studied at three different universities - the University of Madras and the University of Malaya in Singapore for his Bachelor of Arts (of which he had three) - with first class honours, and Law at the University of London, passed the bar in 1995 and was a practicing lawyer for several years in his 60s. He learned multiple languages beyond his native Tamil. These included English, Bahasa Melayu, Sanskrit, German, French, Russian and Thai.

In 1980, he became a Professor of Indian Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in University of Malaya. A member of the senate for 25 years and Head of Department for 15., he pioneered courses such as Tamil Culture and Civilisation in Bahasa Melayu for students.

He was also an advocate and solicitor in the High Court of Malaya. He was an author of three books entitled *The Social Life of the Tamil*, *The Classical Period* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Indian Studies, University of Malaya, 1966), *The Ramayana Tradition in Southeast Asia* (Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Press, 2004), *The Tamil Cultural Relations with Southeast Asia* (Chennai: Institute of Asian Studies, 2012), and also a translator of Arunakirinathacuvamikal's *Kantharalankaram*, and Nakkiir's *Thirumurukarruppatai* in English; he was also an author of more than ninety articles regarding the cultural relations between the Tamil and Southeast Asian people; he was a citizen of Malaysia, and in recognition and his services in the field of higher education in Malaysia, he was conferred with the title of Professor Emeritus by the University of Malaya in 2004.

## Our deepest condolences

from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



# Opinion Piece: WILLINGNESS TO MEET NON-TRADITIONAL THREATS AND HUMAN SECURITY

by Dr Roy Anthony Rogers Peter Rogers,  
Head of Department, International and Strategic studies.

When the country was facing an Emergency challenge against the threat of communism 70 years ago, on 23 February 2020, the Bukit Kepong tragedy occurred where the Bukit Kepong police station which consisted of only 25 members led by Sergeant Jamil Mohd Shah was attacked by 180 communists from the 4th Free Company. In addition, two wives of the police fought against the enemy when they discovered that their husbands had been killed. At least 25 people were killed including Sergeant Jamil, a police officer, and a police's wife. Only 4 policemen and several family members survived the tragedy. The Bukit Kepong police station was burned down by the communists. The communist death toll was 40.

At the international level, the country was facing traditional security threats such as the Cold War or better known as the Cold War which involved military competition between the US and the Soviet Union. Both powers had waged proxy wars such as the Korean War and the Afghan War. The US and the Soviet Union had given military support to their respective allies.

**“... NATIONAL SECURITY  
SHOULD ALWAYS BE  
SAFEGUARDED AND  
MADE A PRIORITY”**

At the home front, the 1970s national leaders like Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussien Onn had to face traditional Indo-China threats such as the Vietnam War and Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia. At the same time, Domino's theory introduced the idea of spreading the ideology of communism as well as the fall of one-on-one non-communist countries in the Southeast Asian region such as Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia.

Nevertheless, the Cold War ended and Domino's theory didn't work. However, past experience remains a reminder and a lesson to all Malaysians that national security should always be safeguarded and made a priority. Security services provided by the police and the army should not be forgotten because without their sacrifice, the country would not have achieved stability and prosperity. Communism is against the beliefs and culture of the local community regardless of race and religion.

Although the communist armed rebellion is now extinct, this certainly does not mean that the country is free from any threat. Even non-traditional threats are at high risk. Non-traditional threats can be defined as forms of threats coming from non-state actors such as terrorist groups, transnational criminals, pirates, and extremists. In addition, these types of threats are not limited to invasion by foreign troops, but they also include threats such as the spread of viruses and disease outbreaks that can affect health, cybersecurity, terrorism, energy security and the environment. Since non-traditional threats are not just about military aspects, combating them requires the cooperation of all parties including political, economic and social.





In 1994, according to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Report provided by Mahbub ul -Huq, a new definition of the concept of 'security' was created. The report introduced the concept of Human or Human Security where security should not be limited to military aspects, but extended to all aspects of human life covering 7 aspects, namely food safety, personal safety, public safety, health, political security, economic security, and security environment.

This is in accordance with the concept of 'Human Freedom' – the idea of freedom from fear and 'freedom from will' or freedom from want. The concept of 'Free from Fear' emphasises the safety and protection of violence while 'Free from Fear' focuses on protection against the threat of virus transmission, disease outbreaks, famine problems, and natural disasters.

Malaysia is currently facing a very critical non-traditional threat. According to the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) as of March 26, 2020, there were 1796 cases of COVID-19 reported. Of concern is that there have been 19 deaths from the COVID-19 outbreak. The number of patients increased sharply on February 18, with only 22 reported, 93 cases on March 7 and 428 cases on March 15. Finally, on March 15, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yasin was forced to declare a motion for a restraining order from March 18 to March 31. Among the drastic measures include the prohibition of movement and mass assembly, the ban on all foreigners as well as restrictions on the entry of tourists and foreign visitors. In addition, there is a closure of all government and private premises. What makes it even more worrisome is the countries affected by COVID-19 are also exposed to other viruses such as H1N1 and influenza viruses.

## **“FINALLY, ON MARCH 15, PRIME MINISTER TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN YASIN WAS FORCED TO DECLARE A MOTION FOR A RESTRAINING ORDER”**

Furthermore, Malaysia has to deal with another non-traditional threat of human smugglers. In fact, the people of our country have been ranked Tier 2, in the Watch List 2018 Trafficking in Persons. Human smuggling and related crimes such as scams like the Macau Scam are serious threats. Apart from that, the country also faces narcotic threats. The National Police Chief, Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador has acknowledged that Malaysia's narcotics threat is critical. If no action is taken, Malaysia is likely to face narcotics like in Colombia. Terrorist groups like Daesh have used cyberspace such as social media to influence the minds of locals, especially young people to join them.

Environmental pollution issues should be given due attention as well. The pollution in the Kim-kim River and Pasir Gudang, Johor which has caused many people to be hospitalized has sent shockwaves to the nation. The

pollution of the Selangor River dam has also caused thousands of people in the Klang Valley to suffer from water shortage.

The country also suffers from haze problems that hit the school year after year. Malaysia also has to deal with the Rohingya refugee problem. It is no longer a domestic problem in Rakhine state, Myanmar, as it has caused instability in the Southeast Asia region. Although the country has been freed from the threat of communist rebellion, it is now facing new forms of challenges. The experience of fighting communists can be a lesson for security personnel in the face of terrorist groups. However, non-traditional threats and human security require the cooperation of all parties which includes both governmental or non-governmental. In addition, regional and global cooperation is crucial in the fight against non-traditional threats such as the COVID-19 outbreak.

# CONGRATULATIONS

FASS congratulates the following faculty members:

Associate Professor Dr. Jatswan Singh A/L Harnam Singh has been appointed to be the Director of Asia-Europe Institute, Universiti Malaya from 1 May 2020



Professor Dr. Shakila Parween Binti Yacob reappointed as the Executive Director of International Institute of Public Policy and Management (INPUMA) from 22 July 2020



## Introducing FASS Student Rep

We would like to thank the Student Representatives of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for the Session 2019/2020, for their hard work and dedication



Mohd Azrhul Niezam Bin Abd Muzidil  
of Southeast Asian Studies



Freddie Wong Chung Chee  
of Chinese Studies