SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Roundtable Discussion “Rukun Negara Teras Integriti Penganut Pelbagai Agama di Malaysia: Impian atau Realiti” (IAIS Malaysia, 19 July 2016)

Ahmad Syarief Fadhli


Dua objektif utama program ini adalah untuk meningkatkan pengetahuan mengenai pembentukan bangsa Malaysia yang berintegriti, serta mengenal pasti pendekatan dan strategi yang sesuai bagi memperkukuhkan perpaduan, persefahaman serta integriti penganut pelbagai agama berasaskan Rukun Negara dari sudut agama.

Antara ahli panel yang telah dijemput ialah YBhg. Dr Chandra Muzaffar (Pengerusi kepada Lembaga Pemegang Amanah Yayasan 1Malaysia), Encik Wan Saiful Wan Jan (Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, Institut Demokrasi dan Hal Ehwal Ekonomi (IDEAS)) dan Dr Wendy Yee Mei Tien (Pensyarah Kanan, Centre for the Initiation of Talent and Industrial Training (CITRA), Universiti Malaya). IAIS Malaysia diwakili oleh Prof. Madya Dr Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil yang turut dijemput sebagai ahli pembincang di sesi perbincangan meja bulat tersebut. Majlis dimulakan dengan ucapan aluan oleh Dr Anis Yusal Yusoff (Presiden dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif INTEGRITI) dan diteruskan dengan pembentangan utama oleh Dr Chandra Muzaffar, disertai komentar-komentar bernas dan kritikan dari kedua-dua pembincang serta semua ahli-ahli pembincang yang hadir bersama.

Translation: On the 23rd of June 2016, IAIS Malaysia was invited by the Malaysian Institute of Integrity as a co-organiser for a closed Roundtable Discussion on the topic of ‘Rukun Negara Teras Integriti Penganut Pelbagai Agama di Malaysia: Impian atau Realiti’ with its main speaker, Dr Chandra
Muzaffar from Yayasan 1Malaysia. IAIS Malaysia was represented by Assoc. Prof Dr Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil who also was invited as one of the discussant. The session was attended by representatives from various NGOs and religious institutions. The objective of this session was to reach harmonious understanding among the multi-cultural and diverse community of Malaysia.

Seminar on “Women as Judges and Leaders”  
(IAIS Malaysia, 19 July 2016)

Muhammad Fakhrurrazi Ahmad

Women’s struggle to procure economic, political and social equality has always been a subject of vital interest across the globe, especially in Muslim countries. Subordination, inequality and discrimination are the common stereotypes when it comes to the status of women in Islam, with depictions of Muslim women fully covered up, denied freedom and prohibited from holding important positions and from playing significant roles in society. Indeed, Islam has been misunderstood with cultural practices of the Muslims. Contrary to some views, Islam provides substantive grounding for female empowerment.

On 19th July 2016, a seminar on ‘Women as Judges and Leaders’ was co-organised by the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia and the Shariah Judiciary Department of Selangor (JAKESS). The seminar deliberated on the roles of women as judges and national leaders in Islam.

During the seminar, Professor Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali stressed that there is no verse in the Qur’an which explicitly forbids women from becoming leaders. Although some scholars have forbidden women from occupying high positions, Professor Kamali stressed that other scholars, including Professor Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, have agreed that Muslim women can be appointed to such positions, including within the judiciary (but provided cases do not involve hudud, the Islamic penal code, or qisas, the laws of retaliation). This second opinion is in line with the Malaysian National Fatwa Council’s decision of 2006.

The newly appointed Shariah High Court Judge of Selangor, Noor Huda Roslan, reminisced about the involvement of Muslim women in the legal, judicial and enforcement systems established by the Prophet Muhammad and Caliph Umar al-Khattab, when Samra bint Nuaik al-Asadiah and al-Shifa Abu Sulaiman were appointed as muhtasibah (enforcement officers) to oversee the business activities conducted in the market place. Currently, countries like Sudan and Pakistan have already appointed female judges in their judiciary system, while Indonesia has appointed women as religious court judges to meet the needs