

performances of both local and international artists. The solo artists were: Syech Razi Ali Dawilah from Indonesia, Habib Soleimani and Ehsan Jahndarpour from Iran. Oriva from Malaysia, Dastan e Dost from Iran, and Wadi Elsamrah from Indonesia were among the group performers.

Peace-Building Training for Afghan Religious Leaders (Kuala Lumpur, 22 February - 5 March 2014)

Karim Douglas Crow, IAIS Malaysia

A select group of thirty two Afghan religious leaders, including five women, spent twelve days in Kuala Lumpur participating in an intensive Peace Building training programme hosted and organised by IAIS-Malaysia, in cooperation with the Irish NGO Miller White Training & Consulting (MWTC, Dublin) and Norway's NCA (Kabul), along with representatives from the Afghan Ministry of Education and the British High Commission. The Afghan Mullahs and civic leaders were chosen by the '*Ulama Council* of Afghanistan, and included distinguished *khatibs* and *imams* from leading religious centres, Deputy Head of the Afghan Higher Peace Council, as well as several university professors. During their time at IAIS Malaysia they received daily peace training sessions oriented toward Islamic teachings and practices, forming a mix between conflict resolution conducted by MWTC's two experienced peace trainers Ian White and Sean McGearty, and sessions facilitated by IAIS Fellows and several noted scholars based in KL. The religious leaders also had opportunities to visit the administrative capital Putra Jaya with its Shari'ah court, the National Mosque, the Islamic Museum, as well as Port Dickson.

The goal of this interactive training was to enable good leadership and facilitate peace-building activity in Afghanistan. The sessions covered fundamental topics of Islamic Peace Building, including 'Peace Education' (Dr Yusof Saleem), 'Personal and Communal Security' (Tengku Hazri), 'Women in Islamic Life' (Dr Elmira Akhmetova), 'Islam and Sectarianism' (Dr Wahabuddin Ra'ees), 'Reconciliation' (Dr K. Crow), and 'Justice and Punishment' (Dr Farid Ali). Sessions also covered peace making in N. Ireland, Mindanao and Aceh; and the Malaysian Prime Minister's office for 'Islamic Moderation'. One highlight was the fascinating presentation of images of Afghanistan from the 1960's provided by Professor Mohammad Hashim Kamali (Founding Chairman and CEO, IAIS) entitled 'Setting the Record Straight'. Before and after their IAIS training, the religious leaders received pre- & post-training guidance in Kabul. IAIS hopes to host another group from Afghanistan in late 2014, forming concrete steps towards healing and reconciliation.