

IAIS Malaysia, Penang Forum, Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM) and National Union of Malaysian Muslim Students (PKPIM). This event addressed the fundamental impact of climate change and current governmental development policies on the marine environment and fisher-folk communities of Malaysia, notably Penang.

In this forum, Nazri Ahmad (Chairman, Pulau Penang Fishermen Association) raised concerns about marine habitat destruction and declining fish supplies in Malaysia due to drastic development plans that contradict sustainable development goals. Khoo Salma Nasution (Penang Forum) further elaborated on the Penang South Islands (PSI) reclamation project and the impact it will have on the livelihood of at least 10,000 fishermen and the aquaculture industry. This was followed by a presentation by Dr Hayrol Azril Mohamed Shaffril (IPSAS, UPM) on “Climate Change and its Impact on Marine Environment in Malaysia and Social Adaptation Strategies for Fishermen,” in addition to another presentation by Assoc Prof Dr Maizatun Mustafa (Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, IIUM) on “Progression of Policies and Laws towards Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability Issues in Malaysia on Marine Environment.”

The forum called for immediate and effective solutions to these issues problems based on climate change management, social-impact assessment, and strict law enforcement for environmental conservation in line with the *maqasid* principles of *hifz al-nafs*, *hifz al-maal* and *hifz al-bi'ah* (protecting life, wealth and environment).

Book Launch and Discussion: Crime and Punishment in Islamic Law: A Fresh Interpretation (IAIS Malaysia, 30 January, 2020)

Ahmad Badri Abdullah

On 30 January 2020, IAIS Malaysia organised the launch, with accompanying discussion event, of the book “Crime and Punishment in Islamic Law: A Fresh Interpretation”. The book was authored by Professor Mohammad Hashim Kamali, founding CEO of IAIS Malaysia, and published by Oxford University Press. The event was officiated over by the Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department, Datuk Seri Dr Mujahid Yusuf Rawa. In his officiating speech, the Minister stressed that, in order to portray Islam as a compassionate religion (*din al-rahmah*), there is a need for fresh evaluation and a recourse to independent

reasoning, renewal, and reform, particularly in areas such as public law and Islamic criminal law. He also mentioned that there is a deep dissonance between Islamic law and social realities, in the sense that contemporary jurists and scholars have found it difficult to strike a balance between textual provisions and what is happening at hand. Ultimately, the hallmark of the book, as argued by the Minister, is its attempt to bridge text (*nass*) and context (*waqi'*) by resorting to *ijtihad* and cardinal Islamic tenets such as justice (*al-'adlu*). The officiating ceremony was followed by an interesting talk with the author, followed by a lively question and answer session.

**Malaysia-Japan Intellectual Exchange: “Japanese Value-driven Culture and Islamicate Universal Culture: A New Dimension of Intellectual-Spiritual Discourse Amidst the Global Crises”
(IAIS Malaysia, 20 February 2020)**

Wan Naim Wan Mansor

This public talk was jointly organised by IAIS Malaysia, the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, and Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM) as part of the IAIS Talk Series committed to promoting Islamic research on topics concerning civilisational renewal. The invited speaker was Dr Makoto Sawai, a young Japanese scholar from the Oyasato Institute for the Study of Religions, Tenri University, Japan. As a native of Japan and scholar of Islamic studies, Dr Sawai was in a unique position to compare cosmopolitan Islamic culture, derived from rich textual ideals about human life, with value-driven Japanese culture with its strong emphasis on ethics and self-discipline. Due to the one-hour time format, the inter-civilisational discourse was narrowed down to the topic of life and death, and divided into three parts: an introduction to how the Japanese traditionally view life and death; a reading of texts by Abu Ja'far al-Tabari related to the topic; and, finally, the various modern views about life and death. The event began with an introduction by IAIS founding CEO, Prof Mohammad Hashim Kamali, and was moderated by Deputy CEO, Assoc Prof Dr Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil. An estimated 40 people attended the talk, with the audience consisting of a mixture of post-graduate students, academicians, representatives from the business sector, and the general public. The question and answer session was lively, seeing a well-established businessman share his personal anecdotes about Japanese culture and his many experiences sponsoring and fostering students from various parts of the world.