

SIGNIFICANT SPEECHES, EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Webinar: The Emergency Ordinance 2021: Multiple Perspectives on Health, Economy and Politics (19 January 2021)

Wan Naim Wan Mansor

The recent emergency proclamation by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, officially termed the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance 2021, cited grave concerns about the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for national security, economic life, and public order. While the Federal Constitution grants temporary special powers to the Agong in various areas, including the authority to take over private hospitals, allocate state resources, as well as deploy additional military and police, public reception of the proclamation was mixed.

This online forum brought together four panellists from diverse backgrounds, covering law, health, the economy, and politics. They were: Professor Nik Ahmad Kamal (IIUM); Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman (UM); Dato' Madeline Berma (SUHAKAM); and Professor Azizuddin (UUM). Primary concerns revolved around the triumvirate of health, economy, and politics. Among the primary topics covered were the efficacy of the emergency ordinance compared to current Movement Control Orders (MCOs), the challenge of striking a balance between prioritising health and the economy, and the multiple healthcare strategies that could enhance the overall fight against the pandemic.

Webinar: Ethical Finance and Green Economy (21 January 2021)

Mohammad Mahbubi Ali

The deleterious threat of climate change on human society's social and economic sectors has raised critical questions about the role of the financial sector in building a carbon-neutral global economy. IAIS Malaysia collaborated with the Center

for Market Education in organising a webinar on ethical finance and the green economy. The webinar sought to explore the latest business practices in ethical finance, introduce the role of corporate diplomacy, and encourage a rethinking of policy recommendations for accelerating the shift towards a green economy, both from a general economics and specific Islamic finance perspective.

The webinar featured two distinguished speakers, namely Professor Dr Maria Alejandra Madi, Academic Director at Green Economics Institute (UK) and a fellow of the Center for Market Education, and Dr Mohammad Mahbubi Ali, Head of Economics, Finance, *Awqaf* and *Zakat* at IAIS Malaysia. Professor Maria shared her views on climate change and the global shift towards ethical finance and a green economy. Dr Mahbubi, on the other hand, presented on shariah-compliant green *sukuk* as an Islamic finance instrument that promotes ecological sustainability. The event received introductory remarks from Dr Carmelo Ferlio, the CEO of the Center for Market Education, and Assoc. Professor Dr Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, Deputy CEO of IAIS Malaysia.

**Webinar: Biden's Presidency: The Future of US Foreign Policies in
the Middle East and the Muslim World
(11 February 2021)**

Ahmad Badri Abdullah

IAIS Malaysia, in collaboration with the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), Maqasid Institute Global (MI), and the Malaysian Consultative Council for Islamic Organisation (MAPIM), hosted a timely online forum on US politics. The forum featured renowned Muslim figures Dr Chandra Muzaffar (President of JUST), Dr Zaid Barzinji (Executive Director of Maqasid Institute Global, USA), and Tuan Haji Azmi Abdul Hamid (President of MAPIM). During the forum, Dr Chandra stressed that there would never be a significant change in US hegemony, whether in terms of military power, economic domination through the US dollar, or international relations with other countries. According to Dr Barzinji, Muslim communities in the US now have a more substantial presence in the democratic process. He highlighted that US Muslims need to join hands with other communities to resolve common issues; offer intellectual and moral leadership on those issues; and be part of the solution rather than just a complainant. Tuan Haji Azmi opined that no single US foreign policy decision has so far benefitted the Muslim world. The nature of those policies are primarily dependent on US interests, such as controlling oil resources and other geopolitical benefits.