

Webinar: Harmony Week: An Interfaith Dialogue on Religious Responses to COVID-19 in Malaysia (18 February 2021)

Wan Naim Wan Mansor

As the COVID-19 pandemic reached its one-year mark, the role of religious institutions became more vital than ever. Religious actors and leaders became essential for addressing various new challenges, such as ensuring a safe environment for religious gatherings, building trust between parties, promoting effective communication and advocacy, and responding to the needs of the community. Informed and nuanced religious voices should be part of the broad policy discussion in this rapidly evolving situation. Active and continuous collaboration between various faith groups at a substantive level will not only strengthen the community as a whole, but also be key to mitigating the negative impact of the pandemic.

Against this backdrop, IAIS Malaysia organised an interfaith dialogue featuring representatives from local religious communities: Muhammad Faisal Abdul Aziz (Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia), Ir. Ang Choo Hong (Buddhist Missionary Society Malaysia), Jason Leong (Christians for Peace and Harmony in Malaysia), and Gowri P. S. Thangaya (Malaysia Hindu Sangam). Among the topics raised and discussed were the impact of pandemic lockdowns on religious activities, the various strategies adopted by religious communities when providing spiritual and material assistance to affected members, and the various recommendations that have been made to enhance public policy related to religion.

International Webinar: Shariah and the Pursuit of Sustainable Societies (24 February 2021)

Muhamad Sayuti Mansor

On 24 February 2021, the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC-IIUM) organised ‘The International Webinar on Shariah and the Pursuit of Sustainable Societies,’ featuring several prominent Muslim intellectuals, namely: Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato’ Dzulkifli Abdul Razak