

interpretation of shariah. Another biggest challenge is the economic crisis. All of these difficulties and obstacles, Kamali concluded, must be addressed in order for the new Taliban government to gain support and credibility.

The second panellist, Dr. Roy Anthony Rogers, began his presentation by highlighting the new Taliban government's advances and adjustments, which appear to be more realistic. Cooperation with the Taliban, who is currently the country's *de facto* government, is the best strategy for the international world. Malaysian NGOs can play a track two diplomacy role to help the Afghans. Malaysia may fully utilise its multilateral links to bring the Afghanistan's issues to the global attention. Rogers emphasised Afghanistan's potential of achieving peace and stability, noting the success of other war-torn countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

The last panellist, Abdul Razak Ahmad, argued that there is a lack of understanding and contact between the international world and the Taliban, which has frequently resulted in mistrust and misunderstanding. Another concern is the Taliban's connections to terrorism, notably al-Qaeda. According to Dr Razak, the Taliban would use this as political leverage. The possibility of a civil war in Afghanistan remains if the Taliban fail to stabilise the country. As a result, he emphasised the importance of Malaysia considering its strategic regional interests and actively participating in the crisis' resolution. Malaysia could assist Afghanistan by focusing on humanitarian and capacity-building issues and collaborating with more experienced nations such as Pakistan and Iran.

**Webinar: Forum: 'Learning Loss' di Malaysia: Memahami Isu
dan Mencari Solusi
(Learning Loss in Malaysia: Understanding Issues and
Finding Solutions)
(30 September 2021)**

Nurul Ain Norman

Following the Education Ministry's plan to reopen schools nationwide after months of being under the Movement Control Order, IAIS Malaysia, in collaboration with the National Council of Professors Malaysia, held a virtual forum to discuss problems and solutions pertaining to Malaysia's learning loss issue. The forum featured Professor Datuk Dr Raduan Che Ros, President of the National Council of Professors Malaysia; Mrs Nor Hainei Abu Bakar, Malaysia National Teacher Icon 2020; Associate Professor Dr Muhammad

Helmi Norman, Deputy Director of Instructional Technologies of Teaching and Curriculum Development Centre, UKM; and Dr Nurul Ain Norman from IAIS Malaysia as the moderator.

The discussion began with Raduan emphasising the need to conduct empirical research to determine Malaysia's average learning loss crisis and that the measurement should be done according to the National Development Plan 2021. He also suggested that the term "learning gap," which addresses the difference of learning expectation and learning gain, would be seen as more relevant to the educational situation in Malaysia rather than the "learning loss" term. Nor Hainei, in the first round of the forum, laid practical implementation strategies in schools for preventing the long-term impact of learning loss among students. She mentioned that school empowerment is the key aspect of finding suitable ways to curb the problem. This is due to different schools with different backgrounds, problems, abilities, and skills that need particular strategies to deal with their issues. While school improvement depends heavily on the principal's transformational leadership, data-driven development strategies are also fundamental forces to improve pupil and professional learning during the pandemic. She also suggested that the district education offices act as school support hubs that provide digital education resources, guidelines, and training. On the other hand, Muhammad Helmi believes that the educational revolution era relies on teachers who develop creative learning approaches using technology to activate, blend, and strengthen multiple skills in the classrooms. He states that content-wise, face-to-face, home-based, and hybrid learning need to be tailored according to its pedagogy approach and concern its own learning space. In the second round of discussion, the first panellist argues that a new action plan should be devised to provide a clear direction to schools, teachers, and students to achieve purposive goals effectively and timely manner. Quality Schooling Assessments should include learning indicators developed according to the international standard to cover the whole process from supplying educational services, demand factors, and accessibility, to results in terms of educational performance and externalities derived from the enhanced human capital formation. The second panellist favoured the lack of digital readiness among teachers as crucial agents of continuous learning support during the pandemic. She pointed out that a significant barrier existed among teachers and students when access, equipment, connectivity, or skills were lacking. The crisis requires us to rethink how education and training are designed and provided to meet the demands of the pandemic and the digital world. The third panellist suggests that we address the issue of learning loss from the phases of education technology (ed-tech). He identified a four-stage development process in digital education; forming, storming, norming, and performing, where he depicts the

current system as engaging within the second stage of development which is the most critical and challenging stage to pass through. In order to reach the ‘norming stage’ of the ed-tech, the whole system needs to undergo a process of repetition to arrive at a maturity phase of digital transformation.

Online Forum: Systems Thinking and Its Necessity in Managing the Pandemic Crisis (4 October 2021)

Ahmad Badri Abdullah

This online forum featured two prominent personnels in academia and the industry: Associate Professor Dr Ridhwan Fontaine, a business management expert and a lecturer at the Kulliyah of Economics and Management Sciences, Islamic International University Malaysia (IIUM), and Dr Mohd Izhan Mohd Yusuf, an Analytics Consultant at Telekom Malaysia (TM) Berhad and a specialist in statistical analysis. The forum aimed to shed some light on the necessity of resorting to systems thinking to tackle the pandemic situations especially by the authorities and how the approach may resonate with Islamic teachings and principles. More importantly, it was also a discussion of how a systemic mindset may harness our ability to build resilient socio-economic-health systems in the post-pandemic era.

In his session, Ridhwan Fontaine narrated the historical development of systems thinking as a scientific discipline whose main interest is in making sense of the complex phenomena in nature and societies. By using water as an example, Ridhwan explained that an emergence phenomenon is truly a novel situation or substance that does not represent its own components. Systems thinking, according to Fontaine, represents thinking in feedback loops, contrary to the conventional linear cause and effect reasoning, and making sense of how a system operates is a painstaking task. Responding to the issue of how businesses can survive in the pandemic context, Ridhwan suggested that they need to become specialised in their own niche in terms of their product offering. He also advises businesses to brace new ways of doing things as we would never return to a normal situation in the post-pandemic era.

Mohd Izhan Mohd Yusuf proposed that systems dynamic modelling, a tool in systems thinking, be employed before the authorities make policy decisions. Policymakers would be capable of predicting many models of outcomes and scenarios resulting from the policy execution. Systems dynamic modelling would enable policymakers to foresee different models of outcomes and