

scenarios emanating from the implementation of a certain policy. By doing so, it would enable the authorities to minimise bad decision making. The challenge, however, is to collect as much relevant data as possible to be analysed in the systems dynamic software. According to him, no country is using systems thinking as a whole to manage the pandemic issue. However, several countries, like as Korea, Taiwan, and Sweden, have effectively mitigated the negative pandemic consequences by employing some features of systems thinking.

Webinar: Islam & Futures Studies (5 October 2021)

Ahliis Fathoni

Future studies are an interdisciplinary branch of science that seeks to map out the futures of humanity. The establishment of futures studies was motivated by the need to forecast and overcome global crises through a methodical and comprehensive analysis of social, economic, political, scientific, and environmental progress. To explore the Islamic perspectives of future studies, a webinar was organised by IAIS Malaysia on 5th October 2021, featuring two futuristic-thinking Malaysian scholars, Datuk Dr Daud Bakar, President of the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) and Distinguished Professor Tan Sri Dr. Mohd Kamal Hassan, Honorary Advisor of the Centre for Islamisation (CENTRIS), IIUM.

Future thinking and planning are based on an individual's belief system, as well as their conceptualisation and imagination of the future. Mohd Kamal Hassan stated that the Islamic worldview of future studies dictates how to envision futures in our present life and the hereafter. It strikes a balance between humans' roles and responsibilities as vicegerents of earth and their preparedness for life after death.

Future studies can help us predict our near-term futures, such as technology optimisation via quantum computers and 5G, renewable energy development, healthcare paradigm shift, global economic enhancement, engineering and architectural revolution, reversing climate change impacts, and closing the inequality gap. On the other hand, future planning and thinking based on an Islamic worldview should analyse how Muslim nations have diverged from the methodology and approaches provided by divine wisdom and revelation, in order to remedy their faults and failures.

The encouragement of future studies and forward-thinking can be found in the Qur'anic verse: "O you who have believed! Fear Allah, and let every soul look

to what it has put forth for tomorrow” (59:18). According to Dr Daud Bakar, the key characteristics of future studies are predictive and prescriptive, data-driven (qualitative, quantitative or synthetic), objective, multidisciplinary, unbiased, and develop intuitive power of thinking in anticipating the future. Future studies, if embraced and implemented in our daily lives, will transform our understanding of Islam and its teachings in terms of knowledge management, ethics and moral obligations, laws and jurisprudence, and the construction of a sustainable and resilient civilisation for humanity in the social, political, and economic landscapes. The study of Islam should be subjected to natural language generation and processing that can automatically interpret the teachings of the Qur’an and *sunnah* in a well-organised manner. This will help to spread the message of Islam and establish effective communication with the rest of the world.

**Webinar: Malaysia-Australia Regional Roundtable Discussion (RTD):
Preparing for COP26: Curbing Carbon Emissions by Governments,
Civil Society, and Individuals
(Tuesday, 12 October 2021)**

Shahino Mah Abdullah

IAIS Malaysia, in collaboration with Better Futures Australia, hosted a regional webinar to bring together stakeholders and specialists from both countries in discussing the issues, possible effective responses, and actionable recommendations in reducing carbon emission prior to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. The webinar was officiated by Dato’ Seri Ir Dr Zaini Ujang (Secretary General in Ministry of Environment & Water, Malaysia) and featured several local environmental experts and activists including Professor Dato’ Ir Dr Wan Ramli Wan Daud (Founding President, Malaysia Association of Hydrogen Energy), Dr Shaikh Mohd Saifuddeen Shaikh Mohd Salleh (Director, Centre for Science and Environmental Studies, Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia), and Mr Yusaimi Md Yusof (Chairman, Nature Harmony Society Malaysia - GRASS). During the webinar, Zaini Ujang pointed out several measures taken by the government through the Malaysia Climate Change Action Council to reduce 45% carbon intensity based on GDP by 2030, compared to the 2005 level. Wan Ramli stressed the need for Malaysia to seriously adopt renewable energy to reduce its reliance on depleting fossil fuels, and consider alternative energy sources with low or zero emissions. According to Shaikh Mohd Saifuddeen, religion offers invaluable