

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Activities

- National Seminar on The Role and The Importance of Networking i Civilisational Dialogue in Promoting the Concept of 1 Malaysia 1
- Public Lecture Prof. Dr. Alastair Gunn 3
- Public Lecture Prof. Dr. Leonard Swidler 4
- Public Lecture Prof. Dr. Shih-Chung Tristan Hsieh 5

Visiting Scholars

- Prof. Dr. Alastair Gunn 7
- Prof. Dr. Carolina López C. 8
- Prof. Dr. Leonard Swidler 9
- Prof. Dr. Shih-Chung Tristan Hsieh 10

Visit by AMIN Research and Culture Centre 11

Inter-religious Programme 11

Associated Activities 12

Activities for 2010 14

E-mail From Prof. 15

UM UNESCO Club 16

Article on Sustainable Development 18

PUBLICATIONS 20

SEMINAR KEBANGSAAN "PERANAN DAN RANGKAIAN DIALOG PERADABAN MENJAYAKAN SATU MALAYSIA"

National Seminar on The Role and The Importance of Networking in Civilisational Dialogue in Promoting the Concept of 1 Malaysia. 22-23 Disember 2009

Dialogue among Civilisations plays a crucial role for mankind nowadays. Even the United Nations adopted a resolution to name the year 2001 as the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, which signifies that Dialogue has globally risen to prominence. Recognising the importance of Dialogue among Civilisations in Malaysia, the University of Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) has taken the audacious initiative to organise the *Seminar Kebangsaan: "Peranan dan Rangkaian Dialog Peradaban Menjayakan Satu Malaysia"*.

The seminar was held at the Auditorium Tun Mohamed Suffian, Faculty of Law, University of Malaya from December 22 to December 23, 2009 and was officiated by YBhg. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zarida Hambali, Director of the Academic Division, the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia.



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PLANNED EVENTS FOR THE YEAR 2010

VISITING SCHOLARS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Professor Dr Carolina López | ~ 1 October 2009 - 31 September 2010 |
| 2. Dr. Timothy Rackett | ~ 2 March 2010 - 1 Mac 2011 |
| 3. Miss Anna Shimpo | ~ 2 May 2010 - 7 May 2010 |
| 4. Professor Dr. Samuel O. Imbo | ~ 1 June 2010 - 31 August 2010 |
| 5. Professor Dr. Sami Adwan | ~ 15 June 2010 - 26 June 2010 |
| 6. Professor Dr. Alastair Gunn | ~ 15 July 2010 - 15 October 2010 |
| 7. Professor Dr. Fumiaki Taniguchi | ~ 10 September 2010 - 25 September 2010 |
| 8. Professor Dr. Carl Ernst | ~ 20 September 2010 - 15 October 2010 |
| 9. Professor Dr. Robert Eisenman | ~ 1 October 2010 - 31 October 2010 |

EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
19 February 2010	Seminar on Bridging Bridges: "The Role of Religion"
24-25 February 2010	<i>Bengkel Perspektif Pelbagai Agama dan Budaya Mengenai Bioetika Di Malaysia</i>
12-18 March 2010	86 th Seminar Study Tour by Konan University, Japan
26 March 2010	Public Lecture entitled "Conflict Transformation in Multi-Religious Societies Through the Ideological-Structural Analysis" by Profesor Dr. Caroline Lopez, Director Centre for Dialogue and Human Wellbeing University Teo de Monterrey, Campus Chihuahua, Mexico
31 March 2010	<i>Wacana Tamadun Melayu: Falsafah Tamadun Melayu anjuran bersama Akademi Pengajian Melayu</i>
10-15 May 2010	Asia-Arab Philosophical Dialogues
17 May 2010	<i>Dialog Kehidupan Ke II: Ke arah Pemangkinan Satu Malaysia anjuran Pusat Dialog Peradaban Universiti Malaya dan Jabatan Perpaduan Negara & Integrasi Nasional</i>
1 June 2010	International Conference on Islam and Confucianism
30 June 2010	<i>Wacana Tamadun Melayu: Definisi Tamadun Melayu</i>
9 July 2010	Public Lecture by Dr. Whitney A. Bauman, Assistant Professor of Religion and Science, Florida International University, Miami, entitled "Religion, Gender & Nature".
27-28 July 2010	Course "Building Bridges: Harnessing Collective Wisdom for Building National Unity
July 2010 (TBC)	International Conference on Ibn Sina and His Contribution by Centre for Civilisational Dialogue University of Malaya and Iran Counsellorship, Embassy of Iran
3-4 August 2010	Visit by Waseda University, Japan
18-21 Sept. 2010	International Seminar on "Sustainable Health Promotion: Dialogue on Well-being & Human Security by the Environmental health
December 2010 (TBC)	International Conference on Civilisational Dialogue
3 December 2010	<i>Wacana Tamadun Melayu: Epistemologi Tamadun Melayu</i>

E-MAIL FROM PROFESSOR TANIGUCHI FUMIAKI ON HIS STAY AT THE CCD IN AUGUST 2009

I was invited as a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and stayed for 15 days, enjoying three lectures and participation in NGOs' seminars as a panelist. I would like to report the experiences of the events in turn according to dates.

The first lecture for a graduate course was about "Environmental Education based on Environmental Ethics: Searching for the Solution to Environmental Problems" on August 6, 2009. The graduate students were very interested in acquiring knowledge and information from a foreign scholar. They were interested in the environmental and political affairs of Japan. I introduced Japanese environmental education as an implementing method for the solution of environmental problems. In the lecture, I stressed the importance of applied ethics to help us progress toward solutions for environmental problems, which is environmental education based on environmental ethics. Then environmental issues could be solved under the common viewpoint of working toward a sustainable future.



Picture 1: Public Lecture on Environmental Philosophy

The second public lecture was titled "Environmental Philosophy: A comparison between Japan and the West through Environmental Education based on Environmental Ethics" on August 7, 2009 (picture 1). I introduced the difference between the Japanese way of thinking and the Western way of thinking. The former is common to the Asian way of thinking based on feeling or affection, while the latter is a logical way of thinking from the ego-conscious viewpoint which is inclined to be egoistic by scientific dualism. So, I emphasized the importance of the freedom from the ego-consciousness. After the lecture there was an interesting opinion from a lady in the audience. She said that peacefulness arises from living in equanimity. As a primitive freedom from ego-consciousness, this might mean that we should go back to the simple life, abandoning the present situation and property. I answered her opinion that we don't need to go back the primitive life in reality, but we should live according to the alternative way of life within our own desire just to maintain ourselves to be content for a sustainable future.

The third lecture for undergraduate students was on "Environmental Education based on Environmental Ethics: Regarding Environmental Education in Practice and Environmental Ethics in theory" on August 11, 2009. The students were very curious to meet the foreign scholar. I felt that they were very genuine and earnest to directly know the information concerning

Japanese environmental education in practice. I showed the documentary VTR of deformed monkeys in Awaji Island in Hyogo Prefecture and Minamata Disease in Minamata City in Kumamoto Prefecture. Both of them were caused by food polluted with agricultural chemicals or organic mercury in Japan.

The last speech was the participation in session 5 at the seminar "The Role of NGOs in promoting Dialogue across Values & Cultures" on August 19, 2009. I felt the necessity of respect for a particular culture and religion. Especially, I learned that religion is steadily stabilized in the Malaysian Society. I was impressed by the phrase that through interfaith, inter-cultural/inter-civilisational dialogue, we "come here for a word which is common between you and us" (Quran, Chapter 3). I asserted the importance of the recreation of our own particular culture after inter-culture/inter-civilisation as the role of NGOs.

Furthermore, I was very happy to have the opportunity to research as a visiting scholar at CCD, which gave me a chance for academic exchange among the scholars at University of Malaya and made friendly relationships with the CCD members. We went together to Malacca and learned the history, which still required us to have mutual dialogue. And also we made a trial of setting up a network for environmental education between University of Malaya and Konan University to keep closely contact with each other.

On the last day I had the students of a graduate course play the sandplay therapy, or the Sandplay World, to look through the inner environment, or the mental environment, which has been scarcely dealt with so far (picture 2). But it is very important to acknowledge the area of the inner world psychologically because polluted mind, egoism, caused the destructions of outer world such as natural and social environment.

I really appreciate Prof. Azizan and her colleagues for giving me an opportunity to enjoy lectures and research at the CCD of University of Malaya.



Picture 2: Sandplay World with toys to look through Mind Environment