NEWSLETTER

News and updates from Institute of Policy Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

IPS

Institute of Policy Studies
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

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Welcome to Volume 2, No. 2, of the IPS Newsletter. Although the first quarter of the year has gone, we hope it's not too late to wish you a Happy New Year 2018. In this edition, we report on the events at the Institute happening between the months of January and April. We hope you enjoy our Newsletter and wish a productive year ahead!

FRESH ADDITIONS TO IPS OFFICE

Monday, 8 January 2018 - The IPS office held a Tahlil and Doa Kesyukuran ceremony earlier this year to mark our entry into the new semester. The event was also held to welcome new members of the IPS family. It was a way to give thanks to Allah, the Almighty, for His continued blessings to our work as individuals and as a team. The new members of IPS consist of staff from the i-Ready Apprenticeship Programme, under the auspices of the Energy and Industry Department (EIDi), Government of Brunei Darussalam. The Programme allows graduates to gain work experience and build their work experience in various industries in both the public and private sectors.

At IPS, the interns perform duties as research assistants, or working administrative assistants, as well as building their capacities in editorial work, content-creation, social media management and marketing, and learning to enhance their people-to-people skills. Our i-Ready interns are Dyg Farimahzuzahrah binti Abu Suffian, Muhammad Safwan bin Haji Mohd Azmi, Muhammad Nawi bin Muhammad Shahrin, and Fathin Marziyah binti Muhammad Sulaiman.

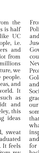
FUN AND FITNESS WEDNESDAYS

IPS jointly hosted two separate fitness sessions on 31 January and on 28 March with the Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL) and the Institute of Health & Environment for Islamic Studies (IOSIC). In each session, participants were led by a fitness instructor in group High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) at the UBD Sports Complex.

FAREWELL TO DR. HJ. AZAHARAINI

Monday, 19th February 2018 - A lunch gathering for our senior colleague, Dr. Hj. Azaharaini bin Haji Jamit, was held at All Seasons Restaurant in Batu Satu, to bid farewell and give our appreciation for his services and contributions to IPS all these years. Dr. Hj. Azaharaini is continuing his career as the Chief Executive Officer of a local private college in the country.

We would like to convey our heartfelt gratitude for his friendship and for imparting his knowledge, wisdom and experience in the fields of Education Policy, Public Policy and Public Administration. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours, and we will certainly miss his presence at the office!



SEMINAR SERIES: ENERGY AND ECO POLICY IN JAPAN

Wednesday, 7th March 2018 - IPS jointly organised a seminar with the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) on "Energy and Eco Policy in Japan", which was presented by His Excellency, Mr. Motofuki Kato, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in Brunei.

In His Excellency's presentation, he emphasised several ways towards achieving sustainable development. He stressed on the use of solar power and eco-friendly vehicles that produce less harmful impact to the environment.

Citing the example of Japanese society, His Excellency highlighted that attitudes toward energy conservation should begin at the individual and family levels that enable everyday practices to be built on the principles of conservation, cleanliness, and sustainable living.

Public attitudes and practices towards energy conservation need to be aligned with policy-making and the right infrastructure

They say that you learn from the institution you're in. I say this is half true. The best institutions like UC Berkeley attract the best people, in the best lectures, researchers and students. While we learn a lot from our research and access to millions of superb database and literature, we also learn the most from the people. People with big stories, big ideas, and big dreams of changing the world. It proved to be a visionary alumna such as Jessie Yuvasiska, Eric Schmidt and Chris Anderson, in UC Berkeley, this is where big game changing ideas are born.

After five months of blood, sweat and tears, we have finally graduated from UCB and it feels great. It feels like a load has been lifted from my shoulders. We graduated with wonderful people from different parts of the world and all of us are pumped up to make a difference.

From our very own Institute of Policy Studies of UBD are myself and Tuan Badrul Hisham bin Tuan Jasoh, who works with the Government of Malaysia. Our counterparts come from India, New Zealand, and the UAE.

Professor Henry Brady, Dean at the Goldman School of Public Policy and Professor Jeff Edmeon, Dean of Social Welfare also graced the graduation ceremony to present us our certificates and parted with great words of wisdom. They told us that we were able to hold whatever knowledge and inspiration from the University and in the US and make an impact for the betterment of our people back home. That, we will certainly do.

Article by Nadiah Abu Bakar, MPPM 4th Cohort, in Berkeley, May 2018.

FEATURE: FROM BERKELEY TO BRUNEI, READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our 4th cohort Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) student, Ms. Nadiah Abu Bakar writes about her experience in completing her semester abroad at University California, Berkeley in early 2018.

"Maintaining the conversation on Islamic Governance is an important strategic focus for IPS in order to enhance UBD's academic and intellectual proficiencies by creating a constructive intellectual space for academics, policy makers, policy implementers, researchers, students, and the general public to share their opinions and experiences"

- Dr. Mohani Hj. Hamdan Director of IPS

4th ISLAMIC GOVERNANCE SYMPOSIUM: THE GOVERNANCE OF CONFLICT

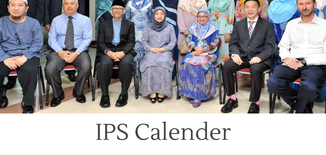
Saturday, 7th March 2018 - The Institute has once again organised its annual Islamic Governance Symposium, this time, in its fourth year running. The one-day event focused on the theme: "The Governance of Conflict", which builds on previous symposia in the last three years. The event was attended by more than 200 guests, including Associate Professor Dr. Ayub Sadiq, Assistant Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) of UBD, who officiated the event; the senior management members of UBD; professors and lecturers; graduate students from within Brunei and neighbouring countries; government officials; members of the private sector; and private individuals from various backgrounds.

This year's symposium also marked a new milestone for the Institute, as it was the first of the symposia to be wholly organised and led by IPS Islamic Governance research studies.

Revolving upon the theme of "conflict" from an Islamic Governance perspective, the theme is a continuation of the discussion held during the previous three symposia. All seven papers presented serve to highlight the different possible views, issues and challenges towards integrating the various organisational functions in an Islamic system of governance as a cohesive organisational unit.

IPS SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, 8th April 2018 - In celebration of the success of the 4th Islamic Governance Symposium, IPS organised a Sunday Brunch at Anjung Layar Lutecut, Serasa Beach. The informal get-together was graced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah and Doa Kesyukuran for the success of the Symposium, and to give thanks to Allah Almighty for the tremendous support given by the speakers of the symposium, the graduate students' working committee of IPS, as well as the many volunteers who made the event a success.



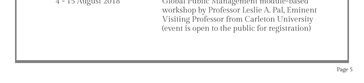
Besides IPS members, the brunch was also attended by invited international speaker Dr. Sher Banu A. L. Khan from National University of Singapore (NUS) and her spouse Dr. Ayub Sadiq, Assistant Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) of UBD, Dr. Shamslah Zuraini Kanchanawat binti Haji Tajuddin, Dean of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE), UBD, and Professor Glen Hardaker, Director of Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL), UBD.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF HART ISLAMIC GOVERNANCE LIBRARY AT IPS

Monday, 23rd April 2018 - IPS is pleased to announce the official opening of the HART Islamic Governance Library, which is located at the IPS Office, 1st Floor, IIIA Building. The opening event was officiated by the Vice Chancellor, Yang Mulia Datin Dr. Anita Binsrul Zahrina binti POKLIM DIS Hj. Awang Abdul Aziz.

The HART Library is a reference-only facility, and offers a unique collection of resources centred on the study of Islam, Governance, and Public Policy. It caters and provides researchers with an intellectual space for a more profound study on Islamic Governance.

One of the components of IPS's strategy is to build expansive knowledge resources for research. We also aim to attract research students of high calibre, in order to grow our expertise and cement our lead in the field worldwide.



IPS Calender

5 May 2018	Policy Dialogue with members of the Legislative Council
30 May 2018	Seminar on Electricity Tariff Reforms and Energy Poverty Implications by Dr. Romeo Pacudan
23 June 2018	Master Students' Research Project (MSRP) Final Presentation
25 June - 12 July 2018	The Madinian Policy: Visions of Islamic Governance
16 - 22 July 2018	Islamic Governance Summer Programme
23 - 29 July 2018	Orientation Week
4 - 15 August 2018	Global Public Management module-based workshop by Professor Leslie A. Pal, Eminent Visiting Professor from Carleton University (event is open to the public for registration)