The Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) is a Graduate School of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), which was established in 2013. IPS specialises in unique niche areas of Public Policy, Public Management, Islamic Governance, and Energy & Environmental Policy and Management. IPS offers both taught and research degree programmes that are catered for local and international students with diverse academic and professional backgrounds. The Institute’s mission is best captured in the following: “To produce top policy graduates with the best leadership qualities, equipped with excellent foundation of knowledge and marketable skills, who will make a real difference to their nation, society, and the wider global community”.

The Symposium featured women scholars presenting varying topics, which ranged from the use of Maqasid al Shari`ah to Muslim women in leadership roles. On the second day, talks consisted of themes covering history, Islamic International Relations, Islamic financial framework, and health policy, by our international and local scholars, practitioners, and graduate researchers.

This year’s symposium had the honour of receiving sponsorship and support from various companies and individuals. IPS UBD are extremely grateful for their contributions. We would also like to sincerely thank all participants and speakers who came to the First IIGS.

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First International Islamic Governance Symposium

2019 at a Glance

The First International Islamic Governance Symposium

IPS Collaboration with Defence Academy, RBAF

Research Highlight: Energy and Climate Change Policy Research at IPS

News on our students: 5th and 6th Cohorts of MPPM

IPS Seminar Series: More information inside

Educational Trip and Retreat to Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre & Ulu Temburong

Social News and Events

Alumni Article: Reflections by Buba K. Touray
Meanwhile on Thursday, 10th October 2019, the 9th cohort of the Command and Staff Course completed and graduated with the Certificate of Diploma of Defence and Security Studies and passed Staff Course Junior (PSC(j)). The graduation ceremony was held at Auditorium, Defence Academy, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Tanah Jambu. This marked the completion of the 9th CSC/GDSS programme, which spanned 40 weeks and delivered by UBD through IPS/ILIA.

Present as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi Bin Haji Mohammad Yussof, Second Minister of Defence. The event commenced with the recitation with Surah Al-Fatihah and verses from Surah An-Nisa by Major Alwaleed Rashid Mohammed Alkhyumi from Royal Air Force of Oman, the CSC9 participants.

During the ceremony, a number of special recognition awards were presented to the students of the 9th cohort of CSC. During this event, UBD awarded the student with Academic Excellence Award, which was given to Major Dai Jing from the Singapore Armed Forces, for achieving the highest grade point average score across all academic modules in the Graduate Diploma (CSC) programme. Congratulations to all!
Welcoming MPPM 6th Cohort & Farewell to 5th Cohort

On Tuesday, 23rd July 2019, IPS received and welcomed our 6th Cohort MPPM and this year, we also welcomed Master of Defence and Security Studies (MDSS) students to the faculty with an institute orientation session. The event was held at the Masywarah Room, and began with a briefing by IPS academic and administrative staff, followed with a sharing session from the outgoing 5th Cohort students.

The C6 students are Mr. Fayiz Badran from Jordan, Ms. Mastulah Nakalule from Uganda, Ms. Mas Liza Maslan from Malaysia, Colonel Hj. Haszahaidi Hj. Ahmad Daud and Ms. Masridah Hj. Mahmud from Brunei. During this event, IPS also bid farewell to our outgoing 5th cohort MPPM students with a presentation of souvenirs.

We wish all the best to our new students in their studies.

Bidding Adieu to our International Alumni

August 1st, 2019 - We bid goodbye to our MPPM student from Russia, Ms. Lidiia Voevodina. Meanwhile, our other alumni Buba Touray from Gambia left in September. We wish them well in their future endeavours!
My name is Buba K. Touray. I am 32 years old from The Republic of the Gambia, West Africa. I was among the 5th Cohort MPPM Scholars 2018/19. Sometime in June 2018, I won one of the most competitive scholarships in the world to pursue the Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) Programme at the Institute of Policy Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. I am now the second African student to receive this prestigious scholarship, which is different from the regular Brunei Government scholarships, which took me on an academic odyssey to South East Asia and North America.

MPPM is a well-organised and well-designed programme, it is structured in such a way that the scholars are well exposed and well prepared for the future challenges and current issues surrounding Public Policy and other related policy problems. At some point the scholars of the MPPM at IPS can learn far beyond the boundaries of the classroom and interact with people of walks of life through seminars and conferences.

As the fifth cohort of MPPM scholars, I had the privilege to participate in a series of seminars, conferences and workshops organised by the Institute of Policy Studies, which further enabled me to interact with people of all walks of life. This has further helped me to build confidence in public speaking, presentation skills which have improved both my critical analysis and interpersonal skills. I am beyond thrilled to be among the three international students selected and being the only African student to be selected for this prestigious scholarship last year. I was extremely lucky to benefit from this scholarship from a highly competitive pool of applicants.

As for my experience in Brunei Darussalam, studying in Brunei has not only given me the opportunity to receive quality education, but also further afforded me excellent critical thinking skills, which has impacted positively in my life. Meeting with diverse groups of International Students in Brunei has added advantage for me.

This has helped me to learn and share new knowledge and ideas with both local and international students. Through my interaction with other international students I was able to learn a lot. In a nutshell, I strongly believe that Brunei is a safe haven for International Students. The country is not only blessed with high quality standard of education, but also has very high-quality health care system, which is cheap and affordable for international students. Brunei has one of the finest and conducive environments for learning. The generosity of people of Brunei has also been memorable for me.

It is my dream to pursue PhD in Brunei if I have the opportunity. I gained very good knowledge and experience particularly in terms of Islamic knowledge, whereas before coming to Brunei I had a very limited knowledge in Islam, thanks to this programme I was able to study both Political Islam and Islamic Governance as part of the major requirements. Upon successful completion of these two modules my knowledge in Islam has greatly increased. I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the staff and the management of IPS, UBD, colleagues and the entire people of Brunei for this scholarship award. I am very grateful and I really appreciate this unique opportunity.

- Buba K. Touray, The Gambia
Research Highlight:  
Energy and Climate Change Policy Research Initiatives at IPS

The Energy Policy and Management (EPM) Cluster of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) has been involved in several energy and climate change policy research studies since its inception 2 years ago attracting financial support from various research grants and consultancies.

These initiatives were sparked by UBD’s initial grant on the 'Deployment of Low-Carbon Energy and Transport Technologies: Policy Options and Implications for Brunei Darussalam' with the overall research objective of undertaking policy research that promotes the deployment of low-carbon and environmentally friendly energy and transport technologies in Brunei Darussalam.

Another research grant was provided by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on the Theoretical and Empirical Studies on Energy Poverty in the ASEAN' with the objective of undertaking an analysis on energy poverty implications of electricity tariff reforms. Other research activities carried by the EPM Cluster are in collaboration with the Brunei National Energy Research Institute (BNERI). This includes, i) a grant provided by the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST) to carry out a seminar-roundtable discussion on the 'Role of Hydrogen in ASEAN Energy Transition', and ii) a research consultancy on 'Electricity License Fees Study' for the Electricity Authority of Brunei Darussalam to develop a methodology for electricity industry license fees.

EPM also participates in several BNERI consultancy projects such as; i) Road Map for Energy Management Policy in Brunei Darussalam, ii) Study on Shifting to Hydrogen Society in Brunei Darussalam, and iii) Feasibility Study of Floating Solar PV. In the field of climate change policy, EPM regularly participates and provides inputs to various initiatives of the Brunei Climate Change Secretariat. Other activities include, i) chapter contribution to a book project of Boston University’s Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, entitled Governing Climate Change: Critical Perspective from Southeast Asia, ii) participation in a regional research network in Southeast Asia on Climate Geoengineering initiated by Boston University, Hong kong University of Science and Technology and Solar Radiation Governance Management Initiatives.

With the support from the Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry (MEMI) and ERIA, EPM organised a national workshop on 'Brunei Darussalam's Transition to Green Buildings' in November 2018. Another roundtable event on the 'Role of Hydrogen in ASEAN Energy Transition' will be organise in February 2020 in collaboration with MEMI, ERIA and ASEAN COST.

EPM's principal investigator, Associate Professor Dr Romeo Pacudan presented a paper in a by-invitation only international workshop on the transition of Power Systems organised by the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan, with the support from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry on 18 and 19 March 2019 in Tokyo, Japan, presenting a paper on Power System Transition Scenarios for Brunei Darussalam. Dr Pacudan also chaired the 8th Meeting of the Energy Research Institute Network (ERIN) held in Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel on 1 September 2019.

ERIN also co-organised the 2nd East Asia Energy Forum held in the Athenee Hotel on 2 September 2019. The forum was also attended by 3 ASEAN energy ministers including Brunei’s Energy Minister, Dr Awang Haji Mat Suny Bin Haji Mohammad Hussein.
IPS Seminar Series

On Wednesday, 13th March 2019, IPS organised its first Seminar Series Session for the year 2019/2020 on Islamic Governance on the Health Care of Brunei Darussalam by Miss Syazana, who have just recently graduated in Master of Islamic Governance.

On Thursday, 3rd September 2019, IPS held its second Seminar Series on Technocracy as Power: Smart Cities in Theory and Practice presented by Our Eminent Visiting Professor, Assistant Professor, Dr Kris Hartley, from the Education University of Hong Kong.

On Saturday, 14th September 2019, IPS seminar continues with a lecture on Identifying ‘Great People’: Solving Teacher Recruitment and Retention presented by Dr Hamizah Haidi, PhD in Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge.

On 30th October 2019, IPS organised a closed info-sharing session and welcomed a Fellow Visiting Professor, Dr. Scott Valentine, a Professor and Associate Dean of Sustainability and Urban Planning from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University.

During the session, he shared a talk on the topic, "Productivity 2.0: Circular Economy".

In his talk, he emphasised that productivity and profitability can be achieved through resource efficiency and Closed Loop Strategies, which are aimed to minimise waste, ensuring the proper conservation of our natural environment.

"Darkness to Light" in Islamic Corporate Governance

Before the end of 2019, IPS organised one last seminar on 'Darkness to Light' in Islamic Corporate Governance, presented by Dr Iznan Tarip. His presentation stressed on the ‘dark side’ of organisations, which not only involves a corrupting mechanism in general, but also specific issues that are purposefully ‘brushed under the carpet’ by such organisations.

Not only by looking through the dark side from the Islamic perspective, but Dr Iznan also analysed the 'light side', as part of the dynamic interplay between good and bad, which also inevitably form 'grey' areas, in which organisational members struggle to navigate. The seminar also illustrated a case study, which explored the interplay and proposal of strategies for organisations to achieve equilibrium.
An Appreciation and Farewell to Associate Professor, Dr. Abu Umar Faruq

Monday, 25th February 2019, with much gratitude and appreciation, we bid farewell to our dear Associate Professor, Dr. Abu Umar Faruq, who is to further pursue his career at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah.

Thank you Dr. Umar for all your contributions and friendship. Best wishes from all your colleagues and students at UBD.

2019 Hari Raya Aidilfitri

On Tuesday, 25th June 2019, IPS organised its own Hari Raya "Open Office" together with colleagues from C3L, TLC and ILIA. This year's event was held at Ground Floor, ILIA Attrium.

We received many guests from all over the university - Dean, Directors, Lecturers, Assistant Registrars, and Students from other faculties and Institutes, including Datin Dr. Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina Binti POKLWDSS Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, UBD Vice Chancellor.

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to those who came to our open office and we hope you enjoy the food and company!

Educational Trip and Retreat to Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre & Ulu Temburong

On Wednesday, 7th August 2019, IPS staff and MPPM Students made a retreat and educational trip to the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre (KBFSC) and Ulu Temburong National Park.

The educational trip was an effort to engage with nature in order to understand the context of environmental preservation, research and education, especially pertaining to the management and coordination of activities at the Centre as well as Brunei’s National Parks.

This is much of relevance to our interests in Energy and Environmental Policy and Management, as well as to students of the Master of Public Policy and Management Programme. IPS in aim to show Brunei’s unique rainforests and its potential for current and future conservation and how that interacts with tourism opportunities.

Lunch with Dr. Scott Valentine

Tuesday, 30th October 2019, IPS academics, staff and MPPM Students joined Director of IPS, Dr. Mahani Hj. Hamdan, and Visiting professor Dr. Scott Valentine for lunch at the Simpur Herbal Restaurant on campus.

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