

# IPS Newsletter

News and Updates from the Institute of Policy Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

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*Welcome to the new Semester of the Academic Year, 2022-2023! In this edition of the IPS Newsletter, we report on the events that spanned the months of July to December, 2022. We hope you enjoy this edition!*

## Semester 1, 2022-2023 Orientation

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022** - IPS organised a Faculty Orientation session for our new students enrolled under the Master Degree Programmes by Coursework and By Research, entering this semester. We welcomed nine new students under various programmes this semester: Under the Master in Public Policy and Management (MPPM) are Pg. Hj. Mohammad Khairul Anuar bin Pg. Hj. Ahmad, Dyg. Norsyamimi binti Mohammad Ramli, and Dyg. Khairul Bariah binti Ahmad; under the Master of Defence and Security Studies (MDSS) were: Major Mohamad Azmi bin Hj. Afflon, Lt. Cdr. Hj. Abdul Hafiz Mubarak bin Hj. Rusli, Major Pg. Baharuddin bin Pg. Hj. Ali, Tuan Jaya bin Liomar, and Major Hjh. Norul Hafidzah binti Hj. Mohammad. IPS also welcomed Dk. Nur Ihsan binti Pg. Kamis who begins her Master in Islamic Governance (By Research) programme.

The session was held at the Mawardi Global Classroom (MGC) and in attendance were Dr. Mahani Hj. Hamdan, Director of the Institute of Policy Studies and staff of the institute.

The orientation started with the opening remarks by the Director, followed by briefing on the IPS Programmes by Ms. Norainie @Nikki Ahmad, Graduate Programme Coordinator (GPC), and Ms. Ainie Fazilah, Assistant Executive Officer 1 on administrative matters.



# IPS Graduates Receive their Certificates at the 34<sup>th</sup> UBD Convocation Ceremony

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022** – UBD held its 34<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony to celebrate the graduating students from the of 2022 at the UBD's Chancellor Hall. This year saw a total of 1,028 graduates, consisting of 18 PhD graduates, 296 Master Graduates, 703 Bachelor graduates as well as 11 Diploma recipients.

This year, IPS witnessed two graduates of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cohort Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) programme, namely Lt. Colonel (U) Pg. Hasrul Ariffin bin Pg. Hj. Rosley and Commander Hj. Nor Ariwwin bin Hj. Mohammad Ali; four graduates from the Master of Defence and Security Studies (MDSS) programme: Major Pg. Mohamad Ezul Hazrin bin Pg. Hj. Zohaini, Major Erawan bin Hj. Abu Bakar, Major Nurulain Rawiah binti Hj. Mohammad Raub, and Major Franco Fabia Baylon from the Philippines; and two graduates from the Master in Islamic Governance (By Research) namely: Captain Mohammad Syahril-Amin bin Pehin Dato Hj. Abdu'r Rahmani, and Ms. Nurul Fatin Hazimah binti Zulkifli.



***Congratulations from IPS  
and best wishes on the next  
chapter in your careers!***



# Farewell to IPS Research Assistants and Postdoctoral Fellow

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022** – IPS organised a lunch gathering held at IPS general office, to bid farewell to two of our research assistants/interns, Ms. Nurul Nabilah Roslan and Mr. Zulzidnie Syafa'atullah Zulkifeli, who have left to pursue their careers. Both RAs assisted with IPS faculty grant research that focused on public policies during the pandemic. IPS also would like to thank both RAs who assisted the Institute in administrative and clerical tasks – and played an

active role in participating and coordinating IPS events throughout their services. IPS wishes both of our RAs all the best starting their careers. Zulzidnie will officially join the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Nabilah who is pursuing an iReady apprenticeship role as Research Assistant under the Ministry of Education.



In a separate event on **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**, IPS hosted a *tahlil* and *do'a arwah* marking the end of Semester 1, 2022/2023. After refreshments, a parting gift was presented to IPS postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Hamizah Hj. Haidi, who leaves the Institute to pursue her postdoctoral career in SHBIE. During her time at IPS, Dr. Hamizah conducted research and co-taught two modules, namely Research Methodology, and The Madinian Polity: Visions of Islamic Governance. In attendance to the event were IPS students, friends, and colleagues from ILIA and C3L.

# CSC12 Closing Ceremony:

## 42 Officers Complete the 12<sup>th</sup> RBAF Command and Staff Course (CSC)/GDSS Programme

**Tanah Jambu, Friday, 14 October 2022** – A total of 42 officers completed the 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Command and Staff Course (CSC), a 40-week programme, in a closing ceremony held at the Defence Academy RBAF (DA RBAF) today.

Present as Guest of Honour was Yang Mulia Brigadier General (Retired) Dato Seri Pahlawan Hj. Abdul Razak bin Hj. Abd. Kadir, Deputy Minister of Defence. Also present were the Commander of the RBAF, Deputy Commissioner of Police Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Defence, Service Commanders, Deputy Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Defence, representatives from foreign missions in Brunei Darussalam, the

Assistant Vice-Chancellor of University Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Directors, resident and non-resident Defence Advisors and Attachés to Brunei Darussalam, Commandants, Deputy Director of Internal Security Department, UBD faculty members, as well as senior RBAF officers.

The event commenced with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah and Surah Al-Mujadilah (Verses 10-13) led by Major Pg. Muhd Khairuddin bin Pg. Hj Mohd Tali, one of the course participants. This continued with welcoming remarks by Colonel Pg. Sharifuddin bin Pg. Hj Yusof, Commandant of the Defence Academy RBAF, followed with an official closing speech by the Guest of Honour. The Deputy Minister of Defence emphasised the importance of participants taking advantage of the knowledge and training attained during the course to become capable leaders and adaptable to the evolving environment and any security threats. He added that future leaders should be innovative and critical thinkers in facing future challenges and reminded participants to remain resilient, adaptable and courageous as well as capable of addressing contemporary challenges.





As with previous years, numerous special recognition awards were also presented to the participants. For this year, the RBAF CSC Overall Excellence Award and the Academic Excellence Award were presented to Major Jonathan Edward D'Cruz from the Singapore Armed Forces. In addition, the RBAF Commendation Award was given to Dayang Nur Khadijah binti Ramli from the Ministry of Defence and the Commandant's Award was presented to Major Abdul Aziz bin Hj. Razali from the Royal Brunei Land Force. Nur Khadijah binti Ramli from the Ministry of Defence and the Commandant's Award was presented to Major Abdul Aziz bin Hj. Razali from the Royal Brunei Land Force.

Additionally, successful course participants will be awarded the UBD Graduate Diploma in Defence and Security Studies with an opportunity to pursue their Master's degree in Defence and Security Studies at UBD.

The 12th RBAF CSC participants comprised officers from the RBAF, RBPF, Ministry of Defence and the Internal Security Department, as well as 15 international participants from 12 countries: Australia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sultanate of Oman, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Singapore and the United Kingdom.

The course, delivered in partnership with UBD, aims to broaden officers' perspectives and professional expertise using practical and academic approaches and disciplines to explore the current strategic environment issues and their implications for those in the defence and security related fields.

**News Source: MINDEF.**

# Official Visit from RBAF Religious Directorate



**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022** – IPS hosted an official delegation as part of a study visit from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Religious Directorate (*Jabatanarah Agama ABDB, or JAMAAT*), which comprised of 20 officers. The delegation was headed by the JAMAAT Acting Director, Commander Hj. Ainolizam bin Hj. Ibrahim, Royal Brunei Navy (RBN). Receiving the delegation was Director of Institute of Policy Studies, Dr. Mahani Hj. Hamdan, with academic and administrative staff of the Institute. The event was held at the Mawardi Global Classroom at IPS.

The event was officiated with the welcoming remarks by Dr. Mahani, followed by a briefing on programmes offered at IPS by lecturer and Graduate Programme Coordinator, Ms. Norainie @Nikki Ahmad.



After the briefing, the delegation also had the opportunity to listen to a presentation by Tuan Hj Rozan Yunos, on *Perlaksanaan Maqasid Al-Shariah: Perspektif Organisasi*, which was then followed by a question and answer session.

The purpose and aim of the visit was to gain exposure to IPS programmes and activities, particularly on our niche area of Islamic Governance. On the day of the visit, the delegation also had the opportunity to visit Sultan Omar' Ali Saifuddien Centre of Islamic Studies (SOASCIS) and UBD Library in the morning.



Dr. Mahani Hj. Hamdan receiving gifts from Acting Director of JAMAAT, Commander Hj. Ainolizam bin Hj. Ibrahim.



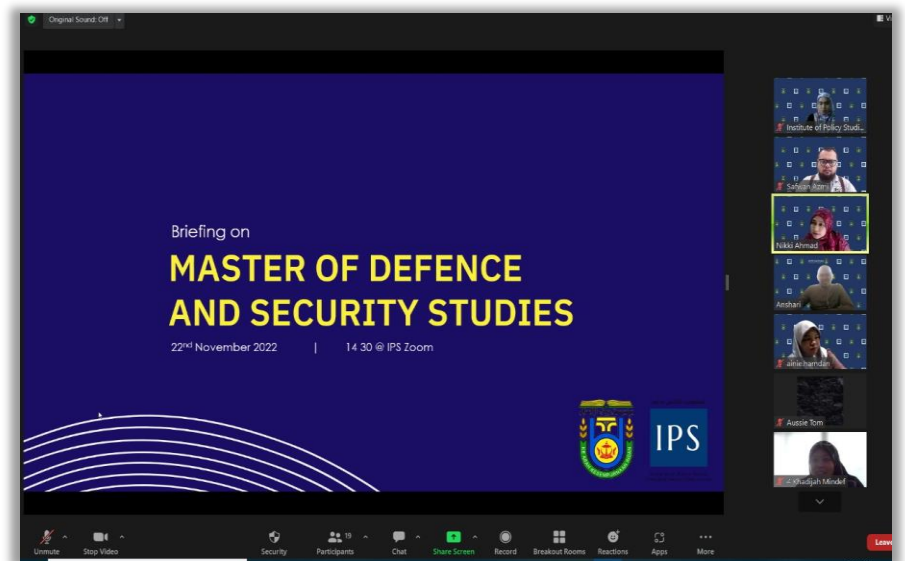
# MDSS Briefing Held Online

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – IPS organised a briefing on the Master of Defence and Security Studies (MDSS) programme for prospective students interested in applying for the programme next year. This programme is designed specifically for graduates who have successfully obtained their Graduate Diploma of Defence and Security Studies (GDSS) by Coursework at the Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

The briefing was led by Ms. Norainie @Nikki Ahmad, Graduate Programme Coordinator of IPS, and attended by 15 GDSS Graduates from Cohort 12. Both local and international graduates were present including Lt. Col. Jonny Carey from the United Kingdom, Major Thomas Michael Usher from Australia, Lt. Cdr. Renato P. Sun from The Philippines, Lt. Col. Faisal Mohammad Alajmi from Arab Saudi; Major Nasser bin Ahmed bin Salem Ambusaidi from Oman, Major Mohammad Ashafiq bin Abdul Aziz from Malaysia, and Major Prima Wahyudi from Indonesia.

In the briefing, the students were introduced to a step-by-step online application process, and important information on entry requirements and fees, programme structure and the Research Proposal submission requirements.

The briefing was also attended by Dr. Anshari Ali, Deputy Director of IPS and Ms. Ainie Hamdan, Assistant Executive Officer I to further clarify administrative matters in relation to the programme.



# Climate Change: UK COP26 Visit to IPS



**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022** – IPS received a courtesy visit and hosted a discussion on Climate Change: UK COP26 Presidency, presented by His Excellency Mr. Kenneth O’Flaherty, the Ambassador for COP26 Regional of Asia – Pacific and South Asia.

His Excellency briefly introduced the UK’s Presidency of the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference of the parties (COP26) – which was officially launched in 2019. The goal of COP26 is to keep alive the hope of limiting global temperature rise to about 1.5°C.

With this aim, the Glasgow Climate Pact was officially introduced to achieve this – while working together with different countries to raise their climate ambitions. However, although Glasgow has kept the 1.5 degrees in reach, there is still a lot more work and further action needed.

In 2022, the Presidency’s work is focused on delivering the Glasgow Climate Pact and driving action across the globe. Their key goals include:

- Mitigation – to keep 1.5°C target by calling for more ambitious commitments, and ensuring the existing promises on emissions reductions are kept;
- Adaptation – supporting climate vulnerable countries by ensuring commitments on adaptation, loss and damage;
- Finance – ensuring the public and private sector deliver on their finance commitments in order to enable countries to achieve their climate goals;
- Collaboration – by working together to deliver further action on climate through sectoral change.

(Continued next page)



His Excellency in his lecture also mention that the UK is now halfway to meeting its ‘net – zero emissions’ target and the capital committed to net zero now at over \$130 trillion to achieve it goal.

The event was attended by academic staff and research students, and ended with a Question and Answer session followed by photo session.



In 2021, Brunei Darussalam also delivered its commitment to Climate Change COP26 alongside ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change as ASEAN Chair 2021. The statement delivered by Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj. Suhaimi bin Hj. Gafar, Former Minister of Ministry of Development, as Co-Chair of Brunei Darussalam National Council on Climate Change (BNCCC). In his statement, Brunei commits to:



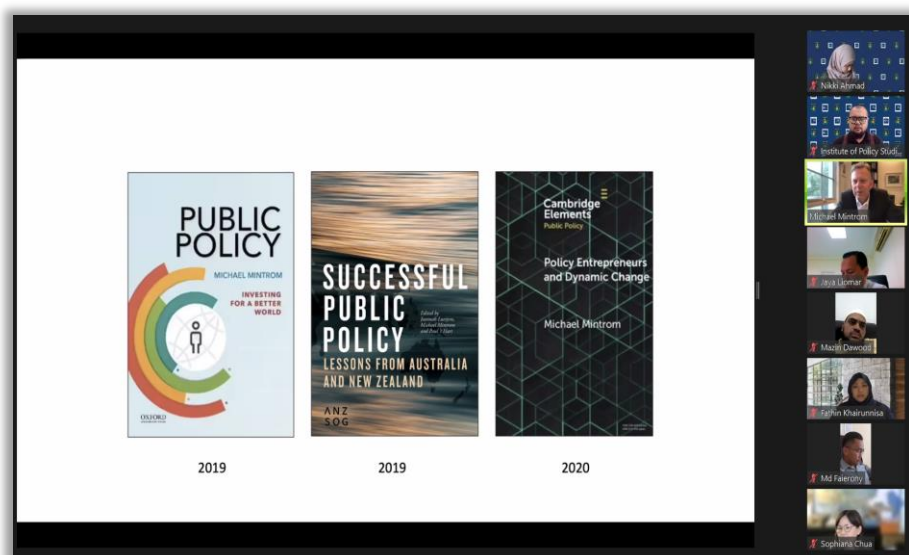
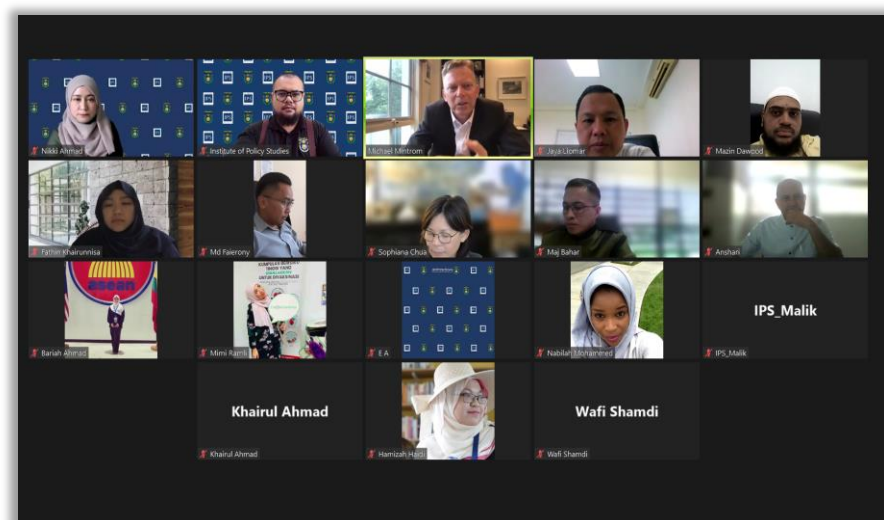
- Achieving Net Zero by 2050
- Signing up to the Prime Minister’s Glasgow Declaration on Forestry and Land Use; and
- Endorsing the Global coal to clean power transition statement.



# Successful Public Policy Outcomes: Lessons from Oceania

**Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022** – IPS hosted a webinar session with a presentation by Professor Michael Mintrom, an internationally recognised authority on public policy processes and advocacy. Professor Mintrom’s seminar on “Factors that Support Good Policy Design” comes partly from his award-winning research on policy entrepreneurship, which has been highly influential across multiple countries and institutions. The presentation highlighted evidence-based knowledge and cases of effective policy development, how policies can have strong, positive impacts, and how academic research can better inform practice. He currently serves as a Professor of Public Policy at Monash University.

In the development of new policies and reforms of current policy settings, governments typically turn to policy advisors to assist them make informed decisions. They need to trust that the advice they receive is translated into effective and successful policies that benefit the nation. However, there are certain instances where policies are ineffective and fail to achieve their intended outcome.



Thus, in his presentation, Professor Mintrom shared how policy advisers can reduce poor policy design and enhance the likelihood of successful policy outcomes.

# Weekly Sports Activity

**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022** – The UBD Weekly sporting activity continued this semester with a joint event hosted by IPS, ILIA and C3L. The FICs opted to host a Low Impact TABATA session, which was led by UBD's own Mr. Mohd Nasroul Hizam Hj Souyono from the UBD Corporate Communications Office.



He led the crowd with a warm up followed by a TABATA session that was appropriate for different levels of fitness, whether it is for beginner, intermediate, or advanced levels. TABATA is a form of High Intensity Interval Training, consisting of eight sets of fast paced exercises, each performed for 20 seconds, with 10 seconds of rest in between. The event was attended by members of the wider university community, and ended with floor exercises and stretches for cool down.

# Upcoming Events

## January – June 2023

**GDSS/CSC 13 Orientation**  
**GDSS/CSC 13 Opening Ceremony**  
**Seminar Series**  
**Graduate Research Forum**

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