

# IPS Newsletter

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

## Opening Ceremony of the Graduate Diploma of Defence and Security Studies (CSC13)

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023** – Held at the Auditorium of the Defence Academy RBAF, the opening ceremony was attended by Vice-Chancellor of UBD, Dr Hazri bin Haji Kifle, RBAF Service Commanders, RBAF Joint Force Commander, RBPF Deputy Commissioner, senior officers, foreign defence advisors and attachés to Brunei Darussalam as well as representatives from high commissions and embassies in Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah and Surah Al-Kahfi led by a representative of the course participants, and flag-unfurling symbolising the cooperation between the participating countries. The flag-unfurling also emphasised the significance of building strong bonds among course participants throughout the programme.

### RESEARCH

New Publications

Graduate Research Forum

PhD VIVA – Rozan Yunos

IPS Seminar Series

### EVENTS

CARe-IPS Book Launch

Opening Ceremony of GDSS CSC 13

### ACTIVITIES

Hari Raya Celebration



This year marked the 5<sup>th</sup> year of UBD serving as the academic provider for this programme. The 13<sup>th</sup> intake of the Command and Staff Course (CSC13) includes 18 RBAF officers, one Royal Brunei Police Force officer and 16 international military officers from 14 countries – Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Jordan, South Korea, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand and the United States of America.



# Launch of Edited Volume: “Stability, Growth and Sustainability”

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023** – Authors of the newly published edited volume, “Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam” (Singapore: ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute and UBD) came together to celebrate the launch of book at the ILIA Executive Room 1. The volume is edited by Professor Aris Ananta, Professor Chang-Yau Hoon, and Dr Mahani Hj Hamdan; and is the result of collaboration between the Centre for Advanced Research (CARE) and IPS. The event was attended by Vice Chancellor of UBD, Dr Hazri Hj Kifle, as Guest of Honour.

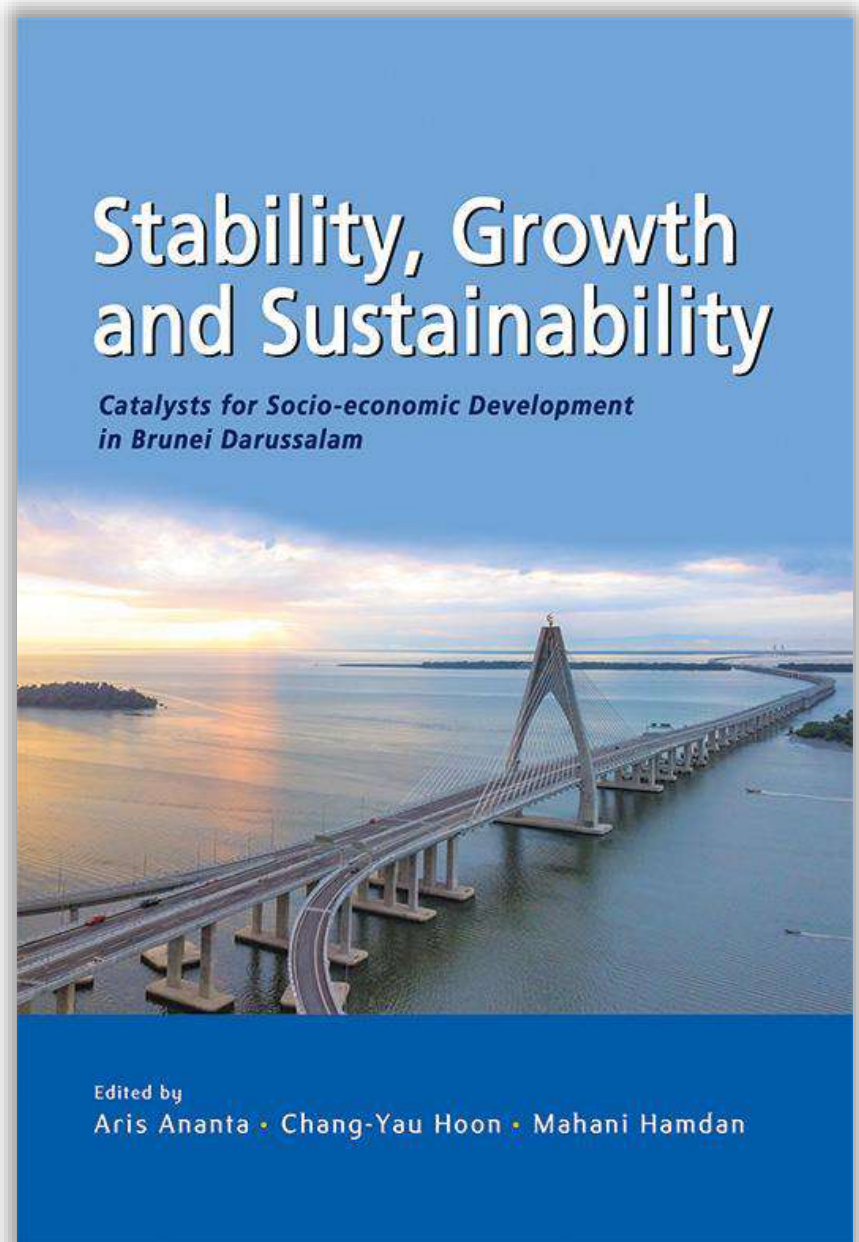


The Acting Director of CARE, Dr Asiyah Az-Zahra binti Haji Ahmad Kumpoh, began the event with a welcoming speech. Authors and editors were then presented with their own free copies of the book, handed by the Vice Chancellor.

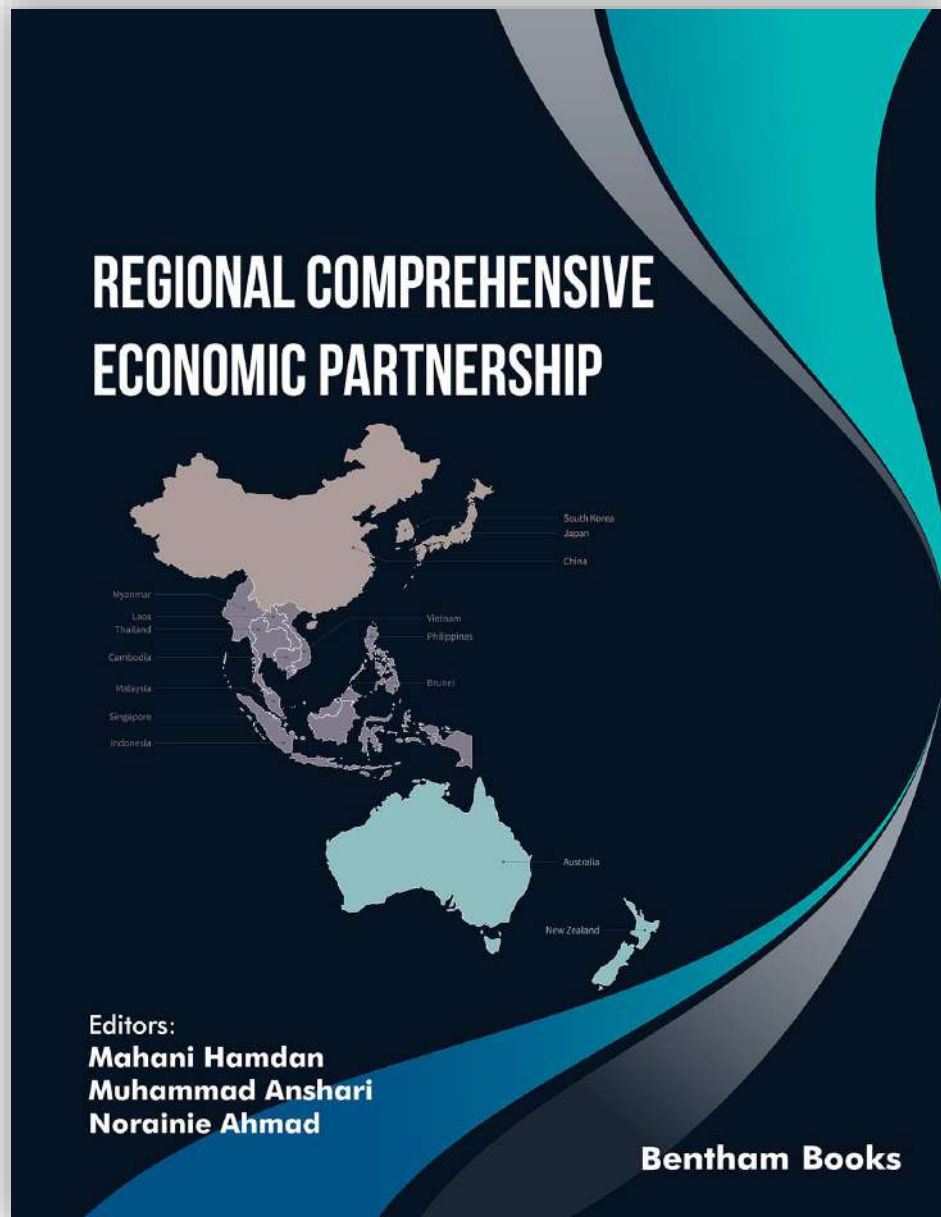
The book can be purchased at the publisher’s website at the following link:

<https://bookshop.iseas.edu.sg/publication/7834>

The book contains 12 chapters, categorised into four Parts. Individual chapters can also be purchased separately, and are also available as a e-books.



# IPS Latest Publication: RCEP



We are excited to announce the recent release of a pioneering publication that promises to reshape our understanding of international trade and economic cooperation. Titled "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)," this book is the result of a collaborative effort between esteemed academics from the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and fellow authors hailing from diverse corners of the globe.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) represents a historic and significant trade agreement that spans across the Asia-Pacific region. As the world's largest free trade area, RCEP has garnered immense attention due to its potential to transform economic landscapes and enhance regional integration.

The publication stands as a comprehensive exploration of the various facets of RCEP, dissecting its implications for participating nations, its potential to drive economic growth, and its role in shaping the global trade dynamics of the 21st century. With contributions from experts in international trade, economics, and policy, the book offers multidimensional insights that enrich our understanding of this monumental trade agreement.

We are thrilled to announce that the book "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)" is now available for preorder online. This is an exciting opportunity to secure your copy of this thought-provoking publication and be among the first to delve into its insights.

To purchase the edited volume, visit the following link:

<https://benthambooks.com/book/9789815123227/>





# The Inaugural South East Asia Conference of Commandants 2023



**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023** – The Institute of Policy Studies UBD, represented by the Director of IPS, Dr Mahani Haji Hamdan, participated in the Inaugural South East Asia Conference of Commandants 2023, which was jointly organised by the Defence Academy, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), and the UK Defence Academy. The conference was held from March 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> at the Defence Academy of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, at Tanah Jambu.

The theme of the 2-day conference was "Professional Military Education (PME) in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". The conference aimed to discuss and exchange views on various aspects of contemporary military training and strengthen it through mutual collaboration between the armed forces. It provided an opportunity for the heads of defence universities, military academies, and representatives from different Southeast Asian countries to come together and foster professional development and networking in the field of Professional Military Education (PME).

The opening ceremony was officiated by Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohammad Sharif bin Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, the Royal Brunei Air Force Commander, who delivered the keynote address. The participating countries in the conference included the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Maj Gen Andrew Roe from the Defence Academy of the UK delivered a presentation on "Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" as one of the introductory topics. Meanwhile, Colonel Pengiran Sharifuddin bin Pengiran Haji Yusof, the Commandant of the Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces, presented on the subject of "Blended Learning: The Future for Professional Military Education in RBAF."



Attending the Conference as partner observers were Dr. Anshari Muhammad Ali, the Deputy Director of IPS, and Ms. Norainie @Nikki Ahmad, Graduate Programme Coordinator at IPS. The primary objectives of the conference were to promote continued dialogue among partner nations and Southeast Asian Defence Academies and Institutions, to enhance intellectual interoperability in PME and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise among the armed forces. Furthermore, the conference would strengthen military training practices and collaboration, ultimately contributing to the professional development of military personnel in the region. Participants also attended the welcoming dinner and closing ceremony during that week.



# Student Graduate Research Forum



The Graduate Students' Research Forum started off with Miss Nazihah Hamdani's presentation on her ongoing research work entitled ***Institutional and Community Support for Domestic Violence Victims: A Maqāsid of Sharī'ah Perspective***. Her work focuses on understanding and exploring the roles of institutions and community in giving a helping hand and enabling environment to the victims of domestic violence.

Providing an environment where victims feel safe to confide in will ultimately give them the kind of support they might need especially in a society talking about domestic violence is taboo.

Her work takes into account the perspective and views of stakeholders that are professional in handling this matter including both government bodies and non-governmental organisations.

In her presentation, she explained the responsibility of a leader or state in intervening in this issue, stressing that Islam mandates an intervention whenever there's injustice (Al-Qur' ān 4:135). Therefore, there is a need for proper implementation and execution of law and policy in matters pertaining to the safety and protection of domestic violence victims in Brunei. She also underlined the emergence of non-governmental organisations that advocates violence against women and their role as one of informal support for the victims.





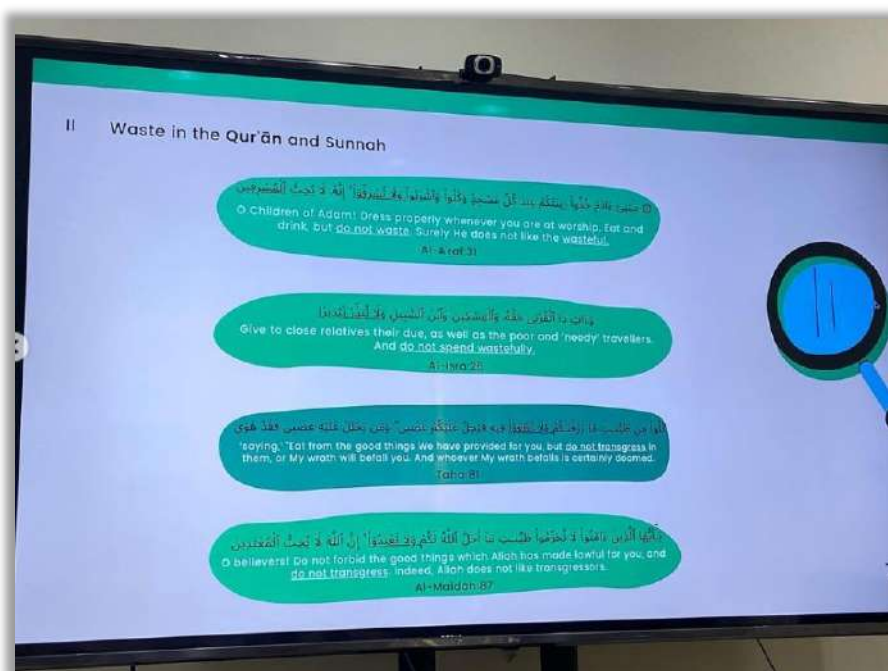


The findings unveiled an interdisciplinary approach to the concept of waste in Islam, emphasising the integration of sustainability dimensions. Fathin's research has the potential to contribute to the development of an operational framework for Islamic Waste Management (IWM), rooted in the Islamic System of Governance and borrowing from the concept of symbiosis in development.

The significance of this research lies in its potential to fulfil the Maqāsid of Sharī'ah, specifically the preservation and promotion of life. Moreover, it is a humble addition of valuable insights into the fields of Islamic Governance and Sustainability.

Meanwhile, Ms. Fathin Khairunnisa binti Awang Mat Japar delved into the topic of waste management from an Islamic perspective during a recent graduate research forum on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Motivated by her experience working at a local recycling centre and the urgent need for efficient waste management practices, Fathin pursued how waste management is presented according to the Qur'ān and Sunnah. She outlined her research journey in the presentation, starting with the methodological approach and literature review gaps. With a focus on Islamic references to waste, she included expert insights from esteemed scholars of the Qur'ān and Hadīth and conceptually analyse the references to waste as well as principles and values associated with waste management in Islamic teachings.



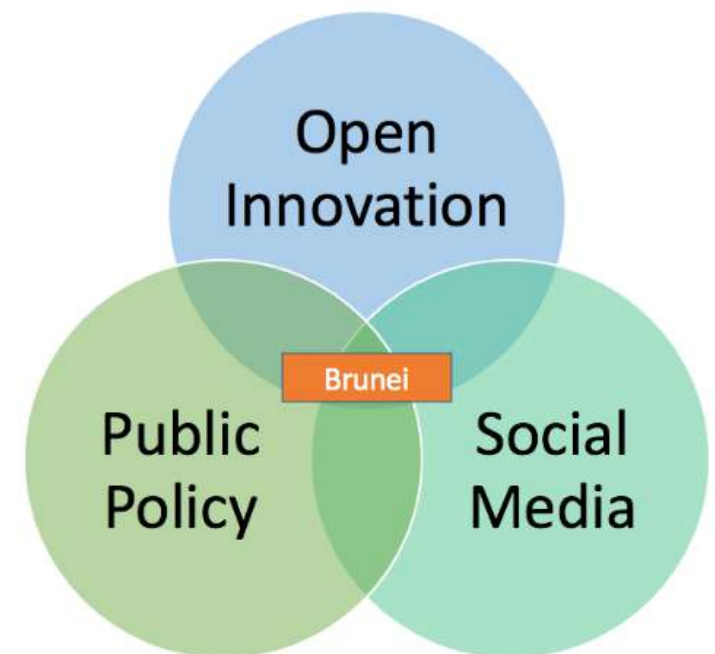
Fathin acknowledges the limitations and challenges inherent in devising a comprehensive propositional framework for IWM implementation. However, her research marks an important step towards bridging the gap between theoretical principles and practical application in the realm of waste management within the metaphysical paradigm of the Islamic way of life.

By aligning references to waste, holistic principles and values from the Qur'ān and Sunnah with the concept of sustainability, Fathin's work lays the foundation for future endeavours in Islamic waste management. Inshā Allah.





PhD Candidate Abdul Malik bin Omar delivered a presentation during the Graduate Research Forum at the Mawardi Global Classroom, IPS, UBD. In his presentation titled “Open Innovation Strategies Through Social Media for Public Policy Development”, he scrutinises the importance of policy innovation through social media with the deployment of Open Innovation (OI) strategies.

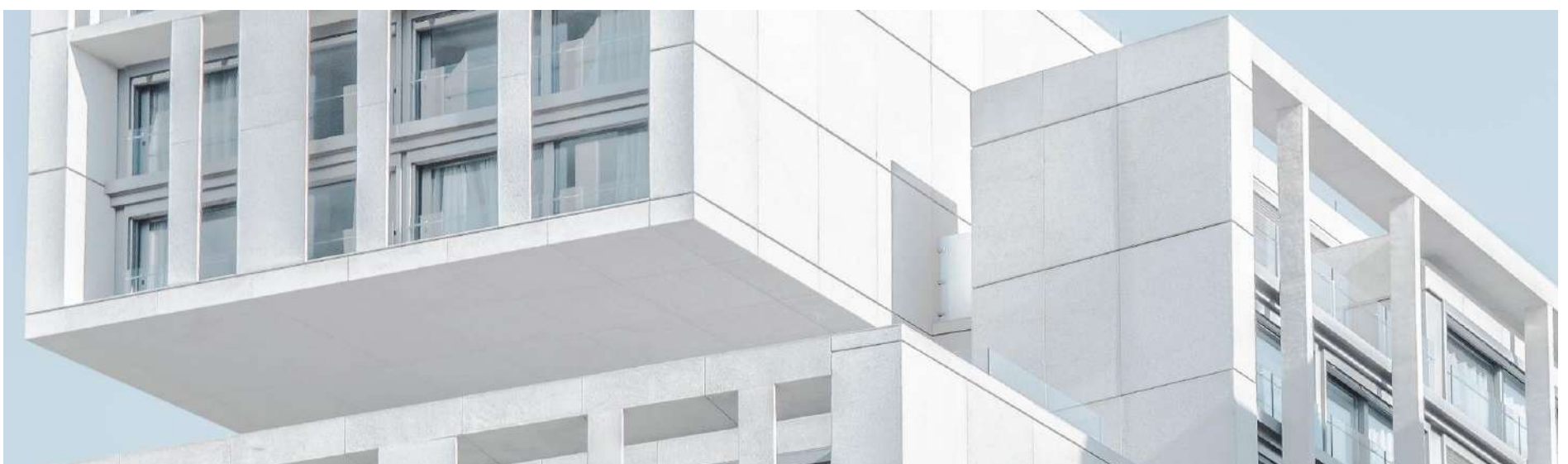


**Open Innovation Strategies Through Social Media for Public Policy Development**

Moreover, social media allows for the intensification of policy socialisation among the general public, making society informed of the latest policy developments. All these factors could contribute towards the strengthening of policy buy-ins among the public, provided there are strategies in place to monitor and filter noise into signals.

In his presentation, he shared findings from his Brunei-focused qualitative-driven research. He argued how public participation in the form of discourses on state policies are increasingly becoming prominent online across various social media channels. He discovered that although the data are mostly ‘noise’, they can contain information or ‘signals’ that could be translated into constructive feedback for the state, allowing for various policies to be sharpened.

In conclusion, social media can serve as an OP platform, giving the netizen to contribute to policy innovation, benefitting the state and society in the long-run.





# VIVA Voce Presentation – Rozan Yunos, PhD Candidate



The Viva Voce presentation for Haji Mohd Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yunos, a PhD candidate specialising in Islamic Governance, was held on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at the Mawardi Global Classroom, ILIA Building. This milestone event, which marked the official examination process also known as the Thesis Defence, is the result of a culmination of years of diligent research and supervision. It is a pivotal moment in a researcher's academic journey, and a platform for the PhD Candidate to showcase their in-depth understanding of their chosen field, their ability to contribute meaningfully to scholarly discourse, and their skill in articulating complex concepts.

Haji Mohd Rozan's defense in Islamic Governance was an opportunity for him to present his findings, insights, and conclusions to a panel of esteemed examiners.

His successful viva presentation is not the end but a stepping stone to future contributions to the field. His dedication to Islamic Governance and the knowledge added to the scholarly discourse will undoubtedly influence future research, policy discussions, and academic thought.

**As we reflect on this milestone, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Haji Mohd Rozan for his exceptional achievement and earned his Doctorate degree in Islamic Governance at IPS, UBD.**



# “Issues in Public Policy and Administration in Malaysia: An Institutional Analysis”: Seminar by Dr Abdillah Noh



**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023** – IPS hosted an engaging Seminar presentation by Dr Abdillah Noh, an academic from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). This collaborative event was an opportunity for attendees to delve into the intricate world of public policy and administration, specifically within the context of Malaysia, through the lens of institutional perspectives.

The seminar offered a unique and profound exploration of the multifaceted issues within public policy and administration in Malaysia. Dr Noh, a distinguished authority in the field, captivated the audience by unraveling the complexities that define Malaysia's policy landscape.

Through his in-depth analysis, Dr Noh shed light on the significance of institutional perspectives in understanding the challenges and opportunities that shape public policy and administration. Attendees were treated to a comprehensive examination of the factors influencing decision-making, policy formulation, and the implementation process within the Malaysian context.





# MPPM Cohort 8 Spring Semester in the USA

Students of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cohort of the Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) programme bade a temporary farewell to Brunei as they embarked on their Spring Semester journey to IPS Partner Policy Schools in the USA. The students continued their studies abroad from January until May 2023, as part of the flagship programme at IPS. The 8<sup>th</sup> Cohort consisted of three in-service government officers, namely Pg. Khairul Anuar Pengiran Haji Ahmad from the Royal Brunei Police Force who went to Georgetown University, Ms. Norsyamimi Ramli from the Prime Minister’s Office who went to University of California at Berkeley, and Ms. Khairul Bariah Ahmad from the Customs Department, who went to the University of Maryland.



The students were expected to complete 12 modular credits or around four modules while in the USA. In the final week of their stay, the students participated in a study tour around Washington DC, before returning to Brunei to resume their studies.



*The MPPM Cohort 8 students on their Study Tour around Washington D.C. to places of interest in various areas of Public Policy.*





# Hari Raya Celebrations



**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**– A heartwarming spirit of unity and joy enveloped the premises of IPS, ILIA, and C3L as they jointly hosted an Open Office Hari Raya celebration. The occasion brought together friends, colleagues, students, and alumni to commemorate the joyous festival of Eid, fostering a sense of togetherness that truly embodies the spirit of the season.

We sincerely appreciate everyone’s involvement and contributions to the event, and thank all of our friends, colleagues, students and alumni who made time to come to celebrate the Eid festivities with us.





# Upcoming Events

## July – December 2023

### MPPM Cohort 8 Individual Research Project Presentation

### 35<sup>th</sup> UBD Convocation

### Welcoming Cohort 9 of MPPM Students

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INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES  
UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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**INSTAGRAM** [@policystudies.ubd](https://www.instagram.com/policystudies.ubd)

**FACEBOOK** [@ipsubd](https://www.facebook.com/ipsubd)

Advisor

**Dr Mahani Hamdan**

Editor

**Norainie @ Nikki Ahmad**

Designer

**Safwan Azmi**

Contributors

**Dr Anshari Ali**

**Emil Zahrin Ali**

**Norainie @ Nikki Ahmad**

**Fathin Sulaiman**