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INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES
UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

NEWSLETTER

Biannual newsletter from the Institute of Policy Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

IPS | ELEVATING IMPACT THROUGH POLICY EDUCATION

IPS Graduates at the 35th UBD Convocation Ceremony

Monday, 21st August 2023, Chancellor's Hall, UBD – The 35th Convocation Ceremony of Universiti Brunei Darussalam held on this day signified a great achievement for the Institute of Policy Studies and our graduates. The morning ceremony was graced by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. During the ceremony, IPS graduates of the PhD in Islamic Governance programme were conferred their certificates. The graduates, Dr Haji Mohammad Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yunos, and Dr Syazana binti Fauzi, both successfully defended their doctoral dissertations and completed their final corrections before receiving their PhD titles. The Institute warmly congratulates both individuals on their significant achievements, and we wish them well in their future endeavours. *(Story continues in the next page)...*



Congratulations to Dr Haji Mohammad Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yunos



Dr Syazana Fauzi receiving her certificate from His Majesty.

HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to our Graduates at the 35th UBD Convocation Ceremony

Semester 1, Academic Year 2023-24 launched in August

Institute Orientation

Academic attends Conference and Summit in South Korea

CSC13 Graduation and Dinner

New Publications by IPS Academics and Students

Graduate Research Forum

IPS Seminar Series

MPPM Students' Departure to the United States of America

The afternoon session was graced by His Royal Highness Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda (Dr) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Pro-Chancellor of UBD, who presented certificates to graduates. Among the recipients that day were graduates from the Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) Cohort 8 programme, namely Dyg Khairul Bariah binti Ahmad from the Customs Department (and the recipient of the UBD Book Prize Award); Pg Haji Mohammad Khairul Anuar bin Pg Haji Ahmad from the Royal Brunei Policy Force, and Dyg Syamimi Ramli from the Prime Minister's Office.



Graduates of the Master of Defence and Security Studies (MDSS) also received their certificates that afternoon. The Book Prize awardee, Lt. Col. Pg Baharuddin bin Pg Haji Ali, emerged as top of his class with his research on *Protective Security in the RBAF*. Fellow officers who graduated were Lt. Col. Haji Md. Ezan Sazali bin Haji Osman, Major Mohammad Ubaidy bin Mohd Umbu, Major Dygku Nur Izzah Nazurah binti Pg Mohammad, and Major Roziarani binti Mohd Jaya. Officers of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces who completed their Command and Staff Course (CSC12), earning their Graduate Diploma of Defence and Security Studies (GDDSS) also received their certificates that day.



MPPM Cohort 8, Dyg Khairul Bariah binti Ahmad; Pg Haji Mohammad Khairul Anuar bin Pg Haji Ahmad, and Dyg Syamimi Ramli. Congratulations!

IPS celebrates the accomplishments of these outstanding individuals and wishes them continued success in their future endeavours!

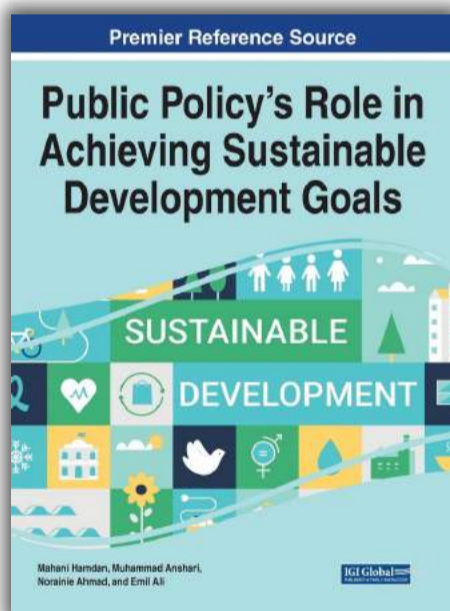


Officers of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces who completed their Command and Staff Course (CSC12) and earned the Graduate Diploma of Defence and Security Studies (GDDSS), and graduates of the MDSS programme (front row), with the IPS Programme Coordinator.

Latest IPS Publications

The **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is a free-trade deal involving 10 ASEAN member states, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea. It is the world's largest regional trade agreement, and it will result in the world's most populous trade area. This book is one of its kind in the evolving knowledge on RCEP and offers a multidisciplinary perspective relevant to readers from different backgrounds. This book shares the on-going discussions based on research and best practices on various areas of RCEP. It focuses on high-quality research projects that contribute to theory, lessons learned, best practices, and critical understanding and policy implications or formulation regarding the RCEP among member nations. Additionally, reports on the RCEP's general progress are examined in relation to the book's theme.

The book **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): Potentials and Challenges** is a significant source of information and reference for RCEP development, particularly in terms of promoting awareness, by incorporating conceptual frameworks, recent development, best practices, comparative assessments, business processes, as well as strategies and outputs from RCEP studies across multiple domains of knowledge. To ensure the book's quality, each contribution was double-reviewed by knowledgeable expert academics.



Public Policy's Role in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals is authored by various esteemed researchers, policymakers, and academics from a multidisciplinary perspective and emphasizes quality research-based studies that contribute to theory, lessons learned, best practices, critical understanding, and policies relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from various countries and socioeconomic contexts.

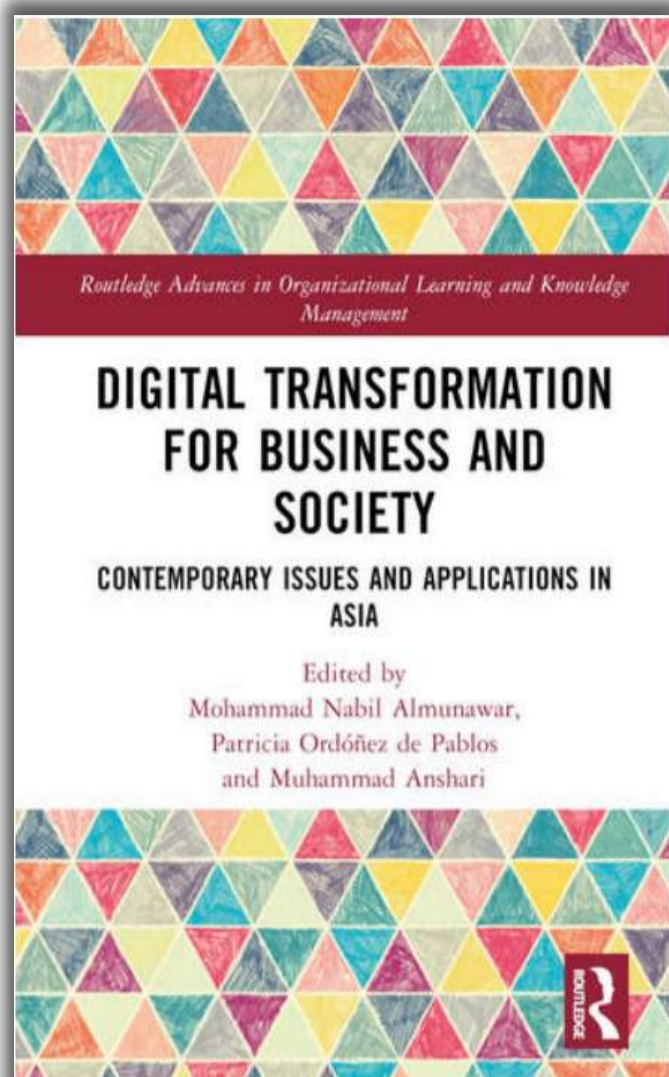
It supports the acceleration required to implement the SDGs by mobilising the academic community, policymakers, industry, and civil society to discuss experiences focusing on the SDGs and their implementation in the context of public policy, administration, and governance deemed most important for world regions. Thus, the book engages in a global discussion while addressing the SDGs in a way that considers each region's specificities. It is designed for researchers from the social sciences, arts and humanities, sociology, politics, and the broader interdisciplinary fields of business and economics and also for policymakers, corporations, NGOs, government bodies, research centers, think tanks, and university libraries worldwide.

"New Knowledge Creation and Loss during COVID-19: Sustainable Knowledge Management's Perspective". Latest publication by IPS/UBD academics, which can be accessed in the following link:

<https://www.inderscienceonline.com/doi/abs/10.1504/IJLIC.2023.134898>.

This publication is part of a two-year research grant awarded to Dr Mahani Hamdan (Principle Investigator, PI) and Ms Norainie Ahmad (Co-PI), along with IPS research team members (Dr Muhammad Anshari, Emil Zahrin Ali, and Dr Hamizah Hj Haidi). The grant provided fundings totalling \$35,742.00 for a project titled "The Governance of Microstates during the COVID-19 Crisis: Building Resilience through Effective Policies Amidst Challenges and Vulnerabilities", and was completed on 31st January 2023. Several other research publications were also produced from this grant.





Super Smart Society 5.0: A Way Forward in Public Policy for post-4IR

The continuous waves and cycles of technological transformation continues unabated, leading to the unprecedented impact to global society. Amid these developments, some debates have remained at a stand-still, preferring to treat technology and societal development as a dichotomy rather than a holistic and integrated whole. Super Smart Society 5.0 is presented as a solution to amalgamate these two to create and foster a more human-centric, sustainable and resilient economic model in the current world order.

In this edited volume published by Routledge London, **Digital Transformation for Business and Society: Contemporary Issues and Applications in Asia**, the chapter "**Super Smart Society 5.0: Innovation in Public Policy Post-Industry 4.0**", is co-authored by IPS PhD Candidate Awg. Abdul Malik Omar and IPS Deputy Director Dr Anshari Ali.

The authors of this chapter posited the essential need for states to identify and recalibrate their drivers and capacities to ensure society becomes more resilient and adaptive to emerging technological trends, enhancing thus the notion of technology not as a mere by-product of output but rather a co-producer of innovation at every level of the societal production spectrum. As a consequence, there is potential to unleash a productivity multiplier effect and societal enrichment amid the post-Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Qualitatively scrutinising the Government of Brunei Darussalam's digitalisation drive through its Digital Economy Masterplan 2025, findings have emerged how Brunei Darussalam stands as an excellent case study to laying the foundational groundwork for the Super Smart Society 5.0. Essentially, this work argues how the concept of Super Smart Society 5.0 can be integrated as a strategic outlook and outcome for post-4IR strategies of nations, allowing hence for the state and society to spearhead a more human-centric sustainable development amid increasingly uncertain times.

Source: Digital Transformation for Business and Society: Contemporary Issues and Applications in Asia (pp. 91-110). 1st Edition. Chapter: 5. Publisher: Routledge, London.



World
University
Rankings
2023 TOP 350



World University
Rankings 2023
Asia

IPS Seminar Series

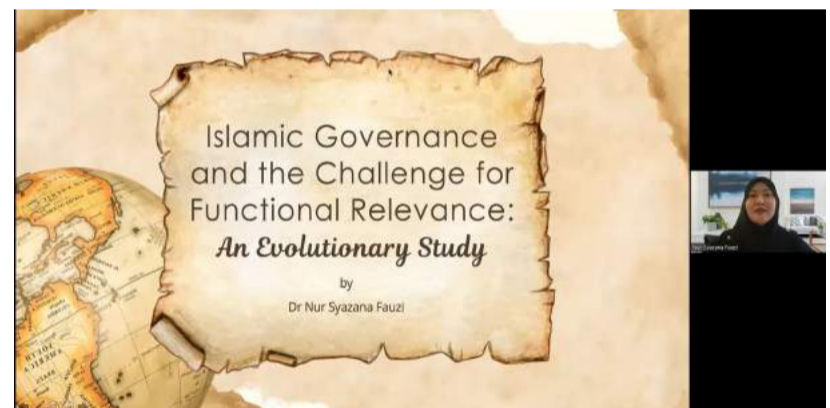
Monday, 25th September 2023 – The engaging session, titled "Navigating Public Policy: Islamic Principles in the Contemporary Landscape," was presented by the distinguished scholar, Dr Usaama Al-Azami.

Dr Usaama Al-Azami holds a BA in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Oxford, and his MA and PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University. With a deep-seated interest in public policy and Islamic governance, Al-Azami has not only explored these themes during his doctoral studies but also presented a report on Muslims and public policy at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster earlier this year. His first book delves into the challenges of Islamic governance in the Middle East, and his current project critically examines secularism as a Eurocentric paradigm of governance.



Al-Azami's presentation addressed the pressing need to reconsider alternative paradigms in the global public policy discourse, dominated by Eurocentric perspectives. He illuminated the rich Islamic tradition of governance and public policy, emphasizing its relevance in today's world. The presentation critically examined opportunistic engagements of certain Middle Eastern states that invoke Islamic principles merely for public relations, rather than embracing the profound ethical and moral foundations embedded within Islamic texts.

Dr Al-Azami explored Qur'anic concepts such as consultation (shura), justice ('adl, qist), transparency, and the higher aims of Sharia (Maqāsid al-Sharī'a). He showcased how these principles can serve as robust guides for modern policy-making, acknowledging potential challenges and providing effective strategies to positively position Islamic-guided policies in a global context. This exploration emphasized the importance of genuine and informed engagement with Islamic teachings in the realm of public policy, paving the way for a more holistic and ethically grounded approach to governance in the modern age.



Meanwhile, on **Friday, 13th October 2023** a seminar titled "Islamic Governance and the Challenge for Functional Relevance: An Evolutionary Study" was presented by Dr Nur Syazana Fauzi. Her talk focused on the intriguing concept of "Islamic Governance," exploring its challenges for functional relevance in the contemporary societal landscape. She posed critical questions about whether the emergence of this concept is a reaffirmation of dogma or an outcome of a continuous process of adapting Islamic concepts to meet evolving socio-organisational needs. She traced the relational dynamics between 'Islam' and 'Governance,' examining its evolution from the Prophetic Madinian Polity to the diverse interpretations offered by prominent thinkers such as al-Fārābī, Ibn Rushd, al-Māwardī, al-Ghazālī, Ibn Taymiyyah, 'Alī 'Abdul Rāziq, Abūl A'la al-Maudūdī, Ayatollah Khomeini, and more contemporary figures like Amin Zahrin, Maszlee Malik, and Muqtedar Khan.

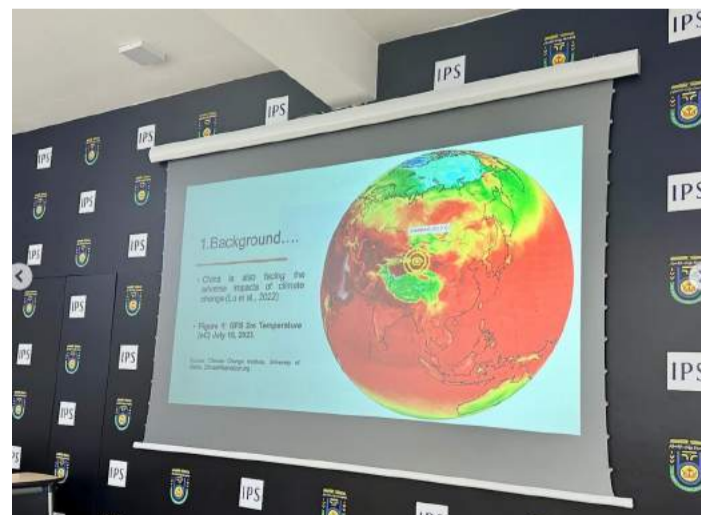
Wednesday, 8th November 2023 – Seminar presented by Dr Khalid Ahmed, Associate Professor at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), discussed the topic of "China's Carbon Emissions Trend after the Pandemic." The talk drew focus on crucial developments in China's post-pandemic carbon emission landscape. Dr Khalid Ahmed delved into a critical question: "Is China on a path to peak its greenhouse gas emissions, as pledged under the Paris Treaty?" His presentation aimed to answer this question by comparing carbon emissions and energy production trends in the first eight months of 2019 (representing conditions before the COVID-19 pandemic) with the first eight months of 2023 (the period following the removal of most COVID-19 restrictions in December 2022).



The findings revealed a notable increase of 10% in carbon emissions over this period, averaging 2.95 million tonnes per day. Surprisingly, emissions from the power sector, where decarbonisation efforts were expected to be concentrated, increased by 21.

Dr Khalid Ahmed's analysis shed light on the challenges China faces in realising a "growing back greener" trajectory. Despite strides in renewable energy, the persistent growth in fossil fuel production signals a complex and nuanced scenario. Moreover, the changing geopolitical environment poses additional hurdles to China's emissions peaking in the near future.

The IPS Seminar Series continues to be a platform for in-depth discussions thought-provoking discussions, and we look forward to more enlightening sessions in the future.



Graduate Research Forum



Wednesday, 13th September 2023 – The Graduate Research Forum at IPS resumed this semester with a presentation by PhD Candidate in Islamic Governance, Lt. Col. Abdul Mujib Haji Japar, with his research on “Exploration into Military Regimentation from Islamic Governance Perspective”. The study aims to conceptualise regimentation as both a process and outcome in the context of Muslim militaries. He proposes to adopt Professor Jasser Awda’s Maqasid Methodology Framework in his analysis of regimentation in the context of fighting power as presented in the military.

Wednesday, 4th October 2023 – In continuation of her bachelor’s degree’s research in Muslim adoptions in Brunei, Ms. Dk Nur Ihsan binti Pg Haji Kamis expanded her research to focus on child welfare systems that exists in Brunei which includes adoption, institutional care and the informal practice of child care known as ‘*mengasuh anak*’ in Bruneian culture. Her research is interested in exploring how and to what extent are children in these systems protected from the perspectives of key agencies or organisations that are involved.

She presented her research journey by explaining her aims and objectives, research methodology, literature review gaps and her preliminary findings.

Although currently there is a National Framework of Child Protection (NFCP), from her preliminary findings, she expressed the need to further refine the current child welfare systems to further prevent child maltreatment and ensure long term protection of their well-being and needs in accordance to the Maqāsid of Sharī’a

For example, she highlighted the importance in key agencies to guide adoptive parents in providing the different needs and care for adopted children and how the cultural practice of informal childcare needs to be addressed or regulated by the government to prevent the risks of child maltreatment. Overall, she concluded her presentation that the research will examine the roles and responsibilities of the government agencies involved in child welfare.



Conference & Global Summit on Public Administration in Seoul, South Korea

September 20th – 23rd, 2023, Seoul – Ms. Norainie @ Nikki Ahmad represented UBD and IPS at the prestigious 2023 International Conference of the Korean Association for Public Administration (KAPA) & Global Summit for Public Administration. Held at Hansung University, Korea, the conference provided a dynamic platform for Ms. Nikki Ahmad to present her ongoing research on Collaborative Governance and the advancements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Brunei, in relation to engagements with epistemic communities in the country. Her conference participation was fully sponsored by the organisers.



The event facilitated dynamic discussions, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange. On the first day, participants engaged in insightful group discussions to shape the future research agendas for the field of Public Administration.

The conference also featured presentations from researchers of The Seoul Institute, adding a rich diversity of perspectives to the discourse. This interactive exchange allowed for valuable feedback and exposure, fostering collaborative connections among participants. Beyond the academic sessions, participants were treated to tours of places of interest and rich cultural heritage in Seoul.

Ms. Nikki Ahmad's active participation in the KAPA Conference 2023 exemplifies the commitment of IPS UBD to advancing research and fostering global collaborations. The summit, hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, brought together a diverse assembly of academics and researchers specialising in Public Affairs and Public Policy and Administration.

As an accomplished academic at IPS, Ms. Nikki Ahmad teaches Policy Analysis, Research Methodology, and Public Policy Analysis Project, to graduate students. Beyond her teaching role, she serves as a consultant-trainer, imparting knowledge in Policy Analysis modules to public service officers under the EDPMMO programmes, and involved in teaching the CSC programme under RBAF as well. Her impact extends globally, as she holds the position of appointed National Consultant and Gender Expert for the EU-ASEAN Regional Dialogue Instrument, EREADI, working alongside colleagues from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.



The RBAF Command and Staff Course, CSC13 (GDDSS Programme) Graduation Ceremony

Wednesday, 11th October 2023 – The Honourable Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II, presided over the Graduation Ceremony of the 13th Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course (CSC13). The ceremony took place at the Auditorium of the Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces (DA RBAF), Kampung Tanah Jambu. This momentous event signified the successful conclusion of the comprehensive 40-week course. A total of 35 graduates, including 18 RBAF officers, 1 RBPF officer, and 16 International officers from 14 different countries, graduated from this prestigious programme.

The RBAF CSC is a vital component of professional military education, designed to prepare mid-level officers for high-ranking command and staff roles within the military. It represents the pinnacle of formal military education within the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, catering to both local and international officers. IPS has remained a trusted partner to DA-RBAF in the delivery of teaching and research supervision, as well as administrative support for the programme, since 2019.



During the ceremony, four notable awards were presented to deserving individuals. Major Andrew Keith from the United States Air Force received the Overall Excellence Award, Major Ernest Chin Jun Hao from the Singapore Air Force was honoured with the RBAF Commendation and Academic Excellence Award, and Lieutenant Commander Mohd Hydzir Zuhdi bin Haji Sulaiman, RBN of the Royal Brunei Navy was recognised with the Commandant's Award.



This event stood as a testament to the unwavering dedication, exceptional skill, and exemplary leadership demonstrated by these officers throughout their educational journey.



Group photo of The Honourable Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yusof, the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II, with The Commandant of Defence Academy and CSC13 cohort

CSC13 Graduation Dinner

Friday, 13th October 2023 – A graduation dinner was held in to celebrate the completion of the 13th Cohort of the Command and Staff Course (CSC). Gracing the event was Brigadier General Haji Mohammad Shanonnizam bin Sulaiman, Commander Land Force as the acting RBAF Commander, as Guest of Honour.

Among the attendees were the Vice Chancellor of UBD Dr Hazri Haji Kifle; the Director of IPS, Dr Mahani Haji Hamdan, and the Deputy Director of IPS, Dr Anshari Ali. In accordance with the cherished tradition of the Dinner Night, the spotlight was on Lt. Cdr. Mohd Hydzir Zuhdi bin Haji Sulaiman, RBN, the recipient of the Commandant's Award, who delivered an inspiring speech, reflecting on the journey, achievements of the cohort and the immense growth they have experienced as a group.



The Commandant of the Defence Academy, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (DA RBAF) Col. Pg Sharifuddin bin Pg Haji Yusof, also gave a speech. He commended the unwavering dedication of the officers of the CSC programme, their strong resilience, outstanding achievements, and, above all, their remarkable camaraderie, which had been the cornerstone of their success.

As a gesture of deep appreciation, the International Graduates presented mementos to the Commandant of the DA RBAF. These tokens served as symbols of gratitude for the unwavering support, guidance, and mentorship they received throughout their transformative journey.



Welcoming New MPPM and MDSS Students at Institute Orientation

Thursday, 3rd August 2023 – A welcoming and orientation event was held to mark the official launch of Cohort 9 of the Master of Public Policy and Management Programme (MPPM). This year, we received two students: Commander Shahairil Shahlan from the Royal Brunei Navy and Mr. Khairul Azmi Zakaria from the Narcotics Control Bureau.

In addition to the MPPM students, we also extend a warm welcome to officers joining the Master of Defence and Security Studies programme: Mr. Faisal Mohammed Alajmi, Lt. Col. Isewandy Murni, and Major Pg Mohammad Azizul bin Pg Haji Zulkifly. The orientation briefing was conducted by the IPS Programme Coordinator, and Executive Officer (AR) of IPS.



Welcome to our 9th Cohort MPPM students, Commander Shahairil Haji Shahlan (L) from the Royal Brunei Navy and Mr. Khairul Azmi Zakaria (R) from the Narcotics Control Bureau

MPPM: Leaving for the USA Spring Semester



Sunday, 28th December 2023 – MPPM student, Commander Shahairil Shahlan left Brunei to continue his Spring Semester at the prestigious University of California, Berkeley. He will spend the next five months at the Goldman School of Public Policy, and undertake four modules there as part of an MOU with IPS UBD.

Meanwhile, Mr. Khairul Azmi Zakaria left to pursue his Spring Semester at Georgetown University, Washington. He too will undertake four modules there. Both students will end their US Semester with a Study Tour in and around D.C. at the end of their studies, before returning to Brunei at the end of May.

Graduate Student Feature: Ms. Fathin

Meet **Fathin Khairunnisa binti Awang Mat Japar**, whose research delves into the concept of waste management from the Islamic Governance perspective.

Driven by a passion for social impact and environmental awareness, our Islamic Governance Master's student embraces extracurricular opportunities to broaden her academic horizons. For Fathin, volunteering with Persatuan KamiPrihatin (WeCare) proved to be a transformative experience. Rising from committee ranks to Assistant Manager for the Marketing Unit, she honed her skills in project management, governance, and public relations.

From marketing campaigns to fostering cross-unit collaboration, Fathin's contributions played a crucial role in raising awareness and securing a prestigious audience with royalty on behalf of WeCare. Beyond WeCare, Fathin actively participated in the Climate Change and Sustainability Week 2023, further enriching her understanding of pressing global issues. These experiences exemplify the vital role extracurricular engagement plays in nurturing well-rounded scholars, not only through practical skill-building but also by sparking inspiration for future research endeavors.

Volunteering with Persatuan KamiPrihatin

Persatuan KamiPrihatin (WeCare) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to provide relief efforts and assistance to the victims of humanitarian issues both locally and internationally. After volunteering for a while, Fathin was nominated as the Assistant Manager for their Marketing Unit, by which she had the privilege of contributing to the ideation, delegation and execution of marketing campaigns with the team while collaborating alongside other units such as the Management, Media Unit and Project Unit in order to execute successful humanitarian projects and strengthen the online presence of WeCare. Among other projects, key achievements during her tenure included:

- Becoming part of the key organising committee for an awareness talk on tackling psychological challenges during the 3rd wave of COVID-19
- Represented WeCare and engaged in a dialogue with His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei on the recent achievements of the NGO during the YSHHB Hari Raya Celebration exhibitions at the International Convention Centre Brunei
- Co-curated learning materials for a marketing workshop dedicated to WeCare members and volunteers
- Represented WeCare for the appreciation award from My Actions for Sustainable Development Goals Brunei



“These experiences have not only enriched my understanding of social and environmental issues, but also fostered professional growth and highlighted the importance of extracurricular involvement for maintaining and inspiring research motivations as well as personal development moving forward” – Fathin K.

(1) [IG Live Forum: “How are you?: Tackling the psychological challenges during the 3rd wave” - WeCare](#)

(2) [HARI RAYA YSHHB @ICC - WeCare](#)

Fathin further writes: *“Through these experiences, I've gained raw insights on the humanitarian viewpoint of project management, non-profit governance, public relations, as well as direct involvement with vulnerable and economically challenged groups.*

I gained new knowledge on the realities of poverty locally and internationally especially during the assignment of interviewing prospective beneficiaries; and this has caused a renewed sense of humility and gratitude throughout the voluntary experience.

I cannot ignore that my curiosities surrounding my experience here wander towards the implication of Islamic Governance and how this would further contribute to the collaborative scene that exists between the government agencies and the non-profit organisations in the country”

Participation in the Climate Change and Sustainability Week 2023

In June 2023, Fathin had the opportunity to participate in the Climate Change and Sustainability Week, organised by the French Bruneian Business Association (FBBA) in collaboration with Total Energies Brunei, Schneider Electric, Climate Fresk, and Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei; and supported by Brunei Climate Change Secretariat (BCCS) and Brunei Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat.



“During this event, fellow participants and I underwent training as facilitator for the Climate Fresk, a collaborative game designed to educate participants on the science behind climate change”.

“In the days that followed, some of us had the opportunity to facilitate the workshop for a diverse audience, including corporate leaders. It was a very enriching experience to learn about the diverse perspectives on Climate Change from people from various backgrounds. Throughout these sessions and the final forum at the end of the week, several important insights that are worth mentioning are:

- (1) Humility is an essential value for workshop facilitators in many contexts, not only those involving climate change education.*
- (2) Climate Change is more than just global warming or just planting trees, as different ecosystems will have different roles. Thus, there's a need to understand the fundamental processes better. The game Climate Fresk is a good place to start.*
- (3) Governments and corporations alike must take joint action since individual change is insufficient. Thus, this cooperative gathering provided a much-needed forum for raised awareness. My appreciation goes out to Total Energies Brunei as well, for nominating me to serve as one of their Youth Ambassadors on Climate Change! I had no idea this appointment was going to happen.*

“Alhamdulillah, my experiences with Persatuan KamiPrihatin (WeCare) and involvement in the Climate Change and Sustainability Week have underscored the profound impact of volunteer work and extracurricular involvement, especially as a research graduate.

These opportunities have expanded my horizons, fostered invaluable skills, and ignited a passion for social and environmental causes. I'm committed to continuing my engagement in such initiatives, as I believe they complement academic learning and contribute to a more holistic and impactful student experience. I look forward to seek further wisdom through contribution and collaboration, inshā Allah”.

“As a research student doing Master by Research in Islamic Governance at the Institute of Policy Studies in UBD, I am honored to be able to gain knowledge and experience beyond the lecture setting during my studies”.

