

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC THOUGHT AND SOCIETAL REFORMS

Theme

**“Contemporary Islamic Thought and
Prospects for Societal Reforms:
Geo-Cultural Perspectives”**

Dates: 6-8 February 2019

Venue

ISTAC, No. 24, Persiaran Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, Taman
Duta, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Objectives of the Seminar

1. To provide an overview of the state of relations between religious thought and societal reforms in contemporary Muslim societies.
2. To take a critical and comparative geo-cultural appraisal of trends in contemporary Muslim religious thought and their implications for the present and future Muslim quest for societal reform.
3. To better understand the nature and extent of the challenges posed to Islamic reform in a multicultural society and to propose effective responses to these challenges.
4. To discuss case studies of significant breakthroughs in societal reforms in contemporary Muslim societies, especially in the educational and legal fields that have a significant impact on gender relations and the pursuit of gender equity.

Seminar Programme

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
Wednesday 6th February 2019	<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Day 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Venue: Main Hall, ISTAC</p>	
	02.00pm– 03.30pm	<p><i>Session 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MODERATOR</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Professor Dr Mohd Aslam Mohd Haneef (Kulliyah of Economics and Management-IIUM)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SPEAKERS</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr Osman Bakar (ISTAC-IIUM)</p> <p>Topic: <i>Islah</i> and <i>Tajdid</i> as the Twin Faces of Islamic Reform: Challenges for Islam in Multicultural Societies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr Muddassar Ahmed (The Concordia Forum, London)</p> <p>Topic: Islam and the Common Good: Ideals and Realities</p>
	03.30pm– 04.00 pm	Refreshment

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
	04.00pm– 05.30 pm	<p><i>Session 2</i></p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u></p> <p>Associate Professor Dr Hafiz Zakariya (ISTAC-IIUM)</p> <p><u>SPEAKERS</u></p> <p>Professor Dr Azra Azyumardi (Universitas Islam Negeri, Jakarta)</p> <p>Topic: Synergy between Islamic Thought and Societal Reform in Contemporary Indonesia</p> <p>Associate Professor Dr Imtiyaz Yusuf (ISTAC-IIUM)</p> <p>Topic: Bridging between Tradition and Modernity in Thai Islam: The Role of Surin Pitsuwan</p>

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
<p>Wednesday 6th February 2019</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OPENING FORUM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Co-organised by ISTAC-IIUM, Muslim Intellectual Forum Malaysia, and Centre for Islamic Economics, Kulliyah of Economics and Management-IIUM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Islam and Multiculturalism: The Need for Educational Reform</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panellists</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YB Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim (Port Dickson MP)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Professor Dr John L. Esposito (Founding Director, Prince Al-Waleed Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University)</p>	
	07.30 pm	Arrival of Participants and Guests
		Dinner Buffet at ISTAC Banquet Hall
	07.55 pm	Arrival of Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato Dzulkifli Abdul Razak , IIUM Rector
	08.00 pm	Arrival of YB Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim and University Professor Dr John L. Esposito
Dinner		

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
	08.30 pm	Welcoming Remarks and Introducing Speakers by Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr Osman Bakar , Shaykh al-Kulliyah, ISTAC-IIUM
	08.45 pm	Address by YB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim
	09.15 pm	Address by University Professor John L. Esposito
	09.45 pm	Dialogue/Discussion/Q&A
	10.30 pm	End of FORUM
Thursday 7th February 2019	INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR Day 2 First Meeting of ISTAC International Advisory Council (For Members Only) Venue: Ibn Khaldun Conference Room Lower Ground Floor (LG)	
	08.45 am	Arrival of ISTAC International Advisory Council members
	09.00 am	First Meeting of ISTAC International Advisory Council
	11.00 am	End of the meeting

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
		International Seminar Venue: Main Hall, ISTAC
	11.30 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Session 3</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MODERATOR</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Associate Professor Dr Danial Mohd Yusof (ISTAC-IIUM)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SPEAKERS</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Professor Dr John L. Esposito (Georgetown University)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic: Islam and Societal Reform in the Contemporary World: Western Responses</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Distinguished Professor Dr Amin Saikal (Australian National University)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic: Islam and Politics in Afghanistan: Its Implications for Central Asia</p>
	01.00pm- 02.15 pm	Lunch Break/Prayer

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
	02.15pm- 04.30 pm	<p>Session 4</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u></p> <p>Professor Dato Dr Ahmad Murad Merican (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang)</p> <p><u>SPEAKERS</u></p> <p>Professor Dato Seri Dr Md Salleh Yaapar (Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang)</p> <p>Topic: Islam and Reforms of Tertiary Education: The Malaysian Case</p> <p>Professor Dr Kamar Oniah Kamaruzaman (ISTAC-IIUM)</p> <p>Topic: Societal Reforms in Malaysia: The Role of Interreligious Dialogue</p> <p>Professor Dato Sri Dr Zaleha Kamarudin (Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws-IIUM)</p> <p>Topic: Legal Reforms and Gender Equity in New Malaysia</p>
	04.30 pm	Refreshment
	08.00 pm	Dinner for IAC Members hosted by YB Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Rector IIUM

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
Friday 8th February 2019	International Seminar Day 3	
	09.15am- 10.45 am	<p>Session 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MODERATOR</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Professor Dr Thameen Ushama (Dean, ISTAC-IIUM)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SPEAKERS</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Professor Dr Muhammed Haron (University of Botswana)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic: Africa's Muslim Communities: Caught between Modernist Thought and Traditional Practices</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Professor Dr Suheyl Umar (University of Central Punjab)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic: Prospects for Islamic Educational Reform in the Indian Subcontinent</p>
	10.45am- 11.45 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Lecture</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>SPEAKER</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Professor Dr Ziauddin Sardar (Centre for Postnormal Policy and Future Studies, London)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic: The Future of Muslim Reforms: A Futures Studies Perspective</p>

DATE	TIME	PROGRAMME
	11.45am- 12.00noon	<p>Closing Remarks on the International Seminar on Contemporary Islamic Thought and Societal Reforms</p> <p>Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr Osman Bakar, Shaykh al-Kulliyah, ISTAC-IIUM</p>
		<p>Venue: ISTAC Main Hall</p>
	03.00 pm- 04.30 pm	<p>CLOSING FORUM</p> <p>Topic: World Economic Forum, Davos 2019 Muslim Responses</p> <p>MODERATOR ASTRO-AWANI TV, Malaysia (Tentative)</p> <p>PANELLISTS</p> <p>Mr Muddassar Ahmed (The Concordia Forum, London)</p> <p>Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato Dzulkifli Abdul Razak (Rector, IIUM)</p> <p>Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr Osman Bakar, (ISTAC-IIUM)</p> <p>Professor Dr Mohd Aslam Mohd Haneef (CIE-KENMS-IIUM)</p>
	04.30 pm	Refreshment

Speakers: Biodata

Muddassar Ahmed:

Managing Partner at Unitas Communications Ltd, a boutique political consultancy based in London, Washington and Jeddah specialising in strategic and cross-cultural communications. At Unitas, he has led on projects for the United Nations, Amnesty International, the NFL, the Arab League, the US State Department, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), among many other governments, civil society and business organisations.

Mr Ahmed is also founding President of The Concordia Forum, an annual retreat for senior Western Muslim leaders designed to provide an exclusive forum for trust-building to catalyse strategic dialogue and enhance capacity-building in communities.

Mr Ahmed is President of the John Adams Society, the UK's official US State Department International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) Association, and a Director of the European Network of (US State Dept.) American Alumni.

Mr Ahmed recently completed a term as a Ministerially-appointed independent advisor to the UK government, serving on the Cross-Government Working Group on Anti-Muslim Hatred. He is also a strategic communications advisor to the UK Ministry of Defence.

Mr Ahmed regularly writes and commentates for a variety of international media outlets including CNN, BBC, the Telegraph, Arab News and Haartz. He has also been named as one of 500 most influential Muslims in the world and among the 1000 most influential Londoners by the Evening Standard.

Azyumardi Azra (CBE):

Professor of History and Culture and Special Staff to Vice-President Jusuf Kalla since January 2017. Formerly Director of Graduate School, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University (UIN), Jakarta, Indonesia (January 2007-March 2015) and Deputy for Social Welfare at the Office of Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia (April 2007-October 20, 2009). He was Rector of UIN-Jakarta for two terms (1998-2002 and 2002-2006). He earned his PhD degree in History from Columbia University, New York (1992). In May 2005 he was awarded Doctoral Degree *Honoris Causa* in *Humane Letters* from Carroll College, Montana, USA.

He was Fellow at Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OXCIS, 1994-5); Honorary Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne, Australia (2004-9); a member of Board of Trustees, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

(2004-on); a member of Academic Development Committee, Aga Khan International University-Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC), London (2006-9); and Chief, Auditory Board, Bogor Agricultural University (Bogor, Indonesia, 2008-on).

He has published 23 books and numerous chapters in internationally edited books. His English books are *The Origins of Islamic Reformism in Southeast Asia*, Crows Nest, Australia: Asian Studies Association of Australia and Allen & Unwin; Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press; Leiden: KITLV Press, 2004; co-editor, *Sharia' and Politics in Indonesia*, Singapore: ISEAS, 2005; *Indonesia, Islam and Democracy*, Jakarta & Singapore, ICIP & Equinox, 2006; *Islam in the Indonesian World: An Account of Institutional Development*, Bandung: Mizan International, 2007.

In August 2010 he was awarded the Royal Honorary Title CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of British Empire) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth for his great contribution to inter-faith and inter-civilisation dialogues.

Osman Bakar:

Currently Distinguished Professor and Occupant of Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Thought at ISTAC-IIUM. He is also Shaykh al-Kulliyyah of the Institute. A doctorate in Islamic philosophy from Temple University, Philadelphia he is formerly a Distinguished Professor at Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam, which he formerly headed. Also formerly

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic & Research) of University of Malaya, Malaysia Chair of Southeast Asian Islam at the Prince Talal al-Waleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington DC and Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO), International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies, Malaysia (IAIS). An Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Science at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University of Malaya Dr Bakar is an author of 25 books and more than 300 articles on various aspects of Islamic thought and civilization, particularly Islamic science and philosophy and Islam in Southeast Asia. He was a member of the Council of 100 Leaders of the West-Islamic World Initiative for Dialogue founded by the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland. He has been named among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world since 2009. His two most well-known books, *Classification of Knowledge in Islam* and *Tawhid and Science* have been translated into numerous languages. His most recent books are *Islamic Civilization and the Modern World: Thematic Essays* (2014), *Quranic Pictures of the Universe: The Scriptural Foundation of Islamic Cosmology* (2016), and *Islamic Perspectives on Science and Technology* (co-editor, 2016), and new edition of *Al-Farabi: Life, Works and Significance* (2018).

John L. Esposito:

University Professor, Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University. He is also the Founding Director of the Alwaleed Center for

Muslim-Christian Understanding in the Walsh School of Foreign Service.

Previously, he was Loyola Professor of Middle East Studies, College of the Holy Cross. Past President of the American Academy of Religion and Middle East Studies Association of North America, Esposito has served as consultant to the U.S. Department of State and other agencies, European and Asian governments, corporations, universities, and media worldwide and ambassador for the UN Alliance of Civilizations and was a member of the World Economic Forum's Council of 100 Leaders and E. C. European Network of Experts on De-Radicalisation.

Professor Esposito has received honorary doctorates from many universities, including the University of Sarajevo and University of Florida. He received the American Academy of Religion's Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion, Pakistan's Quaid-i-Azzam Award for Outstanding Contributions in Islamic Studies.

Professor Esposito's more than 50 books include: *The Future of Islam, Islamophobia and the Challenge of Pluralism in the 21st Century; Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think* (with Dalia Mogahed), *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam; The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?; Islam and Politics; Makers of Contemporary Islam and Islam and Democracy* (with John O. Voll), *What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam, Asian Islam in the 21st Century* (John Voll & Osman Bakar), *World Religions Today* and *Religion and Globalization* (with D. Fasching & T. Lewis), *Geography of*

Religion: Where God Lives, Where Pilgrims Walk (with S. Hitchcock), *Islam: The Straight Path* and many others.

Professor Esposito's books and articles have been translated into more than 45 languages.

Muhammed Haron:

Professor of Religious Studies, the University of Botswana's Theology & Religious Studies Department. Formerly associated with the University of the Western Cape where he taught Arabic Studies and with the University of Cape Town where he taught Islamic Studies. Currently, Haron is an Associate Researcher at the University of Stellenbosch; he was formerly attached, in the same capacity, to the Universities of Johannesburg and Pretoria respectively. During 2018 (April-May) he was a visiting International Relations' Professor at Rhodes University; and prior to this he was also a visiting lecturer at UKM (1993/1994), Rhodes (2008), and Stellenbosch (2008).

At present Haron edits University of Cape Town's *Annual Review of Islam in Africa* (ARIA) and is the Editor-in-Chief of Duke University's *Research Africa Reviews*. He authored *The Dynamics of Christian-Muslim Relations* (Uppsala 2006), edited *Going Forward: South African-Malaysia Relations* (Kuala Lumpur 2008), compiled *South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission: An Annotated Bibliography* (New York 2009), co-edited *Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa* (Istanbul 2009), co-edited *Muslim Higher Education in Postcolonial Africa* (London 2016). He edited N. Chand's

Bechuanaland's Muslim Pioneers: Their Journeys and Legacies (Gaborone 2018) and he authored *Connecting South-South Communities: Narrating the Tales of South Africa-Malaysia Relations* (Newcastle 2018). And he co-edited *Proceedings of the 2016 Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa Congress* (Istanbul 2018/9 [in press]).

Zaleha Kamaruddin:

Zaleha Kamarudin is Professor of Law at the Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws and is author/editor of 25 books. She was appointed the first female Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia and also the first woman to be appointed as Shari'ah Appellate Court judge in Malaysia. She is also a member of OIC Women Advisory Council. She specializes in the area of Comparative Family Laws focusing in the area of empowerment of women, child abduction across borders, divorce and administration of justice.

Kamar Oniah Kamaruzaman:

Currently Professor and Head of Unit of Comparative Religion and Intercultural Dialogue (CRID) at ISTAC-IIUM. Formerly Professor of Comparative Religion at IIUM's Department of Usuluddin and Comparative Religion. She was the Founding-Director of the International Centre for the Alliance of Civilizations (INTAC) allied to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) (2012-2015), and former Deputy Director of the International Institute for Muslim Unity (IIMU) (2015-2017). Prof. Kamar Oniah was also the Chairperson for the NGOs Meet of the 1st World Muslim

Women Summit and Exhibition 2016 (WISE 2016) organized by IIUM together with the World Islamic Forum (WIF), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and Malaysian Ministries, September 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

She has presented numerous papers at International seminars and conferences, and has participated in workshops organized by international bodies, including the United Nations, UNESCO, Parliament for World Religions, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), as well as universities, religious agencies and organizations, local and abroad. Many of her papers have been published.

Professor Kamar Oniah has also produced films for academic and social purposes. She won an award at the International Muslim Festival 2014 for a documentary film that she produced and co-directed on the life of the street children of Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines, entitled “Our Children in the Streets of Cotabato”, now on U-Tube. Her earlier film was on the Chinese Religions, portraying the Chinese Traditional Religion, Taoism, Confucianism and Mahayana Buddhism, which she produced and co-directed for purposes of teaching her courses on Comparative Religion.

Amin Saikal:

Distinguished Professor of Political Science, and Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (The Middle East and Central Asia) at the Australian National University. He has been a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in International Relations, and Visiting Fellow to Princeton University,

Cambridge University; the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex; and Indiana University. He is an awardee of the Order of Australia (AM), and an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

He is the author of numerous works on the Middle East, Central Asia, political Islam, and Russia. His recent books include: *Iran Rising: The Survival and Future of the Islamic Republic* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019) *Iran at the Crossroads* (Polity Press, 2016); *Zone of Crisis: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq* (I.B. Tauris, 2014); *Modern Afghanistan: A History of Struggle and Survival* (I.B. Tauris, 2012); *Islam and the West: Conflict or Cooperation?* (Palgrave Macmillan); and editor of *The Arab World and Iran: A Turbulent Region in Transition* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016); *Weak States, Strong Societies: Power and Authority in the New World Order* (I. B. Tauris, 2016); co-editor of *Afghanistan and its Neighbours after the NATO Withdrawal* (Lexington Press, 2016).

He has also published numerous articles in major international journals, book chapters in edited volumes, feature articles in major dailies, including *The New York times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and *The Age*, and he is a frequent commentator on Australian and international TV and radio networks.

Ziauddin Sardar:

Writer, futurist and cultural critic. He studied at Brooke House Secondary Modern School in South London, became teenage science editor of the British magazine *Sixth Form Opinion*, and studied physics at the City University, London. He became well known as an information scientist, correspondent, and lecturer.

He is the Director of the Centre for Postnormal Policy and Futures Studies and editor of *Critical Muslim*, an innovative quarterly on contemporary Muslim ideas and thought.

The most significant magazine, *Afkar: Inquiry*, was conceived and edited by Ziauddin Sardar from June 1984 to September 1987. The Muslim intelligentsia acclaimed the journal, and it sold 50,000 copies per issue. He is a leading correspondent for the *New Statesman* and Professor of Postcolonial Studies in the Department of Arts Policy and Management, City University, London.

Ziauddin Sardar is a major interpreter of all progressive and nonviolent international faiths. He supports firm spiritual structures and believes confidently in authentic twenty-first century Islam, which should achieve a peace-making, moral, equitable, and inclusive social and political order.

Muhammad Suheyl Umar:

Director of Pakistan's Iqbal Academy for the last thirty years. He also worked as the Academic Director, Institute of Islamic Culture, Chief Editor, *Al-Ma'arif* and later on as Visiting Scholar to International Institute of Islamic Thought and

Civilization, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and remained associated with the National University of Computers and Emerging Sciences, Lahore and the Lahore University of Management Sciences as an Adjunct Faculty Member. Presently he is the Director, Centre for English Language & Professor (Social Sciences), Faculty of Information Technology—University of Central Punjab, Lahore.

Professor Umar is the Founder-Editor of *Riwayat*, a scholarly Urdu journal and Editor, *Iqbal Review*, a quarterly journal, published alternately in Urdu and English, focusing on Iqbal Studies. He also edited *Studies in Tradition*, a quarterly journal devoted to traditional studies on Metaphysics, Philosophy, Literature, Art and Science.

His areas of specialty and interests include, Philosophy, Language and Literature (English, Urdu, Arabic and Persian), Comparative Religion, Islamic Spirituality, Interfaith Dialogue, Religion and Science Interface, Iqbal Studies and Islamic Intellectual History. Well versed in Urdu, English, Arabic, and Persian, he has contributed a large number of articles on these themes to reputed academic journals. Apart from that he is an accomplished translator of three languages and computer-wise to the extent of having produced two Software Programs (one of these is still the only True Multilingual Library Software in the world) besides doing all the Urduvization of Micro Soft Office and Micro Soft Windows.

Md Salleh Yaapar (Dato' Seri):

Professor of Literature as well as Ombudsman at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia. He is also a Distinguished Fellow at the International Institute of Islamic Civilization and Malay World, International Islamic University Malaysia. He is the first recipient of the Malay Language Academic Personality Award, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia. He was formerly Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Malaysia and holder of European Chair of Malay Studies, Leiden University, Netherlands. Prior to that he was Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Development), Deputy Vice Chancellor (Students Affairs), and Dean of the School of Humanities, all at Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Professor Md. Salleh's areas of specialization are Comparative Literature, Literary Theory and Literature of the Malay World. His significant books include *Poetry and Mysticism: A Hermeneutical Reading of the Poems of Amir Hamzah* (1995; 2015) and *Pilgrimage to the Orient* (2009). He is the Editor-in-Chief of *Malay Literature* as well as *Melayu: Jurnal Antarabangsa Dunia Melayu* and a member of the advisory boards of *IMAN: International Journal of the Malay World and Civilization* and *Jurnal Pengajian Melayu*. He also sits on the Academic Committee for *Al-Shajarah* (ISI), the editorial boards of *Tafhim: IKIM Journal of Islam and the Contemporary World* (Malaysia), and *Kemanusiaan: Asian Journal of Humanities* (Scopus)

Imtiyaz Yusuf:

Associate Professor and Coordinator, Islam and Buddhism Programme at ISTAC-IIUM and Senior Fellow at the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, (ACMCU) Georgetown University, Washington D.C., USA. Previously, he was Director of the Centre for Buddhist-Muslim Understanding in the College of Religious Studies at Mahidol University in Thailand.

He specializes in Religion with a focus on Islam in Thailand and Southeast Asia and also Muslim-Buddhist dialogue. Dr Yusuf has contributed to the Oxford Encyclopaedia of Islamic World (2009); Oxford Dictionary of Islam (2003); Encyclopaedia of Qur'an (2002); and Oxford Encyclopaedia of Modern Islamic World (1995). He was also the special Editor, *The Muslim World—A Special Issue on Islam and Buddhism* Vol. 100, Nos 2-3 April/July 2010.

Dr Yusuf's most recent publications are: *Multiculturalism in Asia: Peace and Harmony* (2018); "Three Faces of the Rohingya Crisis: Religious Nationalism, Asian Islamophobia, and Delegitimizing Citizenship" in *Studia Islamika*, [Scopus Indexed], Vol. 25, no. 3, December 2018, pp. 503-542; "Nationalist Ethnicities as Religious Identities: Islam, Buddhism and Citizenship in Myanmar", *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 34:4 (2017) pp. 100-119; "Islam and Buddhism" in *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Interreligious Dialogue*, Catherine Cornille (ed.) (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, Inc, 2013), Chapter 22.

Brief Notes on Forum Speakers

Anwar Ibrahim (Dato Seri):

Currently, Member of Parliament for Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan; a former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia (1993-1998).

John L. Esposito:

University Professor and Founding Director of Prince Al-Waleed Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University.

Muddassar Ahmed:

Founding President of The Concordia Forum, London and Managing Partner at Unitas Communications Ltd.

Dzulkifli Abdul Razak (Tan Sri):

Rector of International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM) and former Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang.

Osman Bakar:

Distinguished Professor, Shaykh al-Kulliyah of ISTAC-IIUM
and Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Thought.

Mohd Aslam Mohd Haneef:

Professor and Director, Centre for Islamic Economics,
Kulliyah of Economics and Management, IIUM.

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 Buddhism Programme (ISTAC)
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