

# Islam- Confucianism

Leadership Dialogue

回儒领导对话峰会

The Idea of Enlightened Leadership:  
Islamic-Confucian Perspectives



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## Islamic-Confucian Leadership Dialogue **The Idea of Enlightened Leadership: Islamic-Confucian Perspectives**

In 1995, the International Seminar on Islam and Confucianism: A Civilizational Dialogue at the University of Malaya marked a pivotal moment in Malaysia's history, initiating a dialogue that transcended religious and philosophical boundaries. Now, 28 years later, Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Epistemology and Civilisational Studies and Renewal, ISTAC-International Islamic University Malaysia, the Centre of Regional Strategic Studies (CROSS), and the Southeast Asia Research Centre for Humanities (SEARCH) proudly announce the reorganization of the Islam-Confucianism Leadership Dialogue (ICLD2023).

Building on the legacy of the 1995 event, the ICLD2023 represents a milestone in the ongoing dialogue between Islam and Confucianism. This renewed effort brings scholars, experts, and practitioners from both traditions together, creating a platform for open and respectful exchanges. The event is a testament to the belief that fostering mutual understanding between civilizations is essential for a harmonious and interconnected world.

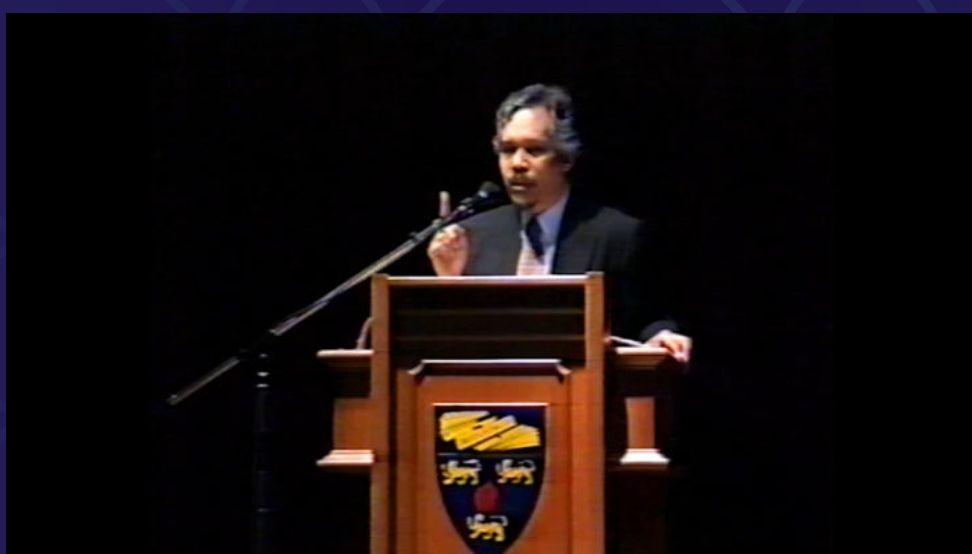
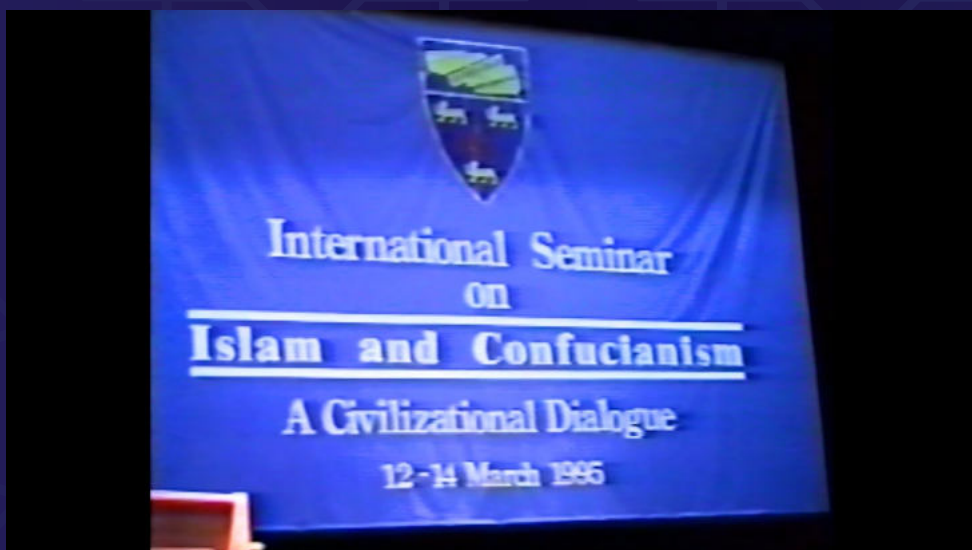
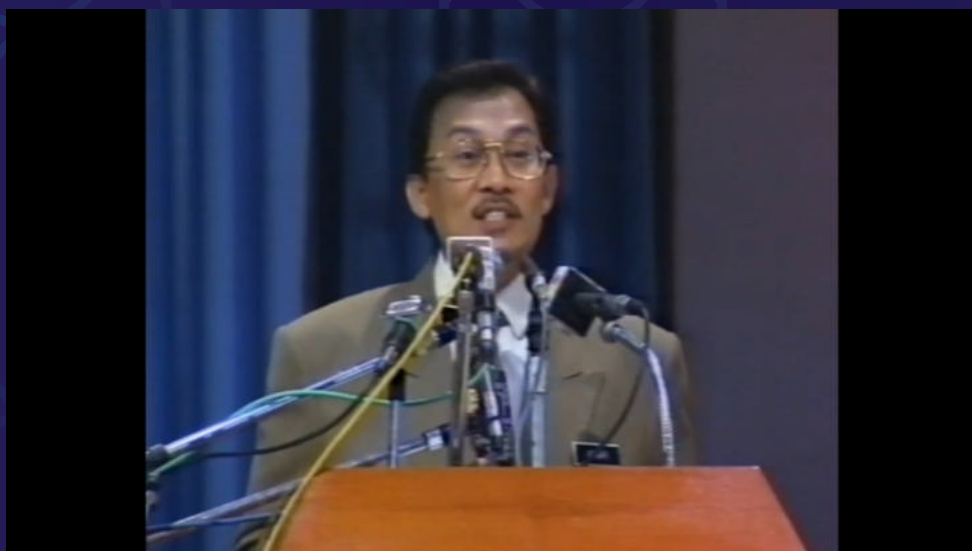
The ICLD2023 emerges in a world where intercultural understanding has evolved from a mere ingredient for "peaceful coexistence" to a fundamental pillar for global stability and progress. Recognizing the risk of exacerbating power imbalances and fostering hegemony without meaningful dialogue in the face of globalization, the dialogue aims to contribute to equitable and inclusive international relations.

In the spirit of knowledge, wisdom, and learning encompassed in the word "enlightened," the ICLD2023 explores the theme "The Idea of Enlightened Leadership: Islamic-Confucian Perspectives." This theme reflects the commitment to delve into the shared values and beliefs that exist between Islam and Confucianism, paving the way for a world built upon mutual understanding.

The significance of this event extends beyond the dialogue itself. It aligns with Malaysia MADANI's spirit of inclusivity and the China Belt & Road Initiative's goal of enhancing connectivity and cooperation among diverse nations. The ICLD2023 serves as a catalyst for promoting global understanding and appreciation of shared values.



# Event Photo







## **Al-Ghazali Chair of Epistemology and Civilisational Studies and Renewal ISTAC-IIUM**

The Al-Ghazali Chair of Epistemology and Civilisational Studies and Renewal is presently located at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC), a postgraduate Institute of International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) established on 29th September 1987. Its current holder is Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Osman Bakar, who occupied the Chair since September 2018. The present Chair is a renaming of the original Al-Ghazali Chair created by Professor Tan Sri Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas, ISTAC's Founder-Director, in 1993 and officially launched on 14th December 1993 at its old campus in Jalan Damansara, Kuala Lumpur. During the official launch YAB Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, then the President and Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIUM and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Malaysia, announced the appointment of al-Attas as the first occupant of the distinguished Chair.

The title "Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Thought" was chosen both in honour of al-Ghazali (1058-1111) as one of the greatest thinkers in Islamic history and in recognition of Professor Al-Attas as a leading world scholar of Islamic thought who was deeply influenced by al-Ghazali. Professor al-Attas occupied the Al-Ghazali Chair for nine years from December 1993 till 2002, the year his academic position at ISTAC came to an end. The Chair has not been occupied since then until September 2018 when Professor Datuk Dr Osman Bakar was appointed by IIUM as its second occupant.

As the second holder of the Chair, Professor Osman Bakar who is also an authority on al-Ghazali, identifies its concentration with the disciplines of epistemology and civilisational studies. Hence, the Chair's new title "Al-Ghazali Chair of Epistemology and Civilisational Studies and Renewal." The Chair is now dedicated to research, publication, and training of doctoral and Masters students in Islamic thought and civilisation as well as inter-civilisational dialogues. More specifically, the Chair is highly visible in delivering lectures and convening seminars and conferences on Islam-Confucianism dialogues.



## CROSS

The Centre of Regional Strategic Studies (CROSS) is an independent think tank based in Malaysia. We specialize in conducting research and providing advisory services on a wide range of topics, including organizational and institutional issues, economic policies, and sustainable social development.

Acting as a vital bridge between the government and society, CROSS conducts professional, objective, and independent research on national public policies and significant regional challenges. We offer practical, strategic, and innovative analysis to decision-makers and provide them with valuable recommendations.

CROSS actively promotes regional dialogue and cooperation by organizing academic forums, round tables, and publishing research papers. Our aim is to facilitate collaborative partnerships and the exchange of ideas to foster an enabling international environment.

In conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, CROSS jointly initiated a series of seminars and roundtable discussions in Malaysia, aimed at engaging with local communities and promoting collaboration between Malaysia and China under the BRI for the next 10 years.

## SEARCH

Southeast Asia Research Centre for Humanities (SEARCH, known as SEARCH Intelligence Unit Sdn. Bhd.) is a forward-thinking and independent think tank with a primary focus on "Government-Industry-Academia" collaboration, aiming to foster multilateral partnerships between Malaysia, ASEAN and East Asian region. Our vision is to establish a Progressive Network and Community, fostering shared prosperity through integrated, progressive, and enterprising initiatives that result from win-win cooperation among governments, business communities, and universities.

We turn ideas into actions by creating platforms to explore, experience and engage in the rich reservoir of human capital, entrepreneurship, intelligence and technological ingenuity, as well as cultural diversity that set this community apart from the rest of the world.

SEARCH is committed to advancing the Belt and Road initiative in this region through various programs under the Belt and Road Series, including the Belt and Road Symposium Malaysia, Belt and Road Seminar and Roundtable, SEARCH Scholar Series, and Scholar Commentary Book series. We are furthering this effort by establishing the Malaysia-China Belt & Road Institute (MCBRI) to enhance academic cooperation between China and Malaysia, with a focus on research, knowledge exchange, and talent development. Additionally, we have created the Belt & Road Overseas Venture Incubator (BROVI) to promote collaborative business ventures across borders, especially between Malaysia and the global community, with a special emphasis on China.



# Program Flow

Time	Program						
8.00 AM	Refreshments/Registration						
8.55 AM	Arrival of VIP and Guest of Honour						
9.00 AM	Malaysia & China National Anthem						
9.05 AM	Introduction by Emcee						
9.10 AM	Welcome Remarks by YB Tuan Lee Chean Chung, Chairman of Organising Committee						
9.15 AM	Speech by Professor Li Honglei, President of Boao Confucian Entrepreneurs Forum						
9.20 AM	Speech by H.E. Ouyang Yujing, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia						
9.30 AM	Speech by Professor Tu Wei Ming, Chair Professor of Humanities and Founding Director of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University & Professor Emeritus and Senior Fellow of Asia Center at Harvard University						
10.00 AM	Islamic-Confucian Video						
10.05 AM	Keynote Address by YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia						
10.25 AM	Book Launching Ceremony						
10.30 AM	Certificate Presentation to Sponsors, Speakers, Moderators Group Photo						
10.45 AM	Short Break						
11.15 AM	Speech by <b>Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar</b> , Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Epistemology and Civilisational Studies and Renewal, ISTAC-International Islamic University Malaysia <b>Topic: The Philosopher-King in Islamic and Confucian Political Thought: Comparative Notes</b> Moderator: Mr. Mohd Shazani Masri (ISTAC PhD student, Malaysia)						
11.45 AM	<b>Plenary Panel Session</b> <b>Islam-Confucianism Dialogue: Towards a New Creative Phase</b> Moderator: Dr Nurul Ain Norman (Research Fellow, ISTAC, Malaysia) <table><tbody><tr><td>Speaker: Professor Dr Nevad Kathran (Bosnia-Herzegovina)</td><td>Topic: Islamic-Confucian Dialogue: Bosnian Confluences and Crosscurrents</td></tr><tr><td>Professor Dr Wen Haiming (China)</td><td>Creativity and Power: A Dialogue of Confucianism and Islamic Philosophy</td></tr><tr><td>Professor Dr Lasiyo (Indonesia)</td><td>Confucianism: Culture, Religion and Philosophy</td></tr></tbody></table>	Speaker: Professor Dr Nevad Kathran (Bosnia-Herzegovina)	Topic: Islamic-Confucian Dialogue: Bosnian Confluences and Crosscurrents	Professor Dr Wen Haiming (China)	Creativity and Power: A Dialogue of Confucianism and Islamic Philosophy	Professor Dr Lasiyo (Indonesia)	Confucianism: Culture, Religion and Philosophy
Speaker: Professor Dr Nevad Kathran (Bosnia-Herzegovina)	Topic: Islamic-Confucian Dialogue: Bosnian Confluences and Crosscurrents						
Professor Dr Wen Haiming (China)	Creativity and Power: A Dialogue of Confucianism and Islamic Philosophy						
Professor Dr Lasiyo (Indonesia)	Confucianism: Culture, Religion and Philosophy						
1.05 PM	Lunch Break						



# Program Flow

Time	Program	
2.05PM	<b>Panel One: Tradition and Modernization</b> Moderator: Dr Tee Boon Chuan (Associate Professor, UTAR, Malaysia)	
	Speaker: Professor Mohd Hazim Shah Murad (Malaysia)      Topic: Islam, Tradition, and Modernisation	
	Professor Dato Mohamad Abu Bakar (Malaysia)      Tradition and Modernisation: Revisiting Islamic Perspectives	
	Dr. Peter T. C. Chang (Malaysia)      Ancient Traditions and the Transition into the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Humanity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence	
	<b>Panel Two: Governance and Culture</b> Moderator: Mr. Yong Hee Kong (Senior Advisor, ASEAN Pte Ltd, Malaysia)	
	Speaker: Ms. Chen Yuanfen (China)      Topic: The Corporate Governance Wisdom of Chinese Confucian Entrepreneurs	
	Dr Tan Chee Seng (Malaysia)      Continuity and Adaptation: Confucian Culture and Governance from China to Malaysia throughout History	
	Mr. Mohd Yusmadi Mohd Yusoff (Malaysia)      Ethics in Politics: Drawing on Islamic and Confucian Wisdom to Navigate Contemporary Challenges	
	3.55PM	<b>Panel Three: Economics, Business, and World Order</b> Moderator: Mr. Arief S. Arman (MA Religion in Global Politics, SOAS, University of London)
		Speaker: Professor Dato' Saadiah Mohamad (Malaysia)      Topic: Humane Economy: A Madani Perspective
Dr Wang Lizong (China)      Building a Business Cooperation Platform through Cross-Cultural Communication		
Dr Phar Kim Beng (Malaysia)      Confucianism, Islam, and World Order		
<b>Panel Four: Globalisation, Youth and Cultural Exchanges</b> Moderator: Mr. Nathaniel Tan (Columnist, Malaysia)		
Speaker: Ms. Fan Xinheng (China)      Topic: The Vision through Family and Nation to the World according to Chinese Confucian Entrepreneurs		
Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Azizan Baharuddin (Malaysia)      How Asian Civilisational Values Can Help Resolve the Present Planetary Health Crisis		
Mr. Muhammad Faisal bin Abdul Aziz (Malaysia)      Islam-Confucianism Leadership Dialogue: The Role of Youth in the Renewal of Global Social Cohesion		
5.15PM		Closing Remarks
5.30PM		Program END





## Professor Tu Wei Ming

*Chair Professor of Humanities and Founding Director of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University Professor Emeritus and Senior Fellow of the Asia Center at Harvard University*

Tu Weiming, a distinguished contemporary Chinese philosopher and Confucian scholar, has left an enduring impact on East Asian philosophy and comparative thought. His intellectual journey is characterized by a dedicated pursuit of cross-cultural understanding and a commitment to bridging the gap between Eastern and Western philosophical traditions.

A notable achievement of Tu Weiming is his role as a leading exponent of Confucianism in the modern era. As a prolific author, he significantly contributed to the renaissance of Confucian thought, emphasizing its relevance in addressing contemporary global challenges. Beyond traditional academic boundaries, Tu Weiming dedicated himself to fostering dialogue and mutual understanding between cultures.

Tu Weiming also serving as a professor at Princeton University, where he founded the East Asian Studies Program. Later, he assumed the position of Director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute at Harvard University, emphasizing his commitment to academic exchange and cross-cultural collaboration.

As a scholar deeply engaged with Confucian humanism, Tu Weiming underscores the importance of ethical cultivation, social harmony, and the pursuit of virtue. His work delves into the rich tapestry of East Asian philosophical traditions, offering insights into the Confucian conception of the self, society, and cosmic order.

Tu Weiming's extensive publication record, including works like "Way, Learning, and Politics: Essays on the Confucian Intellectual" and "Neo-Confucian Thought in Action: Wang Yangming's Youth (1472-1509)," reflects the depth of his scholarship. These publications showcase his nuanced exploration of Confucian thought and its dynamic adaptation to contemporary challenges.

A pivotal moment in Tu Weiming's narrative occurred during the Dialogue between Islam and Confucian Civilizations in 1995 at the University of Malaya. Here, he encountered YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the deputy prime minister at the time, illustrating the real-world impact of his ideas and the resonance of Confucian philosophy beyond academic circles.

Tu Weiming's legacy extends beyond academia, resonating with a broad audience interested in the intersection of philosophy, culture, and global ethics. His dedication to fostering cross-cultural understanding continues to inspire scholars, students, and thinkers worldwide.



## Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar

*Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Epistemology and Civilisational Studies and Renewal,  
ISTAC-International Islamic University Malaysia*

Osman Bakar, a doctorate in Islamic philosophy from Temple University, Philadelphia (USA) is currently Holder of Al-Ghazali Chair of Epistemology and Civilizational Studies and Renewal at ISTAC-IIUM. He is also Emeritus Professor in Philosophy of Science at University of Malaya. He was formerly Distinguished Professor and Director of Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Professor Osman was also formerly Malaysia Chair of Islam in Southeast Asia at the Prince Talal al-Waleed Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research) at University of Malaya. Dr Osman is author and editor of 44 books and numerous articles on various aspects of Islamic thought and civilization, particularly Islamic science and philosophy in which he is a leading authority. His most well-known books are *Classification of Knowledge in Islam* (1992) and *Tawhid and Science* (1992). His latest books are *Colonialism in the Malay Archipelago: Civilizational Encounters* (eds) (2020), *Environmental Wisdom for Planet Earth: The Islamic Heritage* (2022), and *Islam-Buddhism Eco Dialogue (IBED): Application of Religion and Science to Ecology and Sustainability* (eds) (2023). Dr Osman is a recipient of several prestigious awards, including Ibn Ishaq Al-Kindi Intellectual of the Year Award (National, 2020) and the 13th Farabi International Award on Humanities and Islamic Studies (International Top Researcher, 2022). His writings have been translated into numerous languages, including Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Chinese, Bosnian, Urdu, Bengali, and Spanish. He has been named among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world since 2009. He was made a Dato in 1994 by the Sultan of Pahang and a Datuk by the King of Malaysia in 2000.



## Professor Nevad Kahteran

Prof. Dr. Nevad Kahteran is a Professor of Eastern and Comparative Philosophy in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has extensively contributed to the field of philosophy and was recently elected as the Vice-President of the International Society of Comparative Philosophy toward World Philosophy (<https://www.cpwponline.org/home>).

Nevad Kahteran is a scholar with a diverse academic background. He earned his bachelor's degree from the Islamic Theological Faculty in Sarajevo (now FIN) on February 11, 1992. Concurrently, he completed a degree in philosophy and sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo on April 27, 1995. His academic journey continued with a master's thesis defense on December 28, 1995, titled "Philosophical Theologiké (Ibn Rušd/Averroes, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Maimonides)." Later, on July 27, 2001, he defended his doctoral dissertation on "Sophia Perennis (René Guénon, Frithjof Schuon, and Seyyed Hossein Nasr)."

Kahteran became a Hafiz of the Qur'an on April 19, 1999. His contributions extend beyond teaching, as he collaborated with institutions such as the Leksikografski Zavod "Miroslav Krleža" in Zagreb and co-edited and authored entries for "The Qur'an: An Encyclopedia" (Routledge, 2006) and "Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions" (ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, 2008). He obtained a Fulbright grant during the fall semester of 2006 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Honolulu.

Kahteran engaged in various international study programs, including at Oxford University, Georgetown University, AUC-American University in Cairo, and Kyoto University. He has been a faculty member at the Faculty of Islamic Sciences since 1994/95, gradually advancing to the position of associate professor and, as of April 1, 2013, serving as a full professor. Kahteran has actively participated in international conferences and is associated with several academic organizations, such as being the vice president of the International Society for Comparative Philosophy in the USA and a member of HFD since 2021. His commitment to comparative philosophy is evident through his organization of international symposia and conferences.

For more information, please visit: <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-2487-1337>





## Professor Dr Wen Haiming

Professor Haiming Wen received his Ph.D. in comparative philosophy from the University of Hawaii in 2006. He is now a professor at the School of Philosophy, Renmin (People' s) University of China (RUC), and the Beijing Center (TBC, since 2007). He is the Associate directors of the Committee for Scholarship and Committee for Membership of International Confucian Association (ICA); Special Expert of Confucius Research Institute, Shandong Taishan Scholar; Director of Center for Studies of the Yijing (the Book of Changes) at Academy of Confucian Studies, Nishan World Center for Confucianism; Associate Editors-in-Chief of the Journals Studies of Confucianism (Kongzi yanjiu) and Confucian Academy (Kongxuetang).

Prof. Wen has published about 10 books in both English and Chinese, including *Illuminating the New Version of the Ancient Treatise on the Book of Changes and the Unity of Three Continuities (Zhouyi Cantongqi) and Its Intentionality* 新古本周易参同契明意(2022); *Illuminating Intentionality Through the Platform Sutra* 坛经明意(2021); *Comparative Context and Chinese Philosophy* 比较境遇与中国哲学(2020); *Illuminating Intentionality Through the Zhouyi: New Explorations of the Philosophy of the Book of Changes* 周易明意:周易哲学新探(2019); *Illuminating Daodejing and Its Intentionality* 道德经明意(2019); *Making Intentions Concrete: Dimensions of Confucian Ethics* 儒家实意伦理学 (2014); two in English: *Confucian Pragmatism as the Art of Contextualizing Personal Experience and World* (Lexington, 2009); and *Chinese Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2012); etc. His Chinese Philosophical Thoughts 中國哲學思想 (2010) has been translated into French, Spanish, Arabic, etc. He has also published more than 70 journal articles in both English and Chinese. He has been invited to present more than 100 papers in more than 20 countries all over the world. Over the years, he is active in promoting traditional Chinese philosophy to the world, and dialogue with many thinkers in various contemporary topics.



## Professor Dr. Lasiyo, MA, MM

*Professor in Eastern Philosophy, since 1997--Now*

*Head of Department of Philosophy of Religion, at Faculty of Philosophy, Gadjah*

*Mada University since 2015 - 2021 and 2021-2026*

Prof. Dr. Lasiyo has been a prominent figure in Eastern Philosophy, holding the position since 1997 at Gadjah Mada University. Notably, he served as the Head of the Department of Philosophy of Religion from 2015 to 2021 and is set to continue in this role until 2026. His leadership extends to various roles, including heading the Department of Eastern Philosophy from 2010 to 2014, chairing the Postgraduate Program in Humanity from 2008 to 2009, and overseeing the Postgraduate Program in Philosophy from 2002 to 2007. He also assumed the role of Vice Dean in Academic Affairs from 1998 to 2001 and served as the Assistance Director of the Inter University Centre in Social Studies from 1996 to 1999. His educational background is extensive, earning a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Religious Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, in 1993. Additionally, he holds a Magister Management from Universitas Islam Indonesia in 1998. With a rich teaching experience, he has lectured on Philosophy of Science and various philosophical topics at several universities. A prolific author, Prof. Dr. Lasiyo has published numerous works, including recent titles such as "Etika; Teori dan Implementasinya" and "Pembangunan Karakter Manusia dalam Perspektif Filsafat Konfusianisme." His publications encompass a wide range of topics, from Javanese culture and philosophy to the emergence of Confucianism in Indonesia, showcasing his expertise and contribution to the field of philosophy.



## The Philosopher-King in Islamic and Confucian Political Thought: Comparative Notes



MODERATOR:

**Mr.  
Mohd Shazani Masri**

ISTAC PhD student, Malaysia

Mohd. Shazani bin Masri is a lecturer in the Department of Politics and Government, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. His current research interests and publications include political theory, Islamic thought and civilization, epistemology, and Borneo studies. He is now pursuing his PhD in Islamic Thought and Civilization at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, International Islamic University Malaysia. He received his MSc in Political Theory from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK and his BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences (Political Science and Economics) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. Throughout his lecturership, he has been supervising final year students' projects mainly in political science and Islamic and Western political thought.

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### Islam-Confucianism Dialogue: Towards a New Creative Phase



MODERATOR:

**Dr  
Nurul Ain Norman**

Research Fellow, ISTAC, Malaysia

Dr. Nurul Ain Norman is a research fellow at ISTAC-IIUM and previously worked at IAIS Malaysia. She graduated from Universiti Malaya and specialises in Islamic Philosophy. She is multilingual and knows Malay, English, Arabic, Persian and French and is currently working on the oldest Persian manuscript (800 years old) in the Syed Muhammad Naquib Library. She was awarded the translation grant from the University of Birmingham (Global Philosophy of Religion Project) in 2021 and is also the secretary for the Malaysian Association for the Education of Philosophy and Thinking where she works with youth across the country to adapt critical thinking.





Panel One: Tradition and Modernization



**Professor  
Mohd Hazim Shah Murad**

Malaysia

Professor Mohammad Hazim Shah holds degrees from the University of Manchester, the London School of Economics, and the University of Pittsburgh, USA. His extensive academic career at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, saw him as a Professor and Head of the Department of Science and Technology Studies from 2001 to 2007. After retiring in 2015, he became a Senior Research Fellow until May 2016. Prof. Hazim served as Deputy Director of INPUMA in 2017 before joining Universiti Utara Malaysia. He was President of the Malaysian Social Science Association from 2010 to 2014, contributing widely to local and international journals on the history and philosophy of science, science-religion-culture relations, and comparative studies between Islamic and Western civilizations. He currently teaches philosophy at Universiti Utara Malaysia.



**Professor  
Dato Mohamad Abu Bakar**

Malaysia

Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Chairholder at UniSZA (2019-2023) and former Head, Department of International & Strategic Studies, University of Malaya. He was also previously Visiting Professor at La Plata National University, Argentina, Al Mutawa Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies, England, and Fulbright Visiting Fellow at the University of Washington, USA. He too was Tun Abdul Razak Chairholder at Ohio University between 2005 - 2007.



**Dr.  
Peter T. C. Chang**

Malaysia

Dr. Peter T. C. Chang is trained in the field of comparative philosophy and religion. Dr. Chang's current research looks at how a rejuvenated Confucianism could shape the evolving character of the Chinese milieu and in turn impact the global community. Based at the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya, Dr. Chang is also analyzing the opportunities and risks associated with the Belt and Road Initiative. He is examining this from the perspective of China's soft power, specifically the Chinese traditional as well as popular cultural imprints upon the world at large in general, and Malaysia in particular. Aside from academic writing, Dr. Chang's publications include opinion pieces in media platforms such as the South China Morning Post.



MODERATOR:

**Dr  
Tee Boon Chuan**

Associate Professor, UTAR, Malaysia

Dr Tee Boon Chuan is an Associate Professor at the Department of Chinese Studies, University of Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia. He obtained his PhD in Philosophy from the National Central University, Taiwan. His research areas include Malay-Indonesian Intellectual History and East and Southeast Asian Confucian Studies. He has published works on neo-Confucianism and pre-Islamic Malay-Indonesian philosophy. He is a Council member of the International Confucian Association (ICA), China.

## Panel Two: Governance and Culture



### Ms. Chen Yuanfen

China

Ms. Chen Yuanfen, born in Tonghai, Yunnan, China, is an accomplished entrepreneur and advocate for Confucian business values. A graduate of Yunnan Normal University and the Central Party School, she is the Executive Chairman of the Global SME Alliance Confucian Business Culture Promotion Association and the Executive Vice Chairman of Boao Confucian Business Forum. Ms. Chen is also the founder of Shishu Qipao and holds leadership positions in various companies. Renowned in the field of Chinese studies, she engages in extensive public speaking, promoting cultural understanding at universities, enterprises, and national villages. A prolific writer, she has contributed to academic journals and published numerous poems. Committed to philanthropy, Ms. Chen supports disadvantaged groups through training and employment initiatives, reflecting her dedication to cultural confidence and national pride as a Confucian business practitioner.



### Dr Tan Chee Seng

Malaysia

Dr. Tan Chee Seng is a Senior Lecturer in the History Section at the School of Humanities, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). He obtained his doctorate in Chinese Studies (Chinese History) from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2017, and both his MA (Southeast Asian History) and BA (Hons) from USM. He specializes in modern Chinese history and Overseas Chinese history. His articles have been published in scholarly journals and books. He was a Visiting Student at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica (2010 and 2011). He has been invited to give keynote speeches in China (2018 and 2019).





**Mr  
Mohd Yusmadi Mohd Yusoff**

Malaysia

Mohd Yusmadi Mohd Yusoff, a Senior Partner at Fahda Nur & Yusmadi and founder of the RIGHTS Group, a think tank and charity initiatives. Yusmadi's extensive career includes roles as an MP, Senator, and Political aide to Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim. He has also made significant contributions as a former Adjunct Professor at the International Islamic Thought & Civilisation (ISTAC-IIUM) and is a valued member of the Consultative Council of Foreign Policy (CCFP) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. Appointed to the Special Parliamentary Committee Against Corruption by YDP Agong. Yusmadi, a Fulbright Scholar and Hubert Humphrey Fellow, holds an LL.B (Hons) from the International Islamic University Malaysia and an LL.M from American University Washington College of Law. He is the first cohort of Lee Kuan Yew Senior Fellow in Public Service and the Schwarzman Scholars Selection Panel at Tsinghua University. Yusmadi is also appointed as Chairman of Encorp Berhad, a leading property development company.



MODERATOR:

**Mr  
Yong Hee Kong**

Senior Advisor, ASEAN Pte Ltd, Malaysia

HK Yong was a Development Banker with the National Development Bank Malaysia, and the Adviser (Public Private Partnerships) of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London. He has consulted for the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, JBIC, Nomura Foundation, Islamic Development Bank, and other multilateral organisations. HK sat on the Board of SOCSO (Social Security Organisation) Malaysia, and chaired its Risk Committee. He was a Trustee and Audit Chair of WorldFish, an international research NGO supporting the Food SDG through research in aquaculture.

HK holds a BEng (Civil and Structural Engineering), an MBA and a Postgrad Diploma in Islamic Studies. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant (England and Wales).



## Professor Dato' Saadiah Mohamad

Malaysia

Dr. Saadiah Mohamad is Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Business and Accountancy, Universiti Selangor UNISEL. She was a professor of Economics at Universiti Teknologi MARA UiTM (2010-2020). She received her undergraduate degree in Town and Country Planning from the University of Manchester, UK, a Master's degree (Economics) from the University of Missouri Kansas City, USA and a PhD (Economics) in 2003 from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. In 2020, Prof Saadiah co-founded Forum Ekonomi Manusia (FEM) "Forum for a Humane Economy" and is currently its Deputy Chairman. FEM is an NGO that promotes an inclusive, just and sustainable economy.



## Dr Wang Lizong

China

Dr. Wang Lizong is member of the national committee of CPPCC, the president of China Guangdong High-tech Industry Chamber, and the Executive director of the Greater Bay Area-ASEAN Research Center of Shenzhen University. The chamber of Commerce under his leadership is the first chamber of commerce in the high-tech field in China, with more than 6,000 member enterprises. He has long provided a variety of services for enterprises, and is committed to studying the development law and trend of high-tech industry. Encourage enterprises to learn and understand multi-culture to increase the development momentum of enterprises, he uses the excellent traditional Chinese culture to guide the majority of entrepreneurs to cultivate the right values, ways of thinking, and ways of behavior, promote the harmony between enterprises and nature and society, and achieve healthy and sustainable development.



**Dr  
Phar Kim Beng**

Malaysia

Phar Kim Beng (aka Mustaphar Abdullah) is the CEO of Strategic Pan Indo Pacific Arena (SPIPA) in Kuala Lumpur and London (strategicpipa.org). SPIPA publishes analyses of world issues in The Jakarta Post, The Edge, and South China Morning Post. Dr Phar obtained his BA in International Relations and Islamic Civilization (minor) from International Islamic University of Malaysia, MA from Notre Dame, and PhD from Meiji University. He completed graduate courses at Harvard, University of Cambridge, and Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. At Harvard (1998-2001) he was Head Teaching Fellow of several BA and MA courses. He pursued his specialization in Confucianism and Islamic civilization in September 1994 with Professor Fred Dalmyr and Professor Tu Wei Ming. He is now the senior independent columnist of The Jakarta Post (2019 onwards) and serves as Senior Advisor to Bluebridge Education Group that is attached to Homerton College and St Edmunds College of University of Cambridge in the UK (2019 onwards). He was formerly Director of Political and Security Community in the ASEAN Secretariat.



MODERATOR:

**Mr  
Arief S. Arman**

MA Religion in Global Politics, SOAS, University of London

Arief S. Arman holds an MA (Religion in Global Politics) from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Prior, he attained a BA in Philosophy & Political Science from the University of Queensland, Australia. His research interests include Existentialism, Sufism, and Jewish-Muslim relations from the Almoravid Period onwards.



Panel Four: Globalisation, Youth and Cultural Exchanges



**Ms  
Fan Xinheng**

China

Assistant Professor Fan Xinheng is from Hezhou University, the doctor graduated from HELP University in Malaysia, the visiting scholar of South China University of Technology, to follow Prof Chao Gang to develop studies of Traditional excellent Chinese culture management of companies, especially cultural integration in cross-border or transnational samples, striving to find the operational reference of Chinese excellent traditional culture in cross-border or transnational management.



**Emeritus Professor  
Datuk Dr Azizan Baharuddin**

Malaysia

Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Azizan Baharuddin received her BSc Hons degree in Biology at the University of Tasmania (1978), MSc in History & Philosophy of Science at the University College London (1979) and PhD in Science and Religion, University of Lancaster (1989). Her research interests include bioethics, environmental ethics, and sustainability and dialogue of civilisations/cultures. She has produced more than 200 publications in the above areas. Her public contributions include appointment by the Prime Minister as the Chairman of the National Interfaith Harmony Committee (2014-2015) and membership of the International Bioethics Committee appointed by the DG of UNESCO (2014-2017). She has been conferred several awards, including the Langkawi Award for her work and activism in environmental education locally and abroad (2016). Currently Azizan is Director of the University Malaya Centre for Civilisational Dialogue and Holder of the UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability. She is also a member of the Committee of the National Planetary Health Action Plan.





**Mr**  
**Muhammad Faisal bin Abdul Aziz**  
Malaysia

Muhammad Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz is an accomplished professional with an LLM from Mara Technology University and LLB and Syariah (Honours) degrees from the International Islamic University Malaysia. His leadership roles include the presidency of the Muslim Youth Movement Malaysia (ABIM) from 2019 to 2023 and the deputy chairpersonship of the Coalition for Clean & Fair Election (BERSIH) from 2018 to 2020. Faisal has played a pivotal role in diverse projects such as the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) panel and the Palestinian Refugees Assessment Mission. Notably, he received a Federal Honour for his outstanding contributions. Actively engaged in several organizations, including Adab Youth Garage (AYG), Global Peace Mission Malaysia (GPM) and Yayasan Dakwah Islamiyah Malaysia, Faisal is also an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Alumnus for 2023.



MODERATOR:  
**Mr**  
**Nathaniel Tan**  
Columnist, Malaysia

Nathaniel Tan is a columnist, strategic communications consultant, and a cofounder of Projek #BangsaMalaysia. He has been writing on Malaysian society and politics for over 15 years. His primary interests are in nation building, effective communication, and intercommunal relations.



# ICLD Organisational Chart

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## Honorary Patron and Advisor

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Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar, Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Epistemology and Civilisational Studies and Renewal, ISTAC-International Islamic University Malaysia

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Professor Li Honglei, President of Boao Confucian Entrepreneurs Forum

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YB Chua Wei Kiat, Executive Director of CROSS

Mr Muhammad Faisal bin Abdul Aziz, President of Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM)

Dato' Meng Bin, Deputy President of Boao Confucian Entrepreneurs Forum and Chairman of Mencius Institute at UTAR

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### Deputy Director General

Dr Omar Min Keqin, Research Fellow at International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

Mr Zairudin Hashim, Vice President of Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM)

Mrs Chong Jing Wen, Director of CROSS

Mrs Yvonne Tiew Mei Yi, Director of SEARCH

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