

CROSS
CENTRE OF REGIONAL STRATEGIC STUDIES
区域战略研究所

SEARCH
Southeast Asia Research Centre for Humanities
东南亚社科研究中心



Islam-Confucian Civilizational Cultural Festival

MALAYSIA GLOBAL CIVILIZATIONAL INITIATIVE SUMMIT 2026

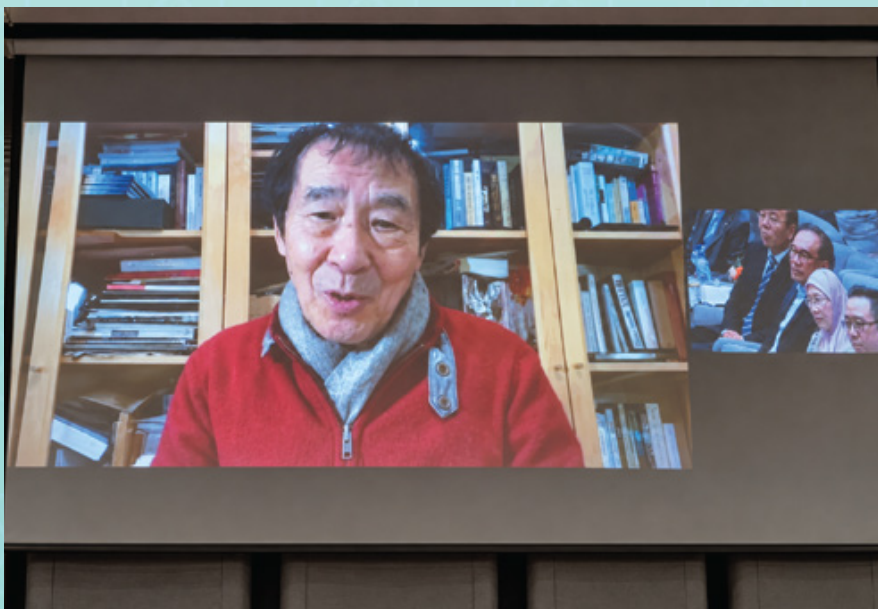
马来西亚全球文明倡议高峰论坛

暨 儒伊文明文化节

1995



2023



EVENT INFORMATION

Malaysia Global Civilizational Initiative Summit cum Islam–Confucian Civilizational Cultural Festival 2026

The dialogue between Islam and Confucianism has a meaningful history in Malaysia. In 1995, **the International Seminar on Islam and Confucianism: A Civilizational Dialogue** at the University of Malaya marked an important moment in bringing different religious, philosophical and civilizational traditions into conversation. This legacy was renewed in 2023 through the **Islam-Confucianism Leadership Dialogue**, bringing together scholars, experts and practitioners to further explore shared values and mutual understanding.

Today, civilizational dialogue and mutual understanding have become increasingly important. China's **Global Civilization Initiative (GCI)** provides a broader framework for respecting civilizational diversity, promoting shared human values, and strengthening cultural and people-to-people exchanges. As a multicultural and multi-religious nation, Malaysia is well positioned to serve as a platform for such engagement. The **2025 Malaysia–China Joint Statement** further reaffirmed the importance of civilizational exchange, people-to-people connectivity and multicultural harmony.

Building on this history and the broader GCI framework, the **Malaysia Global Civilizational Initiative Summit cum Islam–Confucian Civilizational Cultural Festival 2026** carries the theme **“Harmony through Diversity: Civilizational Exchange and a Shared Future.”** The Summit brings together scholars, academics, youth, cultural practitioners and representatives from different sectors to reflect on civilizational exchange, shared values and mutual understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.

Through its dialogues and flagship forum, the Summit explores how different civilizational traditions can engage with one another, learn from their differences and contribute to a more harmonious and cooperative future. The Islam–Confucian Civilizational Cultural Festival complements these discussions through cultural exhibitions and interactive experiences, creating opportunities for participants to encounter and engage with Malaysia's diverse cultural traditions.

The Summit is also complemented by a closed-door Think Tank Dialogue, bringing together invited scholars and experts for deeper exchange on the Global Civilization Initiative, civilizational dialogue and contemporary international challenges.

The 2026 Summit continues the spirit of dialogue established through previous Islam–Confucian engagements while opening the conversation to a wider range of civilizations, generations and perspectives. It seeks to reaffirm dialogue, mutual learning and cultural exchange as important pathways towards greater understanding and a shared future.

PROGRAMME MGCIS-ICCCF 2026

Time	Program
8.30 AM	Arrival of Participants
9.00 AM	Opening Remarks: YB Tan Kar Hing, Chairman of CROSS, Member of Parliament for Gopeng
9.15 AM	CIVILIZATIONAL DIALOGUE I - Laozi Thought and the Spirit of Balance in Civilization Panellists: Prof. Dr. Tian Feng, Distinguished Professor at the School of Philosophy, Zhengzhou University Lee Chean Chung, Advisor of CROSS Dr. Choong Hock Keong, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chinese Studies, Universiti Malaya Prof. Dr. Phar Kim Beng, Director of the Institute of International and ASEAN Studies (IINTAS) and Professor of ASEAN Studies at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) Moderator: Afrina Arfa, Founder and Editorial Director, Migrant Times
10.30 AM	Break
10.45 AM	PARALLEL SESSIONS CIVILIZATIONAL DIALOGUE II Civilizational Exchange and Regional Cooperation ● Main Hall – Ground Floor Panellists: Prof. Datuk Azizan Baharuddin, Emeritus Professor at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Universiti Malaya Dr. Peter T.C. Chang, Visiting Professor at the China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing and Former Deputy Director of the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya Mohd Jamizal Zainol, Chairman, Yayasan Pusat Polisi dan Hal Ehwal Ekonomi Malaysia (Yayasan PEACE) Associate Prof. Dr. Joe Liaw Siau Chi, Director of Research in Politics and International Relations, SEARCH cum Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, New Era University College Moderator: Ian Neo Chee Hua, Founder and CEO of the Southeast Asia Research Centre for Humanities (SEARCH)
	Civilizational Dialogue III Youth Perspectives on Civilisational Identity in a Multicultural Society ● Chengyi Auditorium – First Floor Panellists: Associate Prof. Dr. Yang Chao, Associate Professor at the School of Philosophy, Zhengzhou University Hilman Fikri Azman, Director of the Center for Islam in the Contemporary World (CICW) Malaysia Prof. Dato' Dr Christopher Chiong-Meng Boey, Professor of Paediatrics at IMU University and Vice President of Soka Gakkai Malaysia Nor Farhain binti Zaharani, Phd Candidate, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization Moderator: Ngan Sue Ven, PhD research student at the Institute of China Studies, Universiti Malaya
12.00 PM	Lunch All participants return to Main Hall

Time	Program
1.30 PM	FLAGSHIP CIVILIZATIONAL FORUM Civilizational Responsibility and Shared Values in a Turbulent International Order ● Main Hall – Ground Floor Panellists: Prof. Tu Weiming, Director of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies, Peking University Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar, Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia and Honorary Advisor of CROSS Prof. Wang Dong, Deputy Director of the Office for Humanities and Social Sciences and Executive Director of the Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding (iGCU), Peking University Prof. Dato' Dr. Ahmad Murad Merican, Professor of Social and Intellectual History and Director, Centre for Malay-Islamic Civilisational Studies CMICS-ISTAC, IIUM Moderator: Dr. Khalina Khalili, Committee Member of Islam-Confucian Dialogue Society
3.00 PM	Break
3.30 PM	Arrival of The Honorable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia
	National Anthem & Recitation of Dua
	Welcome Remarks Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar, Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia and Chairman of Organising Committee
	Address H.E Lin Shiguang, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia
	Montage Video
	Keynote Address The Honorable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia
	VVIP Walkabout
4.45 AM	Tea Break/End



ONLINE PROGRAMME

Global Civilization Initiative International Think Tank Dialogue

Evening Online Session | Wednesday, 7 October 2026

7:00 PM Malaysia Time (UTC+8) | Zoom

The evening dialogue brings together confirmed scholars, academics, policy specialists and practitioners from different countries for focused exchange on civilizational wisdom, mutual learning and global cooperation.

THREE PARALLEL DISCUSSION ROOMS

ROOM 1 **Civilizational Wisdom and Shared Human Values**

ROOM 2 **Dialogue Across Civilizations: Learning from Difference**

ROOM 3 **From Civilizational Dialogue to Global Cooperation**

Format

Approximately five minutes per speaker. Confirmed pre-recorded contributions will be played within the relevant discussion room.

ROOM 1

Civilizational Wisdom and Shared Human Values

Zoom | 7:00 PM Malaysia Time (UTC+8) | Approx. 5 minutes per speaker

Speaker sequence subject to final confirmation

No.	Speaker	Institution / Role
1	Prof. Wen Haiming	School of Philosophy, Renmin University of China, China
2	Mr. Johnny Ng Teck Sim	President, Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM)
3	Asst. Prof. Dr Nurul Ain Norman	ISTAC, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)
4	Dr. H. Moch. Sya'roni, M.Ag.	Dean, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Humanities, UIN Walisongo Semarang, Indonesia
5	Mr. Ahmad Syaifuddin Zuhri	Director, Sino-Nusantara Institute, Indonesia
6	Mr. Muhammad Asif Noor	Executive Director, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Pakistan
7	Mr. Nabaz Mustafa Abdullah	Executive Director, Global Civilization Initiative Research Center, Iraq
8	Assoc. Prof. Dr Tee Boon Chuan @ Zheng Zhiyi	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia

ROOM 2

Dialogue Across Civilizations: Learning from Difference

Zoom | 7:00 PM Malaysia Time (UTC+8) | Approx. 5 minutes per speaker

Speaker sequence subject to final confirmation

No.	Speaker	Institution / Role
1	Mr. Hans Nibshan Seeaghur	International Relations Specialist & Sinologist Consultant, Mauritius
2	Mr. Sikho Matiwane	Founder & Director, Matiwane Diplomatic Consulting, South Africa
3	Mr. Abu Hena Emrul Kayesh	Special Correspondent, Banglavisision, Bangladesh
4	Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer	American University, United States
5	Prof. Dr Mohd Roslan Mohd Nor	Academy of Islamic Studies, Universiti Malaya
6	Prof. Nevad Kahteran	University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (pre-recorded)
7	Assoc. Prof. Dr Mansoor L. Limba	Ateneo de Davao University, Philippines; Research Fellow, Al-Qalam Institute
8	Prof. Dr. Kholid Al Walid, M.Ag.	UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia

ROOM 3

From Civilizational Dialogue to Global Cooperation

Zoom | 7:00 PM Malaysia Time (UTC+8) | Approx. 5 minutes per speaker

Speaker sequence subject to final confirmation

No.	Speaker	Institution / Role
1	Thomas Daniel	Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia (pre-recorded)
2	Hon. Hamdun Abdulla Hameed	PolicyMv, Maldives (pre-recorded)
3	Mr. Gopal Khanal	Department of Foreign Affairs, Communist Party of Nepal
4	Dr Peter Kagwanja	Director, African Policy Institute, Kenya
5	Dr Yasiru Ranaraja	Founding Director, Belt & Road Initiative Sri Lanka (BRISL)
6	Mr. Haris Bilal Malik	Research Associate, China-Pakistan Study Centre, ISSI, Pakistan
7	Dr Elseyar Salmanov	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
8	Dr Mohammad Eisa Ruhullah	Academy of Islamic Studies, Universiti Malaya