

CONFERENCE REPORTS

ICTEM 2013: The International Conference for Teacher Educators in the Muslim World

As part of its intellectual commitments, the Institute of Education* of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) organized the above conference on the theme of “Redesigning Pedagogy: Transformative Value-Based Education” .on November 12-14, 2013. The conference was held at the Royale Bintang Hotel, Mutiara Damansara, Petaling Jaya, Selangor. The objective was to highlight and explore the intellectual, moral and spiritual aspects of education, in general, and Islamic teacher education, in particular. The rationale was that education should aim to transform society rather than reproduce the ‘status quo’. Indeed, in Islam, the moral and spiritual development of humanity is more important than material progress and success. Muslims’ well-being and happiness depends, to a great extent, on the acceptance of this presupposition. The conference also aimed to promulgate a transformative value-based education, driven by the liberating force of critical pedagogy.

The conference attracted several dynamic and engaging presentations by teacher educators from all over the Muslim world. The presenters offered a wide range of ideas and research on teacher education, particularly in the Muslim world. This conference (ICTEM 2013) was attended by international and local participants. Five keynote addresses were delivered by prominent scholars and 102 papers were presented, covering 10 main academic themes—namely, teacher education philosophy, policies and programs, accreditation and certification of teachers, teacher education curricula and systems of teacher education, training teachers for different levels, training teachers for specific subjects, leadership and supervision training, lifelong learning and teacher education, new technologies and teacher education, and training

* At present the name of Institute of Education has been changed to Kulliyah of Education.

teachers for vocational education. Among the distinguished keynote speakers was the former Malaysian Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. The other keynote speakers included Professor Laurence Splitter, Professor Ryoko Tsuneyoshi, from University of Tokyo, and Professor Glenn Hardaker.

The proceedings of the ICTEM 2013 opened with a speech delivered by the Rector of IIUM, Dato' Sri Professor Dr. Zaleha Kamaruddin. This was followed by welcoming remarks by the ICTEM 2013 chairman, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ssekamanya Siraje Abdallah. Following the first parallel session, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad delivered the premier keynote address of the conference. Professor Laurence Splitter delivered his keynote address on the topic: "Dealing with the tensions between a transformative value-based education and our religious and cultural traditions. How philosophy can help?" Prof. Ryoko Tsuneyoshi spoke on "Japanese character education"; and Prof. Glenn Hardaker delivered his keynote on "Islamic education: bridging the gap between tradition and innovation."

During the closing session on the third day of the conference, there was a forum on "Ethics and values in teaching and learning" with a group of panelists including Prof. Glenn Hardaker, Prof Ryoko Tsuneyoshi, and Prof. Dr. Rosnani Hashim. The forum was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ainol Madziah Zubairi. After a final session of recommendations and suggestions on achieving the goals of the conference, it was officially closed on 14 November 2013.

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