Intellectual Discourse

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Note from the Editor

Amidst the challenges created by the onset and spread of COVID-19 all over the world, the editorial team is pleased to release the *Intellectual Discourse*, Volume 28, Number 2, 2020, issue. In this issue, we have put together eighteen research articles, two research notes, and a conference report.

The first article is by Professor Osman Bakar, an eminent scholar who currently holds the Al-Ghazali Chair of Islamic Thought at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation, International Islamic University Malaysia (ISTAC-IIUM). The article entitled "The Link between Coronavirus and Darwin according to Pervez Hoodbhoy: A Critical Response" is a detailed rebuttal to Pervez Hoodbhoy's (a Pakistani Physicist) centurions that the coronavirus is a reaffirmation of Darwin's theory of natural selection, and that its emphasis on natural selection is the key to understanding the coronavirus and the discovery of vaccines to fight this dreaded virus. Professor Osman Bakar's paper strongly argues that Hoodbhoy's two assumptions are not supported by contemporary knowledge in biology. The paper further argues that that Hoodbhoy's contentions are more motivated by his sectarian evolutionist ideology than by scientific considerations.

The second article entitled "The Politics of Manipulation: Malaysia 2018-2020" is a contribution from Abdul Rashid Moten, a respected scholar on electoral studies in Malaysia. His main contention in this paper is that the 2018-2020 political crises in Malaysia were prompted by key politicians and their political manoeuvrings. The author uses the concept of 'political manipulation' to explain the dramatic political transitions in Malaysia resulting from GE-14 and the dramatic change in the Malaysian political landscape in 2020. The paper provides a

methodical overview of the electoral process and an assessment of how manipulation shaped Malaysia's political environment.

A team of authors consisting of Lugman Zakariyah, Mohammed Farid Ali al-Fijawi, Rahmah Binti Ahmad H. Osman, Shukran Abd Rahman, and Suhaimi Mhd. Sarif contributed the third article entitled "The Theoretical Framework for Measuring Key Intangible Performance (KIP) in Research and Publication Using Magasid al-Sharī'ah (MS)". These authors, first of all, point out the importance in applying Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah to determine and measure the Key Intangible Performance (KIP) in institutional and individual productivity. They are of the view that the shift of emphasis from measuring Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to measuring and quantifying intangible performances is a laudable endeavour. This article, in an attempt to develop a theoretical framework to measure Key Intangible Performance (KIP), reviews the available literature on the subject using Magasid al-Sharī'ah. The findings show that Research and Publication is essential for Islamic educational institutions. It can promote, impact, and integrate Islamic values in contemporary issues. The intangible dimensions are threefold: preliminaries, regulations & governance, and moral & ethical conducts. All of these correspond to the three levels of Magasid, namely: essentials, complements and embellishments.

The next article entitled "The Concept of Ghulūw in Islam: An Analysis on Its Manifestations and Causes in The Modern World", is by Mohammad Yusri Yubhi Bin Md Yusoff Thameem Ushama and Adibah Abdul Rahim. Ghulūw or religious extremism is a concept that is much talked about in the current times. In this paper, the authors provide an understanding of Ghulūw in that it refers to strictness in beliefs and actions which exceeds beyond the required limits of sharia, and therefore emphasizing the importance of embracing the characteristics of wasaṭiyyah as a remedy to reject and oppose all kinds of ghulūw.

The fifth paper in this volume is a contribution from Anke Iman Bouzenita. His paper is entitled "Transgressing the Terms of Covenant in the Islamic Jurisprudence of International Relations: The Cases of Socotra and Cyprus in Comparison." In this insightful paper, the author discusses the breaching of treaties between Muslims and Non-Muslims and their legal repercussions. This is undoubtedly an important topic

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in the Islamic jurisprudence of international relations. In this study the author compares two cases in Islamic history where covenants had been breached: Cyprus (1st-2nd century AH) and Socotra (3rd century AH). The author argues that these cases reflect different regional backgrounds regarding maritime engagement.

M. Hedayatul Islam, Md Saidul Islam, and Fadzli Adam are the authors of the sixth article. Entitled "Preventive Measures for a Healthy Life: Towards an Islamic Perspective with Reference to COVID-19", the authors provide an Islamic perspective on leading a healthy lifestyle which is necessary to fight off a pandemic such as COVID-19. In their study, the authors argue that Al-Ṭibb Al-Nabawī (Prophetic medicine in Islam), similar to popular herbal and Ayurveda medicine, promotes a symbolic narration where "prevention is better than cure." This important paper examines an Islamic perspective on ṭahārah (cleanliness), food habits and dieting, sleep and rest cycles, and pandemics. The paper strongly argues that Islamic traditions on healthy lifestyle is largely consistent with the prescriptions of modern science and offers an unique physical and spiritual paradigm to fight toxic diseases afflicting the human body and pandemics such as COVID-19.

In the seventh paper, Rosdianah Binti Yacho, and Arshad Islam discusses "The Effects of Japanese Occupation in Sabah: During and After World War II (1941-1963)". This study provides an understanding for the transition of Sabah from a British Protectorate to a Crown Colony, set against its role in the framework of the Japanese Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

Daleleer Kaur Randawar, and Akbar Kamarudin @ Abdul Shukor authored the next paper entitled "Non-Parental Child Custody Rights: A Comparative Perspective." In this paper the authors investigate the circumstances in which the court awards the right of custody of a child to a non-parent in Malaysia. The authors have employed a comparative legal research methodology to analyse this aspect in the perspective of Civil and Islamic laws.

The ninth paper examines the use of Instagram as a campaign tool during GE-14 in Malaysia. Entitled "Political Communication and Election Campaigning on Instagram During the 14th Malaysian General Election", Kamaruzzaman Abdul Manan, Shafizan Mohamad,

and Muhamad Mat Yakim attempt to explore how Instagram affected political communication during the GE-14. The study shows that politicians in Malaysia were very active on Instagram and extensively used the social media platform to campaign during the election. Indeed, Instagram was found to be a vital medium for political communication.

The tenth paper is written by Siti Noralia Mustaza, and Mohd Irwan Syazli Saidin. The title of their study is "ASEAN, China and the South China Sea Territorial Disputes: Analysis of Conflict Management Strategies". This article investigates the effectiveness of ASEAN's existing mechanisms in addressing the South China Sea dispute with China. The paper also highlights ASEAN's position on the issues as well as examines China's approaches in asserting sovereignty over the disputed waters. This article finds that ASEAN played a major role in preserve peace and security among its member states and between China.

The next article's is focus on assuring the quality of higher education in the Maldives. Entitled "Quality Assurance in Higher Education in the Maldives: Are We Listening to the Students?" its authors, Mariyam Shahuneeza Naseer and Dawood Abdulmalek Yahya Al-Hidabi examined what students identified as markers of quality in higher education in the Maldives. Their study revealed that students identified delivery and teaching methods; amount of contact; feedback; curriculum relevancy and being challenged by what they are learning; awareness and availability of support networks; relationships and interactions; as well as accessibility and availability of facilities as markers of quality.

The twelfth article is written by Rabi'ah Aminudin, Izzuddin M. Jaafar, and Elmira Akhmetova and is entitled "Going to Hell or Heaven? An Analysis of Malaysian Muslims' Perspectives on Extremism in Religion". This study analyses the public perception of extreme elements in daily religious routines in a multicultural society such as Malaysia. The study employs four dimensions of religiosity, namely, physical, social, cognitive, and spiritual. This study found that extreme religiosity in religious practices is not necessarily an indicator for societies to support extremist religious ideologies; for example, Malaysian Muslims demonstrated positive tendencies of living in a multi-faith society.

In the thirteenth article, Abdul Aqmar Ahmad Tajudin, and Mohammad Agus Yusoff concentrate on the challenges of a

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multinational federation such as Malaysia. Entitled "Challenges of the Multinational Federation: The Case of Malaysia, 2008-2020", the concept of multinational federation is employed to provide an analysis of challenges faced by Malaysia from 2008 to 2020. The study revealed that federalism remains relevant as a unifying mechanism of ethnic pluralism, but needs to be improved in terms of its implementation in a responsive, efficient and fair manner to all citizens.

The fourteenth article in this volume is entitled "Ongoing Persecution of the Rohingya: A History of Periodic Ethnic Cleansings and Genocides." In this article, the author, Arifa Sarmin discusses the origins of the Rohingya in what was the kingdom of Arakan (now renamed Rakhine state). She argues that the exclusionary policies of Myanmar's military government have rendered this ethnic minority stateless. This article attempts to analyse the plight of the Rohingya in Myanmar, which dates back two centuries, but has received sufficient media attention only recently.

The next article entitled "Managing Women's Matter: A Cross-Cultural Study of Doctor-Patient Relationship in Pakistan and Malaysia", is written by Adeela Rehman and Nurazzura Mohamad Diah. The paper focuses on the doctor-patient relationship in two Muslim countries; Pakistan and Malaysia, where ethical practices in the health profession are explored. The findings of this study highlighted the moderate relationship of doctors with patients and vice-versa.

The seventeenth article entitled "Can U.S. Aid and Assistance Continue Playing a Soft Power Role in the Muslim World?" is written by Abdullahi Ayoade Ahmad, Mohd Afandi Bin Salleh and Abdul Majid Hafiz Bin Mohamed. The paper investigates the strategies of the United States in its future aid to countries in the Muslim World following the United States' recognition of Jerusalem as a new capital for Israel. The findings show that the United States will remain the principal donor to several Muslim countries, at least for now.

The eighteenth article is written by Hamda Binti Khalifah Almuheiri and Mohammed Abdullais. The article titled "Leadership Characteristic Features: An Ethical Review from the Perspective of the Qur'an and the Sunnah," highlight the Qur'anic principles of leadership from an ethical point of view. The conclusion reached by the authors of this paper is that the real leadership the Qur'an and the Sunnah yearns to develop

is a comprehensive one, with no split between political leadership and ideal leadership.

The nineteenth research article titled "The Bureaucratic Corruption Leading to the Fall of Bengal (1700-1757)" is written by Md. Abul Bashar. This paper provided a historical analysis of the endemic forces which led to Bengal falling under the suzerainty of the British East India Company. The paper argues that the central administration failed to allocate and discharge various executive offices and responsibilities due to extreme dependencies among both the central and provincial governments. This study maintains that administrators' wholesale rigging attitude exacerbated the already declining politico-economic condition of the Muslim ruling elites of the region, eventually facilitating a power shift away from the traditional elite toward the British colonizers by 1757.

We have included two Research Notes in this volume as well. The first of these Research Notes is entitled "The Threat of Terrorism in the Malang Region, Indonesia." Its authors Gonda Yumitro, Elfatih Abdullahi Abdelsalam, Ishtiaq Hossain, and Syaza Farhana Mohamad Shukri investigates the threat of terrorism emanating from Malang, Indonesia; a place repeatedly used to recruit and plan terrorist actions.

The second Research Note is titled "COVID-19 and Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh," by AKM Ahsan Ullah, Mallik Akram Hossain and Diotima Chattoraj. They point out that Rohingya camps in Bangladesh could become hotspots of Covid-19 due to the closeness of settlements in the camp. Rohingya camps are overcrowded due to many families having more than 10 family members living in one room. In addition, more than 100,000 people live in each one square mile area. An overwhelming majority struggles for bringing in two meals a day while sanitation (maintaining personal hygiene, washing hands) is a far cry for them. Groceries, kiosks and health centres, as well as schools are located within the camps; thus, making the congestion worse.

The conference report is on a two-day international webinar on Business, International Relations, and Diplomacy (known as ICOBIRD 20) with the theme "Business, International relations, and Diplomacy during COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges, Responses, and Consequences" from September 24 to September 25, 2020. This event

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was organised by the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Humanities, Bina Nusantara University, Indonesia.

Ishtiaq Hossain Editor

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