

Conference Reports

The 1st world congress on integration and Islamicisation of acquired human knowledge (FWCII 2013)

From 23rd to 25th August, 2013, the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) successfully organized the 1st World Congress on Integration and Islamicisation of Acquired Human Knowledge (FWCII 2013) with “Constructing the Alternative Paradigm of *Tawhīd*” as its main theme. The main objectives of the Congress were: a) to gather Muslim scholars, scientists, academics, professionals and experts who are or have been involved in the project of Islamisation of Human Knowledge (IOHK) from all parts of the world, to mutually benefit from each other’s works, findings or products; b) to forge new and transnational strategies to offer *Tawhīdic* paradigm discourse and intellectual constructs as constituting complementary and/or alternative paradigms of human knowledge towards the reconstruction of the Muslim society, culture and civilisation, beset by its own internal malaise, as well as the reform of the contemporary secular humanistic world disorder; c) to showcase IIUM’s achievements after three decades of its existence in terms of teaching, research, and publications in fulfilling the Mission of IOHK as stated in the Constitution (Memorandum of Association) of the University; and d) to position IIUM internationally and locally as the major Reference Centre for IOHK and related issues. FWCII 2013 was held at the Prince Hotel and Residence, Jalan Conley, Kuala Lumpur with its inaugural ceremony being held at the Cultural Activity Centre (CAC), IIUM on August 23, 2013. In line with one of the Congress’ objectives, an exhibition was held at CAC throughout the period featuring IIUM’s achievements and products in IOHK, especially the ones related to teaching, publication, research and student activities.

The FWCII 2013, which was organized in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the University and attended by an approximate of 300 international and local participants, consisted of 13 keynote addresses delivered by prominent scholars and practitioners of IOHK, and 117 paper presentations covering five main academic fields, namely Arts and Humanities, Social and Human Sciences, Natural and Physical Sciences, Applied Sciences and Technology, and Medical Sciences. Among the keynote speakers were His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (ISESCO), Morocco; Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Humanitarian Futures Programme King's College, London; and Dato' Dr. AbdulHamid AbuSulayman, Riyadh, Former Rector IIUM.

Prior to the Congress, the Honourable Rector, Prof. Dato' Sri Dr. Zaleha Kamaruddin hosted a welcoming dinner for all participants at the Hotel on August 22, 2013. The proceedings of the Congress began with the opening keynote addresses in the morning of August 23, 2013 delivered respectively by Dato' Dr. AbdulHamid AbuSulayman, Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, and Prof. Dato' Sri Dr. Zaleha Kamaruddin. After having their lunch at the Hotel, the participants left for IIUM Gombak Campus to perform the Friday prayer. After the prayer, the participants went to the University's Cultural Activity Centre (CAC) for the inaugural ceremony which was graced by the Prime Minister who, in conjunction with the Congress, also launched the Islamic City project. In his speech, the Prime Minister recognized IIUM as a truly Premier International Islamic University and expressed his confidence that the University would continue to play its vital role in uniting and advancing the Ummah. The Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Tan Sri Dato' Hj. Muhyiddin Bin Hj. Mohd. Yassin, generously hosted the Congress dinner on the first day despite his inability to attend it personally.

The Congress proceedings for both the second and third days began with keynote addresses in the morning followed by five parallel sessions. The parallel sessions were arranged in such a way to allow participants of different academic interests to attend presentations on topics of different academic fields as stated above. After lunch and *Zuhr* prayer in congregation, the proceedings continued with another session of keynote addresses followed by another five parallel sessions.

The congress featured various topics from different disciplines and enlightening keynote addresses on such topics as “The Role of ISESCO in Promoting Integration and Islamicisation of Human Knowledge” by Altwaijri; “The Religious and Moral Motivations for Muslim Professionals and Scholars to be involved in Global Social Action Programmes and Humanitarian Work” by Tan Sri Jemilah; and “The Deepening Crisis of Contemporary Civilisation and the Urgency of Applying the Paradigm of *Tawhīd*” by Tan Sri Dr. Mohd. Kamal Hassan. Other papers that appealed to the audience include “The Implementation of Islamic Family Law and Ethics for the Sustainability and Integrity of the Family Institution: Facing the Challenges of Postmodern Relativism and Feminism” by Dato’ Sri Dr. Zaleha; “The Roles of Contemporary Muslim Social Scientists in this Age of Turbulence” by Dato’ Dr. AbdulHamid AbuSulayman; and “The Necessity and Ways of Integrating Islamic Spiritual and Moral Perspectives in the Education of Muslim Doctors and Professionals” by Prof. Dr. Muhaya. The Congress successfully managed to reflect a meaningful renewal of enthusiasm and commitment to Islamisation of human knowledge as a strategic move towards reforming contemporary Muslim minds and subsequently constructing a just human civilisation.

During the closing session, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Tan Sri Prof. Dr. Mohd. Kamal Hassan, thanked the participants for their participation and commitment. He read out the 19 page draft of the Congress’ communiqué which among others called for: a) the Muslims to “understand the worldview of *Tawhīd* as embodied in the Qur’ān in order to think, act, and build the Ummah, Islamic culture, and civilisation on the basis of that worldview”; b) the institutions of higher learning in the Muslim world to apply the paradigm of *Tawhīd* in their respective disciplines; c) restructuring of human and social sciences on the basis of the framework and paradigm of *Tawhīd* and rethinking of the mainstream epistemological presuppositions maintained in the Western tradition; d) “a critical appraisal of the Western sociological tradition, involving the identification of its positive and negative elements, including its parochial and Eurocentric moorings, and a selective, critical appropriation of its positive features” and; e) the mission and discourse of integration and Islamisation/Islamicisation of human knowledge (IOHK) “to go beyond being merely a cold academic concern and intellectual pursuit of a few visionary thinkers and

committed academics to become a call and culture shaping the attitudes and orienting the research activities and interest of the university community of academic staff and students”.

The Congress was officially closed by the Deputy Rector (Academic and Planning), Prof. Dato’ Dr. Md. Tahir Azhar representing the Rector. A group photo of the participants was taken at the end of the closing ceremony. Based on the returned questionnaires, the Congress seemed to have been well received by the participants with 88.7 % rating it as either being ‘excellent and ‘good’, with 11.3% rating it as ‘fair’.

Among the organizations and agencies that extended their contributions and assistance to the Congress are ISESCO and FUIW, TV Alhijrah as the official broadcaster and media partner, Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Berhad, Goldnet International Sdn Bhd, and the Royal Police of Malaysia.

Hazizan Md. Noon

Centre for Islamisation, IIUM

The 13th international symposium on the contributions of psychology to peace

The 13th International Symposium on the Contributions of Psychology to Peace, a biennial event, was held at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) from 10th to 15th June, 2013. It was organized by the Departments of Psychology and Political Science, Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS), IIUM. Professor Mahmood Zuhdi, Dean, KIRKHS welcomed the local and foreign participants to the symposium and Professor Ahmed Faris Ismail, Deputy Rector (Research and Development) of IIUM, made inaugural remarks.

A special talk was delivered by Dato’ Tengku Abd. Ghaffar Tengku Mohamed, who was Malaysia’s representative at the peace talks between the Filipino government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).