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Editorial Correspondence:

Editor, IIUM Journal of Religion and Civilisational Studies (IJRCS) Research Management Centre, RMC International Islamic University Malaysia 53100 Gombak Campus Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Tel: (+603) 6421 5002/5010 Fax: (+603) 6421 4862 Website: http://journals.iium.edu.my/irkh/index.php/ijrcs Comments and suggestions to: alwialatas@iium.edu.my E-ISSN: 2637-112X

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Editorial

This December 2021 issue of IIUM Journal of Religion and Civilisational Studies contain articles that deal with wide-ranging topics related to Islam and civilisations. On a more specific note, the articles dwell on the issue of education and Indonesian society, contemporary Malaysian politics, diplomatic history of Indonesian Archipelago, social issues related to Covid-19 and education during Abbasid era.

The first article by Ahmad Salim, Nik Md. Saiful Azizi bin Nik Abdullah, Hairiyah, Riki Perdana and Martalia Ardiyaningrum entitled "Madrasa's Social Capital in the Context of Hilly Communities Dynamics: The Case of Madrasa Maarif Kokap in Yogyakarta, Indonesia" discusses the dynamic relationship between Madrasa Maarif Kokap and the hilly communities in Kulon Progo, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. It is a case study centered on the importance and utilisation of social capitals by the Madrasa Maarif Kokap for the greater benefit of the surrounding society. The findings demonstrate how the madrasa has successfully played its role as an agent of change, affecting positive social changes in the people's lives, and this was done by making full use of its social capitals including social norms practised among students and teachers of the madrasa, mutual trust developed between the madrasa and the local people, and extensive networks established with the surrounding communities and various institutions. This article throws light on how the running of a learning institution should be done amidst various challenges emanating from globalisation and modernity in the present day. Hopefully, this will inspire other madrasas or learning institutions to identify and optimise their own social capitals in order to improve the quality of education provided to their local communities.

The second article "The Rise and Fall of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) in Sabah, Malaysia" by Oshin binti Sangkar examines the political situations in the state of Sabah under the rule of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) or United Sabah Party from 1985 to 1994. Starting with the political history of Sabah in the 1960s and 1970s, the author then articulately explained the rise of the PBS, highlighting on the grievances among the people of Sabah towards BERJAYA state government and how this eventually resulted in the formation of the PBS and later defeat of the BERJAYA party in 1985. Various reasons were given for the people's support to the PBS such as BERJAYA's Islamization policy, the issue of illegal immigration, discrimination against Sabah's indigenous population, Labuan Issue, etc. Despite the promising future, the PBS suffered from a decline by the early 1990s caused mainly by the involvement of UMNO in Sabah's politics and, to a lesser extent, the party's own internal weaknesses resulting in the power of state government to change hands to UMNO in 1994. In short, for students and readers of history, the article provides a thorough and comprehensive analysis of Sabah's politics during the said period, i.e., 1985-1994.

Writing on a controversial historical claim projected by a documentary film entitled "Jejak Khilafah di Nusantara", Tiar Anwar Bachtiar and Nandang Nursaleh co-authored the article "Indonesian Sultanates and Their Alleged Allegiance to Islamic Caliphates: A Historical Analysis of "Jejak Khilafah di Nusantara". Streamed on Youtube platform in August 2020, the film-makers of the documentary maintained that Islamic kingdoms in the Indonesian Archipelago, namely Samudra Pasai, Malaka, Aceh Darussalam, Demak and Mataram, have made allegiance (bay'a) to the Abbasid Caliphate in Egypt (during Mamluk era) dan the Ottoman Caliphate, hence rendering the Malay kingdoms as vassal states of the Caliphates. Arguing that the claim is baseless, the authors pointed out that not only did the film-makers fail to understand the true meaning of the concept of 'caliph' and 'caliphate', but their claim was devoid of concrete and solid proofs. The way the authors countered the claim is fascinating where each alleged proof was scrutinised against the historical political background of the Indonesian Archipelago in the 15th-19th century, thus presenting clear arguments or information for readers to fall back on in assessing for themselves the claim made by the film-makers.

Next, Saheed Abdullahi Busari wrote on the issue of food insecurity in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. In an article entitled "Food Insecurity amid COVID-19 Lockdowns: The Phenomenology of Prophet Yūsuf's Food Security Model", the author explores the feasibility of Prophet Yūsuf's food security strategy and action plan, as outlined in some Quranic verses (surah Yūsuf), and how this could be applied to modern Muslim societies to combat food insecurity issue caused by some factors such as low income, unemployment, sickness and disability especially during the pandemic season. Discussed against the background of the incident during which Prophet Yūsuf's interpretations were sought after to interpret the dreams of an Egyptian king, the author argues that the Prophet Yūsuf's model corresponds well with Islamic principles such as the need to avoid wastage and hoarding of basic necessities, and the use of wisdom and knowledge for long-term food planning. The article concludes that if the Prophet Yūsuf's model is applied, this will prevent further problems in Muslim societies caused by food insecurity such as severe socio-economic crisis and political instability.

Finally, Alwi Alatas produced some viewpoints on "Islamic Educational Institutions in the Past: $Kutt\bar{a}b$ and Madrasa" focusing on the development of kuttāb and madrasa particularly during the Abbasid period. The writing is useful for those who seek to trace the origin of these learning institutions which existed since the early centuries of Islam. Although short, the account is full of details and demonstrate the utmost significance attached to these institutions by the Muslim community during the said period. More importantly, it attests to the importance of knowledge or education in Islam, a religion sent down through the Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all contributors and reviewers who involved in this issue. With all the sound ideas and information contained therein, the articles will contribute to the enrichment of knowledge particularly in civilisational studies and be of interest to students and scholars alike. Finally, I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to all members of the Editorial Board, our Editor Dr. Alwi Alatas, Book Review Editor Dr. Kaoutar Guediri and Assistant Editors, Dr. Bukuri Zejno and Sr. Norliza Saleh. This issue will not become a reality without your strong dedication and great efforts. May Allah bless you all.

> Fauziah Fathil Editor-in-Chief December 2021