



**IIIT Myanmar**  
**Symposium on Education & Economic Development Plan**  
**for the Young Myanmar Muslims (2023)**

**UTHM Johor, Malaysia**

**28-29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Organized by**

**International Institute of Islamic Thought Myanmar**

**In Collaboration with:**

**The International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), East  
and Southeast Asia**

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**USM, University Science, Malaysia (USM),**

**Penang, Malaysia**

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**Myanmar Muslim Intellectual Forum (MMIF)**

## Rationale

Previously known as Burma, Myanmar is famous for its Buddhism and the intriguing mix of British colonial architecture and gilded pagodas. Muslims have been living in Myanmar since the 11th century, and the population of Myanmar at the moment is roughly 55 million, based on the last census conducted by the ruling military government. It is estimated that 8 % or 5 million of the total population of Myanmar are Muslims. The country gained its independence from the British in 1948. Ever since its independence up until 1962, democracy was the system of rule in Myanmar. A military coup d'état happened in 1962, and from then on, the military was in power for almost 70 years. During military rule, the country plunged into a state of backwardness while its neighbours were progressively developing. The country's educational and economic developments were not at par with others around the region. Due to poor living conditions, many of its citizens left their homeland for neighbouring countries in search of job opportunities that promise a better future for their families. The absence of democracy also in a way forced around 1,500,000 people to leave the country as refugees and asylum seekers in search of peace, safety and security for themselves and their families.

In looking at the plight of the Myanmar Muslim community living outside the country, in recent times, a collaborated effort by intellectuals and the business community who are settled in Malaysia took the initiative to organize workshops, conferences, and other public forums in finding a solution to overcome the predicaments they face as a 'diasporic community'. Last October 2022, and January 2023, a leadership training program and development on education and economic opportunity for future of Myanmar Muslim were conducted for young people by IIIT, ESEA & Myanmar. This programs were beneficial in providing awareness, particularly among students and other Myanmar Muslims living in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The survey report of the training indicated that the training provided during the event has succeeded in broadening the horizon of thinking of young Myanmar Muslims. Besides that, participants also indicated that they are looking forward to more programs of that nature organized in the upcoming years.

The positive feedback from the 2022/2023 symposiums, has motivated us to organize a symposium in March, 2023 focusing on the importance of education as a pathway leading to economic development. We feel that the organization of this symposium will yield positive results such as learning new skills, information management, seeking job opportunities, etc., the symposium will give special emphasis on ethics, self-discipline, Islamic personality development, values and virtue, etc.

With regard to the economic development that will be deliberated at the symposium, the emphasis will be mainly focused on the Islamic perspective on how to manage resources, generate income, increase productivity, provide good services, etc. that in return can improve the living condition of the Myanmar Muslim community. Simply put, the symposium's aim of educating young Muslim minds within the diasporic community in order to eradicate poverty level.

The proposed symposium will be jointly organized by the International Institute of Islamic Thought Myanmar, the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), East and Southeast Asia, University Science Malaysia (USM), International NGOs operating at Penang and and Myanmar Muslim Intellectual Forum (MMIF).

The proposed symposium will provide a platform for academics, students, and leaders of the community to deliberate their ideas on issues related to education and economic development. It is hoped that ideas mooted during the symposium would provide amicable solutions to the myriad of problems faced by the Myanmar Muslim refugees living within the ASEAN region.

Lastly, the central organizing committee will be extending its invitation to Myanmar students studying at the college and university levels in Malaysia (particularly those studying in Penang), Singapore, Thailand and at the UN Learning centres located in Penang, Malaysia.

Lastly, we pray that Allah the Almighty bestows His Mercy and Blessing in our sincere effort of organizing this proposed symposium. Thank you.

Program Manager  
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### **Symposium Objectives**

During the symposium, academics and experts will deliberate the following issues:

1. Explore Myanmar Muslim women's living conditions in the camps and their authorized residential areas.
2. Understand the social status, including the customs of their social life, marriage, divorce, etc.
3. Discover the social illness, domestic violence, and criminal activities in their houses and environment.
4. Discover the consequences and difficulties faced by Myanmar refugees due to the lack of proper education for their children.
5. Bring together experts and professionals to share their perspectives on the development of the social status of women refugees.
6. Discuss perspectives and methods of transformation and leadership through the effective linkage of creativity, innovation and sustainability;

### **Symposium Theme:**

**The role of education in bringing transformational change within the Myanmar Muslim community living in the ASEAN region.**

**Venue: Universiti Science Malaysia (USM),  
86400 Parit Raja, Batu Pahat  
Johor, Malaysia**

**18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) March at USM**

**19<sup>th</sup>(Sunday) March at USM**

**Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 PM**

International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), Myanmar, In Collaboration with International  
Institute of Islamic Thought, East and South East Asia, IIIT, ESEA

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**Dr. Maulana Akbar Shah @ U Tun Aung**

IIIT Representative Myanmar

Head of Research & Publication

Department of Fundamental and Inter-Disciplinary,

AHAS, Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences,

International Islamic University Malaysia

## **Organizing Committee**

### **Patron**

**Prof. Dr Dato' Fauzan Norrdin**

Director of The International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), East and Southeast Asia

### **Collaborators**

International Institute of Islamic Thought Myanmar

The International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), East and Southeast Asia

### **Associate Professor, Shahir Akram Hassan**

Universiti Sains Malaysia | USM · Centre for Islamic Development Management Studies (ISDEV)

Doctor of Philosophy (Islamic Research Methodology)

Myanmar Muslim Intellectual Forum (MMIF)

### **Advisory Committee**

Prof Dr. Emeritus Dato Wira Jamil Osman

### **Chairman**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Maulana Akbar Shah @ U Tun Aung

### **Deputy Advisor**

Asst. Prof Dr. Abbas bin Razak

### **Mceee**

**UTHM**

### **Secretary**

**Dr Shuhaimi (UTHM)**

**Dr Halimi (UTHM)**

### **Catering Committee**

Asst. Prof Dr Alizaman D Gamon

### **Treasurer**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Maulana Akbar Shah @ U Tun Aung

### **Preparations and Technical**

**Brother Arsyad**

### **Special Task**

**UTHM**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (DAY ONE of the SYMPOSIUM)**

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
8.00-8.30am	Arrival of Guests, Participants, and Registration	30 mins
8.30am-8.40am	<b>Opening of the Symposium:</b> Quranic Recitation: Surah Al Duha By: <b>Brother Aqif</b>	5 mins
8.40am-8.45am	<b>Welcoming Speech by the Chairman of the Symposium:</b> Dr. Maulana Akbar Shah @U Tun Aung	10 mins
8:45am-9:45am	<b>Opening Remarks</b> By: The Vice-Chancellor of UTHM	1 hr
9.45am- 10.45am	<b>Presentation No.1</b> <b>Application of Digital Technology in Educational Development for Myanmar Muslim</b> By: Prof. Dr. Fauzan bin Nordin	1hr
10.45am-11:45am	<b>Presentation No.2</b> <b>Social Micro Finance: Mechanism for Poverty Alleviation</b> Professor Dr. Norma Md. Saad	1 hr
11:45am-12:15noon	<b>Presentation No.3</b> <b>Application of Maqasid Shariah in Myanmar</b> <b>Dr. Halimi, Head of Shariah. UTHM</b>	30 mins
12:15-12:45	<b>Presentation No.4</b> <b>A journey of Educational Activities for Myanmar Refugee Students in Johor Province</b> <b>Miss Soraya &amp; Miss Lulu (UNHCR Rep.)</b>	30 mins
12:45-2:00pm	<b>Lunch Break &amp; Zohor Prayers</b>	1hr 15 mins
2:00pm-3:00pm	<b>Presentation No.5</b> <b>The Relevance of Integration of Knowledge in Muslim minority Myanmar</b> By: Prof. Dr. Kasule Secetary general of IIIT Riyad	1hr
3:00pm-4:00pm	<b>Presentation No.6</b> <b>Significance of Integrated Knowledge in Educational Reconstruction for Muslims of Myanmar</b> By: Prof Dr. Dato Wira Jamil Osman	1hr
4:00pm-5:00pm	<b>Forum No.1</b> Prof. Dr. Fauzan bin Nordin Professor Dr. Norma Md. Saad Dr. Maulana Akbar Shah	1hr
5:00pm	<b>End of Day One</b>	

## 29 January 2023 (DAY TWO of the SYMPOSIUM)

Date/Time	Activity	
8.00-8.30am	Breakfast	30 mins
8.30am-1.30pm	<b>Youth Leadership Camp</b>  Br. Shahran Kassim Dr. Rashaad Bakashmar	5 hr
1.30-2:30pm	Lunch and Zohor Prayer	1hr
2:30-3:30pm	Skill Training and its Importance Ex Chancellor	1hr
3:30pm-4:30pm	<b>Forum No.2</b> 1. Dr. Suhaimi UTHM 2. Dr. Alizaman D.Gamon: Unity of Thought and its Implications for Sustainable Development 3. Dr. Mohd Abbas Abdul Razak: Challenges Faced by Muslim Diasporic Community in World	1hr
4:30pm-5:00pm	<b>Closing Speech &amp; Doa</b> <b>By: Dr. Maulana Akbar Shah</b>	30 mins

### Report for a successful Completion of the Symposium

1. Programme went well according to the Schedule of the symposium Starting with recitation of Al Quran, Surah AdDuhah by the Imam of the UTHM university and recitation was very beautiful.
2. After the recitation of the Programme the opening session of the symposium was inauguraated by the ex Vice Chancellor of UTHM Prof. Ismail and the Chairman fo the Symposium, Dr Maulana Akbar Shah, IIIT representative for Myanmar by unveiling the poster of IIIT Myanmar Symposium on Education & Economic Development Plan for the Young Myanmar Muslims (2023)
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