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The Human Library – Borrow a Person Instead of a Book

By: Tuan Safa'at binti Tuan Ameri, Librarian, Dar al-Hikmah Library, IIUM

The Dar al-Hikmah Library, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) took a proactive step in their mission to inspire and educate their clients by introducing a series of enlightening programmes under the banner of 'Human Library Inspiration.' This initiative is aligned with one of the library's strategic action plans for 2023, that is, aiming to bring successful individuals who are willing to share their knowledge and life experiences directly with readers.

The 'Human Library Inspiration' series was designed to create a unique learning environment where readers can engage with accomplished individuals and ask questions related to their expertise and life journey. These programmes were coordinated by the Head, Client Service Department and conducted separately at each of IIUM's campus libraries in Gombak, Kuantan, Gambang, Pagoh, and Kuala Lumpur, throughout 2023.

Here is a recap of the series that were held:

- o Series 1: Man Jadda Wajada: Satu Permulaan
- o Date: April 14, 2023
- o Speaker: Izzati Elya (Influencer & Daie Muda YADIM)
- o Series 2: How I Built My Empire?
- o Date: May 18, 2023
- o Speaker: Aaron Naeem (IIUM Alumni & CEO WowKawKaw Sdn. Bhd.)
- o Series 3: My PhD Journey: Reflections & Lessons Learnt
- o Date: June 6, 2023
- o Speaker: Dr. Mohamad Hafizuddin Mohamed Najid (Senior Lecturer, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) and Best Student of Doctor of Philosophy, KICT, IIUM)
- o Series 4: Mr. Sazali Samad – from Mat Sado to Mr. Universe
- o Date: June 16, 2023
- o Speaker: Sazali Samad
- o Series 5: Perjalanan Kerjaya Saya Sebagai Pensyarah Bahasa Melayu
- o Date: June 20, 2023
- o Speaker: Asst. Prof. Dr. Nurul Jamilah Rosly, Kulliyah of Languages Management, IIUM
- o Series 6: Sir Ladang: Anak Felda ke Persada Tiktok
- o Date: August 4, 2023
- o Speaker: Ridzuan Khalid, Lecturer, Kolej Komuniti Rompin



(<https://beritappm.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/ui1.jpg>) (<https://beritappm.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/ui2-1.jpg>) (<https://beritappm.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/ui3.jpg>)

The 'Human Library Inspiration' was very much like a regular library where people go to check out books. The only difference is that the books are in the form of human volunteers who opted to speak about their experiences openly to an interested audience and answer any questions from them. Each volunteer was a book on a particular topic. Readers could ask questions that the human books would answer as best they could.



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(<https://beritappm.files.wordpress.com/2023/09/uia-5.jpg>).

Looking ahead, the Dar al-Hikmah Library has plans to continue the 'Human Library Inspiration' series with upcoming sessions scheduled for the 4th quarter of 2023, both via physical attendance and live streaming on the library's YouTube channel.

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