

# THE GARDEN OF KNOWLEDGE AND VIRTUE

ALUMNI MEMORIES  
AND REFLECTIONS

Within the pages of this book lie the heartfelt reflections of IIUM Alumni, woven together to form a tapestry of wisdom and inspiration. Each chapter unveils a unique perspective, radiating with the voices of various Kulliyahs and Institutions.

A captivating narrative awaits the eager reader, delving into the unexplored depths of Muslim students' lives within a mosaic of multicultural settings. Moreover, this book serves as a profound testament to the indelible impact of IIUM's noble philosophy, mission, and vision on its esteemed alumni. It cherishes the invaluable heritage of IIUM's history, unearthing its profound contributions to society.

The intended audience of this captivating composition embraces a diverse spectrum, including esteemed academicians, avid researchers, devoted IIUM alumni, enlightened educators, and the inquisitive public eager to acquaint themselves with the grandeur of IIUM as an educational institution.

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Edited by AZAM OTHMAN

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ALUMNI RELATIONS DIVISION  
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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# **PREFACE**

## **Preamble**

All praise be to Allah (SWT), the Lord of the Universe. Peace and blessings be upon Allah’s final Messenger, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his family, noble companions, and all of his followers, from the past and present, who remain on the path of righteousness in the face of trials and tribulations.

It is with great happiness and humility that I present to you this alumni memory book, which we have decided to call, “The Garden of Knowledge and Virtue—Alumni Memories and Reflections.” It features the reflections of various IIUM alumni on their journeys as students of the IIUM and their lives after graduation. These journeys are described and shared in 18 chapters of the book, detailing the colourful experiences and perspectives of IIUM alumni from all the different kulliyahs and centres of the University, including the IIUM Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance (IIiBF) and the Dar Al-Hikmah Library.

I hope you will enjoy reading their reflections, some of which may reflect your own experiences or personal and historical accounts.

## **A Brief History of the Alumni Relations Division**

The Alumni Relations Section (ARS) was first set up in 1999 as the University’s wing to oversee the needs of IIUM alumni and to establish alumni relations and activities. In 2002, it became the Alumni Relations Unit (ARU), focusing only on the affairs of IIUM alumni. However, the Unit evolved and expanded in 2005 to cover not only alumni matters but also IIUM student career services. In October 2015, after a restructuring of responsibilities, the Career Services Unit moved to the Counselling Centre and was renamed the Alumni and Global Networking Division.

Later, in December 2017, the division was called Alumni Relations Division (ARD), a nomenclature that remains till the present day. Its mission is to create mutually beneficial and long-lasting engagements between IIUM alumni and the community—with the aim of realising the idea of mercy for all mankind (Rahmatan lil alamin). The ARD functions as the liaison body between the University and its graduates.

Apart from getting insights and input from IIUM alumni on various matters, the ARD also promotes the achievements of former graduates and seeks to foster collaborations and engagements with various alumni chapters in many parts of the world for the University’s further development.

To date, the IIUM has produced more than 100,000 alumni who have gone on to become agents of change in the world, spreading the IIUM mission nationally and internationally. Most are working in the public and private sectors worldwide and have created a significant impact on their respective communities and countries.

Internationally, IIUM alumni chapters have been established in 31 countries, viz. Thailand, Indonesia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Oman, China, Bangladesh, Gambia, Republic of Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.

Locally, the Malaysian chapters exist in five states, i.e., in Sabah, Sarawak, Johor, Kelantan, and Kedah. In addition, there are also six interest-based chapters that have been formed, such as the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) and the Persatuan Seni Silat Cekak Malaysia (PSSCM) alumni chapters. Among the main purposes of establishing these alumni chapters are to enable the relevant IIUM alumni to conduct activities for themselves and for the development of the University.

The chapters also assist in promoting IIUM to the world by being the referral points for potential students. The ARD strives to keep IIUM alumni connected to the University through various activities. As stated earlier, its main mission is to forge continuous collaborations and engagements with the alumni for the University's perpetual development. To date, the ARD's new motto is ACE, which stands for Advocate, Collaborate and Engage. The Division aims to support IIUM students by establishing a strong psycho-emotional bond with them during their studies through active student participation and involvement in the various activities conducted by the ARD. By involving them, the Division hopes to care for IIUM students' wellbeing, nurture them toward a growth mindset, and maintain good relationships, which is paramount to beneficial future collaborations with the students when they become IIUM alumni. Through meaningful collaborations, the ARD seeks to work with the alumni to make substantial contributions to society.

At the time of writing this book, we faced the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, which then escalated steadily in many parts of the country. It was a difficult time for the University and nation, but many of our alumni bravely came forward to serve as frontliners in fighting this serious disease. The pandemic was indeed a time to give back to society. May Allah (SWT) bless all of our alumni who selflessly put themselves out there on the frontline to help society when help of any kind was most needed.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Alumni Relations Division for sponsoring the publication of this book. I would also like to record my appreciation to the new Director of Alumni Relations Division, Br. Mir Azrul Shahrudin and ARD staff, the IIUM Press, and all the authors involved in this book project. I greatly appreciate your tremendous contributions, without which this book would have just remained an idea and a dream.

**AZAM OTHMAN**

Director, IIUM Alumni Division  
(2019-2021)

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