Assalammualaikum w.b.t, Alhamdulillah, praise to Allah S.W.T, finally The Crescent is able to be published. There were so many hardships and obstacles that my team and I had to go through in the making of this magazine. However, I am so happy to see that all of our works eventually transformed into an amazing piece.

The Crescent magazine is actually, the new vision of the Communication Department, perhaps to be exact the Print Media specialization student in order to rejuvenate the Print Media specialization. Thus, The Crescent will be a piece of work produced by final year print media students that epitomizes how serious and astounding the Print Media specialization and Department is.

Moreover, the magazine will be a regular publication as it will become the department publication starting with this issue, Insya Allah. Even though, this issue is not the first, but it will be the one which will guide the next publication.

Speaking about the content, the magazine focuses on IIUM staff and students' activities. There are various columns worth reading including entertainments, education, hobbies, talents, music, events and review on new technological gadgets. Insya Allah, in the future the editorial will include more columns and segments.

Lastly, million apologies if this issue does not meet your expectations. As this is our first issue after many years, we have a lot to learn.

There will be a lot more articles coming up in the next issue and it is hoped that it will satisfy our readers' needs, Ameen. Thank you and Happy New Year!

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Members of Communication Department of IIUM
Several sources (Goldhaber, 1994, Daniels et. al, 1994, Pepper, 1995) agreed upon code of ethics and dress code as one of the main features of organizational culture. The International Islamic University (IIUM) has developed a special standing order on conduct and attire for her students to abide to. To highlight the noble intention of IIUM is outlined in her expectation that:

"The education at the University is aimed not only at developing academic or intellectual potentials of the students. The moral and character building objective is a very important part of the curriculum....As an Islamic University, the University expects the students to observe the values and norms of moral propriety, decent behavior and respectable attire that together the identity that the University wishes to project and nurture"

All groups we belong to have established norms, acceptable standards that are shared by group members. The norms focus on effort, performance, loyalty, and not to forget dress code. Students have no exception to this. As far we know IIUM encourages the religious practices of using proper dress code. Most organizations have their code of work ethics and dress code, IIUM is no exception. Why there are students violating ethics and sometimes dress code? Definitely, these acts are considered as doing major misconducts that need to be reprimanded.

To demonstrate the new commitment of returning to Islam, Malay-Muslims especially women, consciously form a new 'identity' of their own, that is by observing Islamic dress codes (Che Mahzan Ahmad, 2006). It is hoped that Muslim teenagers, adolescents and youths are less likely to be influenced by the fashion trends through TV compared to their counterparts from other religions. So what are the guidelines for Muslim dressing?

Muslim Dressing

Allah has given the guidelines as how women should dress in all occasions. Allah has revealed in the Qur'an how women should preserve their aurah and to dress in an ethical manner.

"And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husband, their father...and they should not strike their feet so as to draw..."
attention to their hidden ornaments” (Surah An-Nur, 24: 31-32)

“O Prophet! Tell your wives and daughters and their believing women that they should draw over themselves their jilbab (outer garment when in public); this will be more conducive to their being recognized (as decent women) and not to be harassed. But God is indeed oft-forgiving, most merciful (Al-Ahzab, 33: 59).

“O children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel (zeenah) at every time and place of prayer. (Al A’raaf, 7: 31).

Hadiths:
Aisha said, “Asma, daughter of Abu Bakr (that is, Aisha’s sister), entered upon the Apostle of God (pbuh) wearing thin clothes. The Apostle of God turned his attention from her and said, ‘O Asma, when a woman reaches the age of menstruation, it does not suit her except that she displays parts of her body except this and this,’ and he pointed to her face and hands” (Abi Dawud).

The issue of dressing has been highlighted as an Islamic ethics. Proper dressing is called for. It is good that Muslim women love to dress themselves. Of course, there are guidelines as how to dress especially in a formal institution likes the university.

For university students, IIUM acts as institution that is responsible to process and nurture for the growth and development of the potential work force that is skillful, competent, disciplined, morally sound, ethical and religious. The learning process at the university in obeying its rules and regulations for the betterment of mankind is inculcated here through enculturation and acculturation process, provided the students are willing to learn and to adjust towards becoming more responsible and civil citizen now and in the future. So why violate the rules and regulations designed towards having and creating a good impression, a sense of belonging, pride and identity through just simple and proper attire suitable to reflect you and the institution that you belong to. By displaying such non-verbal cues to the public, you are revealing your external self which comes from your inner sincere self that jive your head, heart, soul and body so that there is no cognitive dissonance, yet obtaining a balanced person spiritually.

As an institution that is accountable for the nurturing and grooming of its students entrusted by the parents who sent them their children to us, IIUM hopes that its silver jubilee motto: Teaching the ummah, Serving the nation is materialized. So be responsible students to learn and to practice the right way for the ummah to follow the caliphs – that’s you!