

A person is shown from the chest up, standing in a dense forest. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and holding their hands together in a prayer position (tashahhud). They are holding a string of brown wooden prayer beads (tasbeeh). Sunlight filters through the green leaves of the trees in the background, creating a dappled light effect. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

MUSLIM CONVERTS IN MALAYSIA: THE PROBLEM OF CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Osman Abdullah @ Chuah Hock Leng

Abdul Salam Muhamad Shukri



INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

**Muslim Converts in Malaysia:
The Problem of Cultural Adjustment**

**Osman Chuah Abdullah@Chuah Hock Leng
Abdul Salam Muhamad Shukri**



International Islamic University Malaysia

Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2008
©IIUM Press, IIUM

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without any prior written permission of the publisher.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Osman Chuah Abdullah

Muslim Converts in Malaysia: The Problem of
Cultural Adjustment/Abdul Salam Muhamad Shukri
Includes index
Bibliography
ISBN978-983-3855-24-7

ISBN: 978-983-3855-24-7

Printed by:

MULIA ERAT SDN BHD (594344-A)
No. 51, Jalan Metro Perdana Timur 10,
Kepong Entrepreneurs Park, Jalan Kepong, 52100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel no. 03-6257 8004 Fax no. 03-6258 7004 e-mail. mesb66@streamyx.com

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Chapter One | |
| Introduction | 1 |
| Background of Malaysia | 1 |
| Backgrounds of the Converts to Islam | 4 |
| Statement of the Problem | 10 |
| The Objectives of this Study | 13 |
| Framework of the Research | 14 |
| Chapter Two | |
| Theoretical Background | 19 |
| Concept and Theory of Conversion | 19 |
| A Brief History of the Three Missionary Religions | 21 |
| Buddhism Missionary | 22 |
| Christian Missionary | 24 |
| Islamic Missionary | 25 |
| Islamic Missionary Work in Malaysia | 29 |
| The Concept of Mu'allaf in the Qur'an | 30 |
| Problems Faced by Malaysian Muslim Converts | 32 |
| Chapter Three | |
| Ethnic Relationships in Malaysia | 37 |
| Ethnic Relationships and Converts in Malaysia: Past and Present | 37 |
| Ethnic Interaction and Stereotyping of Muslim Converts in Malaysia | 40 |
| The Accommodation of the Various Ethnic Groups in Malaysia | 41 |
| Muslim Converts becoming Malay in Malaysia | 42 |
| The Malay Identity Compared to Indian and Chinese Identities | 43 |

Chapter Four

| | |
|--|----|
| Relationships between Converts and Others | 55 |
| Relationships between Converts and their non-Muslim Families | 55 |
| Relationships and Interactions between Converts and Malays | 61 |

Chapter Five

| | |
|---|----|
| Acculturation and Assimilation of Converts into Malay Society | 69 |
| Food and Drink | 69 |
| Clothing | 71 |
| Languages | 73 |
| Changes in Religious Practices after Conversion | 78 |
| Hair Cutting Ceremony for Babies | 78 |
| <i>Murtad</i> and Returning to Former Faiths | 78 |

Chapter Six

| | |
|--|----|
| Convert Changes: An Analysis | 87 |
| Analysis of Changes in Muslim Converts | 88 |
| The Role of Non-Governmental Preaching Organizations and Governmental Organizations in Malaysia | 91 |
| The Foster Families of Converts | 94 |
| Marriage of Converts | 95 |
| Procedure of Embracing Islam in Malaysia | 96 |

Chapter Seven

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Conclusion | 99 |
| Changes After Conversion | 99 |
| Non Changes in Converts | 104 |
| Malay Identity of the Converts | 104 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Bibliography | 109 |
|---------------------|-----|

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Appendices | 123 |
|-------------------|-----|

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Index | 165 |
|--------------|-----|