Abstracts of the
World Philosophy Day
Congress

2010
World Philosophy Day 2010

**President:** Dr. Gholamali Haddad Adel  
**Scientific Secretary:** Dr. Gholamreza Aavani  
**Executive Secretary:** Dr. Mohammadhossein Imani e Khoshkhrou

**Scientific Board:**  
Gholamreza Aavani. Shahin Aavani, Ahmad Ahmadi, Hamidreza Ayatollahi, Reza Davari Ardakani, Gholamhossein Ebrahim Dinani, Gholamreza Fayazi, Gholamali Haddad Adel, Mohsen Jahangiri, Mohammadjavad Larijani, Mostafa Mohaghegh Damad, Karim Mojtahedi, Seyed Hasan Mostafavi, Ziyaa Movahhed, Hamid Parsaniya

**Assistants:**  
Keyvan Emamverdi, Faeze Hosseini Ma'soum, Mohammad Najaphi, Mohammadtaghi Tabtabaei

**Translators:**  
Iman Agha Babaiy, Javad Allafchi, Ali Baghershahi, Mohammad Ebrahim Baset, Majid Davoody, Ahmad Khodadad Hosseini, Mohammad Mehdi Khosravani, Shirzad Peyk Herfe, Esmaeel, Shahoo Rahmani, Yazdanpour, and the Translation Group

**Persian Editors:**  
Seyed Amir Akrami, Amir Ehsan Karbasizade, Hossein Sheykrezaee, Ali Moazzami

**English Editor:**  
Nicholas Boylston

**Public Relations:**  
Navid Abedini  
**Secretariat of Congress:**  
No. 4 Arakliyan Alley, Nofeloshato Street, Vali Asr Street, Tehran  
Telephone: +982166965630  
www.philosophyday.ir
Perennial Philosophy in Re-Understanding
Malay Mythology and Science of Symbol

Dato’ Baharudin Ahmad
International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia
dr_bahar@iium.edu.my

The intellectual discussion on Malay mythology, symbol and imagery have been almost completely forgotten by scholars and students of Malay studies presently and was very much misunderstood by scholars of Malay studies in the past. The modern Western approach which leaned toward the anthropological and sociological understandings of those aspects of Malay literary formulations have caused many grave misunderstanding and have considered them the various formulations due to the ignorance of the primitives.

This paper will evaluate Malay mythology and the science of symbols from the perennialists point of view by taking into of consideration the various explanations made by scholars like Rene Guenon, Ananda Coomaraswamy, Frithjof Schuon, Martin Lings, and Seyyed Hossein Nasr regarding myths, symbols and imageries in traditional thought and literature. We believe those aspects of Malay literature require redefinitions and are in need of new light for a proper literary analysis.