READINGS IN SOCIAL AND ISLAMIC ISSUES
CONTENTS

Foreword vii
Introduction ix

1. Rural-Urban Linkages with Special Reference to Japan and Malaysia 1
   Mohammad Aris Othman

2. Socio-Cultural Perspective on Safety at Workplace in Small and Medium Industries: A Case Studies of FELDA 25
   Krishna Gopal Rampal, Noor Azlan Mohd. Noor, Normajiah Mohd. Nor, Isfandi Adi Ahmad

3. Socio-economic Profile of Squatters: A Case Study of Kampung Setia Jaya 61
   Khairil Azhar Haji Md. Yassin

   Abu Sadat Nurullah

   Rohaiza Rokis

6. Participant Observation Method in a Sociological Study of Factory Workers 139
   Fatimah Hasnah Daud
7. The Muslim World and the West  
   Jamil Farooqui  
   151

8. Folklore Studies on the Qur’an: A Critique  
   Ahmad Abd Al-Rahim Nasr  
   177

9. The Status of Women in Islam:  
   A Sociological Perspective  
   Jamil Farooqui  
   203

10. Fostering Inter-Group Interaction:  
    An Islamic Approach  
    Abdul Mumin Abdulai  
   229

List of Contributors  
   245

Index  
   247
Socio-cultural perspective on safety at workplace among workers in small and medium industries: A case-study of Felda

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Introduction
The Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato’ Seri Abdullah Bin Ahmad Haji Badawi (2006) addressed the development of a safety culture for health in the workplace in 1994. The government is committed to this development because it leans to words the expectation to increasing the quality of life while working. Besides this, he added that Small and Medium Industries (SMIs) are the main contributors to the economy of the country. In 1999, it was reported that 90% of the manufacturing sectors comprised from the SMIs. However, as far as SMIs are concerned, particularly with safety and health in the workplace, most still maintain a poor working environment together with other associated problems that could not be resolved effectively. In actual fact, one reason the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1994 was enacted was mainly because of growing concerns among authorities for the increasing trend of industrial and work-related accidents and deaths arising substantially from apathy and a “tidak apa” attitude among employers and employees towards safety and health precautions (Maimunah, 2006: 2). In relation to this, it was reported that the number of fatalities in industrial accidents reached a five-year high of 1,478 in 1997, despite a 29% decline in accidents since 1993. Most fatal accidents occurred in manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, construction