

RE: GLOBAL MODERATION ROUNDTABLE ON THE EXPERIENCE OF MODERATION IN MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA

Greetings from the Global Movement of Moderates and I hope this letter finds you in great health and spirit.

In conjunction with the visit of YAB Tan Sri Muhiyiddin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia to Jakarta, it is our pleasure to inform you that Persyarikatan Muhammadiyah together with Nahdlatul Ulama and the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) will be organizing a Global Moderation Roundtable on **The Experience Of Moderation In Malaysia and Indonesia**. I believe a Malaysian perspective on moderation would continue to give GMM the regional and global thrust that it needs, which can be further enriched through the Indonesian perspective.

An active global conversation among Muslim intellectuals in the Middle East and Southeast Asia has largely been confined to the areas contributed by Western scholarships. There is a noticeable vacuum as global conversations on the development of Islamic polity tend to overlook the perspectives of non-Muslim Asians. Consequently there is a need to encourage similar conversations both among Muslim politicians, activists and intellectuals and with them counterparts from other Asian countries.

It is hoped that this Global Moderation Roundtable would embark upon a vigorous discussion that could improve the already healthy bilateral relationship that Malaysia and Indonesia has had the privilege to share. The details of the event are as follows:

Venue: Grand Hyatt, Jakarta

Date: 12th February 2013

Time: 9.00am – 2.00pm

The Global Movement of Moderates Foundation attaches high importance to your participation at this distinguished roundtable and we hope that you would kindly accept the invitation. **If you are willing to participate, we will need your full name and passport details to facilitate the purchase of flight tickets and accommodation, for your information we will be booking a flight on the 11th of February and tentatively returning on either the 12th or 13th of February depending on the availability of flights.**

Should there be any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact our Head of Programmes, Mr Wan Mohd Azri at [+603 2095 1115](tel:+60320951115) or wan.azri@gmomf.org.

We look forward to your favourable reply.

Thank you.

With best regards,



GLOBAL MODERATION ROUNDTABLE
"THE EXPERIENCE OF MODERATION IN MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA"
Tuesday 12th February 2013
Grand Hyatt
Jakarta, Indonesia

Tentative Programme

9:00 Arrival of Guests and Observers

9:15 Arrival of Participants

9:25 Welcoming Remarks

EN KHALEK AWANG

Chief Executive Officer

Global Movement of Moderates Foundation

9:30 **GLOBAL MODERATION ROUNDTABLE**

"The Experience of Moderation in Malaysia and Indonesia"

Presenters:

PROF. DR HM DIN SYAMSUDDIN

President

Muhammadiyah

PROF. TAN SRI DR. KAMAL HASSAN

Distinguished Professor

International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization

International Islamic University Malaysia

Moderator:

Member of the Board of Trustees

Global Movement of Moderates Foundation

10.30 Question and Answer Session

11:30 Arrival of **YAB Tan Sri Muhiyiddin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, and His Excellency Prof. Dr. Boediono, the Indonesian Vice President of Indonesia**

12:30 Question and Answer Session

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Ends



GLOBAL MODERATION ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE EXPERIENCE OF MODERATION IN MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA

WAN MOHD AZRI WAN JAAFAR

Senior Associate Programmes

Southeast Asia is a best testament to the false argument of the clash of civilizations. Within the confine of ASEAN, there exist Confucianism, Taoism, Catholicism, Islam and Hinduism in its midst. In spite of this diversity, the region as a whole, continue to enjoy a growth rate twice that of the developed world, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In between 2011-2016 Southeast Asia is expected to grow at a clip of 4.9 %. The very fact that the region could prosper together, notwithstanding the income gap that continues to plague the region, suggests enormous political and cultural resilience.

There are three countries that have a Muslim majority, namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, and five others that have a Muslim minority; The Muslims in Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar, and Singapore. Of these countries, the Muslim majority in Malaysia has proven adept at sharing power, living to the creed of moderation, and taking the path of democratization. Malaysia is a multi-confessional country with Islam being the largest practiced religion, comprising approximately 61.4% Muslim adherents, or around 17 million people, as of 2010. The lessons of Malaysia are inspiring to other countries in Southeast Asia in three distinct ways.

First, it makes credible the idea that Muslims and other minorities can co-exist together. Secondly, it affirms the importance of nation-building as a joint endeavour that cuts across racial and religious divides. Thirdly, it locates political Islam within the process of further democratization. What can the world learn from Malaysia that is otherwise lacking in the statecraft of other countries? Moderation is the pillar of Malaysia's success in dealing with ethnic and religious diversity.

The Global Moderation Roundtable (GMR) seeks to provide a platform to understand both the Malaysian and Indonesian experience. Among others it will have several objectives:

- Encourage and stimulate more discussion and debate on contemporary Islamic political thought in Malaysia and Indonesia, with a focus on its global dimensions.
- Strengthen the connections and networks of the emerging scholars on Malaysian Islam with various political stakeholders in Indonesia, especially those in various political parties or Islamic bodies.
- Motivate scholars and party ideologues to work together to create a common agenda on moderation, not just in governance, but foreign policy, sustainable development, gender studies, legal reforms and Islamic banking.

- Develop a syllabus, publications and journals on moderation in Indonesia and Malaysia
- Disseminate information database on some of the common issues affecting the lives and livelihood of Muslims and non-Muslims affected by the rise of political Islam in Malaysia and Indonesia.

The questions that this Global Moderation Roundtable would like to discuss are:

- What are the best practices of Muhammadiyah?
- How do Islamic NGO's in Indonesia work with government?
- How do we de-radicalize the radical or extremists? What are the viable modes of engagement?
- How can Indonesia and Malaysia work to promote a Global Movement of Moderates?
- What are the elements in Muhammadiyah that promote moderation throughout their institution?
- How does Malaysia capitalize on the country's position which is at the crossroads of different cultural, geographical and institutional regions?

Conclusion:

The list of the above questions is not meant to be exhaustive. It merely seeks to highlight the pertinent issues at play. Indeed, the above is by no means easy to answer. But taking the first step, in the direction of moderation, can add to the clarity. The outcome of the deliberations can also be shared and disseminated to various regional and international agencies, especially if the discourse is rendered into a form of memorandum. The Global Moderation Roundtable seeks to be the first of its kind to understand Malaysia with the attendant aim to understand how political actors in Indonesia can jointly enrich this debate too.