Title: Japanese Contribution to ISLAMIC Studies: The Legacy of Toshiko Izutsu
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The book is a compilation of 19 selected papers and essays transcribed from a 3-day conference on The International Conference on Contemporary Scholarship on Islam: Japanese Contribution to Islamic Studies - The Legacy of Toshiko Izutsu (CONSIST) 2008 at Kuala Lumpur. The chapters cover different issues and topics from various approaches related to Izutsu’s remarkable work, ranging from Buddhist/Shinto views of the Islamic worldview, philosophy, mysticism/Sufism, semantics, linguistics and ethics to scientific study of religion. Prof. Toshiko Izutsu (1914-1993) was a scholar of Islam in Japanese-Muslim relations. The book is a remarkable collection to understand Islam from the thinking of an Eastern philosopher.

By Roslan Rusty

To create awareness on road safety, the Occupational Safety and Health Unit (OSHU) International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) together with the Road Safety Department (RSD) of Selangor conducted a road safety campaign in IIUM Gombak recently.

The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness among the IIUM community road safety, particularly the use of seat belts and correct use of safety helmets when riding motorcycles.

Also present at the campaign were the Director of OSHU IIUM Hamdan Ahmad and Selangor RSD Assistant Director Yusuf Hashim.

According to Hamdan the road safety campaign was already in its fourth year and IIUM was very grateful to RSD Selangor for taking part in the awareness campaign on a continuous basis. Campaigns on road safety in IIUM would continue to be held to create a truly safe environment for all.

By Roslan Rusty

Now that the third semester is finally over and students have gone on their well-deserved break until September 2011, the IIUM Gombak Campus is quiet than usual. But beneath that tranquility, its staff, especially academics are busy at work doing what they have been urged to do: more research.

The semester break which now is extended into September to be in sync with the rest of universities in Malaysia and the rest of the world is an indication of how serious IIUM is in achieving that long desired goal: to be known around the world not just as an international higher learning institution but also a research university.

While IIUM will not neglect its teaching obligations, the need to create new knowledge through research works that will add value to imparting knowledge to young minds, is more important than ever. And what better time for staff to do that now than during the long semester break.

IIUM, like other teaching institutions around the world today must face up to the fact that the world expects knowledge that is not merely for the academic purposes.

It must be seen and felt by the general society that universities are offering real and practical solutions to issues faced by mankind like environmental, social, moral and spiritual.

IIUM News Bulletin would like to wish all staff a good long summer break while at the same time become be more productive in their research output by taking the advantage of their temporary time off from teaching.

By Roslan Rusty

IIUM News Bulletin welcomes articles from all contributors especially staff and students of IIUM. Contributions can be submitted to the e-mail address or address listed above.