

ISSN: 0128-8377

http://www.iium.edu.my

### A CLARION CALL FOR THE QUR'AN TO BE COMPREHENDED AND ACTED UPON





IIUM's Dr. Maszlee Malik Becomes Malaysia's **Education Minister** 

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IIUM Professor among Five Recipients of King Faisal International Prize 2018

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**IIUM Students Continue to Win** Awards in Debate, Oratory and **Public Speaking** 



IIUM Scientists Participate in Breakthrough Medical Research

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IIUM Today
Published by
Office of Corporate Communication
International Islamic University Malaysia

IIUM News Bulletin welcomes articles from all contributors especially from IIUM staff members and students. Please submit contributions to Office of Corporate Communication (OCCM), International Islamic University Malaysia, Gombak, 53100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Email: <corporatecomm@iium.edu.my>; <mmhasan@iium.edu.my>.

## **EDITORIAL**

**Dear IIUM Community,** 

Assalamualaikum.

It is our great pleasure to present to you the January-June 2018 issue of *Al-Misbah*, the IIUM online news bulletin. This e-news bulletin contains articles and provides an update of IIUM activities that occurred during the period covered by this issue. We hope you will enjoy reading the success stories and achievements of IIUM staff and students.

The news stories included in this magazine are by no means exhaustive, as we have covered only what we received from various individuals and bodies of the IIUM community. We are sure that many other important events and achievements happened in January-June 2018 which are not reported here.

We would like to thank those who have contributed to this issue and, more importantly, we look forward to receiving more materials for future issues of *Al-Misbah*.

I seize this opportunity to thank the Editor who has worked hard to ensure that this newsletter is published free from errors and inaccuracies.

Please feel free to give us feedback for possible improvements and send pertinent information with photos for inclusion in the forthcoming issues of *Al-Misbah*.

#### I wish you all the very best!

Prof. Dr. Ainul Jaria Maidin

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## IIUM'S DR. MASZLEE MALIK BECOMES MALAYSIA'S EDUCATION MINISTER

By Md. Mahmudul Hasan

Former IIUM academic and MP for Simpang Renggam, Dr. Maszlee Malik was sworn in as Education Minister of Malaysia on 21 May 2018. Before joining active politics, Dr. Maszlee was with IIUM for eighteen years. He was also the President of IIUM Academic Staff Association (ASA) for two terms, from 23 February 2012 to 19 February 2016.

Initially, Dr. Maszlee taught Fiqh, Usul al-Fiqh and other Islamic subjects at the Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS). However, towards the end of his academic career at IIUM, he taught in the Department of Political Science of the same faculty. His book titled Foundations of Islamic Governance: A Southeast Asian Perspective (2017) is published by Routledge (London) in its Studies on Islam and Muslims in Southeast Asia series.

Previously, during his PhD years at Durham University in the United Kingdom, he was a tutor for a course titled "Introduction to Islam and the Muslim World" which was offered for Political Science students of the University's School of Government and International Affairs. As a brilliant academic, Dr. Maszlee lectured at various academic institutions in Europe and America.

Dr. Maszlee exemplifies a wonderful combination of Islamic and Western knowledge systems. He earned his first degree in Islamic jurisprudence from Jordan's Al al-Bayt University (AABU), and then pursued a master's programme at Universiti Malaya (the University of Malaya) in Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence) and Usul al-Fiqh (Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence). Finally, he received further education from the West and obtained a PhD in Political Science on the topic of Good Governance from Durham University. In that sense, he also embodies an important aspect of the vision and mission of IIUM that aims to produce scholars conversant with both



Islamic and Western sciences. Needless to say, Dr. Maszlee has strong command of Arabic, English and some other languages.

The IIUM community hopes that Dr. Maszlee's prolonged exposure to the academic world and his experiences at IIUM will greatly benefit the education system in Malaysia.