



AL-MISBAH

THE IIUM NEWS BULLETIN

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

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IIUM Scientists Participate in Breakthrough Medical Research

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WORK WITH PASSION

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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.
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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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DELL Holds Roundtable Discussion on “The Use of Foreign English Textbooks in the Malaysian Education Systems”



By Adlina Ariffin, DELL, IIUM

On 9 January 2018, the IIUM's Department of English Language and Literature (DELL), Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS) had the privilege of organising a roundtable discussion. It was on a very crucial and pertinent issue in the contemporary Malaysian education system which is the use of foreign English textbooks in the Malaysian schools.

The discussion held at the Senate Hall of IIUM was able to gather approximately one hundred interested participants from various educational agencies such as the Ministry of Education, the District Education Departments, teacher training institutions, higher learning institutions, non-governmental organisations and schools in the Klang Valley. The initial idea of organising the event was mooted by the Dean of the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS) Prof Mohammad A. Quayum.

The event started with a short briefing by the moderator, Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Ridwan Abd Wahid. It was then followed by the presentation of the opening paper by Prof. Dr Supyan Hussin from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). Other invited speakers were Pn Siti Bahijah Bakhtiar from the Teacher Training Institute under the Ministry of Education, Prof Dr Ganakumaran Subramaniam who is the President of Malaysian English Language Teaching Association, Prof

Dr Nor Faridah Abd Manaf from DELL, IIUM and Prof Dr Zuraidah Mohd Don from the University of Malaya.

In general, the whole atmosphere during the discussion was rather serious and intense at times but the moderator, through his wit and eloquence, was able to facilitate meaningful exchanges of ideas and information. A few contentions and concerns were highlighted by the speakers and audience on the use of foreign textbooks by Malaysian school children particularly in respect to the issue of culture embedded in the books, the use of technology in learning and the role of media in knowledge dissemination.

Though only a half-day event, it was indeed a great success in bringing together different stakeholders with diverse opinions and perceptions to discuss an important issue in a very academic, objective and civilised manner.

The event which was covered by *Buletin Astro Awani* and appeared in *New Straits Times* (7 February 2018) put IIUM's Department of English Language and Literature (DELL) in the national press. DELL's efforts to engage and contribute to the betterment of the Malaysian education ecosystem was highly appreciated.