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Recent Highlights

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19 March 2014: Lecture by Dr. Leon Moosavi, University of Liverpool, FASS Board Room, UBD. Dr. Leon Moosavi from the Sociology Department at the University of Liverpool will give a lecture entitled “What Do Europeans Think about Islam? The Articulation of Islamophobia on Twitter”. Dr. Moosavi has been featured in mainstream media debates on numerous occasions and has been consulted by the European Commission as well as British and Australian police and government on community cohesion and counter-terrorism issues.

3-5 March 2014: Roundtable Discussion: Current Research on Malay Studies, Westend Campus, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany. This forum, which is jointly organised by Akademi Pengajian Brunei (APB) or the Academy of Brunei Studies, UBD and the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Goethe University, Frankfurt will continue and enhance the existing relationship and cooperation between the two institutions, which has spanned many years. In 2013, an international seminar on Malay Studies was jointly organised by FASS, APB and Goethe University and held in UBD. The 2014 Roundtable Discussion will see FASS being strongly represented by its Malay Studies academics, which will hopefully lead to insightful discussions on the latest research developments in the Malay World.

14 March-8 April 2014: Joint Student Project between Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Universiti Putra Malaysia, UBD. This project is a joint student project for final year students from the Architecture Programme of the Faculty of Architecture and Design, Universiti Putra Malaysia, and Geography and Development students from FASS, UBD. The aim of the project is to provide students from both universities with knowledge, skills and creative thinking set in a collaborative multidisciplinary framework sufficient to address contemporary urban issues and promote sustainable and climate-responsive urban design and planning. In relation to this, they will prepare a conceptual Master Plan for the Bandar Seri Begawan waterfront, including part of Kampung Ayer, focusing on the physical environment as well as the interrelationship with the surrounding areas.

9 April - 24 May 2014: Spectacle 2014: Art & Design Graduation Show, Chancellor Hall, UBD. The final year students of the Art and Creative Technology (ACT) Programme will exhibit their innovative art and design capstone projects at the Art Gallery of Chancellor Hall, UBD, starting on Wednesday, 9 April 2014. This exhibition, Spectacle 2014: Art & Design Graduation Show, which is open to the public, is the second graduation exhibition to be organized by the ACT programme of FASS, UBD. Through sensitivity, imagination, exploration and creativity, the students have applied their art and design abilities to create new means for expressing views and concepts involving subjects ranging from personal loss and love events to social issues and formal Western and Islamic art. Other events related to this year’s graduation exhibition will include a two-day gallery talk by the final year students.
20-21 May 2014: MALAYSIA-BRUNEI FORUM, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UM. This Forum is the first international collaboration between the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences in University of Malaya and Universiti Brunei Darussalam and is intended to provide an opportunity for academics and postgraduate students from both UM and UBD to present the results of their respective research and scholarship with a view to encouraging future collaborative research and joint publications in reputed international journals. The overall theme of the Malaysia-Brunei Forum 2014 is “Expanding Horizons Together”.

30 April 2014: Roundtable Discussion: Ms Lai Pei-Si, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank Brunei, UBD. This is the first in a series of roundtable discussions with eminent individuals from diverse backgrounds that is planned by FASS in 2014. In addition, public lectures from the following outstanding academics are also scheduled to be held in 2014:

- Professor Hans-Dieter Evers, University of Bonn, Eminent Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Institute of Asian Studies, UBD
- Professor Osman Bakar, Director, Sultan Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCS)
- Professor Solvay Gerke, University of Bonn

2015 International Consortium of Universities for the Study of Biodiversity & the Environment (iCUBE) Symposium / Graduate Student Workshop. This consortium brings together a select group of research universities from around the globe who are committed to research and education on biodiversity, climate change and the environment. It provides a framework that promotes collaboration and co-operative activities for multidisciplinary research, teaching and learning, drawing on complementary capabilities of the partner universities, and in the process strengthening the research capacities of each partner university. Members of iCUBE comprise world-renowned universities in the US, Europe, Australasia and Asia. A symposium/graduate student workshop is scheduled to be held in 2015. The theme is ‘Climate Change and the Environment’ with a special emphasis on society and social aspects.
In The Limelight

South East Asia: A Multidisciplinary Journal
South East Asia: A Multidisciplinary Journal is a journal that has been published annually by FASS since 1999. It is the oldest journal produced by UBD. The journal showcases the diversity and range of research interests of FASS staff. There is a special emphasis on South East Asia-related issues but the journal also publishes papers from beyond the region. Past issues of the journal are available on our faculty’s website at this link: http://www.ubd.edu.bn/academic/faculty/FASS/SEA/index.html

Deterding, D., & Salbrina, S. (2013). Brunei English: A New Variety in a Multilingual Society. Dordrecht: Springer. This book provides an overview of the pronunciation, grammar and word usage of the English spoken and written in Brunei. It is based on the detailed analysis of recordings and interviews with UBD undergraduates. In addition, features of written English in the local newspapers are discussed, to find aspects of this variety of the language that make it distinct from other varieties of English around the world. The writers found that some of the features of Brunei English are shared with a range of new varieties of English around the world, while others are specific to Brunei. In this way, Brunei English can be said to be participating in the worldwide evolution of English while at the same time it is establishing its own unique identity.

Deterding, D. (2013). Misunderstandings in English As A Lingua Franca–An Analysis of ELF Interactions in South East Asia. Berlin: De Gruyter. This book by Professor David Deterding, from FASS, UBD, investigates the issue of speech intelligibility among ELF speakers. It analyses the recordings of nine speakers to find out what caused misunderstandings to occur. A total of 183 tokens of misunderstanding by speakers and listeners from Brunei, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Taiwan, China, Japan, Laos and Nigeria were collated in the Corpus of Misunderstandings from the Asian Corpus of English (CMACE) and then analysed. It was shown that most instances occurred because of pronunciation and a few arose because of unfamiliar words, but non-standard grammar rarely caused a problem. It is hoped that the findings that are reported can help teachers and learners of English to focus on what is most important in enhancing intelligibility.

Codeswitching in University English-Medium Classes: Asian Perspectives (2013). Edited by Roger Barnard (The University of Waikato, Aotearoa/New Zealand and James McLellan (FASS, UBD). Bristol: Multilingual Matters. The central theme of this book is the use of students’ first language as well as the target language in English language classrooms. The research undertaken for this book sought to uncover the codeswitching practices and beliefs of university teachers of English-medium classes in twenty contexts across Asia. The authors of the case studies recorded and transcribed language lessons in their particular context, and calculated the amount of time spent in the students’ first language and the pedagogical functions served by this switching from English. Chapter 6 in the book was co-authored by several members of FASS and the Language Centre, UBD.

Further details about these books are available at our faculty’s website on the link below: http://www.ubd.edu.bn/academic/faculty/FASS/research/index.html

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