19 March 2014: Public Lecture by Dr Leon Moosavi, University of Liverpool, Central Lecture Theatre, UBD.

Dr Moosavi is a lecturer in Sociology at the University of Liverpool. He is currently based in Singapore, establishing the country’s first criminology degree on behalf of the University of Liverpool. His research interests include Islamophobia, conversion to Islam and Muslim community dynamics. He has been invited to present his research in several countries, has 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. In his lecture, he discussed the Islamophobic rhetoric that appears on Twitter. He argued that Islamophobia on Twitter must be seen as a reified discourse which not only reflects how some people imagine the world, but which also influences how the world is seen by others, both of which can have ‘real-world’ ramifications. In relation to this, he also discussed the urgent question of how Islamophobia on Twitter should be responded to.

8-9 April 2014: Visit by Thaksin University, Thailand & Seminar with FASS.

A twelve-member delegation from the Western Languages Programme of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Thaksin University visited FASS on a goodwill and familiarization tour. In addition to attending a few lectures conducted by FASS academics, the visitors also participated in a seminar with several members of the English Language and Linguistics Programme and the English Literature Programme in FASS on 9 April 2014.

4-6 April 2014: Festival Sastera (Literature Festival), Youth Centre, Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) & BSB Waterfront.

Organised by the students and staff of the Malay Literature Programme in FASS, this festival showcased Malay literary art forms such as sajak (Malay poetry) and bangsawan (traditional Malay drama). Community events such as a walkathon and colouring contests for children were also organised. The three-day event was formally declared open by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in Brunei Darussalam, Datin Hajjah Adinah Othman.

9 April 2014: Public Lecture by UBD’s Chair Professor Professor Datuk Osman Bakar, Senate Room, Chancellor Hall, UBD.

In the latest of the Eminent Speakers’ Series organized by FASS, Professor Datuk Osman Bakar, who is the Director of the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS) in UBD, gave a lecture entitled “Changes to inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue in South East Asia: Cross-cultural perspectives”. This lecture was first delivered at Oxford University in early 2014 during a workshop jointly organised by SOASCIS. The Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies and St Antony’s College, University of Oxford. In his lecture, Professor Osman Bakar, who has been named as one of the 500 most influential Muslims provided an overview of the development of interreligious dialogue in Southeast Asia involving Muslims in the region, beginning from the 1970s. He also talked about how the post-colonial era has seen a new political landscape in each of the countries in the region that impinges on Muslim relations with other religious communities. In the light of these factors, he discussed the promises and challenges for interreligious dialogue in ASEAN.
19-20 April 2014: UBD 2014 Film Festival, The Core, UBD. This festival, organised by students taking a module on Short Film Making in the Professional Communication & the Media Programme in FASS, UBD, showcased the talents & skills of UBD students in film making, in addition to celebrating the achievements of Bruneian filmmakers, with the participation of local production houses in the event. Over the two days, guests at the festival were able to enjoy the cinematic works that were showcased as well as meeting people in the industry in the country. Wu Chun, the first Bruneian to achieve international stardom in the entertainment world, was the Event Ambassador of the UBD 2014 Film Festival.

9 April - 24 May 2014: Spectacle 2014: Art & Design Graduation Show, Chancellor Hall, UBD. This exhibition, which is open to the public, is the second graduation exhibition to be organised by the Art & Creative Technology (ACT) programme of FASS, UBD. It was officially declared open by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UBD, Associate Professor Azman Ahmad, on 9 April 2014. The annual exhibition is designed to not only showcase the artistic talents of the students majoring in ACT but also to share with the public the students’ wish for a wider acceptance and respect for aesthetics in society. In relation to this, a two-day gallery talk by all the graduating students was also held as part of the graduation show.

4 April 2014: FASS Research Retreat, Chancellor Hall, UBD. In a continuous endeavour to increase the research outputs of the faculty, FASS held a one-day research retreat which was attended by the academic staff of the faculty. In addition to presentations about the current status of research developments in each programme of the faculty, discussions were also held on how to further improve research outputs and enhance the research ethos among the academic staff.
7 May 2014: Talk by Ms Lai Pei-Si, CEO, Standard Bank, Brunei, ILIA Lecture Theatre, UBD. In this first of a series of informal talks by people who are pioneers and leaders in their respective fields, organised by FASS, Ms Lai will share with the audience her experiences in the corporate world and lessons that she can offer to young people, especially young women, who are just about to start on a career.

20-21 May 2014: MALAYSIA-BRUNEI FORUM, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya (UM). This Forum is the first international collaboration between the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences of Universiti Malaya and Universiti Brunei Darussalam and is intended to provide an opportunity for academics and postgraduate students from both UMA 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”.

October 2014: The Second Borneo Studies Network Governing Council Meeting and Graduate Workshop, UBD. The Borneo Studies Network (BSN) is a formal alliance of leading universities and other academic institutions in Borneo, FASS and the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) in UBD hosted an inaugural meeting to discuss the setting up of BSN in October 2013. The main aim of the BSN is to facilitate research collaboration across various disciplines but with a focus on Borneo and Borneo-related issues. Apart from UBD, the members of BSN include Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), as well as institutions in Kaltimantan, Indonesia, primarily Universitas Mulawarman (Samarna), Universitas Lambung Mangkurat (Banjarmasin), Universitas Palangkaraya, Universitas Balikpapan, Universitas Tanjungpura (Pontianak), Institut Dayakologi (Pontianak), Sekolah Tinggi Pastoral Keuskupan Agung, (Pontianak) and Mata Enggang Institut (Pontianak). Following the inaugural meeting last year, FASS and IAS will once again host the second BSN Governing Council meeting as well as a graduate workshop for researchers from these institutions.

Year 2015: The 19th English in Southeast Asia (ESEA) conference. The “English in Southeast Asia” conference series is the result of collaboration between the National Institute of Education (Singapore), the University of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), the University of Brunei Darussalam, Curtin University (Pent, Australia), Ateneo de Manila University (Quezon City, the Philippines), Hong Kong Baptist University, Santa Dharma University (Yogyakarta, Indonesia), King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi (Thailand), Waikato University (New Zealand) and Macau University (Macau). FASS, UBD is expected to host the 19th Conference at the end of 2015.

Year 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 multi-disciplinary 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 “Globalisation - The interactions with biodiversity, environment and society”.

Year 2015 International Consortium of Universities for the Study of Biodiversity & the Environment (iCUBE)
This book examines the contested meanings of globalisation – moving beyond the conventional distinctions between the global and the local, the universal and the particular, the East and the West – to assess how social knowledge is being made and re-made along more critical trajectories. The contributors to this multidisciplinary volume of essays include many leading intellectuals in the social sciences, many of whom have been associated with FASS and UBD in some capacity, such as Benedict Anderson, Hans-Dieter Evers, Solvay Gerke, Victor T. King, Marina Roseman and Maung Zarni.

Social Science and Knowledge in a Globalising World (2012). Edited by Professor Wan Zawawi Ibrahim (FASS, UBD), Petaling Jaya: SIRD (The Strategic Information and Research Development Centre). This book examines the contested meanings of globalisation – moving beyond the conventional distinctions between the global and the local, the universal and the particular, the East and the West – to assess how social knowledge is being made and re-made along more critical trajectories. The contributors to this multidisciplinary volume of essays include many leading intellectuals in the social sciences, many of whom have been associated with FASS and UBD in some capacity, such as Benedict Anderson, Hans-Dieter Evers, Solvay Gerke, Victor T. King, Marina Roseman and Maung Zarni.

Catalyst for Change: Chinese Business in Asia (2014). Edited by Thomas Menkhoff (Singapore Management University, Singapore), Hans-Dieter Evers (Institute of Asian Studies and FASS, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei), Yue Wah Chay (SIM University, Singapore), Chang Yau Hoon (Singapore Management University, Singapore). New Jersey, Singapore, Beijing, London: World Scientific & Imperial College Press. This book serves as a textbook for courses on Asian Studies with a focus on ethnic Chinese entrepreneurs and business management in Asia. It provides a comprehensive Asian perspective on the organizational peculiarities and changing business practices of ethnic Chinese businesses and their leaders, who continue to form the backbone of Asia’s dynamic economies. Professor Hans-Dieter Evers, one of the editors of the book, is an Eminent Visiting Professor in FASS and the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) in UBD.

Gender and Power in Indonesian Islam: Leaders, feminists, Sufis and pesantren selves (2013). Edited by Bianca J. Smith (FASS, UBD) and Mark Woodward (Arizona State University), New York: Routledge. This book is the first to explore understandings of gender and Islam in the pesantren (traditional Islamic boarding schools) and the Sufi orders attached to them in Indonesia. By considering these distinct but related Muslim gender cultures in Java, Lombok and Aceh, the book examines the broader function of pesantren as a force for both redefining existing modes of Muslim subjectivity and cultivating new ones. It demonstrates how, as Muslim women rise to positions of power and authority in this patriarchal domain, they challenge and negotiate ‘normative’ Muslim patriarchy while establishing their own Muslim ‘authenticity’. The book is edited by Dr Bianca J. Smith, a Senior Lecturer in the Sociology –Anthropology Programme in FASS, UBD and Dr Mark Woodward from Arizona State University.

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