



The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) embodies a vibrant academic community of expert staff members as well as bright and creative students. *Discover FASS* (2021 edition) will provide you with a glimpse of what FASS is all about. We hope you enjoy our FASS newsletter!

Social Sciences in 201-205 band in THE World University Subject Rankings

Universiti Brunei Darussalam has been placed in the 201-250 band for Social Sciences in the most recent Times Higher Education (THE) World University Subject Rankings. UBD's *Social Science Research Impact* was in the top 21 percentile. This is a marked achievement for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the largest faculty at UBD which offers programmes in Malay Language & Linguistics; Design & Creative Industries; English Studies; Geography, Environment and Development; History & International Studies; Malay Literature, and Sociology and Anthropology.

FASS has made significant contribution in research pertaining to social issues faced by society. Rigorous analyses and statistical measures have allowed FASS, among other things, to gain better understanding of social problems and offer policy solutions that will be useful for policy makers such as government agencies.



Dean of FASS, Dr Noor Azam bin
OKMB Haji-Othman

Speaking about this success, Dean of FASS, Associate Professor Dr Noor Azam bin OKMB Haji-Othman remarked, "Alhamdulillah, this recognition by THE is testimony of the collective efforts of Social Science researchers in UBD on the community. With a strong focus on issues relevant to society, our researchers and students are trained to cast a critical eye on matters that can inform policymakers, and improve the well-being and quality of life of the community, bringing us a step closer to achieving Brunei Darussalam's Vision 2035 Inshaa Allah".

Two FASS academics appointed to professorship

Our heartiest congratulations to Professor Haji Asbol bin Haji Mail from History & International Studies and Professor Ampuan Haji Brahim bin Ampuan Haji Tengah from Malay Literature for being awarded the title of Professor with effect from June 2021.

The Dean of FASS, Associate Professor Dr Noor Azam OKMB Haji-Othman remarked, "We are extremely proud that two of FASS's most senior experts have been recognised for their academic excellence". He also hopes that their achievements will inspire other Bruneian academics to continue to excel in their teaching and research, and to serve the community.



Professor Ampuan Hj Brahim bin Hj Tengah

Professor Ampuan Haji Brahim began his career at Universiti Brunei Darussalam on 1st September 1989 and has been with UBD for 32 years. He has held various posts whilst with the university: as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS); Director of the Academy of Brunei Studies (APB) and at the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS).

He has received several state orders and decorations including *Pingat Indah Kerja Baik* (PIKB) in 1997; *Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia* (The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei or SNB) in 2017; and *Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia Darjah Ketiga* (The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei - 3rd Degree or SMB) in 2012. He has also been bestowed the *National Excellent Teacher Award* in 2015 by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wad-aulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khari Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam. In 2005, he received the *Southeast Asia Write Award*.

Professor Ampuan Haji Brahim has published over a hundred publications including five academic books, and five creative works. He is member of the Southeast Asian Literary Council (MASTERA) and the literary association ASTERAWANI.

His most recent publication is titled *Sastera dan Ketahanan Nasional* published by *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Brunei*. This book is a collection of articles which discuss the role of literature as a vehicle for uniting and strengthening the nation. Another recent publication co-authored by Professor Ampuan Dr Hj Brahim with the title *Perusahaan Padi di Negara Brunei Darussalam (2000-2017): Jaminan Sekuriti Makanan* and published by Persatuan Sejarah Brunei (PESEBAR) looks at the history of the development of the paddy industry in Brunei Darussalam before and after the year 2000. It looks at the plan to develop the paddy industry and the challenges faced.



Professor Hj Asbol bin Hj Mail (front, 2nd from L)

Professor Haji Asbol has been with Universiti Brunei Darussalam for 31 years. His academic career began as a trained teacher at the *Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam (SMJA)* secondary school, having graduated with a First Class Honours Bachelor's Degree. On 22nd January 1990 he was appointed as *Tutor* at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. He was later promoted to *Lecturer* on 23rd August 1996. Then on 10th January 2005, Professor Haji Asbol was appointed as *Senior Lecturer*, followed by his appointment as *Associate Professor* on 4th March 2010 and then finally as *Professor* in June 2021.

Professor Haji Asbol specializes in Brunei History, Malay Islamic Monarchy and Malay Civilisation. He has authored numerous publications including *The History of Education in Brunei 1950-1985* (2005) and the *History of the 19th Century Bruneian Sultanate* (2011). He has also written and compiled special publications for various government agencies, including the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and the Brunei History Centre.

He has received several state orders and decorations, in recognition of his excellent service to the government and academic accomplishments. In 2005, he was awarded the *Pingat Indah Kerja Baik (PIKB)*; in 2006 he was bestowed the *Pingat Kerja Lama* (Long Service Award or PKL); and in 2012 he was decorated with the *Darjah Seri Paduka Makhota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia Darjah Ketiga* (The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei - 3rd Degree or SMB). In 2013, Professor Haji Asbol also received the *National Excellent Teacher Award* from His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Hai Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khari Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam.

His most recent publication is a book entitled *Kesultanan Brunei dan Aceh Tradisional (Abad 14-19 Masihi): Pentadbiran Sistem Pentadbiran dan Isu Politik*, published by Persatuan Sejarah Brunei (PESEBAR). This book elucidates the role of politics and governance in the rise and fall of two prominent Sultanates in the 14th-19th Century Malay World - Aceh and Brunei. To complement, significant inputs from economic and social domains are discussed as contributing factors to the development. Regarding Sultan as the supreme governing power, administration in both sultanates were organized into central and provincial where each was overseen by appointed officials. In the nexus of daulat (sovereign) and derhaka (treason), this book discusses the governing role of the sultans/sultanahs in their administrations, the role of their officials, and the political conflict that arises from the power play, resulting in the demise of these powers as distinct polities at that time.

Between July 30th to August 1st 2021, FASS lecturer Mohd Zefri Ariff bin Mohd Zain of the Malay Literature programme, directed and staged *Dang Samalindang* at the JIS Arts Centre for Brunei National Theatre Festival. This theatre production brought together a group of students from Malay Literature and *Putera Seni*, a renowned group performer in the local literature scene. This event was preceded by a series of workshops on performance arts conducted by the same lecturer.

FASS holds Brunei-Malaysia Forum virtually with Universiti Malaya



Participants during the BMF Opening Ceremony

Dean of FASS UBD, Associate Professor Dr Noor Azam bin OKMB Haji-Othman and Dean of FASS UM, Datuk Professor Dr Danny Wong Tze Ken delivered the welcoming remarks.

The virtual forum was officiated by UBD's Assistant Vice Chancellor (Research) Associate Professor Dr Abby Tan and was attended by various deans and directors from UBD.

Associate Professor Dr Gary Jones, former Dean of FASS, spoke about 'The Future of the Past: 35 years of UBD-UM bilateral relations' in his keynote speech.

The Brunei-Malaysia Forum 2021 with the theme *Trans-Asian Networks: Continuity and Change* was hosted by FASS on 15th and 16th September. This was the fourth biennial collaboration between the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Universiti Malaya (UM) and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The forum was initially set to be held in 2020 but was postponed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. As further restrictions were in place in the country, the decision was made to hold the forum virtually.



Dean of FASS UBD, AP Dr Noor Azam bin OKMB Haji-Othman

Dean of FASS UM, Datuk Prof Dr Danny Wong Tze Ken



Keynote speaker AP Dr Gary Jones

Guest of Honour AP Dr Abby Tan



A total of 51 papers were presented covering a range of topics on the Malay World; Indigenous Communities; Youth and Social issues; Islam, Media and Tourism; English & Language Teaching; COVID-19; Gender studies; Globalization, Migration & Diaspora; the Environment; GIS & Politics; British Colonial History; Literature & Identity; Brunei History; and Contemporary Brunei.

BMF 2021 saw participation from academics and graduate students from UBD and UM, government officers as well as the general public.

3rd Edition FASS Term Screening



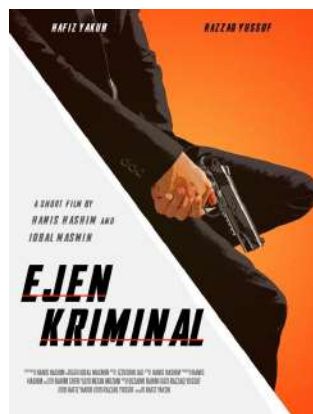
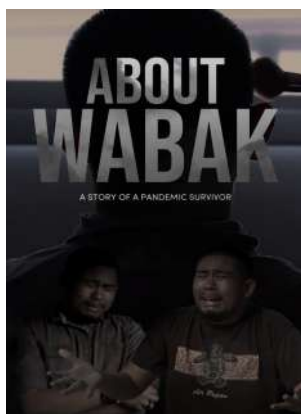
Jury Award Trophy won by UBD students



Representatives of Ejen Kriminal crew, Iqbal Masmin and Hanis Hashim (3rd and 4th L) accepting the award from Minister of Primary Resources & Tourism

The 3rd Edition FASS Term Screening took place on 24th April in Lecture Hall 2, ICTC UTH Building, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). The screening showcased a total of eight short films including five fiction shorts, two animations and one documentary short made by students enrolled in the Design and Creative Industries (DCI) Programme at FASS. The FASS Term Screening was co-organised by Dr. Yong Liu, Programme Coordinator of DCI and Ms. Mayyer Ling Mohammad Tony Ling of English Studies

The screening opened with a short film entitled *Ejen Kriminal* which was produced by a group of DCI students and which had won the Jury Award in the 4th Brunei Film Blitz in December 2020. The event was attended by invited media professionals who included Mr. Aaqil Ahmad from Filterworks Productions; and Mrs. Mariah Zaharaa Abdullah and Mr. Oggi Satriyo Yudhanto both from Oddbox Pictures Sdn Bhd. Ms Olivia Ong, Head of Progresif Media, a representative from UBD's co-operation partner Progresif Sdn Bhd, was also present at the screening. The screening was also attended by Dr Rui Olivia Lopes, Programme Leader of DCI, other UBD academic and administrative staff members and student filmmakers with their families and friends.



Each year, the DCI Programme has been able to send more and more student works to national, regional and international film festivals and screen competitions. The most recent international DCI student achievements include the online screening of three short films (1-9 April) organised by Centre for the Arts, National University of Singapore; two horror shorts *Haunted* (2020) and *The Phone* (2020) screened at the opening party of *Children of the Night* International Dracula Congress 2021 (16-18 April), hosted by Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland, and the virtual platform hansderoos.com created by Hans Corneel de Roos, an independent Dracula researcher based in the Netherlands, Germany and the Philippines.

Another film *Bunga* was selected for the 50th Sehsüchte International Student Film Festival in Germany, which is regarded as one of the most prestigious and acclaimed student film festivals in Europe.



FASS Staff publication: Engaging Modern Brunei



Engaging Modern Brunei: Research on Language, Literature and Culture explores issues shaping and defining modern Bruneian identity. Co-edited by Assistant Professor Dr Hannah Ho Ming Yit and Professor David Deterding, this book addresses the research gap regarding Brunei studies in terms of the language, literature, and culture of Brunei which, with its bilingual education, is uniquely positioned at the intersection of the Malay and western worlds. The book analyses the linguistic, literary, and cultural modes that provide the backdrop for modern-day instantiations of local identity, film, art, and social practices. It compares Brunei English and Brunei Malay in the context of the literature and culture of Brunei.

Readers will find it useful as an essential resource for academic scholars, university students, and others interested in the study of Brunei Darussalam's language, literature, and culture. It provides critical insights from an insiders' perspective into the local identity of the culturally diverse Bruneian society.



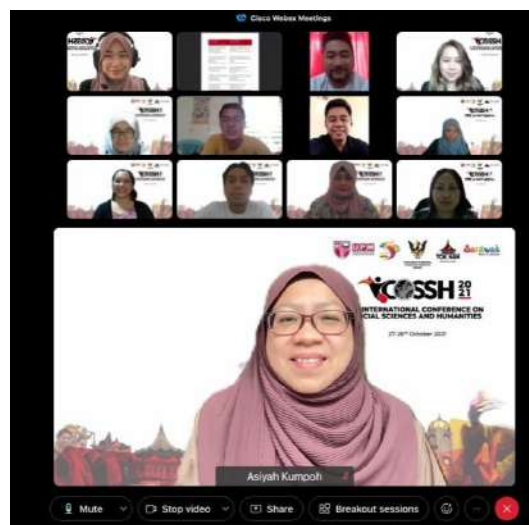
Dr Hannah Ho



Prof David Deterding

FASS academic as keynote speaker at ICOSSH 2021

Senior Assistant Professor Dr Hjh Asiyah Az-Zahra binti Hj Ahmad Kumpoh of FASS was invited as one of the keynote speakers for the *2nd International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities (ICOSSH) 2021* held virtually in Kuching, Sarawak. Her keynote presentation entitled *Making Sense of Ethnic Representation and Identity in Brunei Darussalam* explores the alternative insights on the ways ethnic groups in Brunei Darussalam demonstrate and represent their ethnic identity. With a specific focus on the Dusuns in Brunei, the paper departs from the conventional narratives that emphasise more on the homogeneity of the Brunei society. The examination of the lived experiences of the Dusuns from the perspective of A.B. Shamsul's everyday-defined social reality highlights the distinctive ways the Dusuns demonstrate their identity through family, intergenerational contact and community experiences. In addition, young Dusuns also negotiate their ethnic identity by experimenting with the ethnic language.



Dr Hjh Asiyah Az-Zahra binti Hj Ahmad Kumpoh



Keynote address at Seminar Bahasa dan Budaya Etnik Malaysia (SEBEM) 2021

Dr Yabit Alas, Senior Assistant Professor at FASS, was invited as one of the keynote speakers at the Seminar Bahasa dan Budaya Etnik Malaysia (SEBEM) 2021. Held on September 9th and 10th, 2021, this seminar brought together experts on Austronesian languages and cultures, policy makers, practitioners and enthusiasts under one roof. Themed 'Preserving ethnic languages in the new era', this seminar was co-organized by Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Institute of Teachers Education, and Sabah International Dynamic Management College (SIDMA). In his address titled *Media Sosial Sebagai Alat Merevitalisasi Bahasa Dusun di Brunei Darussalam* (Social Media as a tool for revitalizing Dusun language in Brunei Darussalam), Dr Yabit outlined the current scenario regarding endangered minority languages in the region and various revitalization efforts from institutions and communities. Using the *Adau Gayoh* festival as a case study, he illustrates how social media is creatively used to convey greetings and multimodal messages in Dusun language. He further highlights the implication of this development to the language preservation climate and how it can be utilized as a strategy for revitalization purposes.



FASS bids farewell to former Dean

Associate Professor Dr Mohd Gary Jones has left Universiti Brunei Darussalam after 36 years of dedicated service to the university and to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. AP Dr Jones began his career at UBD in November 1985 when the UBD campus was just an old school building in Bandar with only 14 academic staff and less than 200 students. Over the years, he witnessed the growth of UBD: the expansion of its faculties and institutes; the development of local staff; and the increasing student number.

Whilst at UBD, AP Dr Jones felt honoured to have been entrusted to take on a number of administrative positions such as Head of the (then) English Department, Deputy Director and Director of the Institute for Asian Studies, Deputy Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Director and Visiting Professor at the UBD-FPT Global Centre in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Talking fondly about his friend and former colleague, the Dean of FASS, Associate Professor Dr Noor Azam OKMB Haji-Othman remarks, "Professor Gary Jones is himself an institution in the history of the university. His long and illustrious 36-year career has left a mark on generations of graduates, who still remember him fondly. Such is the impression of a great, kind and generous teacher, colleague and friend".

When asked about what he would miss about UBD, AP Dr Mohd Gary Jones answered, "I already miss friends, family and friendship. I also miss working with the lovely people that I saw on a daily basis and bumping into former students when out and about". Likewise, AP Dr Mohd Gary Jones will also be truly missed by everyone at FASS!



This historical photo, from 1997, was taken at the closing ceremony for a special Academic English course that the (then) Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics conducted for His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, prior to his undertaking a programme of study at the University of Oxford. The then VC, officiated at the closing. Young Gary Jones is pictured, along with other colleagues who planned the course and taught His Royal Highness. Gary was at the time doing a lot of consultation work with the Ministry of Education, connected to the implementation of the *Dwibahasa* bilingual education policy. He was, and of course still is, a renowned expert in the field of Bilingual Education.

- Assoc Prof Dr James McLellan



Not many people know about this but Prof Mohd. Gary was one of the few people in my 'kitchen cabinet' during my deanship years. Gary operated under the radar, but his support has been truly exceptional. Although I didn't listen to all his advice and words of experience, I was profoundly grateful for his candid views on the things I wouldn't have seen myself. So, thank you very much sir for everything!

- Dr Asiyah Az-Zahra



Gary's name card circa 1998/9. He was the HoD then. I was still a linguistics student in UCL then (in 2nd year) and went to see him to express my intention of joining the department after graduation. So, Gary gave some pointers on what I would need to do in order to apply and be shortlisted (at least a 2:1). I kept in touch with him throughout the remaining of my undergraduate days and updated him on my progress.

- Dr Salbrina Sharbawi



I first met Assoc Prof Mohd Gary Jones when he was the Dean of FASS in 2009, and I was a first year student enrolled in the (then) English Language and Linguistics Programme. Fast-forward seven years later, I joined FASS in 2016 as an assistant lecturer and have an office in the same corridor. Assoc Prof Mohd Gary Jones sets high expectations for his students, and is quite the performer in his lectures - full of anecdotes, and interesting facts to engage students in his lessons. He is extremely passionate about his fields of expertise which include bilingualism and language planning and policy. He has inspired many former students and young academics like myself to pursue our own interests with rigour and passion. His pep-talks are often cloaked with British humour (and I wouldn't have it any other way). He is a character that will truly be missed.

-Mayer Ling

I met Gary back in November 2013 when I had a visit to IAS for roundtable discussions with IAS professors and academic staff. He was such an encouraging person who motivated me to teach at FASS UBD. From there, we exchanged emails and he always replied to my enquiries fondly with lots of ideas and suggestions. Now I am back at UBD to lecture and research after completing a PhD, Gary has returned home in the U.K for good and I never met him again, but his camaraderie and intellectual idealism are always close to this heart.

- Dr Meridian Alam

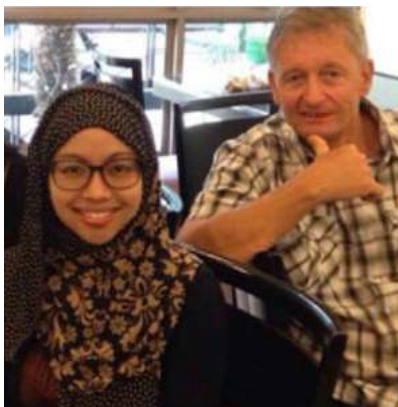


I first met Gary in his Dean's office during my very first week in FASS as a student in 2002 - complaining about wanting to do English linguistics as a minor. He said it had never been done before and there were not enough people to run the programme. Came back a few days later telling him that I've got three people now including myself and that will do. He laughed and said okay then we will give it a go as a trial batch of stooges. I fondly remember this memory as it reminds me that, at times, all you need is an opportunity and I will forever be thankful that he gave me one.

- Dr Badriyah Yusof

I remember one morning after class, my peers and I reflected that none of us could ever really remember what was taught during his lessons, a fact we found endlessly amusing. But what we did remember was Gary's demeanour, humour, and teaching style. He always left an impression, even if we couldn't fully recall what was said. Many years after I graduated, I would always remember him fondly as one of my favourite lecturers. FASS has been blessed to have him as such a big part of it all these years.

- Dr Chester Keasberry



I met Gary in 2002 when he taught me *Language Acquisition* (which incidentally ended up being my research interest). The first thing he said to me was, "You look like a studious person!". Reading everyone's messages, I realise that Gary inspired a lot of people to pursue their dreams, myself included. I am grateful for all the advice he gave me, all the weird jokes he shared and all those times I could just pop into his office to have a chat about work or life or whatever. I'm sorry I didn't get to see much of him when he returned from Da Nang but I wish you all the best in life Gary. May Allah bless you.

- Aznah Suhaimi

The thing I remember and liked the most about Gary was his expectation that, because I was so well-read, I would likely know or understand references he'd make. Even long after graduation, he'd have nice things to say on the rare occasions we were able to meet. How I regret not being able to see him off.

- Hj Muhd Ali-Sufi bin Hj Mohd Alipah, TESL 2001-2005



Anecdote: He passed that PC on to me!

- Dr Rinni Marliyana

I have known Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Gary Jones from 2015 when I joined the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. I found him to be a nice senior colleague who always greets me "Hello Shafi". I remember him moving vigorously on the 1st floor corridor in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). He has contributed a lot towards UBD's development during his tenure for the last 35 years. I wish all the best for him.

- Dr. Shafi Noor Islam



The 3rd Folklore Writing Workshop

In conjunction with the national *Bulan Bahasa 2021*, Dr Maslin bin Jukin/Jukim of Malay Literature conducted *The 3rd Folklore Writing Workshop* organized by the Malay Language and Literature Bureau (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka) in collaboration with the Culture and Arts Division, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Radio Television Brunei. The workshop that took place between July 10th to 17th, 2021 was held at Dewan Digadong, Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, in the capital.



Dr Maslin bin Jukin/Jukim (center R) receiving his token of appreciation from DBP

Officiated by the Acting Director of the Malay Language and Literature Bureau, Awang Suip bin Haji Abdul Wahab, the six days workshop was aimed at providing participants with knowledge and skills to document and produce folklore using doku-drama techniques. The workshop attracted 45 officers and staff from Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Radio Television Brunei, the Malay Language and

Literature Bureau, History Centre, UBD students and literature enthusiasts. The highlight of the event was the production of eight solid scripts by the participants and staging of *Bang Bulan* as one of the experimental scripts at the closing ceremony.

Novel to Stage Drama Script Adaptation Workshop



Ena Herni binti Wasli (standing) with participants in the workshop

Also in line with the celebration of *Bulan Bahasa 2021*, a four day workshop on *Novel to Stage Drama Script Adaptation* was conducted by Da-yang Ena Herni binti Wasli, a lecturer in Malay Literature and Awang Haji Mohammad Sapami bin Abdullah from the Malay Language and Literature Bureau from 26th to 29th July 2021. Officiated by the Deputy Permanent Secretary for Culture at the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, Dr Siti Norkhalbi Haji Wahsafelah, this workshop was aimed at promoting local literature particularly novels to the younger generation by transforming them into a theatre production.

Forum Bahasa Melayu 2021



Pg Hj Ashrol Rahimy Pg Damit (2nd from L) as panelist in the forum

In conjunction with Brunei's 37th National Day, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (Malay Language and Literature Bureau) organized *Forum Bahasa Melayu* themed *Bahasa Melayu dalam Wawasan Negara* (Malay Language in the National Vision). One of the panelists for the forum was Pg Hj Ashrol Rahimy Pg Damit, a lecturer in Malay Language and Linguistics who shared his expertise on the multifarious roles of Malay language and Jawi in the country by processes of documentation, dissemination of information to the public, and policy making. Attended by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports as guest of honour, Yang Berhormat Mejar Jeneral (B) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, this annual forum was held on March 27 2021 at Dewan Sarmayuda, Berakas.

FASS welcomes new lecturer in English Studies



Dr Sarah Hanaa Hj Ahmad Ghazali

Dr Sarah Hanaa binti Hj Ahmad Ghazali completed her PhD in Comparative Literature at the University College London, where her thesis focused on the global campus novel genre. Her primary research interests are comparative literature and the campus novel, particularly in looking at the genre's global potentials and moving beyond the Anglo-American tradition. She is also interested in higher education and academic mobility; the figure of the intellectual in Asian literatures; Asian popular culture; and gender and feminism. She is presently working on a chapter on the university in the millennial novel, as well as an article on the literary predecessors of the concept of 'dark academia'. Sarah is also the Festival Director of The Tiny Lit Fest 2021 and is affiliated with Universiti Brunei Darussalam as a recipient of its Chancellor's Scholarship.

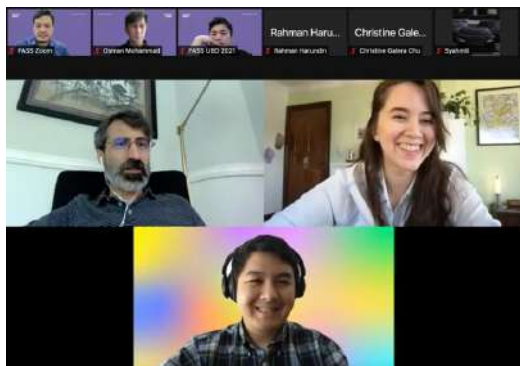
Design Week 2021 (DW21)

The Design Week 2021 (DW21) is an annual event organised by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam in collaboration with industry professionals in Brunei, with the objective to discuss the importance of design practice in the development of the creative industries and other economic sectors of local, regional and global economy. This year's event was held from 16 to 26 September 2021.

Departing from the bold statement “design is not a profession but an attitude” by László Moholy-Nagy in his book entitled “Vision in Motion” (1947), we take design practice as a response to a world of intense economic, social, political, cultural and ecological instability. Design cannot be governed by profit



and development at all cost. Design must be driven by global welfare, promote equity, inclusion, and proactively present solutions for global problems such as social crises, environmental issues, access to education, and dysfunctional systems.



DW21 focused on four main areas:

- Sustainable Design discusses the ecological balance between innovation and the environment and presents proposals towards sustainable lifestyles.
- Creative/Smart Cities explores the integration of digital technologies and the transformation of urban spaces.
- Cultural Identity analyses the impact of design in the preservation and safeguarding of cultural traditions, values and traditional knowledge.

Save Our Strays: FASS Community Outreach Programme

The FASS Discovery Year Community Outreach Programme (COP) has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2011. There are currently several initiatives under the FASS COP that aim to instill a sense of responsibility towards the community among undergraduate students. One such initiative called *Save our Strays* was started in January 2021 and it began with a desire to make a difference, no matter how small, in the hope that it will eventually snowball into a bigger enterprise that would create a positive impact on society.



The Save our Strays bunch with their supervisor Dr Sharifah Nurul Huda Alkaff during the first talk at FASS on 10th March 2021



First bake sale at the Core, UBD on Feb 15, 2021



Save our Stray's first thrift pop-up at Annajat Complex on March 28, 2021

"Each time, I see a dead or dying animal on the road, my heart literally breaks," says Dr Sharifah Nurul Huda Alkaff, a Senior Assistant Professor in the English Studies Programme in FASS. "The day after witnessing a particularly gruesome incident on Brunei's road, I vowed to make a difference within the limitations I face. I do not have the capacity to start a shelter but I realise that as a member of an academic institution, the way forward to change the status quo is through education and awareness. The concern comes not just from a love of animals but also from the realisation that overpopulation of stray animals is a serious health and safety hazard to the community. According to statistics released by the Brunei National Road Safety Council, for example, the number of animal-related road accidents has increased almost 200% within seven years".

Eight students from several major programmes within FASS formed the first batch of students who
(continued next page)

enrolled for the *Save Our Strays* COP programme in January 2021. Among the first activity conducted was a survey among the public to gauge their perceptions towards the issue of stray animals in Brunei. The results show that it is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. The vast majority also believe that spaying and neutering of strays is the best option to minimise the problem. Armed with research and facts regarding the issue, the first awareness talk was conducted by the students in UBD in February 2021. Similar presentations in other educational institutions are forthcoming as awareness regarding this social issue is the key component of this COP.

In addition to awareness talks, the students also participated in fund-raising activities to raise much-needed funds for individuals and groups who are active in stray animal programmes in Brunei. The students' entrepreneurial skills were certainly tested through selling baked goods, pre-loved items and specially created merchandise with animal designs. Harnessing the skills that they have acquired through their respective major programmes, they came together and were certainly a force to be reckoned with. They exceeded the KPIs that were set by their supervisor and this has certainly helped boost their morale and confidence. Although this COP is still in its early days, there is hope that the problem of overpopulation of stray animals in Brunei is possible, given the passion, talent and resilience that FASS students have demonstrated.



Animal stickers on sale



Thrift sale



Tote bags sold by Save our Strays



Scene at the thrift pop-up conducted by Save our Strays

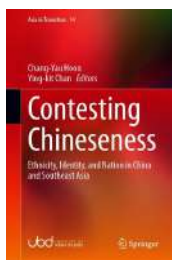
Staff Publication: Ethnic Identity and the Southeast Asian Chinese



Assoc Prof Dr Debbie Ho



Dr Hannah Ho

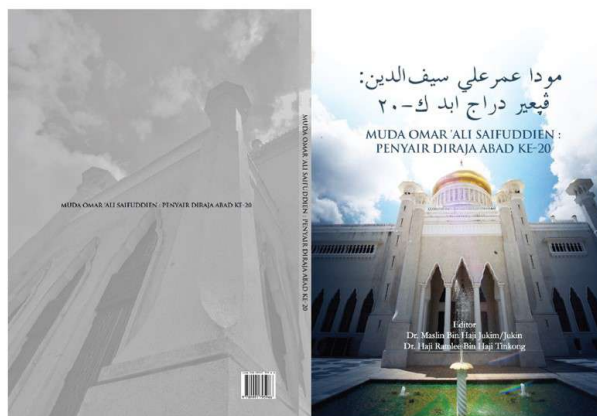


The book chapter with the title 'Ethnic Identity and the Southeast Asian Chinese: Voices from Brunei' in *Contesting Chineseness: Ethnicity, Identity, and Nation in China and Southeast Asia* and published by Springer is co-authored by Associate Professor Debbie Ho and Dr Hannah Ho Ming Yit of FASS.

Abstract: The Chinese civilisation dates back to some 4,000 years with a history of about 3,000 years. It is therefore not surprising that its people and the evolution of its culture, values and norms over the centuries have always captured the interest and attention of writers and researchers of the Chinese over the years. Today, Chinese people are not confined to China but are found in countries all over the world. Many are citizens and residents of their 'adopted' countries through the migration of their fathers and forefathers. These Chinese people have assimilated the local cultures and norms of their new homelands. This chapter explores two complex but important issues in the notion of "Chineseness" among the Chinese living overseas – what, to them, constitutes being a Chinese and the impact of the Chinese dialects on the maintenance of the Chinese identity. Based on interview data collected from the Chinese who are long term and permanent residents in Brunei, a small Islamic sultanate located on Borneo Island in Southeast Asia, this study attempts to address these issues by asking participants two questions: (i) what to them characterises a Chinese in terms of dialect, culture, values and (ii) the extent to which their dialects play a role in the maintenance of the Chinese identity.

Staff Publication: Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin

Co-edited by Dr. Maslin Bin Haji Jukin/Jukim and Dr. Haji Ramlee Bin Haji Tinkong, *Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin: Penyair Diraja Abad Ke-20'* is a collection of papers presented at the Temenggung Ibrahim Teacher Education Institute, Johor Darul Takzim, Malaysia in 2019. Themed 'Regionalizing and glorifying the Works of Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin (Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin III) the Royal Poet of Brunei', this anthology provides a definitive insight on the works of SOAS III from the lens of scholars and students of literature. Its production is also in line with Malay Studies' annual project in promoting SOAS III as the Royal Poet in the region.



Editor:
Dr. Maslin Bin Haji Jukin/Jukim



Editor:
Dr. Haji Ramlee Bin Haji Tinkong

Visits to Majlis Mesyuarat Negara 2021 and Jabatan Penerangan



MLL students at Majlis Mesyuarat Negara 2021



MLL students at the Department of Information

A group of Malay Language and Linguistics (MLL) students visited Majlis Mesyuarat Negara 2021 on March 24th 2021 and the Pelita Brunei Unit at the Department of Information on April 28th 2021 respectively. Within the curriculum of modules *AB-3305 Bahasa dan Penulisan* and *AB-3306 Bahasa dan Kewartawanan*, these annual visits aim at providing students with exposure to and first hand experience on the production and management of content in journalism, the convention governing these procedures, and roles of different agencies in making the content appropriate and relevant to all.

These visits were facilitated by FASS alumni, Puan Ajeerah Najib, the Public Relations Officer at Jabatan Majlis Mesyuarat Negara; and Information Officers Tuan Mohammad Rainie bin Haji Durani and Puan Dk Nasibahanim Pg Hj Bakar at the Department of Information.

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