



International
Alumni
of
MALAYSIA



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of
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of
MALAYSIA



**MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION
MALAYSIA**

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International Alumni
of
Malaysia

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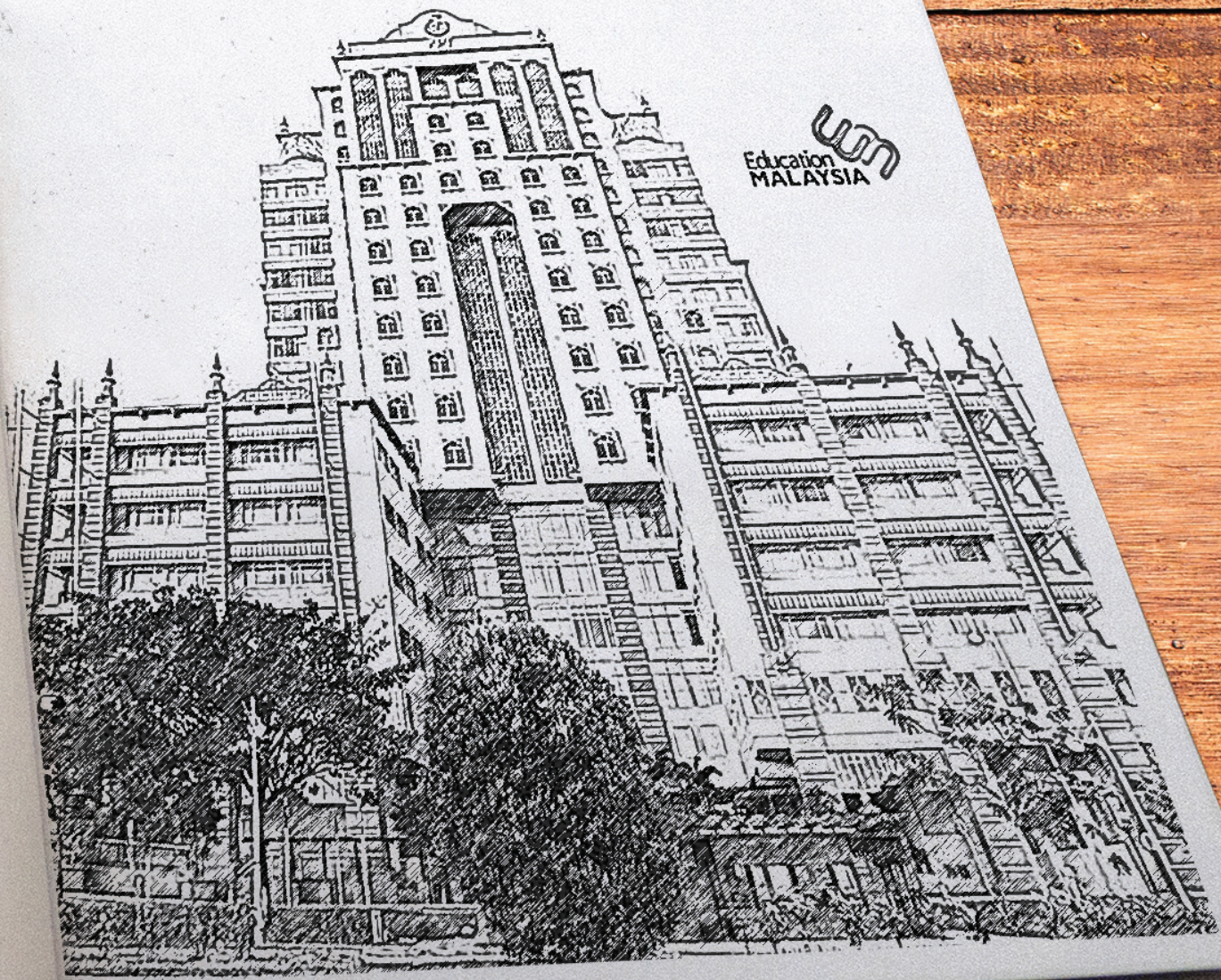
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Education
MALAYSIA



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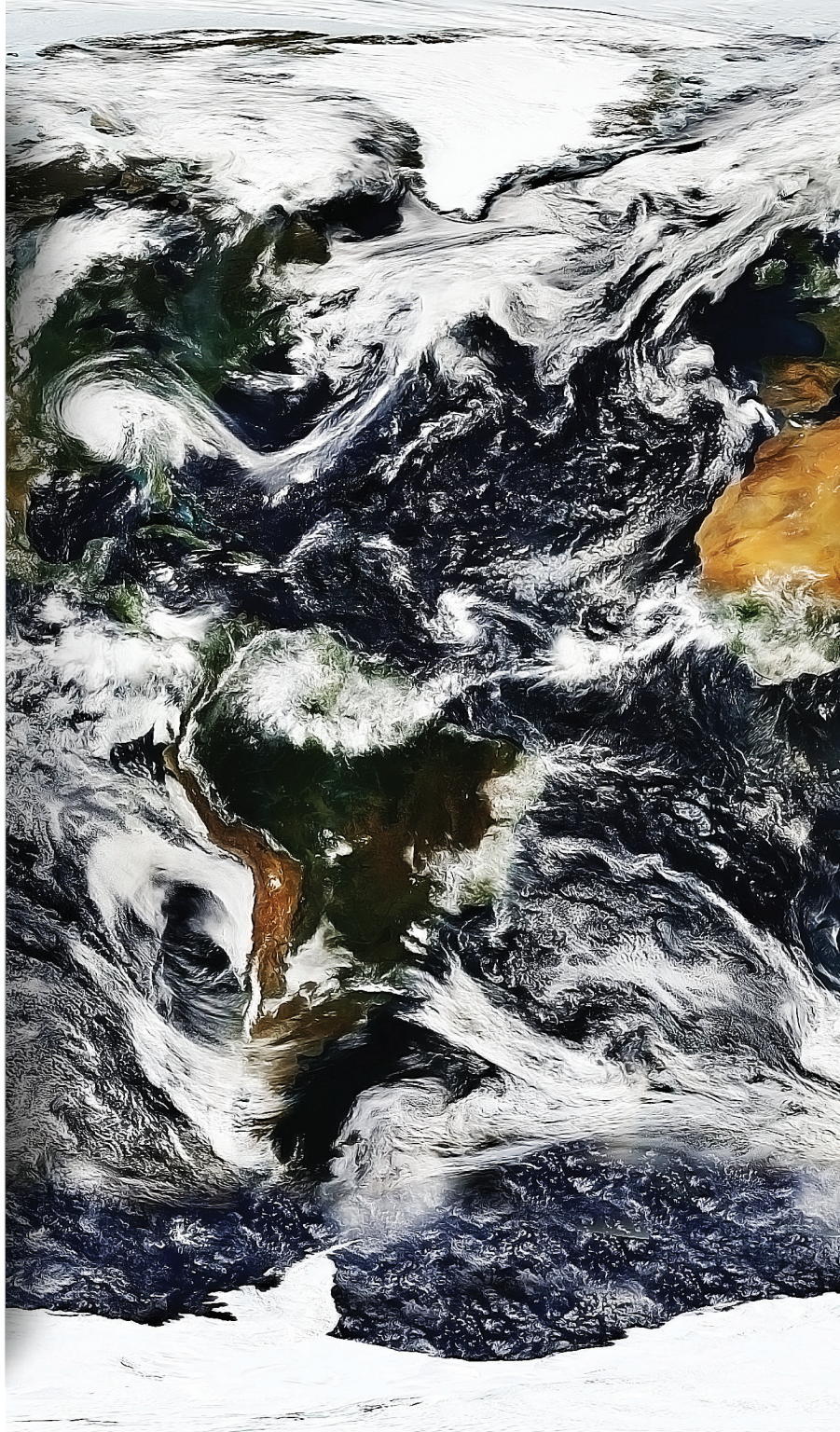
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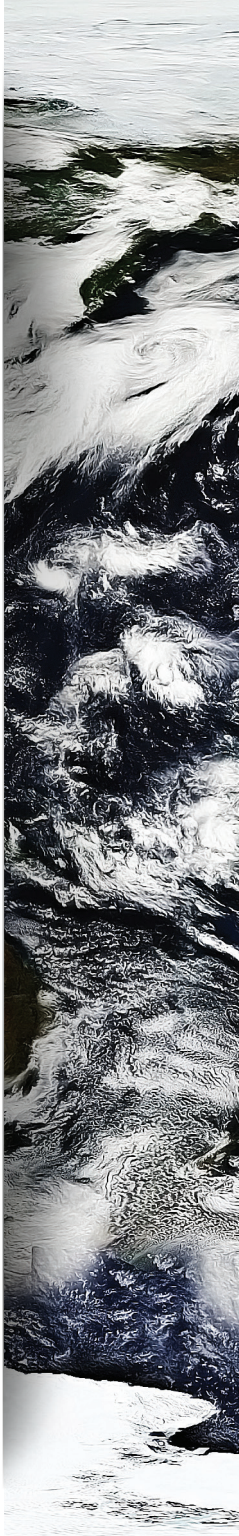
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Preface

Since the early 1950s, international students come to Malaysia to pursue their studies at our local schools and universities and have been producing high quality international graduates.

Malaysia is one of the top recruiters for international students in the South-East Asia region. As of March 2018, Malaysia accommodates 171,513 international students from all over the world. Since the early 1950s, international students come to Malaysia to pursue their studies at our local schools and universities and have been producing high quality international graduates, whereby their excellent knowledge and skills has prepared them to venture in the professional field. Over the years, Malaysia's higher education has proven itself to be highly recognized as an international hub for higher education given its impressive records in research and academia.

To celebrate our international alumni community across the globe, this book highlights some of our excellent international alumni who have outstanding achievements and contributions. After months of preparation and research, this book features the

crème de la crème of international alumni and includes the alumni's success stories, their education experience in Malaysia while getting to know their dreams, hopes and passion. The truest measure for the soaring success of our higher education is to appraise the success of our alumni. As we continue to make our mark in becoming the international hub of higher education, let us celebrate the alumni who had made this success a reality.

In this opportunity, I would like to give my thanks to the dedicated team of editors for this book. Without their months of effort, this book would not be a successful publication. I would also like to give my appreciation to the Education Malaysia Division, universities alumni centers and international offices for their help and role in finishing this book.

May our dearest alumni continue to soar with us and leave their mark in history.


DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION MALAYSIA DIVISION

Department of Higher Education Malaysia



Foreword

The inaugural publication of *International Alumni of Malaysia* is an effort to reconnect with the international alumni who play a significant role towards achieving the Ministry's target in making Malaysia as an international education hub.



Malaysia is steadily growing as a stable, safe and cost-effective international higher education hub. The Malaysian higher education system has made significant gains in its drive to achieve 250,000 international students' enrollment by 2025. Such achievements would not be made possible without the continuous support from the international students - those currently pursuing their studies and those who have returned to their home countries. The inaugural publication of ***International Alumni of Malaysia*** is an effort to reconnect with the international alumni who play a significant role towards achieving the Ministry's target in making Malaysia as an international education hub.

The challenges and opportunities brought forth by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) are moving at high speed. MOHE's successful entry into 4IR

depends on its ability to respond to change and innovate the approaches for the higher education ecosystem. The international alumni network is one of our innovative efforts towards strategically designing the overall students' experience, from the start till the end.

There are number of ways the alumni can contribute in this international alumni network. This includes promoting the Malaysian Higher Education through the alumni's perspectives and assisting the students by sharing insights and providing valuable information on Malaysia. Dear alumni, the success story begins with you. You are an important part of the Malaysian vibrant and growing international alumni community.

Let us work together to make a difference for the alumni and the international students currently studying in Malaysia.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Department of Higher Education Malaysia





*“Learning gives creativity
Creativity leads to thinking
Thinking provides knowledge
Knowledge makes you great.”*

-A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

ALUMNI SUCCESS Stories

SOCIAL

EDUCATION

ECONOMICS



Dr. Aishath Muneeza (Maldives)



His Excellency Emir Hadžikadunić
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)

A portrait of His Excellency Emir Hadžikadunić, a man with short dark hair and a light beard, wearing a blue blazer over a blue and white checkered shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background behind him is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a yellowish light flare. The portrait is framed by abstract, painterly brushstrokes in shades of blue, white, and yellow.

HIS EXCELLENCY EMIR HADŽIKADUNIĆ, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Head of Mission of Bosnian to
Malaysia, Bachelor of
Communications (Public Relations),
International Islamic University
Malaysia, 2002

His Excellency Emir Hadžikadunić is the current Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Malaysia. He is an alumni of International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) where he finished his undergraduate studies for Bachelor of Communication specializing in Public Relations in 1997. He then furthered his study in Human Rights and Democracy and PhD in Foreign Policy Analysis at his home country Bosnia and Herzegovina. Before he was an ambassador for Bosnia and Herzegovina, he was involved in several notable international humanitarian projects, for instance the United Nations (UN) and the European Integration, to name a few. Our team had the chance to meet His Excellency at the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Kuala Lumpur where he told us about his experience and what he likes about Malaysia.

Did you always happen to know that you wanted to study Communication?

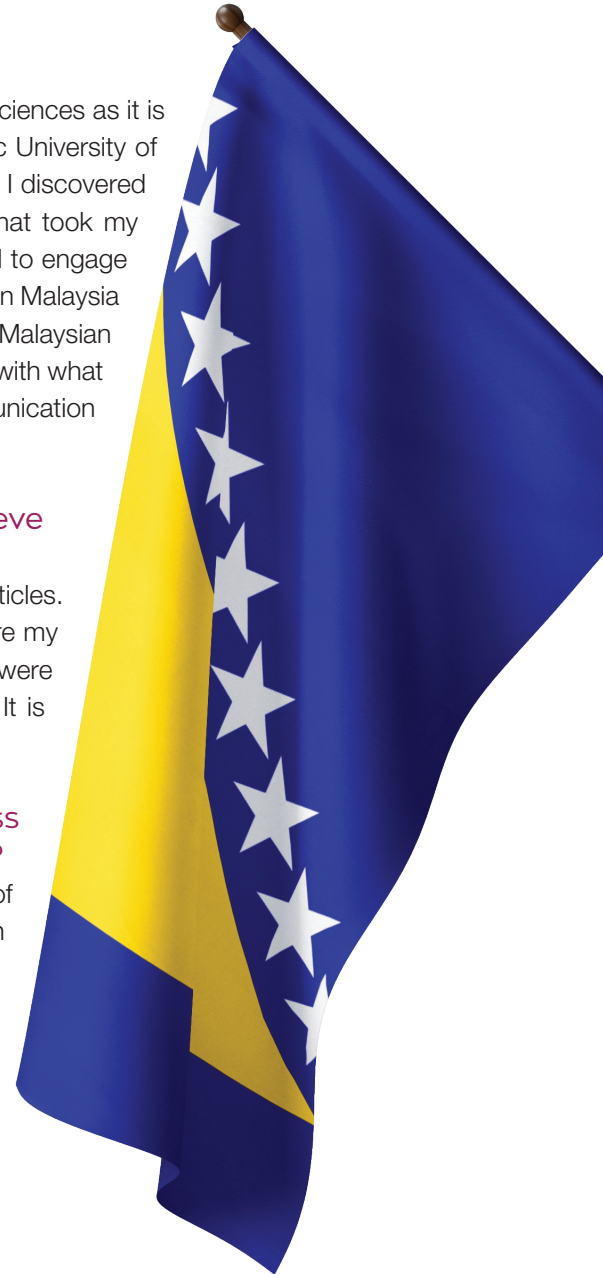
Before I come to Malaysia, I have an avid interest to study in social sciences as it is my passion and dream. When I was enrolled to International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), I applied for a Bachelor's Degree in Geography. But I discovered other interesting majors in social sciences as well. One major that took my interest at that time was Communication. When I was young, I used to engage with people and write articles about them. Studying Communication in Malaysia allows me to know more about media from another perspective, the Malaysian perspective. My passion in photography could also go hand in hand with what I would learn in that course. After careful consideration, I took Communication instead of the one I applied beforehand.

What are some of your dreams you wished to achieve when you set out to study in Communication?

When I was a student, my dream was to write books and articles. Throughout my career, I wrote two books and wrote articles to share my stories and experiences during missions and duties. Those articles were quite prominent, and some were featured in news media, as well. It is better than what I have ever dreamt before.

If you are given the chance to exhibit the uniqueness of Malaysia to the world, what would you like to do?

In my experience of becoming an ambassador, I always thought of ways on how I can promote this country (Malaysia) overseas. When I was in Iran, we had collected numerous photos that shows the unique culture, the wonderful people, and the beautiful sceneries, that transcend the popular interpretation of Iran in Western media. I took the photos home and feature them in a photo exhibition in Bosnia. In the next project, I would like to feature the collection of photos that I took to commemorate the things I like about Malaysia.



My number one pick is Kuala Lumpur. Kuala Lumpur is a city with a unique mixture of modern and tradition, while adding to its lively and bustling nature.

In your opinion, what are the top places you would recommend to the readers when visiting Malaysia?

It is hard to choose the places that I would recommend to the readers, but these are my personal favorites.

My number one pick is Kuala Lumpur. Kuala Lumpur is a city with a unique mixture of modern and tradition, while adding to its lively and bustling nature. When was a student, I used to stroll the city thus, I managed to remember the places and the roads in Kuala Lumpur like the back of my hand. After graduation, I left for Bosnia and I decided to visit Malaysia as a tourist with my wife two years later. To my surprise, I was lost in the middle of the city as Kuala Lumpur was very different from what I could recognized before I left. There are still some parts of Kuala Lumpur that I recognized like Chinatown and some historical buildings. Even now, there are so many things to see, like Putrajaya, the KL Tower and KLCC. Now, the city is still growing and bustling as ever. Because of the modernism and dynamic nature that this city has, it makes the top of my list.

If you are divers like me, then you must visit the East Coast Islands, for example Redang and Tioman Island. The local people are friendly with nice food and beautiful sceneries that will offer you a different side of Malaysia you have yet to see. A perfect getaway from the busy city life. My favorite city after Kuala Lumpur is Kuching. I recently visited the city. The city is quaint filled with friendly people and I love the shaky bridge. I visited so many cities but somehow, Kuching remains as my favorite place that I hold dear. Other than that, Malacca is also a good place to visit because of its diverse heritage and rich history, making it an attractive place to visit for avid travelers and shoppers.

What are the best food that you have tasted in Malaysia?

The food is *bagus!* I started to like all kinds of food in Malaysia when I studied in Malaysia. My favorite is nasi lemak, a dish that I reckon is a symbol of unity between races in Malaysia. Everyone loves nasi lemak. I also love Tandoori Chicken, a chicken dish only available at the *mamak restaurants*. *Nasi Goreng Kampung* is my favorite version of fried rice but I also like durian and other spicy food, too. There were ambassadors who came from Malaysia and went to visit my place back in Bosnia. Then, I would cook for them Malaysian delicacies and asked them to rate the food according to how likely it is with the ones cooked in my kitchen and in Malaysia. They said it is delicious and always got a rating of 7 or 8 out of 10.

I really miss Malaysian food when I am not in Malaysia, especially back home.

What are the regular activities of being an ambassador like?

Usually this job requires you to meet with dignitaries and local representatives. Other than that, I also meet up with the diasporas, Bosnian students studying in Malaysia, expatriates, delegates from my country and sometimes tourists as well. I do keep myself updated with current Malaysian affairs and send report to them back home in case there are any excellent opportunities for Bosnia and Malaysia to strengthen its ties.



How does your experience studying in Malaysia has helped your career?

I firmly believed a person's experience in a foreign country will grant the person the confidence to work and survive anywhere. By engaging with a diversity of cultures and experiencing the larger world, you will, consciously and subconsciously, expand your world view and eventually learn to appreciate the beauty in diversity. Studying in Malaysia had definitely helped me to learn these important lessons.

His Excellency, how would you describe your university days?

Back in my days, there were a lot of prominent international scholars with very works influenced the intellectual discourses in their field. Some are very successful in their field; one of the professors are former Iraqi Ambassador to UN and his writings and lectures are very prominent in his field.

During extra curriculum, we would meet with them personally and to learn directly from these professors is truly an opportunity that I will not forget. But more importantly, they were not like any other ordinary professors, they were like parents to me. The professors are very kind as to take care for us (Bosnian) students when it was the time of crisis back in our home and they made us felt welcomed.

Would you return to study in Malaysia?

At my age and years of experience, I would say I would like to be given the chance to teach and give back to the Malaysian students and share my experience with them.

What would you do if you are homesick? I never felt like a stranger when I am in Malaysia. Whenever there were festivals or get together event at the university, we would be invited by the professors to come and celebrate with the other students. The university promotes the celebration of togetherness. The students and the university's environment are very welcoming to us. Therefore, the notion of getting homesick was not experienced, for me at least.

What would you like to share with the readers?

For every young man and woman, I would say that studying abroad is important for you to enrich your studying experience. Other than your first degree, the environment where you study also plays a very important role in your growth as a person. The younger generation should be brave to study abroad. I have seen how Bosnian students who came back from Malaysia are able to think forward and proactive in bringing innovative ideas and creativity in the industry. Some of Bosnian who graduated from Malaysia are now CEO to some very successful companies, Members of Parliament, and even bank managers. What puts them on a different turf is that they believe in working hard for the goal of success. Whenever I have the chance, I would promote Malaysia as a place to study because I believe Malaysia is a diverse, beautiful country with plenty of universities and high-quality courses. I believe when they come to study in Malaysia, they will believe in success and in their capabilities.

Some of Bosnian who graduated from Malaysia are now CEO to some very successful companies, Members of Parliament, and even bank managers.



A portrait of Dr. Aishath Muneeza, a woman wearing a black hijab, looking directly at the camera. The background behind her is a textured, abstract painting with shades of grey, black, and white, and some splatters of orange and red.

DR. AISHATH MUNEEZA, MALDIVES

(Former Deputy President of Maldives...) Associate Professor INCEIF, PhD in Philosophy of Law (Islamic Banking), International Islamic University Malaysia, 2013

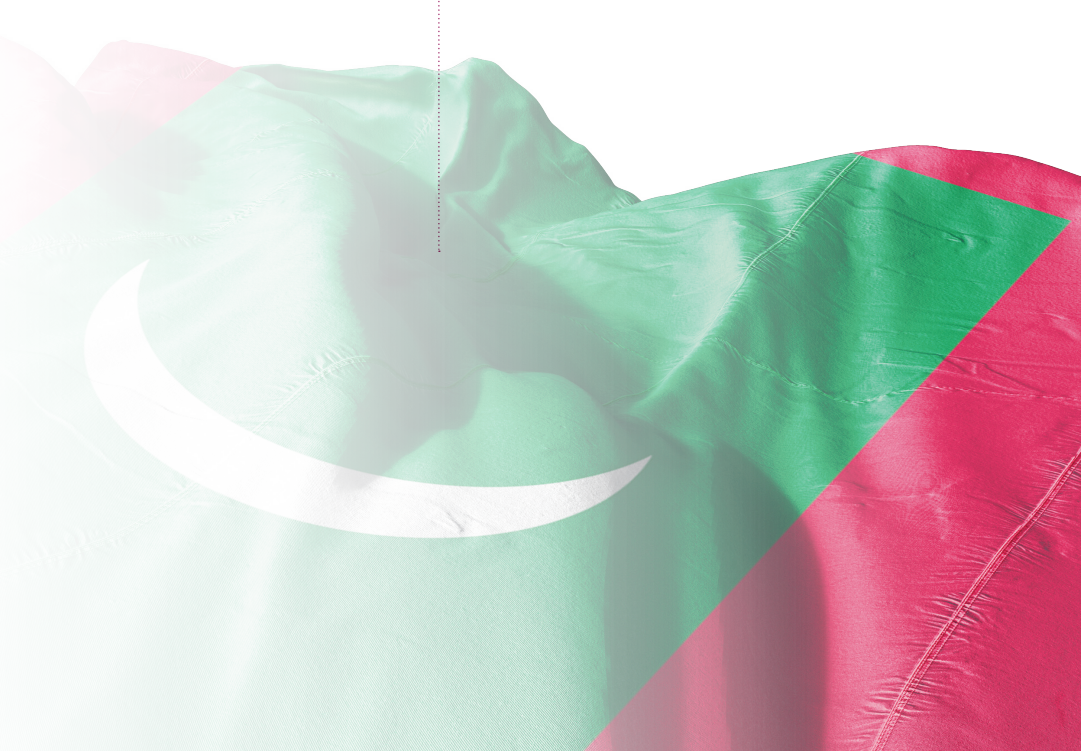
Dr. Aishath Muneeza is one of the key founders of Islamic finance industry in Maldives, a small island nation with a hundred percent Muslim in its total population. One of her greatest contributions is she was one of the driving forces behind the Islamic Finance scene in Maldives. She facilitated the establishment of more than 10 financial institutions in Maldives that offers Islamic finance services. She also structured the first corporate sukuk and Islamic Treasury Instruments in Maldives governance. She also introduces Islamic Capital Market framework in Maldives and legal framework encompassing the Islamic Capital Market in Maldives. After years of experience in Islamic finance industry, she switched to become an educator with portfolio ranging from a Shariah Advisor to an Associate Professor.

At first, I came to Malaysia to study under a government scholarship. That was back in 2005 when I started my LLB at IIUM. After my degree, I wanted to continue my postgraduate studies and I chose to specialize in banking law and then, again

for my PhD I chose Malaysia as the area I wanted to specialize in. Islamic banking law and Malaysia is the cranium of Islamic banking and as such, I could not find a better place other than Malaysia to study it. Furthermore, the Muslim culture and the friendly nature of Malaysians played a key role in convincing me to continue my studies in Malaysia. My first academic book "Islamic Banking under Malaysian Law" and third book "Corporate Governance of Islamic Banks in Malaysia" were published while I was studying in IIUM. The memories of the journey to publish these works are unforgettable.

I have studied up to my PhD in Malaysia and currently I am here in Malaysia again as an Associate Professor at INCEIF, The Global University of Islamic Finance.

My first academic book "Islamic Banking under Malaysian Law" and third book "Corporate Governance of Islamic Banks in Malaysia" were published while I was studying in IIUM.





SOCIAL

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION


Makpal Bulatova (Kazakhstan)



**Prof. Dato' Dr. Sano Koutoub
Moustapha** (Guinea)

**PROF. DATO' DR. SANO KOUTOUB
MOUSTAPHA, GUINEA**

Minister and Diplomatic Advisor
to the President of the Republic
of Guinea, PhD in Usul Al- Fiqh,
International Islamic University
Malaysia, 1996

A portrait of Prof. Dato' Dr. Sano Koutoub Moustapha, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a striped tie. The background of the portrait is a dark, textured, abstract splash of paint.

Prof Dato' Dr. Sano Koutoub Moustapha came to study in Malaysia in 1993. Dr. Sano studied at the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) with major in Islamic Jurisprudence (Usul Al-Fiqh) and Islamic Finance. After his graduation, he pursued his Master's of Arts at the King Saud University, Saudi Arabia and return to IIUM for his PhD and taught at Kulliyah Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (IRKHS). Some of his outstanding achievements are being the youngest academician to be promoted as a full Professor in the history of IIUM at the age of 35, supervised more than 45 M.A and PhD thesis in IIUM and published 25 books and 52 articles in worldwide journals. Later in his life, he was appointed to several ministers' position in the Republic of Guinea and currently, he is the Minister and Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Republic of Guinea.

Coming to Malaysia was the best decision I made at that time. In 1993, Malaysia began to rise as a superpower educational hub of Asia. This includes affordable quality education, affordable living cost, and its smorgasbord of delicious cuisines. Another pulling factor is, Malaysia despite being a multiethnic country, is peaceful and stable.

A new paradigm in educational system as adopted and practiced by IIUM remains the source and backbone of legitimate inspiration of the Ummah for a better world more just and prosperous.

I would humbly say that by the grace of the Almighty, I have achieved most of my goals and I continue to pursue the rest. My achievement while I was in IIUM is to be the youngest academician to be promoted as a full Professor in the history of IIUM at the age of 35, won numerous awards in the year 2002 and 2004. I was also appointed as Deputy Chairman of the International Academy for Islamic Jurisprudence (OIC) which is the highest Islamic Jurisprudence authority in the world with more than 100 members from 57 OIC countries. I hold the position as the Minister for the Religious Affairs in Republic of Guinea (2009-2011), the Minister for International Trade and African Integration in Republic of Guinea (2011-2016) and currently appointed as the Minister and Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Republic of Guinea.

My journey of 16 years in IIUM has no doubt contributed tremendously in my current and professional pathways. The experiences, knowledge and exposures have been my key indicators in my leadership as a Minister in my country.

If given the chance, I would love to come back to my Alma mater as a visiting professor, so I can benefit the post graduate students with their researches, sharing my professional experiences and achievements with IIUM community, students, academics as well as administrators. I shall express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Malaysia, my second home, the successive governments and to the people of Malaysia for the unforgettable hospitality. My special thanks and thoughts to IIUM community, students, academics, and administrators for giving everything I needed in my life and for contributing in making me useful to my country, the Ummah and the humanity. *Terima kasih* to all.

MAKPAL BULATOVA, KAZAKHSTAN

Translator/Assistant to Ambassador
of Malaysia to Kazakhstan,
Bachelor of Business Administration,
Limkokwing University, 2010

Makpal Bulatova was studying in Kazakh University of Economics Finance and International Trade when she decided to pursue her degree in Business Administration at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology. After graduation, she joined the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning of the Republic of Kazakhstan and currently is working as a translator cum assistant at the Embassy of Malaysia to Kazakhstan.

One of my friends went to Malaysia for study and he had a very good impression about the country, after which he suggests me to follow his path. I have done my own research about Malaysia and found few advantages for myself:

1. Higher level education with an affordable cost compared to other developed countries;
2. Safety in the country; and
3. Beautiful nature and wonderful climate, with no winter.



Malaysia is a multinational country that has different cultures living together in peace. When I was studying at Kazakh University of Economics, Finance and International Trade in the faculty of “Economics” in Astana, Kazakhstan already two years. Once I decided to continue my study in Malaysia, I had to identify which specialization in Malaysia would be the most suitable one for me and my background, and I chose Bachelor’s degree on “Business Administration” at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology in Cyberjaya, Malaysia. At that time this kind of specialization was in demand, that is why I have chosen this direction to have complex knowledge not only in the field of economics, but also in management, marketing, which expands my capabilities to work in other spheres.

Upon arrival in my native Kazakhstan in 2010, I joined the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The knowledge gained in Malaysia helped me to work in the field of economy and trade. Within my work, for a couple of times I met representatives of the Embassy of Malaysia in Astana, who later invited me to be a part of the Embassy and offered me job translator and assistant to Ambassador of Malaysia. After living in Malaysia for almost five years, I understand the culture and thoughts, which played a big role in establishing friendly relationship with the team. Working at the Embassy, I have had a colossal experience, which made my life more interesting.

Another interesting moment was meeting A Celebrity Malaysia, Dato’ Siti Nurhaliza, which I knew from the contest “Voice of Asia”, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2002, where she won the Grand Price. I always dream of meeting her since my childhood and singing her *Purnama Merindu* song.

Leaving Malaysia after my studies, I always thinking to come back and feel myself as a student again. And the next year in 2018 I have a chance to continue my studies in Malaysia by enrolling in a Master’s degree as a scholarship student at my favorite Limkokwing University, and this time I will not be alone, but with my family. And I am glad that I can show my daughter my beloved country, which influenced me in the formation of my personality and who I am now.



EDUCATION

SOCIAL

ECONOMICS



**Associate Professor
Halim Rane** (Australia)



Zimkhita Buwa (South Africa)

A portrait of Halim Rane, a man with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a light blue blazer over a dark shirt. The background of the portrait is a textured, abstract splash of colors including green, blue, and white.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HALIM RANE, AUSTRALIA

Associate Professor at Griffith University, Bachelor of Human Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia, 1998

Halim Rane is an internationally recognized scholar in the field of Islam- West Relations and Security Studies. He is currently an Associate Professor at School of Humanities at Griffith University, Australia. He started his tertiary education at International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies. In 1998, he graduated and returned to Australia to pursue his Master's in communication and Media Studies. He then completed his PhD in International Relations and Affairs at the Griffith University and followed academia career pathway ever since.

The four years I spent in Malaysia completing my undergraduate degree gave me more than I ever imagined possible. It established the foundations of my life. When I started my degree in 1994, my main prayer was to pass my classes and graduate. Once I settled in, I found the opportunity to acquire knowledge incredibly rewarding and I have been immersed in studying ever since. Receiving multiple academic awards and graduating top of my class with honors gave me the confidence

to pursue post-graduate studies, which eventually led to the academic career I have today. IIUM faculty and fellow students gave me the education I needed. They taught me how to think critically, employ methodologies, apply theories, communicate effectively and to exercise candor, common-sense and compassion. IIUM enabled me to see Islam, society, and the world in ways I was previously unable. I learnt to appreciate the diversity of people, cultures, and ideas. Malaysia is also the place where I met my wife, got married and had our first child. My wife, Nora Amath, and I were students in the same intake who met in orientation week. We have now been married for over twenty years and have three children together. I am an Associate Professor in Islam-West Relations at Griffith University in Australia.

My fondest memories are of time spent with these friends examining complex questions of the past and present, collectively enduring the 'struggles' of 'poor' students, immersing ourselves in the cultures of Kuala Lumpur and travelling around Malaysia to experience its natural beauty.

Given the opportunity, I would like to return to Malaysia as a visiting professor one day. I think it would be rewarding as an academic to be able to give back to the university and country that has so profoundly influenced my life and career.

I learnt to appreciate the diversity of people, cultures, and ideas. Malaysia is also the place where I met my wife, got married and had our first child.



ZIMKHITA BUWA, SOUTH AFRICA

Brighthouse Chief Operating Officer,
Bachelor of Information Systems
(Honors), Universiti Teknologi
Petronas, 2004

Zimkhita is a graduate from Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) in 2004. She graduated in Bachelor of Information Systems (Honors). Zimkhita has been working with Britehouse Group for four years and her career had grown since then. Previously, she was the company's Regional Manager for the Western Cape, South Africa. Currently, she is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the group. She is also an active Exco Member in Women Portfolio; which focus is to realize Silicon Cape to revolutionize Cape Town into Silicon Valley likelihood.

It was one of the best experiences in my life. The opportunity changed my life. Petronas had formed a partnership with the Department of Minerals and Energy in South Africa. This partnership included Science and Technology scholarships that were awarded to South African youth. I was fortunate enough to have been offered this



scholarship as it gave me opportunity to complete my degree. It was a real privilege and gave me an opportunity to meet young people from around the globe. Studying in Malaysia had given me a diverse view of the world as the experience allowed me to travel and taught me to adapt to different situations and to work with diverse teams. I was one of the few international students at the time and took part in most of the international students cultural activities.

The memory of arriving in Kuala Lumpur for the first time in June of 2000 with our winter jackets and boots only to be greeted by a wave of warm air as we stepped outside the airport. We arrived at UTP not knowing what to expect, not knowing what the next four years had in store and not knowing how much our lives would change because of the opportunity we were given. UTP has meant something different to each of us. We were a community diverse in thought and background with students stemming from as far as Vietnam, Turkmenistan, and Equatorial Guinea, to name a few. Although this diversity was challenging, uncomfortable and sometimes exhausting, UTP somehow made it remarkably rewarding, powerful but most of all, exciting. This diversity helped to give us an education stronger than that we could have received anywhere else. We explored ideas for the first time and dealt with challenges that made us rethink opinions and adapt to others.

There is so much memory of Malaysia that I can share. The 'Green-Bus' to Ipoh where we did our grocery shopping. The sandy-beaches of Pangkor and the glamorous lights of Kuala Lumpur. It would not be complete without mentioning Chinatown, the shopping paradise for us women who love shoes and clothes. How can I forget the delicious blend of spices in the cultural foods from the *Pasar Malam* (night market) in Malaysia? I try every now and then to remake the *Nasi Goreng* (fried rice) but it never tastes as good as the one I ate in Malaysia.

I loved the country, I think it's absolutely beautiful, even though I didn't get a chance to travel extensively on a student budget! On a serious note though, the standard of professionalism from the lecturers and the kind of technology and projects we were exposed to back then, makes me think that UTP would be the best place for one to complete their Masters or PhD.





“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

-Nelson Mandela

ALUMNI TESTIMONIES



ALUMNI TESTIMONIES



Education
MALAYSIA





EMPOWERMENT





**ADAMU MUHAMMAD BUHARI,
NIGERIA**

Bachelor of Engineering in
Telecommunication, Multimedia
University, 2012

Studying in Malaysia for me is like a dream come true since I have become a person of my dreams today. A very skillful, talented, and smart engineer as the way people describe me today.

**CHRISTOPHER KISTASAMY,
SOUTH AFRICA**

IT Executive Head, Bachelor in
Information Technology, Universiti
Teknologi Petronas, 2003

I came from a disadvantaged background in South Africa with few options for myself to make something out of my life, but the opportunity to study at Malaysia was a life changing experience that has allowed me to create a career for myself and to share my learning and experience with others to encourage them that they can also do it.



A portrait of Bayan Nishan, a woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a red and black jacket and a pearl necklace. The background of the portrait is a dark, textured, splatter-like effect.**BAYAN NISHAN, KAZAKHSTAN**

Business Development Manager
(Kazakhstan business) at Reach
Energy Berhad MBA, Asia Pacific
University, 2010

A large, semi-transparent image of the flag of Kazakhstan, featuring a golden sun with rays and a golden eagle on a blue background, positioned in the lower-left corner of the page.

My name is Bayan Nishan, I am from the city of Almay, Kazakhstan. Studying in Malaysia gave me the opportunity to develop and improve my teamwork and project management skills, the ability to negotiate and find a common turf in the international environment, the ability to persuade and defend my professional point of view, easily and professionally use any online resources and network to move ahead and develop my career. After my successful completion of the MBA in Malaysia in 2010, I returned to Kazakhstan and continued my work in government. After eight months of work in Kazakhstan, I decided that I should return to Malaysia to fulfill my dream of working abroad with a foreign company. I believe that Malaysia provides all opportunities for such growth and development. Currently I am the Business Development Manager (for the Kazakhstan Business) at Reach Energy Berhad.

**DR. ASKAR TRIWIYANTO,
INDONESIA**

Lecturer at President University Indonesia,
PhD in Mechanical Engineering, Universiti
Teknologi Petronas, 2014

My experience in Malaysia is helping me to gain many skills which I believe will help me to pursue my career. The level of knowledge I am gaining there is cutting edge and includes topics crucial to work in the field of cross-culture and team building for our better society.



**PAULINE GENEVIEVE MARTIN,
PHILIPPINES**

English Language Teacher at Integrated Montessori Center, Bachelor of English Language and Literature Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2015

The multicultural diversity of Malaysia opened a great platform for improvement not only as a professional but as a sociable person as well. My qualifications which I acquired in Malaysia is one of the reasons why my current employer hired me. My degree from USM has provided me great opportunities. My vitae have been one of the great picks in the professional market in Philippines because of my overseas qualification.

**MUHIBULLAH QADERI,
AFGHANISTAN**

Senior Finance Manager at Industrial
Parks, Afghanistan, BBA Finance,
Multimedia University, 2012

It was one of the best times ever which I have spent in Malaysia. Not only Malaysia provided me with the best knowledge and learning opportunities but also a gateway to a very attractive culture residing in the beautiful country. The things which I have experienced in Malaysia will always remained a big part of my life's history.





ALUMNI TESTIMONIES





ENLIGHTENMENT



**DR. MUHAMMAD RAFIQ KHAN
KAKAR, PAKISTAN**

Empa, Postdoctoral Fellow Swiss Federal
Laboratories for Material Science &
Technology, Switzerland PhD in Civil
Engineering, Universiti Sains
Malaysia, 2014

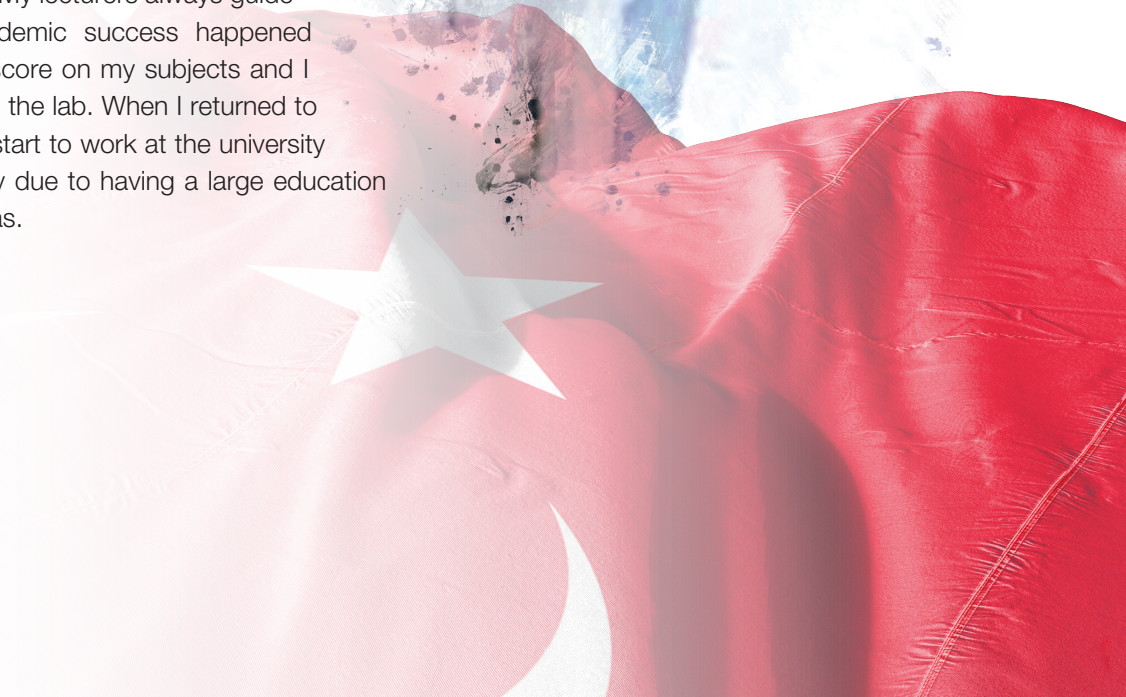
When I first joined USM, being a PhD student, I didn't know how to execute and establish a research study, since I had background of Master by coursework.

Thanks to my Prof. Meor Othman Hamzah and all the USM fellows, they really helped me out and introduced me to the beautiful world of research. In the initial years of my PhD studies, I was lacking the confidence to take up the study. Yet, I have been introduced to novel approaches in identifying laboratory-based moisture damage mechanism in asphalt mixtures using imaging technique. It took a lot of time to publish this work and finally it was accepted in the International Scientific Indexing (ISI) journal. After this success, it boosted my confidence to bring state of the art review in the area that we have found to contribute.

DR. YILMAZ KAYA, TURKEY

Ondokuz Mayıs University, PhD
in Bioscience, Universiti Teknologi
Malaysia, 2014

Every student of UTM in their life, dreams about their future. It is the dream of every foreign students to get admission in UTM. My student days at UTM is a very important event of my life. To me, it is unforgettable times. During my university days, I was most curiously waiting for the day when I would start the semester of my study because I miss my university, my friends and of course the Malay food. I would like to say that the surrounding was just too beautiful. My lecturers always guide us. My greatest academic success happened when I got a perfect score on my subjects and I learned many things in the lab. When I returned to Turkey (my country) I start to work at the university as academican mainly due to having a large education experiences in overseas.



A portrait of Prof. Dr. Umesh Basanagouda, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a white shirt. The background behind him is a blue and white abstract splash. The Indian national flag is visible in the bottom left corner of the page.

**PROF. DR. UMESH
BASANAGOUDA, INDIA**

PhD in Chemical Engineering,
Universiti Teknologi Petronas, 2011

When I had got an offer to pursue my Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering from Universiti Teknologi Petronas, I was a little worried to leave my country and come to Malaysia. After discussion with my family, I decided to go ahead with the offer. I felt very comfortable and safe after joining Universiti Teknologi Petronas for my PhD under the guidance of Dr. Marappagounder Ramasamy. All the faculty members of Chemical Engineering Department are very cooperative, highly competent, and are very active in sharing their expertise. Universiti Teknologi Petronas has state of art and world class laboratories, library and other facilities. This has made me to carry my research work without any difficulties. I am totally indebted to Universiti Teknologi Petronas and Malaysia as a whole for providing me a world class research experience. I am honored to Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Malaysia and Malaysia higher education for providing me an opportunity to pursue my Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering. I am also thankful to all Malaysian citizens for their kind support in making my stay (along with my wife and daughter) the most memorable and comfortable. Thank you all. I love Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Petronas.

**DR. MUAZU SAMAILA BATAGARAWA,
NIGERIA**

Head of Department and Acting Dean of Faculty at Umaru Musa Yaradua University (Nigeria), PhD in Chemistry, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2014

Before coming to Malaysia, I had little or no experience on the use of high tech equipment for research but coming to Malaysia has exposed me on how to use and interpret results obtained from several types of equipment. I also learnt to work independently and resist temptation to give up in any circumstance. Language barrier and food were also part of the challenges I experienced during my stay. I never thought I would dream of coming back to Malaysia, but now I am looking for such opportunity to visit Malaysia again.

DR. NOMAN UL HAQ, PAKISTAN

Assistant Professor at University of
Balochistan Quetta, PhD in Pharmacy,
Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2013

When I started my studies in USM, I never thought of completing studies, but my supervisor and colleagues helped me a lot. I completed my degree and joined my university back in Pakistan. From what I gained in Malaysia, my university established new department which produced MPhil and PhDs within three years. As a result, I became the Head of Department and currently in charge of MPhil and PhD studies.

**ANWAR AHMED HUSSEIN
AL-HADDAD, YEMEN**

Control Systems Engineer at SAFER
Exploration and Production Operations
Company, Master of Electrical
Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
(UTM), 2013

I learned during my study in Malaysia to improve my skills and to be an active member of the community. I managed to develop two mobile applications about Solar Energy Systems. The apps have more than 200,000 downloads in more than seven app stores with 4.7 ratings. I also won the ALECSO app competition and I was given honor award by the Minister of Electricity and Power in Yemen.



ALUMNI TESTIMONIES





RECOGNITION

A portrait of Bismark Okyere, a man with a beard and short hair, smiling. The background is a collage of colors and textures, including a large grey star on a yellow and red background, and a blue and white abstract pattern. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.**BISMARK OKYERE, GHANA**

Senior Software Engineer Intel Corporations, Double Master in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Multimedia University, 2008

I certainly would not have been in Germany, studying Masters degree in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology without any first degree and the degree happens to be from Malaysia, which in the year 2005, was widely recognized by all the top universities in Germany and other European universities, including the UK. The reason where I am now is not because of my high school diploma, but because of where I did my first degree and the university that offered me this first degree. Hence, I am quite grateful for getting the opportunity to study in Malaysia, particularly in MMU. After MMU, I had the opportunities to study in Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Sweden, and Denmark, all on scholarship. But before they offered me the scholarship, they had to recognize my education and my MMU's first degree made it easier. I have gone on to complete a double M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering in some of the best European universities and now working with the largest semiconductor company in the world, Intel Corporations.

DODY ISMOYO, INDONESIA

Application Technology Engineer,
BBC Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., Bachelor in
Electrical & Electronics Engineering,
Universiti Teknologi Petronas, 2009

Malaysia is a very great country to study in, from the understanding of its local authority/market/people, good English exposure and also a great opportunity for international networking. I came to UTP in 2004 because I received the Petronas scholarship to further my study in Bachelors of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. During my final year, I specialized in power engineering in which I became very interested, after receiving heavy exposure during my internship. I joined the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers Power & Energy Society (IEEE PES) as well as becoming the vice president for a student society club. I am still currently very active in IEEE PES, especially joining the working group to develop various industrial technical standards, and evaluating technical paper submissions before being accepted for conferences. In 2015, I was accepted for a job to work in Malaysia in power distribution industry.



A portrait of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing glasses and a dark blazer over a black top. The background is a collage of images, including a map of Mongolia and a blue fabric. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**ENKHTSATSRAL ULZII-ORSHIKH,
MONGOLIA**

Bachelor of Business Administration
(Management with Multimedia) with
Honours, Multimedia University,
2011

I had wonderful time in Malaysia while I was studying. I really enjoyed being involved in the student activities. I was a member of tourism and Japanese culture clubs. However, it didn't just stop there. It led me to become a committee member of the International Students Society of the Multimedia University and serve as a student welfare officer. I think that was a huge inspiration for me to work in the joint project of Asian Development Bank and Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor in Mongolia.

If there is a chance to continue my study in Malaysia, I will happily move back to Malaysia especially to Cyberjaya where I lived for four years, it is a home to me. Why Malaysia? First, the tuition fee is fair considering the quality education they offer. Secondly, living expense is quite pleasant and great foods that I miss always. Finally, it is a culture and a country that I think as a second home to me.

**DR. DENI SHIDQI KHAERUDINI,
INDONESIA**

Research Engineer Indonesian
Institute of Sciences, Master of
Engineering, Universiti Tun Hussein
Onn Malaysia, 2011

Study in UTHM has shaped my further steps to catch my dream for getting better in any means, including getting PhD and Postdoctoral in Japan. I had ever become representative student during my PhD in Japan in a very prestigious meeting, i.e., HOPE Meeting 2015, where I had an opportunity to meet and share their valuable experience of Noble Laureates as well as meet with many other international participant (most of the PhD students) from various countries. On that occasion, I also present my work related with fuel cell. In other occasion I also had a very great chance, to be invited by the emperor Akihito (The Emperor of Japan), to visit his castle privately. I am very thankful for this opportunity.





**KUSALA CHARITH SAMARASINGHE,
SRI LANKA**

Agile Business Analyst at Sensor Dynamics, Australia, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Software Engineering, First City University College, 2011

Malaysia has some of the best universities in the region for very affordable prices. The experience I gathered during my time with the university and Malaysia has paved the way for me to be a successful Business and Technology Consultant. As a result, I have had the privilege to work with key global organizations such as London Stock Exchange, Markel Global Holdings, Citi Bank, Melbourne Airport, etc. during the last few years.

**DR. ALIMATU - SAADIA YUSSIFF,
GHANA**

Senior Lecturer University of Cape Coast,
PhD in Information Technology, Universiti
Teknologi Petronas, 2016

Studying in Malaysia was an eye opener. It gave me the opportunity to experience new style of education, research and career opportunities. It also enhances my skill to be able to compete for job globally. Being a multicultural society, Malaysia made me feel like at home. I hope everyone gets the opportunity to experience the unique education offered in Malaysia.



INSTITUTION





Education
MALAYSIA





**DR. MORUF OLALEKAN YUSUF,
NIGERIA**

Assistant Professor University of Hafr
Al Batin, PhD in Civil Engineering,
Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2015

Doing PhD at USM has given me the opportunity to attain the desired qualitative research and intellectual development required to make positive impact not only in academic environment but also real-life experience. It builds the spirit of self-confidence and leadership.

JIMOH KAYODE ADEWOLE, NIGERIA

Researcher at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, Master of Science in Chemical Engineering, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2011

Studying in USM has exposed me to a lot of analytical equipment for polymer characterization. The skills acquired from my professor's lab are still very useful for me. This is strongly catapulting my performance as a researcher.

LETLHOMAME SHADRECK, BOTSWANA

Plant Operations Engineer at KS Energy Pty. Ltd., Bachelor of Engineering Electronics, Multimedia University, 2012

Glad i had a chance to study in Malaysia particularly in Cyberjaya the intelligent city; great infrastructure, peaceful environment, beautiful landscapes, and wonderful people. All this made Malaysia a wonderful place to study.

LUZ HELENA RODRIGUEZ, COLOMBIA

Technical and Administrative Assistant at
IAC, Masters in Science, Universiti Sains
Malaysia, 2016

Interesting, challenging, I learned a lot about Malaysian culture. Adapting to a completely new culture was challenging yet rewarding. The same with the schooling system, and interactions between those teaching and learning. I am truly thankful for the opportunity I had, I grew as a person and my view on how although our approach to things may vary in different parts of the world, we are all seeking common aims. Currently I am working at the Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

HAYTHAM FAYEK, EGYPT

Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Science in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, 2014

Studying in Malaysia provided me with strong technical knowledge supplemented with soft skills that enable me to conduct research at the highest level. The Malaysian culture accommodate a good education environment that allowed me to maximize my learning while having an enjoyable time. Studying in Malaysia was a true eye-opener for me. Studying and living in a diverse multi-cultural community has equipped me with skills that supplement the engineering skills I learned.

DR. BRAHIM CHAKIMA, ALGERIA

PhD in Marketing, Universiti Malaysia
Sabah, 2017

Malaysia is a great country to pursue higher education experience where you can find all facilities needed, expertise and kind citizens all the time.



COMMUNITY







**SAQIB JALAL KHATTAK,
PAKISTAN**

Bachelor of Science (Biomedical
Science), International Medical
University, 2015

The experience was overall amazing from academic
potential to Malaysian cuisine to fantastic people.
Had wonderful three years.

**ANGELO AFNAN HAMID,
BANGLADESH**

Business Planning Manager, BBA
in International Business and
Management, Swinburne University
of Technology, 2011

My time in Malaysia allowed me to interact with hundreds of people from different countries, religions, backgrounds, and cultures. This helped me grow as a person in terms of creating and maintaining relationships and interacting with my peers and superiors. My exposure to a different environment abroad has helped me to adapt to different situations at work which had a positive impact at all the places I have worked at. I am 29 years old and I am already working as a Manager at one of the largest conglomerates in my country.



**ARIFF ALI, FIJI**

Governor of the Reserve Bank of
Fiji, Economics, International Islamic
University Malaysia, 1991

The year was 1987. I lived in a small town in Fiji. By chance, I saw an advertisement in the local newspaper that was offering scholarships to study in Malaysia. This was before the pre-internet era. I had no idea what Malaysia was like, but had heard from friends and family that it was a wonderful place. I decided to apply for the scholarship and was successful. Hence, the decision to study in Malaysia was not because of the universities, career, or the courses offered, but rather, the opportunity to venture to a different part of the world, to explore and broaden my horizons, while attaining higher education.

There are many fond memories of Malaysia which have brought me back on many occasions with my family. I made many friends during my days at IIU and those friendships have survived the test of time and distance. One of my favorite memories is having authentic *Nasi Goreng* and *Teh Tarik* at hawker stalls with my IIU friends. I was fortunate to be taught by some great scholars in the university too.

TASAWEE SITHISUWAN, THAILAND

Restaurant Manager at Thai Orchid
Springwood, Bachelor of Arts in
International Hotel and Tourism
Management, Kolej Damansara Utama
Penang, 2015

Studying in Malaysia was a wonderful experience. Met and learned diverse cultures of many friends from backgrounds. I learned basic Chinese and Bahasa Malaysia as well as understand different cultures while studying in Malaysia. This help me to better understand and communicate with different people. I was so proud being once selected to represent Penang in the topic of “ Penang Heritage Trails” in South Korea. As I know my duty not only to represent Penang but also Malaysia.



**ABDALLA MOHAMED ABDI HASSAN,
SOMALIA**

Supervisor RBC Investor & Treasury Services Somalia, Banking and Finance, Multimedia University, RBC Investor & Treasury Services, 2011

The experience was positive. Having arrived from a Middle Eastern country, adapting was particularly difficult. But the hospitality of the local population has helped a lot. Moreover, my university experience helped me land a job in Malaysia as it aided in my understanding on how to interact with the local populace. This understanding has helped me manage my current team better as they are all local Malaysians.

MARC ARUL WEISMANN, GERMAN

Research Assistant, Bachelor of Business,
Swinburne University of Technology
Sarawak, 2017

Malaysia has really become my second home. I have spent my entire degree life here in Kuching, Sarawak. The people in Malaysia have truly embraced me with open arms and I have forged friendships which will last a life time. Malaysia with its cultural diversity allowed me to experience different cultures within the confines of the same state-Sarawak. This was further amplified with the multi-ethnicity of the student body in Swinburne University. Here we have students that hail from the Middle-East, others from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Japan, Australia, Korea, and other parts of Malaysia. Here in Swinburne, we embraced our differences and learned from each other.

From the very beginning I have felt like a part of the university community. Whether it is celebrating the Chinese New Year, breaking fast during Ramadan with friends, or watching the colorful light displays during Deepavali, Malaysia truly is Asia in a nutshell. Till this day, I am still discovering the beauty that is Malaysia; whether it is hiking up serene forests, kayaking in a local river, escaping to a tranquil seaside kampung, or adventuring to the street food and the local *Kopitiams* (coffee shops). I will never forget my time in Malaysia.

CULTURE





Education
MALAYSIA





**RIZKI AMALIA JUANDA,
INDONESIA**

Bachelor of Technology in Water and
Wastewater, Infrastructure University
Kuala Lumpur, 2016

In my university I learned a lot of things and now I am able to do a lot of things as well. Besides having more experiences on education, I also got a life experience. I also attended many events in my university such as cultural festivals and sport tournaments. Therefore, I think everything that I have been through in university made me stronger and wiser than before.

MUSTAFA TUTKUN, TURKEY

Deputy Director General of Turkish Red Crescent, Social Sciences, International Islamic University, 1998

Since 2005, I travel to Malaysia for unique occasions. I have sent my kids to IIUM to improve their English and two of my kids were born in Malaysia. I believe that Malaysia with its multicultural and multi-religious society can teach us how to live with diverse cultures and different religions side-by-side peacefully. Its modern interpretation and application of Islamic values in its society, economic system and public institutions can be taken as a model by other Muslim countries. If I were to pick, the most memorable memories for us were the drinks in plastic bags and *bungkus*, and the “stinky” smell of durian.





**DR. CHRISTINE FOORD,
UNITED KINGDOM**

A-Level Foundation Educator, PhD
in English Education, Universiti
Perguruan Sultan Idris, 2015

I am a lifelong learner and teacher from the UK. After many years teaching in United Kingdom schools and three years training teachers in Ethiopia, I came to Malaysia to teach English at a prestigious A level college. The ability and commitment of the students, along with the attractions of living in Malaysia, prompted me to extend my initial two-year contract - and I am still living here. Being able to pursue my further studies alongside my teaching career was an unexpected bonus.

As a non-Malaysian, my memories of Malaysia focus on the cultural and natural wonders of the country. The opportunity to enjoy tropical islands and beaches, cool highland resorts and hill stations, waterfalls and forests, and the multicultural cuisines and architecture of the different states. And back at the University, the tranquil environment provided a welcome escape from the noise and hassle of traffic and urban life. Thank you for this special experience.

ADKHAM SINDOROV, UZBEKISTAN

Procurement Coordinator at ENTER Engineering Pte. Ltd., Bachelor's Degree in Business Information Systems, Universiti Teknologi Petronas, 2016

I would like to thank Malaysia for being our second home for the past five years. It gave us its culture, language, education and more. I shall definitely come back again in near future. *Terima kasih banyak. Jaga diri dan jumpa lagi nanti.* I loved it and I still miss Malaysia. If I had a chance, I would come back again.

MD MOAZZAM HOSSAIN, AUSTRALIA

Drafting Officer Sydney Trains, Bachelor of Engineering, Swinburne University of Technology (Sarawak Campus), 2009

My experience of studying in Malaysia was amazing. It gave me an exposure to many different cultures. I made a lot of friends from all over the world. I even had the opportunity to be on the cover page of the university brochure, on city newspaper and interview on the radio.

**MOHAMMED ABDULQAWI SALEH
ALHUMAİKANI, YEMEN**

Network Engineer Egypt
Telecommunication, Bachelor of
Information Technology in Network
Technology, Infrastructure University Kuala
Lumpur, 2016

It was a unique and faithful choice to study in such a multicultural country, where I got the chance to improve my English language skills, to learn new cultures and to interact with people from different background. We (international students) will not forget the high quality of education offered by the universities in Malaysia.



Department of Higher Education Malaysia
Ministry of Education Malaysia,
No.2, Tower 2, Street P5/6, Precinct 5
62200 Putrajaya, Malaysia.



Be inspired by the success stories of Malaysian International Alumni and their experiences during their stay in Malaysia. Having the opportunity to study in Malaysia creates an avenue to our Alumni for self-empowerment, to be part of the competent institutions and to experience the varied learning facilities.

So, do not miss the stories of the excitement life-style in Malaysia; the diversity of culture, authentic cuisines, friendly community and the tranquil environment that welcome people even from the different background.

With that, we are honored to introduce this book to our proud alumni, **The International Alumni of Malaysia.**