

## Prime Minister at the 2015 Malaysia Syariah Index Research Appreciation Ceremony



**PUTRAJAYA, 19 January 2016** - A ceremony acknowledging the efforts of researchers spearheading the Malaysia Syariah Index (MSI) research was held at the Sri Perdana Putrajaya Complex. The guest of honour was YAB Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, who also launched the MSI on 10 February 2015 at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), Putrajaya.

Malaysia Syariah Index is an index developed to measure and assess Malaysia's efforts in achieving the five objectives of Maqasid Al-Syari'ah, namely, in the preservation of religion, life, lineage, intellect and property.

Towards the endeavor to measure MSI, the Malaysian Government through the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (JAKIM) appointed eight research groups to study eight focus areas. Five public universities (UA) were appointed to undertake the study. The five universities are Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

UTM was entrusted by the Malaysia Government to conduct three studies comprising assessing the MSI of the Environmental and Infrastructure sector, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Syed Ahmad Iskandar Syed Ariffin; the Social sector led by Assoc. Prof. Dr.

Kassim bin Tukiman; MSI of the Culture sector, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arieff Salleh bin Rosman, with total grants amounting to RM270,000.00.

Study results show that the MSI for the Malaysia Environmental and Infrastructure sector stood at 62.31, which is deemed to be at the moderate level. This suggests that the government could take further initiatives in enhancing the environment and infrastructure in Malaysia.

Likewise, the overall MSI for the Malaysia Social environment was also found to be at the moderate level with an index of 68.53. Thus it would be beneficial if the government were to capitalize on the findings and further enhance existing social policies, so that the policies meet the objectives of maqasid syariah, therefore contributing towards the development of the Muslim Ummah.

The MSI research projects involving cross-disciplinary UTM experts, are the initiative of the UTM Centre for Fiqh Research in Science and Technology (CFIRST), with the project grants managed by UTM Institut Sultan Iskandar (ISI).

*Photo: ISI Deputy Director 1, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Syed Ahmad Iskandar receiving acknowledgement and memento from the Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak at Perdana Putra.*

## Business Strategic Planning Workshop for ISI Ventures Sdn. Bhd. and ISI Training Centre



KUALA Lumpur, 20 December 2015 - The Business Strategic Planning Workshop was held at the Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The workshop organized by ISI Ventures Sdn Bhd, the subsidiary company of Institut Sultan Iskandar, ran from 17 till 19 December 2015. The workshop aimed to ascertain the history of ISI Ventures Sdn. Bhd., to analyse programs that were held under ISI Ventures and analyse profit gained from 1996 until 2015. As well as to set a new vision, mission and objectives of the company.

It was an intensive company retreat with new direction, as well as to instill entrepreneurial spirit and efficient work culture among staff. The workshop was attended by Prof. Dr. Mohd Prof. Hamdan bin Haji as the workshop Chairman, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Syed Ahmad Iskandar, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zamani bin Ahmad, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gurupiah Mursib, Dr. Sheikh Ahmad Zaki and ISI Kuala Lumpur staff.

## AKEPT's Board of Advisor Special Meeting Presentation

Nilai, 8 March 2016 - A presentation to the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) Board of Advisor (BOA) was led by Prof. Datuk Razali Mahfar, the Chief Consulting Officer, The Innopreneurial Leadership and Performance (MYiLEAP) and Professor at International Business School UTM. The objective of the meeting was to seek AKEPT Board of Advisors' guidance on key findings which is cover on AKEPT corporate entity option and AKEPT proposed funding model.

The meeting was chaired by Tan Sri Dato' Dr Wan Mohd Zahid Bin Mohd Noordin. Tan Sri Dr. Mohd Nadzmi Mohd Salleh, Datuk Ir (Dr) Abdul Rahim Hashim, Prof Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkipli Abdul Razak, Prof. Dato' Dr. Hassan Said, Mr. Hasnol Zam Zam, Director of AKEPT's Prof. Dr. Mohamad Kamal Bin Haji Harun and top management of AKEPT were also present during the meeting.



## MIT-MSCP Programme Research Affiliates visit to MIT

Boston, MA, 20 March 2016 - For the period from March 5, 2016 to March 30, 2016, top managements of the MIT-MSCP Programme were invited to visit the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as Research Affiliates.

Participants Prof. Dr. Mohd Hamdan Ahmad and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Syed Ahmad Iskandar Syed Ariffin reviewed the applications and selected the International Scholar candidates for the 2016-2017 MIT-UTM Malaysia Sustainable Cities Program. Whilst there, they also discussed the preparation of a new working paper to the Ministry of High Education Malaysia (MOHE). They participated in joint faculty steering committee meetings, in editorial committee meetings, and were given a tour to other academic departments, labs, and centres within MIT.

The MIT- UTM Malaysia Sustainable Cities Program (MSCP) is a five-year effort, initiated and run by School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Universiti of Teknologi of Malaysia (UTM), with generous support by the Ministry of Education Malaysia. The MSCP mission is to study and document sustainable city development efforts in Malaysia. Research findings will be developed into online instructional materials to enhance and extend the teaching of sustainable city development across universities in the global South.



Photo: A discussion with Professor Lawrence Susskind during the visit.

Two weeks prior to this meeting, a workshop was held at AKEPT. Objectives of the workshop were to investigate the feasibility for transformation of AKEPT to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) or a Statutory Body; to develop alternative models of a sustainable self-efficient of AKEPT; to conduct and analyse a systematic review on the requirement of AKEPT from the perspective of stakeholder and public; to identify critical success factors and align core competencies of AKEPT; and to develop a sustainable operational and business models for AKEPT.

The outcomes from the workshop were SWOT analysis and Scenario Building for AKEPT transformation.



## Building Information Modeling Workshop at UTM Johor Bahru



Johor Bahru, 22 January 2016 - A Building Information Modelling workshop on BIM Authoring and Analysis Essential Training was held for 4 days at the Faculty of Built Environment, UTM Johor Bahru under the tutelage of Dr. Lim Yaik Wah as the BIM instructor.

This is an essential for everyone involved in the Planning, Design, Construction or Operations of Buildings, who wants a concise Introduction to BIM. The Autodesk Revit software has become synonymous with BIM and with increasing numbers of governmental and commercial project stipulating BIM methodology as a pre-requisite, hence participants of the workshop now learned what Revit has to offer.

## The Newton Fund Institutional Links final workshop in Melaka



Melaka, 3 March 2016 - The Newton Fund Institutional Links programme aims to build UK-Malaysia research and innovation collaborations centred on shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to social welfare and economic development. Cities in Malaysia currently face a range of economic, social and environmental challenges, and associated pressures on infrastructure. Technology can be a supporting component in the range of solutions and opportunities for cities to address these challenges. This project develops a capacity building programme in the form of a series of workshops for city managers in Malaysia - helping cities in Malacca to identify their innovation needs and building capacity in data-driven decision making, in this instance.

This workshop held at the Hallmark Crown Hotel was the fourth in a series of capacity building workshops intended to develop the capacity of Malacca local authorities to use data more effectively. Delegates participated in a series of seminars conducted by experts. Continuing discussions from previous workshops, this time it focused on the policy at organizational level. Participants delved into the big data application roadmap whilst on the final day, participants attended the opening ceremony of the 2nd Asia Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation at Hotel Equatorial, Bandar Hilir Melaka.

About ISI  
**Institut Sultan Iskandar** is an independent non-profit making research and development, serving the Government, private sector and the university. Gazetted as an approved institution, ISI operates within the UTM campuses in Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur.

## Briefing on the Draft of the National Architectural Identity Policy



Kuala Lumpur, 23 February 2016 - A briefing on the draft of the National Architectural Identity Policy was organised by the Board of Architects Malaysia (LAM) at the Premieria Hotel to selected government agencies, namely the National Housing Department, National Landscape Department, Department of Town & Country Planning and Architectural Branch, Public Works Department Malaysia.

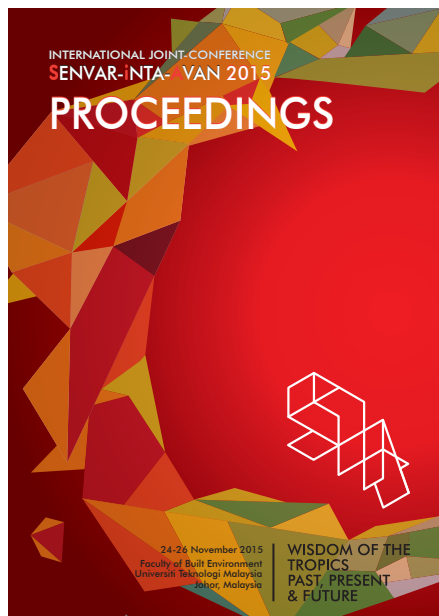
Assoc Prof. Dr Syed Iskandar has presented the draft policy on behalf of LAM. The purpose of the workshop was to brief the agencies on the propose policy and to gather feedback from them.

## Long Term Research Grant Scheme Workshop with The National Heritage Department

Kuala Lumpur, 18 February 2016 - A workshop was held at the National Heritage Department in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the Long Term Research Grant Scheme entitled 'The Safeguarding, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tangible Cultural Heritage Buildings in Malaysia'. The workshop was hosted by the National Heritage Department and Mr. Mod Zaky Bin Hj Din, the Deputy Director General was also present.

The objective of the workshop was to refine the proposal together with National Heritage Department inline with their role as a driving force in the field of heritage conservation.





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**Wisdom is the ability to learn from change.**

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### The Hitachi Global Foundation Japan visit to Nichias Eco-house

Managing Director of The Hitachi Global Foundation, Mr. Kazuyuki Miyanaga and the Secretary General, Mr. Masaaki Kawamoto during their visit to the Nichias Eco-house as part of the Hitachi alumni visit programme in which Dr. Dorris Toe Hoe Chyee is an alumna. Also in the photo, Mr. Leng Pau Chung from ISI who oversees the research with Nichias Corporation.

### MIT-MSCP Practicum 2016

Johor Bahru, 20 January 2016 - Students and faculty from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) joined in a two-week practicum in Malaysia from January 7 - January 20, 2015.

The goal of the practicum was to produce a Research Agenda for the ten Visiting Scholars who will participate in the MIT-UTM Malaysia Sustainable Cities Program (MSCP) in 2016-2017. The Agenda is meant to help focus their research and forge relationships with agencies, communities and organizations that might serve as research partners. MIT-UTM student-faculty teams met with public agencies, NGOs, private companies and community-action groups in Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, Penang, and East Malaysia to identify questions related to sustainable urban development that might be the subject of scholarly inquiry. The larger goal is to ensure that the work of the MSCP can contribute to improvements in Malaysia as well as to sustainable development efforts throughout the developing world.



### Get well soon!

The management of ISI has visited one of ISI Kuala Lumpur staff, Miss Farhana Mohd Razif at the Gleneagles Hospital Kuala Lumpur in January. Miss Farhana fractured her arm and was hospitalised for a few days. We would like to wish her a speedy recovery.