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DARI MEJA PRESIDEN

Salam Sejahtera kepada Semua Ahli PSSM dan Para Pembaca!

Idea penubuhan sebuah persatuan kebangsaan sains sosial lahir dalam persidangan kebangsaan sains sosial yang pertama yang pernah diadakan di negara ini, bertemakan “Peranan dan Orientasi Sains Sosial dan Ahli-Ahli Sains Sosial di Malaysia” yang diadakan pada 17-18 Ogos 1974 anjuran Jabatan Antropologi dan Sosiologi, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). Persidangan itu menegaskan bahawa sains sosial yang dikembangkan di negara ini bukan sahaja harus berguna untuk pembangunan negara tetapi juga ia harus mempunyai mutu yang tinggi dengan orientasi yang bebas daripada hegemoni Barat di mana sains sosial itu berasal. Persidangan itu juga telah menubuhkan sebuah Jawatankuasa Penaja untuk merencanakan penubuhan sebuah persatuan sains sosial kebangsaan, dan Jawatankuasa itu akhirnya berhasil menubuhkan Persatuan Sains Sosial

Malaysia (PSSM) pada tahun 1977.

Dua dekad lebih berlalu sejak persidangan kebangsaan pertama tersebut dan sejak penubuhan PSSM. Namun perkembangan sains sosial di negara ini mempunyai banyak masalah. Dalam satu forum anjuran PSSM pada 24 Mei yang baru lalu di UKM mengenai perkembangan sains sosial di Malaysia, salah seorang penceramah, Profesor Johan Saravanamuttu tanpa ragu-ragu menegaskan bahawa sains sosial di negara ini mengalami pasang surut yang ketara, dengan gelombang pasang berlaku pada dekad 1980-an, manakala dekad 1990-an menyaksikan zaman surut dengan perkembangan yang lembap. Menurut beliau, hal ini tidak bererti tidak terdapat tokoh-tokoh sains sosial yang sudah mengukir nama masing-masing di persada ilmu, tetapi sebagai satu komuniti ilmunan, para ahli sains sosial tidak

aktif melibatkan diri dalam perdebatan yang rancak dan tidak banyak menghasilkan karya yang boleh dibanggakan.

Sebagai sebuah pertubuhan kebangsaan ahli-ahli sains sosial di Malaysia, PSSM terpacu untuk menangani masalah yang dibangkitkan ini dengan lebih mendalam dan berencana. PSSM harus berusaha untuk membangkitkan semula semangat dan idealisme yang wujud sebelum ini di kalangan para ilmuan sains sosial dan bersama-sama berusaha agar persada ilmu sains sosial di negara ini bersinar dengan sumbangan dan kewibawaannya yang tersendiri.

Untuk mencapai matlamat di atas, Persatuan amat memerlukan komitmen yang tinggi, pemikiran yang mendalam dan menjangkau jauh serta rancangan yang rapi di pihak para pemimpin Persatuan serta kerjasama dan sumbangan seluruh ahli. Selaras dengan hasrat ini, Jawatankuasa Kerja PSSM dalam mesyuaratnya pada 13 Mei lalu telah membuat beberapa keputusan penting. Antara lain, mesyuarat memutuskan akan menganjurkan suatu persidangan kebangsaan bertemakan “Sains Sosial di Malaysia – Realiti dan Cabaran Baru” pada 19 dan 20 Februari 2001. Persidangan ini akan berusaha menghimpunkan sejumlah sarjana dan pemikir sains sosial, pemimpin universiti, pembuat dasar, ahli *think tank* dan juga mereka daripada sektor swasta untuk berkongsi pendapat dan membuat penilaian mengenai kedudukan sains sosial di Malaysia pada hari ini serta mengenalpasti masalah-masalah dan cabaran yang dihadapinya dari segi pengembangan ilmu, pengajaran, penyelidikan dan penggunaannya dalam pembangunan negara pada abad baru ini. Persidangan ini juga diharap akan mengemukakan beberapa saranan bagaimana di samping mengekalkan kerelevanannya bagi pembangunan negara, sains sosial di Malaysia juga mesti maju ke depan dari segi perkembangan ilmu sejajar dengan perkembangannya di peringkat antarabangsa.

Persidangan itu akan disusuli dengan Persidangan Antarabangsa Ketiga Pengajian Malaysia (Third International Malaysian Studies Conference — MSC3) pada Ogos tahun hadapan. Seperti dua kali persidangan antarabangsa pengajian Malaysia yang sudah berlangsung sejak 1997, persidangan ini akan menghimpunkan para sarjana dari dalam dan luar negara untuk bersidang dan membentangkan kertas kerja masing-masing di sekitar tema

pengajian Malaysia menurut minat dan kepakaran para peserta. Walau bagaimanapun, supaya perdebatan di persidangan ini akan lebih terfokus dan mendalam, pihak penganjur akan menetapkan dua tema khusus, iaitu “Globalisasi dan transformasi sosial dengan tumpuan kepada Malaysia” dan “Pluralisme dan Dunia Melayu” di mana para sarjana yang telah membuat penyelidikan mengenainya akan diundang untuk membentangkan makalah masing-masing.

Mesyuarat AJK itu juga memutuskan untuk menganjurkan forum/seminar bulanan mengenai pelbagai tajuk yang dianggap sesuai. Setakat ini, tiga acara sedemikian telah diadakan sejak bulan Mac yang lalu dan beberapa lagi dirangka untuk diadakan secara berterusan sehingga akhir tahun ini.

Salah satu mercutanda intelektual yang penting bagi Persatuan ialah jurnal *Ilmu Masyarakat* yang sudah diterbitkan sebanyak 25 keluaran tetapi dihentikan pada 1995. AJK memutuskan jurnal ini akan dihidupkan semula dan usaha sedang dibuat untuk membentuk satu Sidang Pengarang yang boleh memikul tugas ini dengan teratur.

Selain itu, *Berita PSSM* yang diterbitkan tiga bulan sekali diharap akan menjadi penyambung lidah Persatuan dengan para ahli di samping menjadi forum untuk para ahli mengemukakan pendapat dan juga maklumat mengenai kegiatan mereka. *Berita PSSM* akan berusaha mengekalkan “Ruangan Sudut Pandangan” yang mengandungi buah fikiran ahli mengenai pelbagai isu di samping memuatkan berita dan laporan mengenai aktiviti Persatuan dan lain-lain.

Kami berharap para ahli Persatuan akan memberi reaksi kepada pandangan yang kami kemukakan ini, serta menyahut seruan kami agar bergiat cergas untuk bersama-sama mengembangkan sains sosial di negara ini ke tahap yang baru melalui pelbagai cara seperti perdebatan, penerbitan dan lain-lain. Kami juga berharap para ahli dapat menyumbangkan tulisan mereka untuk “Ruangan Sudut Pandangan” dalam *Berita PSSM* serta makalah-makalah yang bermutu untuk jurnal *Ilmu Masyarakat*, di samping memberikan kritikan dan cadangan kepada AJK untuk memajukan lagi PSSM.

Sekian, terima kasih.

Abdul Rahman Embong
Presiden PSSM 2000-2002



Tuntutan Pasaran dan Politik Pentadbiran Terus Menghantui Bidang Ilmu Kemasyarakatan dan Kemanusiaan

Tuntutan pasaran, politik pentadbiran, karenah birokrasi, persaingan paradigma dan kurangnya penyelidikan berkualiti serta integratif di kalangan ahli sains sosial sendiri adalah di antara faktor-faktor yang dikenalpasti terus menghantui kemajuan bidang sains sosial di Malaysia. Perbincangan mengenainya telah dikemukakan oleh Profesor Johan Saravanamuttu, Profesor Abdul Samad Hadi dan Profesor Baladas Goshal di forum anjuran Persatuan Sains Sosial Malaysia (PSSM) dengan kerjasama Jabatan Sains Politik, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) pada 24 Julai yang baru lalu yang telah diadakan di UKM, Bangi. Forum itu dihadiri oleh hampir 100 orang pelajar, tenaga akademik dan ahli PSSM dan telah dipengerusikan sendiri oleh Presiden PSSM, Profesor Madya Dr Abdul Rahman Embong.

Tokoh-tokoh profesor sains sosial yang tidak asing lagi dalam bidang sains sosial tanah air masakini telah merangsangkan perbincangan rancak tentang isu-isu berkaitan tema forum. Mereka telah berkongsi pengalaman tentang usaha membangun dan mengembangkan bidang sains sosial di Malaysia dengan tumpuan khusus kepada pengalaman Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia dan beberapa universiti di India, khususnya Universiti Jawaharlal Nehru, New Delhi. Perbincangan juga telah membuat perbandingan yang menarik dari segi autonomi di antara India dan Malaysia. Ahli-ahli sains sosial India diberi kebebasan luas untuk berkembang sehingga ke peringkat antarabangsa.

Perbincangan seterusnya juga telah memberi perhatian kepada masalah penyelarasan pentadbiran demi mempertahankan sifat integratif sains sosial. Ahli panel berpendapat usaha integratif ini semakin kurang, sedangkan ilmu sains sosial seharusnya memelihara kesatuannya sendiri. Selain itu, perbincangan juga tertumpu kepada sumbangan teori serta pendekatan sains sosial terhadap dasar-dasar negara khususnya melalui aktiviti-aktiviti “think tank”, dasar pendidikan yang mementingkan tuntutan pasaran serta pembangunan daripada penjanaaan daya intelektual dan beberapa masalah dari segi sikap dan komitmen di kalangan ahli akademik tempatan sendiri.

Dalam konteks mengenengahkan kembali cabaran-cabaran yang terus menghantui perkembangan sains sosial di Malaysia, beberapa saranan telah dikemukakan oleh ahli-ahli panel dari segi peranan yang dapat diusahakan oleh ahli-ahli sains sosial negara, khususnya mereka yang dalam bidang akademik. Yang pertama ialah penilaian kritis mengenai tujuan dan skop penyelidikan selama ini. Kedua, penghayatan prinsip integratif dalam penjanaaan ilmu di universiti dan IPT lain. Ketiga, interaksi yang lebih terbuka dan luas sesama ahli sains sosial termasuk mereka dari pada rantau Asia. Dan keempat, menggalakkan hubungan interaktif dengan pembuat-pembuat dasar negara agar sains sosial boleh diterapkan dengan lebih luas lagi. ■

REPORT OF SEMINAR

Boom and Bust in Capital Flows in Developing Economies

A seminar, organised by the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) with the cooperation of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Singapore and the Malaysian Social Science Association was held at UKM on 29 June 2000 to discuss the problem of boom and bust in capital flows to developing economies.

The speaker was Dr. Peter Nunnenkamp, Director of Institute of World Economics, Germany. He is the author of several important works, such as *Globalisation of Production and Markets* (Mohr, 1994; with J.P. Agarwal & E. Gundlach), and *Latin America After the Currency Crash in Brazil: Why the Optimists May be Wrong* (Institute of World Economics, 1999).

During his presentation, Dr. Nunnenkamp made several important and provocative points. He argued that the problem of speculation has been there all along all the time during both boom and bust periods, yet policy-makers and economists only made an issue of it when their economies had been hit by the crisis as happened in 1997. According to him, speculation should be on the agenda of Asian policy makers and foreign investors. He also regretted that policy-makers and economists seem to have forgotten the lessons of the 1970s, i.e. the issue of sustainability, and keep repeating the same mistakes. As regards the future, he was pessimistic about any meaningful change in the international financial architecture. Although transparency may have improved, there exist both objective problems and real stumbling blocks to reforms in the external regulatory environment.

A serious and lively discussion ensued during the Q & A session. Responding to comments and

questions from the seminar participants on the question of 'opening up', Dr. Numankamp said that Southeast Asia including Malaysia were the winners of globalisation because of their 'opening up' policies, unlike those countries that chose to 'close' their economies. The question for these countries is not whether to 'open up' or to 'close' their economies, but how to 'open up' and minimise the risks of globalisation. On the question Malaysian selective capital control, he admitted that he was one of the skeptics when it was first introduced, saying that the control would lead to further problems for the Malaysian economy, but agreed that he was proven wrong. However, having served its purpose during an emergency situation like the 1997-98 crisis, he questioned the wisdom of Malaysia continuing with it. To him, the issue now is not one of controlling capital outflows, but on how to control the inflows of short-term capital which had been causing volatility in the crisis-hit economies. ■

BERITA-BERITA RINGKAS

Mesyuarat Penubuhan Majlis Sains Sosial Negara

Pada 17 Mei 2000, Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah selaku Timbalan Presiden PSSM telah mewakili Presiden PSSM, Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong, ke mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kerja Mengenai Cadangan Penubuhan Majlis Sains Sosial Negara, yang diadakan di Kementerian Perpaduan Negara dan Pembangunan Masyarakat (KPNPM). Mesyuarat itu dipengerusikan oleh Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian (KPNPM) dan turut dihadiri oleh wakil beberapa jabatan di bawah KPNPM, wakil Unit Perancang Ekonomi Jabatan Perdana Menteri, wakil-wakil universiti

dan juga pusat pemikir. Wakil PSSM menyokong penuh cadangan penubuhan sebuah Majlis Sains Sosial Negara, yang akan memainkan peranan bagi sains sosial seperti mana MPKSN memainkan peranan bagi bidang sains tulen (natural sciences) di negara ini. Jawatankuasa Kerja itu telah ditugaskan untuk memperincikan mekanisme dan struktur organisasi bagi Majlis tersebut, khususnya di dalam aspek penyaluran bantuan kewangan bagi penyelidikan. ■

Majlis Perpisanhan dengan Pengarah Japan Foundation di Kuala Lumpur

Pada 22hb Mei 2000, Dr. Mohd. Hazim Shah telah mewakili PSSM di majlis perpisanhan Pengarah Japan Foundation yang lama, iaitu Encik Hirota-san. Beliau telah sempat berjumpa dan berbincang dengan pengarah baru, iaitu En. Sugihara Masamichi, yang diharapkan dapat

memberikan kerjasama seterusnya dengan pihak PSSM. Japan Foundation ialah salah satu yayasan yang membiayai Persidangan Antarabangsa Kajian Malaysia pertama dan kedua (MSC 1 & 2) anjuran PSSM pada 1997 dan 1999. ■

Reflections on the Status of Malaysian Social Science

(Some brief notes from a Political Scientist's Perspective)

by

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(Editor's note: These notes formed the basis of the talk presented by the speaker at the forum 'The Experience of the Development of the Social Sciences in Malaysia and India Compared' organised by the Malaysian Social Science Association with the co-operation of the Department of Political Science, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia held at UKM on 24 May 2000).

Four major points are to be made in this presentation:

- 1) Start-ups of Social Science in the country
- 2) Intellectual biases and influences
- 3) The emergence of think tanks
- 4) Current problems of social science

1. University of Malaya (UM) started the teaching of social sciences after separation from Singapore in the late 1950s. UM pioneered the Faculty of Economics and Administration, subsuming much of social science. Also the Faculty of Arts offered history, sociology and anthropology and the various "studies" — Malay studies, Islamic Studies, Tamil studies, etc. Considerable changes have been made today, e.g. Southeast Asian Studies programme has been introduced, but there is still no "integrated" or combined social science faculty with interdisciplinary programmes at UM. UM had a problem with the appellation "political science" (PS) which was thought to be sensitive or political so PS subjects were taught under Public Administration.

It's fair to say that Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) pioneered Social Sciences as a more or less "integrated" core of subjects, when the School of Comparative Social Sciences (Pusat

Pengajian Sains Kemasyarakatan) was set up in Penang in 1970. The approach was interdisciplinary with different sections — economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, and later development studies. The "school" system — rather than faculty system — was used and there was a 'marrying' of US and British approaches. Humanities was set up as a different school and not considered as social sciences. This led to conceptual and definitional problems, especially when "communications" was pioneered under Humanities. Business and Management went with the School of Social Science until it became a separate school.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) became the next university with social science programmes under the Faculty of Social Science (Sains Kemasyarakatan) and Humanities (Kemanusiaan). The department system allowed UKM to have the first full-fledged political science department in any university.

The first point to establish therefore is that social sciences had quite varied and different origins in Malaysian universities and possibly very different intellectual traditions and perspectives. USM, for example, emphasized interdisciplinary approaches through majors and minors. UKM tended more to emphasize "majors". UM had different a different set-up and tended to split up the social sciences by depts. (e.g. international relations under history).

2. American influences and biases were very evident in the early years. Milton Esman of Pittsburgh and John Montgomery of Harvard

heavily influenced the setting up of Public Administration in UM. Furthermore, the duo used their influence to help create the Development Administration Unit (DAU) in the Prime Minister's Department and also INTAN, the training institute for civil servants.

After 1969 and the May 13 riots, the government invited American political scientists Myron Weiner, Manning Nash and S.P. Huntington to do a study on "Social Science Research for National Unity". This is yet another important indication of the using of foreign experts rather than local expertise to consult on major national issues.

Using USM as an example, US-oriented social science was very prevalent. A "revolt" occurred in the late 1970s to replace expatriate lecturers with locals. There were moves for more "third world" perspectives, neo-Marxist paradigms in teaching and research. Development Studies as a major was created out of the urban and rural studies minors. Today, Development Studies has succumbed to market forces and become Development Planning and Management.

3. There was also the emergence of "think tanks" at about this time. The Centre for Policy Research headed by K.J. Ratnam gained some reputation for nationally-oriented research work.

ISIS, MIER came as later-day institutions outside of universities. IKMAS is now arguably the most prominent university-based think tank as CPR faded in the nineties.

Has IPRA research reduced the significance of think tanks? Possibly not for all of the social sciences. However, there is a tendency for IRPA to favour applied research. Some have argued that this tends to stifle intellectual discourse and focus on important basic social issues.

4. Malaysian Social Science probably had its heyday in the mid-till-late 1980s. This period saw the burst of activities of the Malaysian Social Science Association (PSSM) (formed in 1977) and its flagship Ilmu Masyarakat (now

defunct). Other journals include Jurnal Ekonomi Malaysia, Kajian Malaysia, Akademika, Pertanika Journal of Social Science and Humanities, to name a few.

However, few would deny that by the 1990s, social science has descended into the doldrums based on the following indicators:

- Low academic output
- Lacklustre and collapsing journals
- Low academic output
- Poor quality academic output

A simple comparison can be made with Singapore which by far outperforms Malaysia in all the above. Some of the top journals in the social sciences and Southeast Asian studies now emanate from Singapore. So too, quality academic output. Admittedly, Singapore social sciences generally fall squarely within the Anglo-American positivist and mainstream social science traditions. Malaysian social science tends to be more locally and nationally-driven.

My hunch is that while social science discourse has been more uncontrolled and freer and even more radical in the more plural and generally more open academic environment of Malaysia, ethnic politics has debilitated academic growth. All universities have been caught up with the NEP policies and have to constantly strike a balance between "social" and academic objectives.

Malaysian social science today is not so much in a "crisis" as it is in a state of non-movement or inertia. There are no intellectual debates to talk off. Taking the field of comparative politics, not much has advanced since the model of the "plural society" and consociational democracy although many locals have added to this literature. Furthermore, beyond a few local luminaries, writing on Malaysia itself tends to be dominated by non-natives. Again there may be many explanations but I believe that the political context is responsible for this lacklustre situation of the social sciences. ■

UMNO and the Changing Political Culture

by

Abdul Rahman Embong

A decade ago, a well-known Japanese scholar wrote a book, entitled *An Age in Motion* to describe early twentieth century Indonesia which saw the birth of radicalism and various nationalist forces that later fought against the Dutch for independence. The writer also argued that similar characteristics could be found in post-war Malaya. Looking at the situation in Malaysia today as it makes the critical transition into the twenty first century, the same analogy can perhaps be used to describe the contemporary scene, although the context and issues obviously differ.

Malaysia today is without doubt 'a nation in motion'. From the economic to the political, from the religious to the socio-cultural, from market to consumption, and from state to society — all these domains are in motion, precipitated by globalisation, in particular the recent financial and economic crisis as well as by the political turmoil following the Anwar episode. In this historical period, despite the dominance of the market ideology of consumerism and materialism in society, idealism tends to come to the fore again.

These new developments have repercussions upon the ruling coalition, especially UMNO. While idealism seems to have fired many of those demanding for change and has permeated the ranks of the opposition, UMNO seems to face a lack-lustre situation.

Many observers including some UMNO leaders themselves, have noted certain worrying trends prevailing among many UMNO members.

First, there is an apparent lack of commitment and dedication on the part of many party members if they are not assured of pecuniary gains, compared to the apparent devotion to their

cause found among many members and supporters of the opposition. Second, joining the party for some is not to serve the people but to seek for positions which are equated with power and wealth. Thus, while remaining generally passive vis-à-vis major events and issues, or at best 'tailing' behind them, many would suddenly burst into a flurry of activities during party elections, be they at branch, divisional or national levels, especially when major stakes are involved, as is the case with the UMNO election of May 11 this year. Third, there is not much desire or initiative to engage in serious independent debates and dialogues on major issues affecting the world and the country, except to echo what has been articulated by the top leaders. Fourth, having been entrenched in power for so long, many UMNO leaders and members have developed a particular ideology and working style that often cannot accommodate differences — what more dissent — thus often leading to over-reaction on their part when faced with that kind of situation. This inevitably creates the conditions for a culture of flattery and sycophancy on the one hand, and a mute syndrome on the other — all of which are not healthy for the party and the country.

For a ruling party to remain historically relevant, such a situation warrants serious introspection. UMNO, the backbone of the then Alliance and now Barisan Nasional government, has been in power for more than four decades, almost four-fifths of its history. UMNO today is a changed party, very much unlike what it was during its early years before and just after Independence. It used to be a party led by school teachers and government servants, with its traditional rank-and-file consisting of rural Malays. The *semangat perjuangan* for the party and country was strong in UMNO then.

However, rapid modernisation and social transformation — spurred by the New Economic Policy (NEP) since the 1970s — have brought about dramatic changes in the class composition of the Malaysian society, the most notable being the rise of corporate and upper middle class Malays, or the *Melayu Baru*, and with that, the party too has been transformed. The UMNO leadership today at various levels consists of more than a few corporate big wigs and upper middle class Malays, some of whom have been ‘parachuted’ into their positions, contending with those who have risen from below. Traditional politics with emphasis on face-to-face meetings, *gotong royong* activities, meet-the-people sessions, as well as coffee shop interactions that would enable leaders to ‘feel the pulse of the people’ has eroded, and given way to party machine politics, with backroom machinations, lobbying at hotels and coffee houses as well as sponsored overseas visits to boot. Oiled by lush funds obtained from their businesses or projects, the operations machinery of many of the new UMNO stalwarts is formidable, and any ensuing battle for power has always been plagued with money politics.

The dominance of corporate and middle class figures in the party is both UMNO’s strength and its weakness. With the rich and powerful in charge of the party, UMNO has a huge financial muscle that it can flex for election campaigns and other activities. But its corporate bias, its disjunction with the grass-roots and the lack of cultural sensitivity in its handling of the Anwar issue, the *ulama*, the young and women, have caused its alienation from the more idealistic young urban Malays including students and professionals, and from large sections of the Islamic-inclined Malay rural populace who turn to parties in Barisan Alternatif, namely PAS, with whom their aspirations seem to resonate.

Malaysian political culture is obviously changing, but not in the direction that UMNO would like to see. However, UMNO has to face it whether it likes it or not. The results of the last general election with ensuing demands for inner party reforms as well as for social change and for wider democratic space, have been regarded

as a ‘wake-up’ call for UMNO. The test of the party’s preparedness to undertake reforms has to be seen in whether it is capable of and succeeds in instilling and reviving idealism or the spirit of struggle and commitment within its ranks as proposed by the party President in his message appended to the UMNO annual report tabled at the current general assembly. It has also to be seen in whether the party succeeds in changing the mind-set and working style of its leaders and members, and in repositioning itself vis-à-vis the changes inside and outside the party and country. UMNO’s major challenge is that it needs to understand that in today’s era of globalisation, both homogenisation and heterogenisation occur simultaneously, and that differences and diversities have become commonplace, intensified by the sudden influx of ideas and views through the uncensorable cyber space. Thus, it needs to adopt a more inclusive approach towards dissent, criticism and questioning, should be prepared to create wider spaces for political differences and diversities, and accept setbacks and defeats with grace. It is the willingness and ability to acknowledge differences and dissent and to regard them as part of our evolving political culture and to harness them for the good of the country and people that constitute the hallmark of a party that can march ahead with the times. To ignore the changing political culture or to adopt a non-engaging approach towards it in this ‘age in motion’ will be to its own peril.

(Note: A slightly edited version of this article appeared in the special pull-out edition on the UMNO General Assembly 2000 of *The Star*, 12 May 2000 under the heading “Vital to be in tune with the times”).

Associate Professor Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong previously (until 31st May 2000) taught at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. He is currently Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), UKM, and President of the Malaysian Social Science Association. The views expressed here are his own, and not those of the association. ■

Universities and Space for Critical Analysis

Editor's note: Universities all over the world including those in Malaysia are under assault by market forces and by governments that demand universities to operate as though they are market-driven entities. This development creates a lot of concern among academics and those who uphold universities as bastions that promote the necessary space for critical thinking and analysis in society. In the last issue of *Berita PSSM* (January-March 2000), we published excerpts from the editorial of *Akademika*, No. 53, July 1998, concerning the challenges faced by the social sciences in particular and universities in general under the assault of market forces. To explore the issue further, we publish below extracts from a book edited by Jan Currie & Janice Newson, titled *Universities and Globalization: Critical Perspectives* published in London by Sage Publications in 1998 that express similar concerns .

“A major reason we are particularly concerned about the future of universities is that we believe a significant factor in their functioning is to encourage critical thinking within society. They are institutions where broadly based knowledge is supposed to be developed and disseminated widely, for social purposes. If the university is silenced, who will be able to maintain critical judgements within society and speak with a critical voice to the wider community? As the media, in so many forms, increasingly become controlled by vested interest groups, there is a growing need for universities to provide a space for a critical analysis of social issues. They must be more than engines for economic productivity and competitiveness.

Another example of the constraint on the

university's capacity to be a vital, critical voice for society is ... the globalization practice of increased accountability, coming in the particular form of bureaucratic and financial accountability. Academics in many countries have complained about the ever-increasing amount of petty bureaucracy and form-filling that has accompanied this push to make universities more accountable, especially to external stakeholders, such as governments.....”

On the changing decision-making style for universities, the editors quote an English academic who has this to say:

“It's the ethos of the market, the language being used is the management style, completely market led, almost a profit driven type of enterprise and we thought we were academics. The talk is of clients or consumers rather than students.”

On globalization and universities, the editors stress that “Globalization has brought the free market into universities but with serious ramifications and significant costs. The frightening aspect of globalization is the subtle way the process infiltrates institutions so that resistance to its agenda is weakened. ... (T)he warning of this book ... is that unless there is more organized resistance to globalization agenda that links universities to markets, the result will be a shift from scholar to entrepreneur.”

(Excerpts from Jan Currie & Janice Newson (eds). 1998. *Universities and Globalization: Critical Perspectives*. London: Sage Publications, pp. 3, 4 & 6). ■



ILMU MEMIMPIN

Institut Kajian Malaysia dan Antarabangsa (IKMAS)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Fellowship Programme of Southeast Asian Scholars & Public Intellectuals (SEAF) at IKMAS, UKM

The Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), is pleased to announce the establishment of a fellowship programme called the Fellowship of Southeast Asian Scholars & Public Intellectuals, devoted to *Rethinking Globalisation in the New Millennium*. The aim of the programme is to enable a group of selected scholars and public intellectuals from Southeast Asian countries to reside together in a stimulating milieu to pursue collaborative debate and writing on pertinent economic and human development issues facing the region in the new millennium. The programme is targeted at younger academics and public intellectuals (writers, journalists and NGO activists) in the region.

Programme Description

Every year, four (4) fellows from various Southeast Asian countries (including Malaysia), will be invited to IKMAS in the months of October/November in order to pursue research and debate on a specific theme. The theme for the inaugural programme in the year 2000 will be: *Globalisation in the New Millennium: Rethinking the Role of Intellectuals in Southeast Asia*.

Fellows are expected to share their respective work on the selected theme in a joint seminar series which will also include several UKM academics. Each fellow will be expected to make a presentation on the selected theme at the end of the tenure of the fellowship at a joint public

forum to be held at UKM. The proceedings of the forum will be published and made available to the general public.

Fellows may also be invited to meet with NGOs and officers/policy makers from selected ministries in Malaysia in order to obtain feedback regarding their respective national strategies/policies in tackling issues of common interest.

The duration of the fellowship is between six (6) to eight (8) weeks. A minimum stay of six weeks is required. All fellows will be provided on-campus accommodation, a return air ticket (Economy Class), an office with a computer and free medical attention. In addition, a stipend of RM 10,000 will be provided.

Programme Objectives

The programme aims to:

- (a) Provide an opportunity for a number of scholars and intellectuals from each Southeast Asian country to pursue joint or collaborative work at IKMAS. We hope to provide a conducive and stimulating milieu for these individuals to undertake their joint research and writing projects.
- (b) Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience among Southeast Asian scholars and intellectuals thus providing greater impetus for further research and publication in regional and international studies.
- (c) Promote an understanding of specific problems and comparative perspectives on

various development issues in Southeast Asian countries. The fellows will also be invited to present their views and analyses in seminars and lectures which will benefit the academic community at UKM in particular and Malaysia in general.

- (d) Create a network among Malaysian intellectuals and those in the Southeast Asian region in order to strengthen collegiality among them and thereby strengthen cooperation between people in this region.

Applications and recommendations are invited for this year's programme, scheduled for

October/November 2000. All applications must reach IKMAS office before or by August 1, 2000.

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Fellowships and Scholarships, 2000-2001

EAST-WEST CENTER
1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI96848

The East-West Center is an independent, non-profit institution chartered by the US Congress and located in Honolulu, Hawaii. Its broad mission is to promote better relations and understanding between the United States and the nations and peoples of Asia and the Pacific through cooperative study, training, and research.

Visiting Fellowships in Conflict/Issue Resolution

The Center will offer up to 10 residential fellowships to undertake research and publication. The theme for the 2000-2001 fellowships is conflict and issue resolution in the Asia Pacific. Such research can be in any one of the Center's thematic areas. Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent. Fellowships are awarded for 2 to 4 months and must be undertaken during the period October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2001. Stipends will vary with seniority. Applications must be received by August 15, 2000. For further information and application requirements, see:

<http://www.EastWestCenter.org/res-vf.asp>

e-mail: fellowships@EastWestCenter.org

or write to: Director of Studies, at above address,
or fax: 808 944-7399.

Scholarships for Graduate Study

The East-West Center offers scholarships for graduate and professional degree study at the University of Hawaii. Awards for MA (2 year) and PhD (4 year) study give priority to fields emphasized in the Center's Research Program. These include international economics, politics and security studies, population, and environment. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents in an Asian or Pacific country or the United States. For further information, see:

<http://www.EastWestCenter.org/edu.sp.asp>

e-mail: ewcuhm@EastWestCenter.org

or contact Awards Services Office, at address
above. Fax: 808 944-7730. ■

5th ASEAN Inter-University Seminars on Social Development

23-25 May 2001

Theme: Post-Crisis Southeast Asia

National University of Singapore in partnership with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Background

Set up in 1993, the ASEAN Inter-University Seminar series aims to promote common pursuits in exploring social issues in the ASEAN countries. This series provides a platform for communication and contact between scholars to facilitate collaborative research, to enhance mutual understanding and encourage contributions to the enrichment of social scientific knowledge of the region.

The seminars are held in a different Asean country each time to enable participants to experience the richness of the region. Efforts are also made to bring attention to the peripheral regions of the member countries by holding these seminars outside capital cities. The Seminars are organized in the spirit of autonomous development and regional cooperation so that the social sciences can flourish along with and support the advancement of the region.

Objectives

- to encourage the development and promote the consolidation of ASEAN-based scholarship on social issues, a necessary condition for empowerment.
- to generate valuable and meaningful analyses of critical social, economic, and political development trends within the ASEAN region and the rest of Southeast Asia.
- to create unparalleled opportunities to interact and network with a view to establishing future collaborative scholarly ventures and solidarity in the interest of justice and equity.
- to provide a unique forum for scholars, academics, intellectuals, government and non-government decision-makers and others.
- concerned with the multi-faceted issues in development in the region.

Themes

The main theme for the Fifth ASEAN Inter-University Seminar on Social Development is Post-Crisis Southeast Asia. Panels will be organized based on the following sub-topics:

1. Rural and Urban Poverty and Inequality
2. Social Restructuring: Citizenship, Welfare & the Market

3. SE Asian Families: Surviving the Crisis
4. Gender, Culture and Power
5. Security & Strategic Challenges
6. Information Technology and the New Economy
7. Political Economy of Crisis and Response
8. Environment and Politics
9. Globalisation and Identities
10. Governance and the State
11. Conflict and Cohesion in SE Asia

Call for Papers

- Academics and scholars working on contemporary social issues in the ASEAN region.
- Government officials
- Private-sector executives and members of NGOs
- Other interested persons

Papers and suggestions for the organization of panels are welcomed. Papers should be presented in English.

Papers and Abstracts

For papers to be considered, an abstract of less than 250 words should be sent to the seminar secretariat by January 15, 2001. Completed papers should reach the secretariat by March 31, 2001. They can be submitted in the form of one hard copy, together with a diskette or electronically, specifying the software used. Notification of acceptance of paper will be sent on receipt of the abstract. Papers should be camera-ready and should not exceed 20 pages, single spaced on A4 size paper. Selected papers from this seminar may be included in a future publication.

For further details, please contact:

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WebPages for 5th Asean Seminar: http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/soc/asean_inter.htm ■