



BERITA PSSM

PSSM: 2000(4) Untuk Ahli Sahaja (For Members Only) Okt - Dis 2000

KANDUNGAN/CONTENTS

- Dari Meja Presiden 1
- Roadshow PSSM 3
- Ucapan Selamat 3
- Persidangan Kebangsaan 4
 - Sains Sosial di Malaysia: Realiti dan Cabaran Baru 4
 - Persidangan Sains Sosial di Malaysia: Isu-Isu Perdebatan 5
- 3rd International Malaysian Studies Conference 6
 - First Announcement 6
 - Channels for Paper Presentation 8
- Sudut Pandangan / Viewpoints 10
 - The 2001 K-Budget Proposals

JAWATANKUASA KERJA PSSM, 2000/02

- Presiden: Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong (UKM)
- Timb. Presiden: Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah (UM)
- Naib Presiden: Dr. Kamaruddin M. Said (UKM)
Sdr. Mohd Darbi Hashim (UITM)
Sdri. Norani Othman (UKM)
- Setiasaha: Sdr. Muhammad Asri Mohd Ali (UM)
- Pen. Setiasaha: Sdri. Saliha Hj. Hassan (UKM)
- Bendahari: Sdri. Lai Suat Yan (UM)
- Ahli-ahli JK: Dr. Edmund Terence Gomez (UM)
Dr. Shanti Thambiah (UM)
Sdr. Chin Yee Whah (UKM)
Dr. Phua Kai Lit (Univ. Perubatan)
Dr. Diana Wong (UKM)
Dr. Rashila Ramli (UKM)
Dr. Rokiah Alavi (UNIMAS)

(Website: <http://phuakl.tripod.com/pssm/homepage.htm>)

DARI MEJA PRESIDEN

Cabaran Baru Bagi Ahli Sains Sosial Malaysia

Negara dan masyarakat Malaysia yang berbilang kaum, budaya dan agama telah mendapat perhatian meluas para pengkaji sains sosial dari dalam dan luar negara selama berpuluh-puluh tahun ini. Terdapat beberapa teori sosial yang berpengaruh yang telah diuji dan dikembangkan dalam penelitian ke atas masyarakat Malaysia, misalnya, teori pluralisme Furnival, teori tindakan afirmatif, dan teori tentang peranan pemerintah. Bagi ahli ekonomi pula, dasar pemerintah yang berlawanan dengan pemikiran ekonomi arus utama neoliberal apabila ia melaksanakan beberapa langkah kontroversi bagi menangani krisis kewangan dan ekonomi pada 1998 juga menjadi perbincangan di kalangan akademik dan badan-badan antarabangsa seperti IMF dan Bank Dunia.

Kajian-kajian dan perbincangan ini adalah sebahagian penting dalam korpus ilmu yang kita kenali sebagai *Kajian Malaysia*, yakni penerapan dan pengembangan sains sosial dan kemanusiaan dalam konteks masyarakat dan sejarah Malaysia.

Dalam Persidangan Kebangsaan Sains Sosial yang pertama di Malaysia pada 17-18 Ogos 1974 anjuran Jabatan Antropologi dan Sosiologi, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia bertemakan 'Peranan dan Orientasi Sains Sosial dan Ahli-ahli Sains Sosial di Malaysia', satu pendirian diambil supaya orientasi teori dan pendekatan dalam sains sosial yang diterimakan itu dinilai semula secara kritis supaya satu sains sosial yang lebih segar dan selaras dengan

Semua pandangan dalam Berita PSSM, kecuali dinyatakan sebaliknya, adalah pandangan masing-masing penulis, dan tidak semestinya mencerminkan pandangan PSSM.

(The views expressed in Berita PSSM, unless otherwise stated, are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Malaysian Social Science Association).

keadaan sebenar di negara membangun termasuk Malaysia dapat dikembangkan. Sekarang hampir tiga dekad berlalu sejak persidangan itu, dan sains sosial amnya dan Kajian Malaysia khususnya telah berkembang dengan ciri-ciri tertentu. Misi menilai korpus ilmu ini dan menjana pemikiran baru dalam bidang sains sosial di Malaysia tetap belum selesai dan misi ini perlu diisi dengan bersungguh-sungguh oleh ilmuan sosial pada hari ini.

Dalam penilaian kembali ke atas sains sosial khususnya Kajian Malaysia, kita perlu mengambil kira beberapa perkembangan baru di bidang ilmu dan tuntutan baru pada zaman yang berubah. Era globalisasi yang sedang melanda seluruh dunia kini berbeza dengan zaman kolonial pra-Merdeka dan juga zaman pasca-Merdeka yang menjadi konteks persidangan sains sosial hampir tiga puluh tahun lalu. Pada zaman itu, teori dan pendekatan Kajian Malaysia amat dipengaruhi oleh ilmu kolonial dan juga sains sosial Amerika Syarikat yang ditunjangi ideologi-politik Perang Dingin. Dari segi pembirokrasian dan juga penyebarannya, Kajian Malaysia pada masa itu lebih bersifat kajian kawasan dan kajian berasaskan kelompok etno-budaya, misalnya, Pengajian Melayu, Pengajian Cina, Pengajian India, dan sebagainya.

Pada hari ini, walaupun Perang Dingin secara rasmi sudah berakhir, namun wacana ilmu dalam sains sosial masih amat berat sebelah. Politik Perang Dingin dalam bidang ilmu berterusan dalam bentuk lain, iaitu dominasi pemikiran neoliberal yang mengunggulkan sistem pasaran bebas, beserta idea persaingan antara individu dan antara negara tanpa mengambil kira syarat-syarat yang tidak sama di antara mereka.

Sungguhpun begitu, beberapa pemikiran baru juga terus bercambah yang mencabar hegemoni neoliberal dan menawarkan beberapa alternatif yang menarik. Dari segi perspektif pula, terdapat usaha untuk memecahkan tembok pengkotakan ilmu yang sempit menurut sempadan disiplin. Bertolak daripada pendirian bahawa kita jangan membina ataupun mengekalkan tembok pemisah yang artifisial di antara disiplin ilmu,

sejumlah sarjana mengemukakan hujah tentang peri pentingnya perspektif multidisiplin. Selain itu, mereka juga menekankan pentingnya perspektif kajian itu melepasi lingkungan sempadan negara-bangsa dengan menerapkan perspektif transnasional.

Dari segi Kajian Malaysia, ini bererti kita perlu mengatasi beberapa kebiasaan dalam orientasi teori dan perspektif penelitian selama ini. Perkara paling ketara yang perlu kita tangani ialah kebiasaan *pemisahan*. Misalnya, apabila meneliti sesuatu kelompok etnik atau budaya, terdapat kebiasaan melihatnya secara tersendiri dengan memisahkannya daripada usaha bandingan dengan etnik lain dan juga masyarakat di negara lain. Dalam menggunakan alat analisis pula, kebiasaannya ialah membatasinya kepada satu disiplin, dan tidak memanfaatkan alat analisis disiplin lain yang berkaitan, apalagi cuba menggunakan perspektif multidisiplin. Selain itu, terdapat kebiasaan meletakkan kajian itu secara sempit dalam arena negara-bangsa sendiri tanpa mengambil kira perkembangan ilmu dan perkembangan ekonomi-politik antara-bangsa kontemporer dan juga dalam sejarah.

Kesannya ialah sesuatu kajian itu seolah-olah relevan hanya dalam konteks masyarakat yang dikaji, sedangkan ia mungkin akan kaitannya dengan pengalaman masyarakat dan sejarah negara lain. Selain itu, kebiasaan ini juga menjadi hambatan bagi kekreatifan intelektual yang amat penting bagi penjana pemikiran baru dalam sains sosial, supaya ilmu ini sentiasa segar, menarik dan mencabar.

Menilai secara kritis orientasi teori sains sosial dan juga menjana pemikiran baru dari segi teori dan perspektif ilmu adalah salah satu cabaran penting yang harus ditangani oleh ilmuan sosial Malaysia pada abad baru ini. Kita mengharapkan **Persidangan Kebangsaan 'Sains Sosial di Malaysia – Realiti dan Cabaran Baru'** yang akan berlangsung pada 19-20 Februari 2001, akan menyahut cabaran ini dan berjaya menelurkan hasil positif ke arah memenuhi misi membangun sains sosial yang segar dan rancak di Malaysia.

SELAMAT BERSIDANG!!



Laporan Roadshow PSSM di Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

Chin Yee Whah

Satu *roadshow* telah diadakan di Jabatan Sains Kemasyarakatan dan Pembangunan, Fakulti Ekologi Manusia, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang pada jam 10.00 pagi 31 Oktober 2000. *Roadshow* ini diketuai oleh saudara Presiden PSSM, Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong. Hadir bersama Presiden ialah Timbalan Presiden, Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah, Setiausaha saudara Muhamad Asri dan ahli jawatankuasa Chin Yee Whah. Seramai dua puluh orang tenaga akademik termasuk Dekan Fakulti Ekologi, Prof. Madya Dr. Abdullah Alhadi serta Ketua Jabatan Sains Kemasyarakatan dan Pembangunan Dr Zahid Emby menghadiri *roadshow* ini. Sesi ini dipengerusikan oleh Dr. Sharifah Norazizan Rashid daripada Jabatan Sains Kemasyarakatan dan Pembangunan, UPM.

Tujuan *Roadshow* ini ialah menyampaikan taklimat mengenai peranan dan aktiviti PSSM dalam mengembangkan bidang sains sosial di Malaysia di samping mendaftarkan ahli-ahli baru. Satu penyampaian dalam bentuk LCD telah dilakukan oleh saudara Presiden secara ekstensif meliputi beberapa aspek. Beliau pertama-tama menjelaskan sejarah penubuhan PSSM sejak 1977, di samping memperkenalkan senarai presiden yang menerajui kepimpinan PSSM sejak itu sehingga sekarang. Selain itu, beliau juga memberitahu mengenai aktiviti-aktiviti PSSM seperti Malaysian International Studies Conference (MSC), seminar, forum, dan lain-lain serta usaha PSSM mencari sumber kewangan untuk mengelolakan aktiviti. Selanjutnya, beliau melaporkan hasil penerbitan oleh ahli-ahli PSSM dan juga menerangkan hala tuju perkembangan sains sosial di Malaysia. Saudara Presiden memberitahu bahawa beliau

selaku Presiden telah diminta oleh Kementerian Perpaduan Negara dan Pembangunan Masyarakat untuk mengendalikan satu kajian inventori sains sosial di Malaysia untuk mengumpul maklumat mengenai pelbagai penyelidikan sains sosial di negara ini sejak 1980 sehingga 2000.

Selepas penyampaian Presiden, satu perbincangan yang rancak telah berlangsung antara wakil PSSM dengan para hadirin berkenaan peranan, perkembangan aktiviti dan hala tuju PSSM. Antara isu yang menarik yang timbul dalam perbincangan itu ialah cadangan para peserta yang mahu PSSM menghidupkan kembali jurnalnya, iaitu *Ilmu Masyarakat* yang sudah dihentikan sejak 1995. Para peserta berpendapat jurnal ini adalah satu lambang ke-sarjanan ahli-ahli PSSM yang perlu diteruskan. Presiden memberi jaminan perkara ini dikaji dengan teliti dan akan dibincangkan dalam mesyuarat jawatankuasa kerja akan datang.

Selepas perbincangan itu, wakil-wakil PSSM telah berbincang dengan Ketua Jabatan Sains Kemasyarakatan dan Pembangunan untuk menganjurkan beberapa aktiviti bersama di UPM dalam bulan-bulan mendatang. Wakil PSSM dalam *roadshow* ini juga menerima cadangan melantik seorang ahli jawatankuasa baru tidak rasmi, iaitu Dr. Sharifah Norazizan sebagai wakil UPM untuk mengambil bahagian dalam mesyuarat jawatankuasa kerja. *Roadshow* ini juga berhasil menerima tujuh ahli baru.

PSSM berharap dapat mengadakan lebih banyak *roadshow* di universiti tempatan yang lain supaya setiap universiti dapat mengetahui mengenai PSSM dan dapat saling memanfaatkan aktiviti yang dianjurkan oleh PSSM. ■

UCAPAN SELAMAT

Ucapan Selamat Daripada Jawatankuasa PSSM

Presiden dan seluruh ahli Jawatankuasa PSSM mengucapkan:

- * Selamat Hari Raya Idulfitri
- * Selamat Tahun Baru 2001
- * Selamat Hari Natal
- * Selamat Tahun Baru Cina

kepada seluruh rakyat Malaysia! Semoga sejahtera & maju jaya!!! ■

**Sains Sosial di Malaysia: Realiti dan Cabaran Baru
(19-20 Februari 2001)**

**anjuran Persatuan Sains Sosial Malaysia (PSSM)
dengan kerjasama Jabatan Antropologi & Sosiologi, UKM
di Bilik Jumaah, Paras 5, Bangunan Pentadbiran, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia**

Aturcara Persidangan

Februari 19 (Isnin)

- 8:00 pagi **Pendaftaran**
- 9:00 pagi **Ucapan Dasar & Perasmian**
Prof. Dr. Abd. Rahman Embong
Presiden PSSM
- 9:25 pagi **Sesi 1: Persoalan Orientasi Teori Sains Sosial**
Pengerusi: Prof. Dr. Sharifah Zaleha Syed Hassan (UKM)
Pembentang: Dr. Syed Farid Al-Atas (NUS)
Prof. Dr. Shamsul Amri Baharuddin (UKM)
Pendiskusi: Prof. Madya Dr. Khoo Boo Teik (USM)
- 11.00 pagi Jamuan Ringan
- 11:15 pagi **Sesi 2: Sains Sosial dan Persoalan Modenisasi**
Pengerusi: Dr. Rashila Ramli (UKM)
Pembentang: En. Khoo Kay Jin (Penasihat Akademik Program API, IKMAS)
Prof. Madya Norani Othman (UKM)
Pendiskusi: Prof. Datuk Dr. Zainal Kling (UM)
- 12:45 ptg Makan Tengahari/Solat
- 2:00 ptg **Sesi 3: Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan Sains Sosial**
Pengerusi: Dr. Tengku Aizan Hamid (UPM)
Pembentang: Prof. Dr. Mohamed Yusoff Ismail (UKM)
Datuk Theivandran Rajadurai (KSU Kementerian Perpaduan Negara &
Pembangunan Masyarakat)
Pendiskui: Prof. Madya Dr. Rahimah Abd. Aziz (UKM)
- 3:30 ptg Jamuan Ringan
- 3.45 ptg **Sesi 4: Pengajaran dalam Sains Sosial**
Pengerusi: Dr. Sharifah Norazizan Rashid (UPM)
Pembentang: Prof. Dr. Qassim Ahmad (UMS)
Prof. Madya Dr. Kamaruddin M. Said (UKM)
Pendiskusi: Prof. Dato' Dr. Abd. Samad Hadi (UKM)
- 5.00 ptg Persidangan ditangguhkan
- 8.00 mlm **Majlis Makan Malam Persidangan**

Februari 20 (Selasa)

- 9:00 pagi **Sesi 5: Sains Sosial dan Persoalan Globalisasi**
Pengerusi: Prof. Madya Abd. Halim Ali (UKM)
Pembentang: Prof. Madya Dr. Hazim Shah (UM)
Prof. Dr. Ishak Shari (UKM)
Pendiskusi: Dato' Dr. Shaharuddin Mod Saaid (Pengarah Pasukan Perunding Khas,
Kementerian Kewangan)
- 10.30 pagi Jamuan Ringan

11.00 pagi	Mesyuarat Agung PSSM bagi 2001
1.00 ptg	Makan Tengahari/Solat
2:00 ptg	Sesi 6: Sains Sosial di Malaysia — Realiti dan Cabaran Baru (Forum)
	Pengerusi: Dr. Sumit K. Mandal (UKM)
	Pembicara: En. Rahim Zain (mantan Ketua Pengarah PORLA)
	Prof. Madya Dr. Abdullah Al Hadi (UPM)
	Datuk Dr. Toh Kin Woon (mantan akademik, Exco Kerajaan Negeri Pulau Pinang)
	Prof. Dr. Kadir Din (UUM)
	Prof. Dr. Wan Zawawi Ibrahim (Unimas)
4:30 ptg	Penutup oleh Presiden PSSM
4.40 ptg	Jamuan Ringan dan Persidangan Tamat

Persidangan Sains Sosial di Malaysia – Isu-Isu Perdebatan

oleh Sekretariat Persidangan

Pada 19-20 Februari 2001, PSSM akan mengadakan Persidangan Sains Sosial di Malaysia dengan kerjasama Jabatan Antropologi dan Sosiologi, UKM bertempat di UKM, Bangi. Objektif persidangan ini ialah seperti berikut:

- Meneliti perkembangan ilmu Sains Sosial di Malaysia
- Mengenalpasti kekuatan serta kelemahan Sains Sosial dari segi pengajaran, penyelidikan, penerbitan dan juga wacana ilmu dalam konteks masyarakat semasa
- Merancang strategi dan pendekatan bagi menjana pemikiran baru dalam Sains Sosial dan juga untuk memberi masukan kepada dasar negara.

Mengikut pemberitahuan Sekretariat, persidangan ini dibahagikan kepada enam sesi, yang masing-masing akan membahas persoalan-persoalan pokok yang penting.

Sesi I ‘Persoalan Orientasi Teori Sains Sosial’ bertujuan membincangkan isu-isu yang berkaitan dengan orientasi teori sains sosial serta perkembangan dan peranannya dalam membangun sains sosial di Malaysia. Antara perkara yang akan diberi tumpuan ialah: (1) Kemunculan sains sosial di Malaysia serta tradisi sains sosial; (2) Aliran-aliran teori yang dikembangkan dan kesan aplikasi teori berkenaan; (3) Perbahasan mengenai *indigenization of knowledge* (pemperibumian ilmu) serta implikasinya; (4) Perkembangan ilmu di peringkat

antarabangsa dan kedudukan sains sosial Malaysia khususnya dari segi pembinaan teori.

Sesi II pula akan membincangkan ‘Sains Sosial dan Persoalan Modenisasi’. Sesi ini bertujuan membincangkan isu-isu seperti (1) Kemunculan projek moden di Eropah dan peranan sains sosial dalam menghuraikan dan memberi makna kepada projek itu; (2) Satu penilaian kritis ke atas modenisasi di Malaysia – pencapaian, masalah dan dilemanya; (3) Perbincangan mengenai kontroversi modenisasi dan pembaratan serta reaksi terhadap modenisasi; (4) Penilaian terhadap sumbangan sains sosial di Malaysia dalam menghuraikan dan menunjukkan hala tuju bagi pemodenan Malaysia; dan (5) Projek modenisasi – apa selanjutnya?

Sesi III yang membahas tajuk ‘Penyelidikan dan Penerbitan dalam Bidang Sains Sosial’ bertujuan membincangkan kedudukan penyelidikan dan penerbitan dalam sains sosial di Malaysia. Antara lain, ia akan membincangkan (1) Jenis-jenis penyelidikan dan sumbangannya kepada perkembangan ilmu dan pelaksanaan dasar; (2) Status penyelidikan dan penerbitan di Malaysia hari ini dalam bidang sains sosial; (3) Masalah dan cabaran dalam penyelidikan dan penerbitan; (4) Hala tuju penyelidikan dan penerbitan sains sosial.

Sesi IV yang bertemakan ‘Pengajaran dalam Sains Sosial’ bertujuan membincangkan persoalan pengajaran sains sosial di Malaysia sejak

pengenalan rumpun ilmu ini di negara ini serta hala tujunya pada masa depan. Antara lain, isu-isu yang akan dibincangkan ialah (1) Pengenalan sains sosial di universiti – tujuan, masalah, dan pencapaian; (2) Disiplin sains sosial hari ini dan latihan para siswazahnya berdepan dengan perubahan tuntutan pasaran; (3) Isi pengajaran dan struktur organisasi pengajaran sains sosial, misalnya, struktur fakulti dan jabatan dan isu penstrukturan semula; (4) Hala tuju pengajaran sains sosial.

Sesi V bertemakan ‘Sains Sosial dan Persoalan Globalisasi’. Globalisasi ialah satu fenomena dan proses yang mencabar bukan sahaja negara-bangsa tetapi juga bidang sains sosial. Sesi ini bertujuan membincangkan bagaimana persoalan globalisasi ditangani dalam sains sosial dan setakat mana ilmu ini dimanfaatkan untuk menghuraikan fenomena ini. Antara isu yang akan dibincangkan termasuk (1) Wacana mengenai globalisasi dalam sains sosial; (2) Modernisasi

atau globalisasi? — interpretasi sains sosial; (3) Globalisasi dan dampaknya di Malaysia – setakat mana sains sosial berusaha dan berjaya menjelaskan persoalan ini; (4) Pentingnya sains sosial menangani persoalan globalisasi.

Sesi VI ialah satu forum membincangkan ‘Sains Sosial di Malaysia: Realiti dan Cabaran Baru’. Sesi ini berbentuk satu perbincangan meja bulat dengan beberapa orang pembicara dan bertujuan membincangkan realiti kini serta cabaran baru yang dihadapi oleh sains sosial di Malaysia pada abad baru ini. Antara persoalan yang akan dibincangkan termasuk: (1) Mengenalpasti realiti semasa dari segi tuntutan ekonomi dan masyarakat serta perkembangan ilmu terhadap sains sosial; (2) Bagaimanakah sains sosial di Malaysia telah menangani dan sepatutnya menangani realiti dan cabaran baru ini; (3) Persoalan meningkatkan prestasi dan mutu sains sosial; (4) Kerelevanan sains sosial dari segi korpus ilmu, keperluan dasar dan keperluan masyarakat. ■

3RD INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

First Announcement

Third International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC3)

6 – 8 August 2001

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

Objectives

Following the success of the first and second international Malaysian Studies conferences held in 1997 and 1999, the Malaysian Social Science Association (MSSA) will be holding the Third International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC3) on 6-8 August 2001. The objectives of the Conference are:

1. To bring together scholars, both local and international, working on Malaysia, for the purpose of academic exchange and interaction.
2. To analyse issues and problems relating to contemporary Malaysia, and to compare the Malaysian experience with that of other nations, especially the Asian nations.
3. To examine the role of Malaysians and Malaysian organisations and communities abroad in contemporary world affairs.
4. To examine the state of Malaysian studies and to suggest ways for its advancement.

The Association plans to bring out book publications based on articles selected from the conference papers.

Theme

The overall theme of MSC3 is “Malaysia in Transformation: Prospects and Challenges”, where reflections on the past, present and future trends of Malaysia in the globalising world, will be undertaken. Papers are invited on the broad subject of “Malaysian Studies” conceived in the fashion of area studies. Papers on all subjects relating to Malaysia such as Malaysian History, Politics, Economics, Literature, Anthropology, Sociology, etc., are welcome. Interdisciplinary studies are also welcome.

Panels and Roundtables

The conference programme will consist of panels of papers as well as roundtable discussions. Potential participants are encouraged to organise

panel presentations around a common theme or subject. Such proposals will then have to be forwarded to the Organising Committee for approval, in order to avoid duplication. A typical panel consists of a chair, 3-4 paper presenters, and a discussant.

Individual proposals may also be submitted. These individual papers will then be grouped under common themes, or be presented as omnibus panels.

Roundtable sessions will also be held. A roundtable is one in which no formal papers are presented. This will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss specific issues or themes. The recommended roundtable size is four to six, including the chair.

Besides panels suggested by participants, the Organising Committee will organise a few panels on selected themes.

Please indicate the needs of your panel, such as overhead projector, video equipment or LCD.

Abstract of Papers

Paper presenters are required to submit an *abstract* of their paper, the length of which is between 200 to 250 words. The abstract must be submitted by 28 February 2001. The abstracts, once approved, will be placed on the MSSA website.

The complete paper must be submitted by 30 June 2001. This is to facilitate printing and duplication of the papers.

All potential paper presenters can make their presentation in the sessions on condition that they submit their papers in advance to the Organising Committee.

Registration Fee

Participants who register early will enjoy the benefit of lower registration fees. The closing date for early or pre-registration is 31 March 2001. All registration after that date will be charged differently. The registration fee is as follows:

Participants from & in Malaysia

MSSA members

Pre-registration	RM100
After 31 March 2001	RM150

Non-members

Pre-registration	RM200
After 31 March 2001	RM300

Students (MSSA members)

Pre-registration	RM50
After 31 March 2001	RM60

Students (non-members)

Pre-registration	RM60
After 31 March 2001	RM70

Participants from abroad

MSSA members

Pre-registration	USD60
After 31 March 2001	USD80

Non-members

Pre-registration	USD80
After 31 March 2001	USD100

Payments may be made by crossed cheque, bank draft, and money order, payable to Persatuan Sains Sosial Malaysia. Cash payments may also be made directly to the MSSA Treasurer.

Venue

MSC3 will be held at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia) or UKM, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, which is about 30 kilometres to the south of Kuala Lumpur. MSSA is working closely with two research institutes in UKM, viz. the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) and the Institute of the Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA) in hosting the conference.

Accommodation

Accommodation ranging from budget, modest, to superior, is available in the Bangi area, and participants will have to indicate their accommodation needs and preference to the Organising Committee so that early booking could be done.

1) Hotel/lodging in the Bangi area:

- Metro Inn Kajang (100 rooms) (This hotel is in Kajang, a small flourishing town 10 km from UKM)
 - Single – RM90
 - Double – RM110
- Hotel Equatorial Bangi (4-star hotel) (1km from UKM)
 - Standard (superior) – RM158
- Puri Pujangga (11 rooms; in UKM campus and within walking distance to the conference venue)
 - Double – RM99
 - Single – RM80
 (Puri Pujangga rates do not include breakfast).

Transport will be arranged from the hotel to the conference venue for those staying in any hotel in the Bangi area.

2) Conference participants who prefer to stay in Kuala Lumpur in a budget hotel may do so. Arrangements for bookings of hotels in Kuala

Lumpur can also be made through the Organising Committee. There is an efficient commuter train service from Kuala Lumpur to the UKM Commuter Station in Bangi which takes about 40 minutes. The return fare by commuter is about RM5-6. Transport from the UKM Commuter Station to the conference venue in the UKM campus will be arranged.

A hotel in Kuala Lumpur quite near the commuter station (Bank Negara Halt) is Quality Hotel in Jalan Raja Laut. The rates are:

Double – RM145

Single – RM135

The Committee is currently searching for information on other convenient hotels (with reasonable rates) in Kuala Lumpur and will announce them later.

Note: All rates quoted above are government rates. Non-government rates are slightly higher.

Enquiries

All enquiries regarding MSC3 should be sent to:

MSC3 Secretariat
(Att: Mr. Foo Ah Hiang)
Institute of Postgraduate Studies & Research
University of Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email: h1foo@umcsd.um.edu.my
Tel: 603 79673606 Fax: 603 79567252

Please visit our website (<http://phuakl.tripod.com/pssm/homepage.htm>) for further information regarding the Association as well as other information.

ALL INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS,
PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!!!

NON-PSSM MEMBERS WHO WISH TO
BENEFIT FROM THE ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP OFFERED IN MSC3 SHOULD
REGISTER AS MEMBERS IMMEDIATELY!!!

Channels for Paper Presentation

For the forthcoming Third International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC3) the Organising Committee is providing four different channels through which participants can present their papers. The purpose is to ensure that there is some structural order in the grouping of the papers, so that each paper session will have a thematic coherence. At the same time, to encourage those who would like to present papers on topics that may not fall into any of the named categories, or papers that might appear unconventional or interdisciplinary, there will be provision made for them too.

The four channels of paper presentation are:

1. Institutional Panels

To date we have identified three such panels, namely: 1) Panel organised by the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) on "Globalization and Malaysian Studies"; 2) Panel organised by the Institute of the Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA), UKM on "Pluralism in the Malay World", 3) Panel organised by the Gender Studies Unit, University of Malaya. There is a possibility of a fourth panel organised by another institute. Papers for these panels are by invitation.

2. Thematic Panels

These are panels organised by conveners on selected themes. Please refer to these themes

which are provided in a separate listing below. Those who wish to contribute a paper on any of the themes listed should contact the panel convener.

3. Panels Organised by Participants

Participants are also welcome to form their own panels in case the theme of their choice is outside the range of the themes provided in (2) or they would like to have their own set of panelists. However, they have to inform the Organising Committee who will then decide whether such a panel can be set up, and provide guidelines on the quality of papers to be accepted.

4. Omnibus Panels

Individual paper presenters are also welcome to contribute. The organisers will try to group such papers accordingly, either into any of the panels under (3) above if they fall under any of the themes, or otherwise in omnibus panels. Each omnibus panel can consist of papers that need not address a common theme or issue, but instead deal with a diverse range of subjects.

Description of Panels

A: Institutional Panels

(1) Panel organised by the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Theme: Discourses and Processes of Globalisation: Redefining Malaysian Studies

Description: The social sciences, Malaysian Studies in particular, needs to henceforth re-define its discursive and research orientations given contemporary globalisation processes. Notable economic, cultural and social developments that are increasingly dynamic and cross the boundaries of the nation-state require a change in the approach and methods of understanding the position and problems of the nation. Composed of local and foreign specialists in Malaysian Studies, this panel tries to equip the field to engage the discourses and processes of globalisation.

(2) Panel organised by the Institute of the Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Theme: Pluralism in the Malay World: A Critical Assessment

Chairperson & Commentator:
Prof. Syed Hussein Alatas

Invited Paper presenters :

Prof. Yuji Suzuki
Hosei University, Japan
Prof. Robert Hefner
Boston University, USA.
Prof. Shamsul A.B.
ATMA, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Prof. You Soo Chou
University of Sydney, Australia
Prof. Jim Collins,
ATMA, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Prof. Dr. Wan Zawawi Ibrahim
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)

Description: The Malay World is the maritime-riverine complex of Southeast Asia that shares many characteristics with the Mediterranean, one of which is its plurality. It is the nature of this pluralism that needs to be re-examined from time to time as the region evolves into the globalization era. The main objective of this panel is to conduct the re-examination.

B: Thematic Panels

1. *Theme:* Civil Society in Malaysia

Convener: Saliha Hasan
(saliha@pkrisc.cc.ukm.my)

Description: Discusses issues relating to the promotion and maintenance of civil society in Malaysia, such as human rights, political liberties, institutional freedom, etc.

2. *Theme:* Science & Technology in Malaysia

Convener: Dr. Mohd Hazim Shah
(j8hazim@umcsd.um.edu.my)

Description: Surveys and analyses of the development of Science & Technology in Malaysia over the last two decades. Focuses especially on government's efforts in formulating and implementing policies on science and technology, within the context of national and economic development.

3. *Theme:* Politics, Ethnicity and Religion

Convener: Dr E. T. Gomez
(terencegomez@hotmail.com)

Description: This panel welcomes research that provides an analysis of political cleavages in Malaysia. We are particularly interested in studies on social transformations and new political directions, with an emphasis on the themes of pluralism, secularism, equality and justice. Studies for this panel could include research on the importance of class, religion and ethnicity in political mobilisation in the post-crisis period. Among the topics that this panel would be interested in include analyses of the 1999 general elections, the impact of the new opposition coalition, factionalism in UMNO and the factors that hinder the promotion of democracy.

With the end of the 10-year National Development Policy, debates over the form of new government policies, specifically those relating to distribution of economic resources, appear to have been ethnicised, drawing attention to the feasibility of affirmative action initiatives. This panel welcomes papers that deal specifically with analyses of policies based on positive discrimination and the issue of ethnic and national identity as well as citizenship and rights.

Panel Coordinator: Edmund Terence Gomez
(e-mail: terencegomez@hotmail.com)

4. *Theme:* Business and Corporate Governance

Convener: Dr. E. T. Gomez
(e-mail as above)

Description: Deals with issues involving the governance of corporate and business enterprises in Malaysia, especially its relationship with the government and political parties. Questions of rent-seeking and to what extent Malaysian business operates in a free-market environment, and to what extent it is subject to government and political intervention, will also be discussed.

5. *Theme:* Health, Education & Social Services

Convener: Dr. Phua Kai Lit
(phuakl@imu.edu.my)

Description: Deals with issues relating to health, education and social services in Malaysia. The issues could either be dealt separately or in relation to one another.

6. *Theme:* Labour & Migration

Convener: Dr. Suresh Narayanan
(nsuresh@usm.my)

Description: Deals with problems and issues relating to the labour situation in Malaysia, especially with regard to foreign and migrant labour.

7. *Theme:* Sustaining and Governing Cities in the New Millennium

Convener: Dr. Sharifah Norazizan Rashid
(sharifah@eco1.upm.edu.my)

Description: The panel discussion explores possibilities of, and constraints in, creating sustainable living in a diverse and increasingly globalized environment. It also focuses on challenges for creating a just and a socially and politically viable mode of governance for globalized and hence increasingly diverse cities.

8. *Theme:* Kuala Lumpur – Klang Valley: The socio-spatial development of a city-region

Conveners: Tim Bunnell (geotgb@nus.edu.sg)
Paul Barter (geobpa@nus.edu.sg)

Description: A panel focussing on the transformation of Malaysia's premier metropolitan region. We welcome papers which analyse processes underlying the social and physical development of KL – Klang Valley as well as with the impacts and implications of such development. Possible topics include (but are certainly not restricted to) transportation infrastructure, consumption spaces, high-tech development/'intelligent' cities, housing provision, urban space and identity, etc.

We urge participants to submit their panels and/or abstracts by 28 February 2001 to:

MSC3 Secretariat
(Att: Mr. Foo Ah Hiang)
Institute of Postgraduate Studies & Research
University of Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Email: h1foo@umcsd.um.edu.my
Tel: 6-03-79673606 Fax: 6-03-79567252

SUDUT PANDANGAN / VIEWPOINTS

The 2001 K-Budget Proposals: "The Mind is Mightier than the Mouse"

Dr Collin R. Abraham
PSSM Life Member

The widespread public euphoria accompanying the 2001 budget proposals are indeed a welcome 'breath of fresh air' in what some have come to see as the 'dismal' science of economic planning. This positive response is understandable because the K-economy budget not only purports to propel the transformation of the national economy from manufacturing to technology, but also, and more importantly claims to provide the avenue for the dynamic integration of the people to the knowledge economy. This is most timely now, because the involvement of people through creative and innovative participation in the economic globalisation process, is absolutely essential to meet the extreme competition that will arise in the new millennium. Moreover, and of even greater significance is that the proposals attempt to directly address what is perhaps the greatest single challenging feature of Informa-

tion Communication Technology (ICT) which is internationally recognised as the 'digital divide' between the rich and the poor generally and in Malaysia particularly between the rural and urban populations.

It is essential to recognise however that these goals and objectives must necessarily remain on the drawing board and seen from wider macro societal perspectives because they are fraught with constraints in implementation mainly due to the mismatch between the rapid and revolutionary changes in the nature of the technology involved and the human capacity and ability to gain meaningful access to knowledge for effective implementation. Therefore, it is essential that some attention be given to questions involving implementation strategies. It is intended to do this by focussing on the theme that 'the mind is mightier than the mouse'.

Three specific dimensions of implementation will be discussed namely:

1. Structure
2. Content
3. Implementation

Structure

This term refers to the institutional arrangements that are in place for the organisation and delivery of the ICT nationwide including the K-budget proposals. The moot question here is where does the initiative to shift the base of manufacturing to industry lie, and whether the institutional instruments and arrangements here are adequate to provide the dynamic for the involvement of young industrialists with new ideas in such a manner as to be able to 'leap-frog' competitors in more developed countries.

Malaysia has had the unique advantage where the Government itself has taken the lead in setting up the foundations of the ICT industry and indeed has gone the 'extra mile' to involve the people in the growth and development of this industry through the Multimedia Super Corridor. The question has been raised however as to whether having set the basic foundations the Government itself should continue to play a controlling role or decentralise its role to private sector initiative to encourage relevant 'old economy' companies for instance to adopt innovative ideas to start up new strategies through access to venture capital. While it is recognised that Governments have experience in building good physical infrastructure and indeed may need to 'kick start' ICT the question can be legitimately raised as to whether this in itself is sufficient justification to continue to manage the industry bureaucratically. A simple 'test' can be administered here namely, "Are the rakyat talking about the knowledge economy? Are the university and the intellectual community 'excited' about these developments?"

It is submitted that if the people do not understand, have adequate access to, and see themselves as direct beneficiaries to ICT how can the programme be expected to succeed?

Content

Today we are caught up with what has been called a 'technology illusion' which threatens to

undermine the meaningful integration of people into the knowledge based economy and society in a meaningful way as projected in the budget proposals. The need is not only to develop creativity, innovation and flexibility in economic competitiveness in ICT but more importantly to develop individuals capable of independence of thought and action in life long learning with full citizen participation in the modern democratic civil society.

The 'technology illusion' can be identified from at least two specific dimensions. Firstly, that ICT in itself and by itself can solve all problems. This has resulted in an obsession for acquiring skills in the operation of the technology for its own sake without realising that technology is only a means to an end. While it is acknowledged that computers are designed to handle vast quantities of data only humans can process data in such a way as to apply it in a knowledgeable and meaningful way and to solve problems.

Technology companies are in fact selling this illusionary dream of the future, and unless we free ourselves from this illusion that merely putting a computer in front of someone by itself will generate the ability to access relevant information, the entire exercise of promoting e-government, e-commerce and smart schools etc. must surely fail to achieve the desired objectives. It is already becoming clear that some of the latest and most advanced technology that has been set up in some government departments remain idle while the staff still shuffle papers as long queues of customers wait patiently to be served.

The second dimension of the 'technology illusion' centres on the notion that the more information that is available and the faster it can be produced would in itself create new knowledge. As a result, there is a technology race to create faster computers and bigger hard drives to create information. Indeed, it has been noted that never before in human history have we been faced with such vast amounts of information.

But surely the question must be asked 'information for what?' It is here that we have the startling discovery from recent research under-

taken by the University of Berkeley in the US (Gerry McGovern) that: "There are 550 billion documents available in the entire Internet. I could safely say that 90 percent of these documents are rubbish." In other words, we are faced with a vast quantum of meaningless information overload where only the remaining 10 percent is relevant and meaningful for the creation of knowledge and its application for problem solving.

Therefore what we need, and need urgently, is thinking skills and critical thinking that enable us to seek out and get rid of junk and out of date information which is useless and to develop skills that enable us to search and select information better and be able to judge the quality of the information needed for the purpose intended.

It is therefore not surprising that Singapore which is touted as the world's first wired city now realises that its people lack critical thinking for independent learning and creativity.

And yet paradoxically the entire education system in Malaysia at tertiary and university level have yet to seriously consider the introduction of a comprehensive programme of computer literacy involving thinking skills, critical thinking and cognitive skills in their respective curricula despite the strong support for such skills by the Minister for Education and the Vice-chancellor of the University of Malaya.

The problem appears to be that the university bureaucracy is unable to comprehend the ideological implications of its defining role in producing thinking graduates who will be self-reliant, confident and capable of dynamic political leadership in the affairs of the nation. Universities therefore will be failing to provide the much needed supportive role of assisting the Government to achieve success in the implementation of the K-budget proposals now and in the future unless immediate steps are taken to implement such computer literacy programmes as a matter of priority.

Implementation

The central question here is how to motivate people to want to involve themselves and parti-

cipate fully in the K-economy. This can be taken up by focussing on two main aspects.

Firstly, it must be recognised that questions of participation cannot be viewed in isolation from the political, economic and social situation obtaining in the country.

This can be brought out clearly if we turn the saying ideally that, "Where there is a will there is a way"... to a more pragmatically saying, "Where there is a way there is a will."

Put simply, this means that a whole range of institutional reforms must be instituted before the 'trapped' potentials for human development can be unleashed for free and fair participation and involvement for all.

The democratisation of political and socio-economic institutions to enable participation in decision making at all levels as well as transparency in interpersonal dealings and interaction will therefore be a must. Also, particularly in agriculture, questions of land reform need to be taken up so that farmers could obtain land titles which in turn could be used as collateral for raising much needed investment capital for the development of their farms through participation in ICT.

Finally, there is the real problem of identifying specific social organisations and groups especially to work at grassroots level to ensure that the dynamism for change and development is 'bottom-top' and not by 'remote control' top-bottom strategies. Particular emphasis should be given to incorporating the emerging social movement of young women's groups who are committed to creating a better quality of life for their families. In this connection, there is also the need to coordinate the efforts of a wide range of voluntary organisations including co-operatives and certain NGO's to work together in the role of catalysts for social change. The recent pilot projects undertaken by the committee appointed by the Minister of Multimedia and Telecommunications (of which I happened to be a member) tapped the resources of Rukun Tetanga committees at grassroots level which revealed some interesting possibilities that should be pursued further. ■