

**Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at ISIS Malaysia**

**Public Lecture on  
“Multiculturalism and Nation Building in Plural and Divided Societies:  
Constitutional Experiences”**

**by  
Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Hj Shad Saleem Faruqi**

**18 September 2019**

**Welcoming Remarks by YBhg. Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa,  
Chairman and Chief Executive, ISIS Malaysia**

BISMILLAHİ RAHMANİ RAHİM

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHİ WABARAKATUH DAN SALAM  
SEJAHTERA

MENGHADAP

DULI YANG MAHA MULIA PADUKA SERI SULTAN PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN,  
SULTAN NAZRİN MUIZZUDDIN SHAH IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN AZLAN  
MUHIBBUDDIN SHAH AL-MAGHFUR-LAH, ROYAL FELLOW INSTITUT KAJIAN  
STRATEGIK DAN ANTARABANGSA (ISIS) MALAYSIA.

AMPUN TUANKU BERIBU AMPUN, SEMBAH PATIK MOHON DIAMPUN.

PATIK BAGI PIHAK ISIS MALAYSIA DENGAN PENUH HORMAT DAN  
TAKZIMNYA MERAFAK SEMBAH MENJUNJUNG SETINGGI-TINGGI KASIH DI  
ATAS LIMPAH PERKENAN DULI YANG MAHA MULIA TUANKU SUDI  
MENCEMAR DULI BERANGKAT KE MAJLIS PADA HARI INI. SESUNGGUHNYA  
KEBERANGKATAN DULI TUANKU AMAT BESAR ERTINYA KEPADA PATIK-  
PATIK SEKALIAN DAN AKAN MENAMBAHKAN LAGI SERI MAJLIS INI.

AMPUN TUANKU,

PATIK MOHON LIMPAH PERKENAN DULI YANG MAHA MULIA TUANKU UNTUK PATIK TURUT MENGALU-ALUKAN KEHADIRAN TETAMU YANG LAIN SERTA MENERUSKAN SEMBAH UCAPAN DALAM BAHASA INGGERIS.

**[NOTE: PAUSE FOR TUANKU TO NOD IN AGREEMENT]**

Yang Berbahagia Datin Paduka Dr Faridah Abdullah,  
Chairman of the Noah Foundation,

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Mohammed Rhiza Ghazi,  
Representative of the Late Tun Hussein Onn's Family,

Yang Berbahagia Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Hj Shad Saleem Faruqi,  
Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at ISIS Malaysia,

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia I welcome you to this event. ISIS Malaysia is pleased to organise once again a public lecture associated with the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at ISIS.
2. This lecture, entitled "Multiculturalism and Nation Building in Plural and Divided Societies: Constitutional Experiences" is a first by Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Hj Shad Saleem Faruqi, the Fourth Holder of the Tun Hussein Onn Chair. He has been appointed to the position from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30 June 2021. We can certainly look forward to more public lectures given by Professor Datuk Shad in the course of his tenure at ISIS.
3. Most Malaysians would know Professor Datuk Shad. He has been a renowned constitutional expert and esteemed scholar on legal matters. Mr Bunn Nagara, Senior Fellow at ISIS Malaysia will introduce him later.
4. We are all indeed deeply honoured and privileged that Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Al-Maghfur-Lah, who is also the Royal Fellow of ISIS Malaysia, has consented to grace this occasion with His Royal Highness' presence.

5. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the members of The Board of (ISIS Malaysia and) Noah Foundation and members of Tun Hussein Onn's family. We value their continued commitment and support to the Tun Hussein Onn Chair at ISIS.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. The Tun Hussein Onn Chair at ISIS is dedicated to the memory of Allahyarham Tun Hussein Onn, the nation's third Prime Minister and the first Chairman of ISIS. In particular, the Chair was established to honour the immense contributions made by Tun Hussein in shaping the nation, in the face of several challenges at home, within the region and globally.
7. The establishment of the Chair is aimed at contributing positively towards the intellectual discourse in a myriad of issues in Malaysia, as well as those of great interest to Malaysia, through quality research, public engagement and robust discussion.
8. We at ISIS remain grateful to the Noah Foundation and Allahyarham's family for the support and encouragement that they have given, and continue to give, towards ISIS and the Chair. We look forward to future collaboration for many more years to come.
9. A key part in achieving this is the necessity of securing worthy and experienced scholars to hold and steward the Chair. The first holder of the Chair was YBhg. Dato' Dr Muthiah Alagappa (2012-2013). He is a prominent international relations scholar. The second holder was Professor Dr Anthony Milner (2014-2015). He is a well-respected historian. The third holder was Professor Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram (2016-2017). He is a renowned economist with experience within the UN system. All have upheld the responsibilities and ideals entrusted to this Chair. Both ISIS and The Noah Foundation are confident that Professor Datuk Shad would equally live up to those responsibilities.
10. Allow me to highlight some key milestones of Tun Hussein Onn and his major role in guiding Malaysia during his tenure as Prime Minister, in shaping and cementing Malaysia's domestic and foreign policies.
11. Throughout his premiership, Tun Hussein was renowned for inheriting, continuing and improving upon the policies of his predecessors which were geared towards bridging the racial divide and putting an end to the pigeon-holing of the major ethnic groups into economic classes. There were also many new initiatives and policies inspired by him.

12. He launched the National Unit Trust Scheme (Amanah Saham Nasional) in April 1981 and he also gave serious consideration to the concept of Rukun Tetangga – the nationwide neighbourhood watch scheme.
13. He supported the notion of the national language as a tool for national unity. As a result, Bahasa Melayu became the medium of instruction in the national education system.
14. His emphasis on the issue of unity earned him the respectful title of “Father of Unity (Bapa Perpaduan)”. Unity is one word, ideal and concept that preoccupies most of us in looking at the current state of affairs within the country. And for that we should always remember Tun Hussein Onn and the principles he stood for.
15. Tun Hussein did not only advocate national unity in our country but also regional unity and cooperation under ASEAN. Tun Hussein was among the ASEAN leaders who gathered in Bali for ASEAN’s historic first Summit, held nine years after the signing of the ASEAN Declaration. He later chaired the Second ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 1977.
16. His skilful stewardship of national development and foreign policies paid dividends with a leap in foreign investment. The economy charted significant improvement with GDP growth at 7.7, 6.6 and 9.3 and 7.4 percent from 1977 to 1980 respectively.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. Allow me to bring up an enduring legacy and tribute to Tun Hussein’s Chairmanship at ISIS – the Asia Pacific Roundtable (APR), an international Track 2 conference that has placed ASEAN at the core of its annual deliberations. ISIS Malaysia, on behalf of and in collaboration with the ASEAN-ISIS network of think tanks, has organised 33 consecutive APRs so far.
18. We are hard at work finalising preparations for the upcoming 34<sup>th</sup> APR which will be held in mid-June 2020.
19. In its three decades, this roundtable has brought together great minds from around the world to ponder, reflect, debate and explore solutions on the region’s strategic challenges.

20. In today's challenging global and regional environment, and in the effort to achieve harmony and national unity, it is imperative for Malaysians to reflect on the importance of an in-depth understanding of the Malaysian constitution, and the experiences of other countries that are multiracial, multicultural and multi-religious like us.
21. The time is ripe for an examination of the theory and reality, the promise and performance of our Constitution, especially on the issue of national unity. I believe that is Professor Datuk Shad's intention today when he discusses the relevant issues in his lecture.
22. With these remarks, let me again welcome all of you. I am sure the lecture will be most insightful and beneficial to all of us.

Thank you.

AMPUN TUANKU,

SEKIANLAH SAHAJA SEMBAH UCAPAN PATIK. PATIK SEKALI LAGI DENGAN PENUH HORMAT DAN TAKZIMNYA MERAFAK SEMBAH MENJUNJUNG KASIH DI ATAS LIMPAH PERKENAN DULI YANG MAHA MULIA TUANKU SUDI MENCEMAR DULI BERANGKAT KE MAJLIS PADA HARI INI.

AMPUN TUANKU BERIBU AMPUN SEMBAH PATIK MOHON DIAMPUN.