

The Rector of UNISSA Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal with presenters of the CONPHA 2017 conference in a group photo

Islamic social financing, humanitarian aid system highlighted at CONPHA 2017

THE Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and Kolej Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Selangor (KUIS) recently hosted a conference on Philanthropy for Humanitarian Aid (CONPHA), which focussed on the need for a systematic strategy for the collection and allocation of funds through Zakat, Waqaf and Sadaqah.

During the two-day conference, more than 30 paperwork were presented and two main resolutions were adopted on a role for Islamic Social Finance and the implementation of a global platform for Muslim donors.

The first resolution identified how Islamic social finance could be used to alleviate poverty through recommended methods, such as Zakat and Waqaf, for the funding of humanitarian aid, the promotion of peace, education and empowerment programmes, and achieving sustainable development goals.

The second resolution, meanwhile, called for an efficient allocation system to safeguard the funding of humanitarian aid and assistance among Muslim donors.

The recent CONPHA 2017 was guided by the four principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. These principles have been central to mobilising and coordinating humanitarian action, as well as establishing and maintaining access to people in times of unprecedented displacement, caused by manmade and natural disasters.

At present, a few Muslim countries are emerging as humanitarian donors on the global stage, yet rarely involved in coordination mechanisms, which has gradually prompted a debate on what constitutes Islamic humanitarian aid and how it should be defined.

The conference was organised in collaboration with the Islamic Research and Training Institute, International Islamic Development Bank (IRTI-IDB), Saudi Arabia.

The guest of honour at the ceremony was the Rector of UNISSA Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal. The resolutions were presented by UNISSA lecturer, Professor Abdul Ghafar Ismail.

The ceremony also saw the presentation of certificates of appreciation to the presenters by Dr Haji Norarfan. The three best presenters received prizes sponsored by IRTI-IDB, presented by the Rector of KUIS Dato' Dr Ab Halim bin Tamuri.

Present at the ceremony were the Rector of KUIS, President of Sabahattin Zaim University in Turkey and the Deputy Rector of UNISSA.

Katok Secondary School holds food donation drive for students



Photo shows food donated to students under the Katok Secondary School's Miftaahun Najaah scheme. Principal of Katok Secondary School, Penroose Saleha binti Salleh is at right

AZROL AZMI

A DONATION drive to help students from lower income families was held at the Katok Secondary School yesterday.

The drive was an initiative of the Ministry of Education for students under the Miftaahun Najaah scheme. It aimed to help lower income families ease their financial burden.

Principal of Katok Secondary School, Penroose Saleha binti Salleh presented the food and

Meanwhile, the school also

organised another donation drive called Fastabiqul Khairat earlier in the morning where the school welcomed its community to donate food for students to help increase their breakfast intake.

This aimed to encourage students to come early to school and focus more in the classroom. It was organised by the school's Students Welfare Section and Volunteerism Club.

According to the Head of Student Welfare Section, Siti Haziqah binti Hasnan, the donation drive will be temporarily stopped during Ramadhan.



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More than 150 projects at UTB students' exhibition

THE Faculty of Engineering of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) yesterday organised an exhibition involving more than 150 projects.

The 'BEng Final Year Project Exhibition' - 'BEng' stands for Bachelor of Engineering - was officiated by the Vice-Chancellor of UTB, Professor Dr Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman. A total of 159 final year projects were showcased by 174 students from the civil engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, petroleum and chemical engineering, and mechanical engineering programmes.

These capstone projects gave students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to apply engineering design and research principles in solving real-world problems covering a diverse range of areas.

The exhibition included projects on water pollution, earthquake, substation grounding system, solar power, image processing, unmanned aerial vehicle, heat exchanger design, distillation column design and reactor design.

The Faculty of Engineering is the largest faculty in UTB with around 840 students and 77 academic staff. The faculty offers seven undergraduate degree programmes, with Masters and PhD programmes in the electrical and electronic, mechanical, civil, and petroleum and chemical engineering disciplines.



A project by UTB students at the exhibition