

UNITED KINGDOM & EIRE MALAYSIAN LAW STUDENTS' UNION

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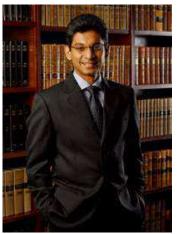


## **FOREWORD**

- President of Malaysian Bar 2015/16
- President of KPUM 2014/15

# **FOREWORD**

## PRESIDENT OF MALAYSIAN BAR 2015/16



It is my privilege to pen a few words on the occasion of the publication of the annual report of Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di United Kingdom dan Eire (KPUM) for the year 2014/2015. The Malaysian Bar greatly values the relationship that we have built with KPUM over the years. As you may recall, when a delegation of members of the Malaysian Bar travelled to the United Kingdom in November 2014 for our Legal Market Visit — and I was part of that delegation — we met with KPUM to re-affirm our close ties, engage with KPUM and to update KPUM on developments to the law and the legal profession in Malaysia.

It is important to the Malaysian Bar that we have close ties not only with KPUM but with all Malaysian law students — whether

they are pursuing their studies within or without Malaysia – because you are the future of the legal profession in Malaysia. We wish for all of you to know what the profession is about, what the Malaysian Bar is about and what the values that we as lawyers stand for.

The all-permeating feature of the law that sets out the parameters of all laws is conveniently encapsulated in the phrase "the rule of law". Sans written laws that govern lawyers, the rule of law is the unwritten code that enjoins and binds all lawyers.

His Royal Highness Almarhum Sultan Azlan Shah, who served as the royal patron of KPUM, was a great proponent of the rule of law and his immortal pronouncement in 1977 that Malaysia is founded on "a government of laws, not of men" destroyed any notion that the rule of law is to be equated with rule by law.

It is important to note that the codification of the rule of law for the Malaysian Bar is set out in, section 42(1) of our Legal Profession Act ("LPA") 1976, and particularly as follows states:

The purpose of the Malaysian Bar shall be –

(a) to uphold the cause of justice without regard to its own interests or that of its members, uninfluenced by fear or favour;

. . .

(g) to protect and assist the public in all matters touching ancillary or incidental to the law;

The rule of law requires lawyers and aspirants in the law to be prepared to be faithful servants to the cause of justice and the needs of society, often at personal disadvantage or peril. In this way, the rule of law defines the calling to be a lawyer and becomes a guiding light and a badge of honour for all of us who wish to be called lawyers.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Malaysian Bar.

Sincerely,

Steven Thiru

President

Malaysian Bar

#### PRESIDENT OF KPUM 2014/15



It is with great pride and honour that I welcome you to reading KPUM's Annual Report for the 2014/15 term.

Almost a year ago, my team and I took office in an AGM attended by not more than 10 people. KPUM was 35 years old by then and the Union's activity and reach was seen to be on an unfortunate decline. However, my team and I see the huge potential in a Union for Malaysian law students like ourselves to make a huge impact not just to the student body but also as a student body. And so we set out in our term on a project to "Rebrand, Renew and Rebuild" the Union to achieve our (also newly introduced) motto of "Uniting Law Students, Empowering Future Lawyers, Furthering the Rule of Law". We also restructured the administration of the Union into Exco, Executives, several sub-committees and introduced an army of Student Ambassadors as our representatives on the many campuses populated by Malaysian law students. In response to the recent increase in UK transfer degree students from local

institutions, we also amended our constitution to include law students pursuing a UK law degree who are based in Malaysia.

Nearly a year and 70 events later, I can only look back in disbelief at what we have achieved as a team in a matter of one year. The increase in number for our administrative group from 8 to nearly 40 is not just one that is for the ecstatic. This has directly translated into a lot more events and activities which helped us not just to engage the many Malaysian law students we have in the UK and Malaysia, but also to support them in terms of connectivity with the legal profession and a platform to stimulate intellectual discourse regarding legal and rule of law issues in Malaysia. This was also where we, as a Union, decided that it was about time that we as privileged students pursuing an overseas law degree speak up in the face of injustice as we started occasionally releasing statements in response to important current issues back home.

There are many other things that I would like to highlight with this limited amount of words I have, but just to name a few, we had the first ever KPUM Spring Formal, the revival of our Law Careers Convention in London, the first Strategic Litigation Camp and the restructuring of the 30 Days of Summer Internship Programme. The outreach team should also be highly credited for organizing court visits and KPUM Lepak sessions in each of the universities represented by our Student Ambassadors. I hope you will be able to read through this annual report on the great work that has been done by all our executives, ambassadors and sub-committees all around UK and in Malaysia, none of which credit I would take as my own.

Today we are known by law students and non-law students alike and we also play an active role in the wider Malaysian student body with other student organisations approaching us for collaborations as well as to provide legal advice. Being part of the UKEC (umbrella body for Malaysian student organisations in the UK) Supreme Council as KPUM President, I have also attempted in my capacity to lobby for wider access of grassroots student involvement in the operation of the Body to realise the strength of the collective voice of Malaysian students. There may be a lot more work to be done in this aspect, but I hope that this is a good start for Malaysian students to start collectively getting active and involved and to make the most out of their university life.

The publication of this Annual Report serves as a great conclusion to our wonderful term serving the Malaysian law student body. As a re-pioneering group, there were many new grounds that we had to break, new problems for us to solve and new lessons we had to learn together. As such, as big a group as we are, we have also grown quite close as friends. Personally, I could not ask for a better team to work and grow with.

With that, I hope you will be as moved and inspired as I am just looking at what a group of strong-willed young people can do when they come together in one vision. If this is what we can do in one year, I can only wonder where the Union will be in a few years to come. Nevertheless, I am humbled and honoured to be able to play a part in the history that this Union will continue to write.

Pang Jo Fan President 2014/15

kņum



#### THE TEAM 2014/15

- KPUM Executive Committee
- KPUM Executives
- KPUM Ambassadors

# **THE TEAM 2014/15**

# **KPUM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



**President:** Pang Jo Fan (BPTC; BPP University)



Vice President: Jasmine Cheng (LL.B Year 3, Queen Mary, University of London)



General Secretary: Cassandra Chung (LL..B Year 2, University of Nottingham)



Finance and Corporate
Relations Director: Foong Lily
(LL...B Year 3, London School of
Economics and Political Science)



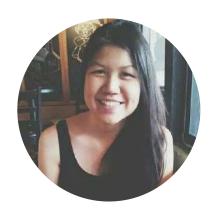
Careers Development
Director: Adrian Koh (LL.B Year
2, University of Bristol)



**Fellowship Director:** Shaun Kua (BPTC, BPP University)



Student Relations &
Outreach Director: Safwa
Tahir (LL.B Year 3, University of
Hertfordshire)



Malaysian Representative: Pauline Ting (LL.B Year 2, Brickfields Asia College)



Malaysian Representative: Kee Hui Yee (LL...B Year 2, Brickfields Asia College)

### **KPUM EXECUTIVES**



**Secretarial Executive:**Siti Aziemah (LL.B Year 2,
University of Bristol)



Finance and Corporate Relations Executive: Sean Tan (LL...B Year 2, Cardiff University)



Finance and Corporate Relations Executive: Ho Lye Tong (LL..B Year 3, University of Nottingham)



Finance and Corporate Relations Executive: Christine Lay (LL..B Year 3, University of Liverpool)



Finance and Corporate Relations Executive: Angel Khoo (LL...B Year 3, Brickfields Asia College)



**Fellowship Executive:** Teh Ee Chern (LL.B Year 3, Brickfields Asia Colleg)



Careers Development Executive: Leo Wai Kin (LL...B Year 2, University of Bristol)



Careers Development/ Fellowship Executive: Cheong Xin Chi (LL...B Year I, University College London)



**Fellowship Executive**: Declan Arthur Loke (LL..B Year I, Brickfields Asia College)



**Fellowship Executive:** Ethan Chau (LL...B Year 3, Brickfields Asia College)



**Fellowship Executive:**Grace Chai (LL..B Year I,
University of Warwick)



Fellowship Executive: Chong Han Jie (LL..B Year I, University of Warwick)



Fellowship Executive: Petra Tang (LL..B Year 2, University of Warwick)



Fellowship Executive:
Ryan Tan (LL..B Year I, London
School of Economics
and Political Science)



**Fellowship Executive**: Eunice Tang (LL..B Year 2, University of Warwick)



Student Relations and Outreach Executive: Kiu Yik Chiaw (LL.. B Year 2, Cardiff University)



Student Relations and Outreach Executive: Lee Su Wen (LL..B Year I, University of Manchester)



**Student Relations and Outreach Executive:**Karen Ngu (LL...B Year 3,
University of West England



**Student Relations and Outreach Executive:** Chew Yi Hsien (LL.. B Year 2, Kings College London)



**Performance and Delivery Executive:** Jason Yong (LL..B Year 2, Cardiff University)



**Marketing and Publicity** Executive: Joanne Hoh (LL.B Year 2, Brickfields Asia College)

# **KPUM AMBASSADORS**



Darinee Kunasegaran (LL.B Year 1, University College London)



Tan Yuan Sin (LL.B Year I, The School of Oriental and African Studies)



Sophia Choy (LL.B Year I, London School of Economics and Political Science)



Christy Chua (LL.B Year 2, University of Manchester)



Emily Chew (LL.B Year I, University of Bristol)



Lee Yuan Yao (LL.B Year 2, University of Warwick)



Michael Cheah (LL.B Year 3, University of Leeds)



Daniel Hong (LL.B Year 3, Northumbria University)



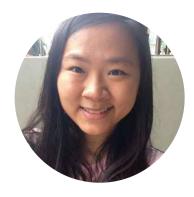
Joanna Lee (LL.B Year 3, University of Hull)



Hadhinah Hairudin (LL.B Year I, University of Essex)



Boo Cheng Xuan (LL.B Year 2, University of Liverpool)



Khor Wei Jun (LL.B Year I, University of Nottingham)



Tan Ian (LL.B Year I, University of Birmingham)



#### **SPONSORS AND PARTNERS 2014/15**

- Main Sponsors
- Special Affiliates
- Other Sponsors and Partners
  30 Days of Summer Internship Programme Partners 2015
- ASASI Internship Programme Partners 2015

# MAIN SPONSORS

# Zaidlbrahim&co





"Zaid Ibrahim & Co is a member of ZICOlaw. It is amongst Malaysia's leading law firms and one of the most highly regarded. Always committed to providing high-quality legal services, ZICOlaw has earned a reputation for its ability to devise innovative and workable solutions to satisfy the complex needs of its clients.

The firm's impressive track record features engagements by local and multinational corporations on unique and complex commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions exercises, fundraising on large infrastructure projects in Asian emerging markets, as well as strategic law reform initiatives."

Platinum Sponsor: Brickfields Asia College

"Brickfields Asia College (BAC) has established itself as the Fastest & Smartest Way to UK Law & Business degrees. The college has established an excellent reputation as a provider of quality education and its graduates are highly sought after by local and international firms in both the public and private sectors.

BAC currently has partnerships and affiliations with more than 25 foreign universities and professional organisations, offering its students access to over 100 world-class Law and Business degrees and professional qualifications that can be completed either locally or abroad."

Gold Sponsor: LexisNexis Malaysia

"LexisNexis® is a leading global provider of content-enabled work-flow solutions designed specifically for professionals in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting, and academic markets. LexisNexis originally pioneered online information with its Lexis® and Nexis® services. Part of Reed Elsevier, LexisNexis Legal & Professional serves customers in more than 100 countries with 10,000 employees worldwide"

# SPECIAL PARTNERS







Teach for Malaysia (TFM)

"TFM is an independent, not-for-profit organisation with a mission to end education inequity in Malaysia. The TFM Fellowship is a two-year, full time and fully paid leadership development programme modelled after the extremely successful Teach For America initiative. We seek outstanding leaders who are passionate about making a lasting impact in the lives of students in the country's most underserved areas. These carefully selected individuals - known as Fellows - are placed in high-need schools across Malaysia for two years, working to increase achievement, affect and access for their students and to affect positive, sustainable change within the communities they serve. After two years, Fellows become part of TFM's Alumni movement, working to make systemic, long term changes in the battle against education inequity."

Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR)

"MCCHR is a non-governmental organisation focused on promoting and protecting human rights in Malaysia. Established in March 2011, the MCCHR's main activities includes UndiMsia!, its civic education programme and its strategic litigation programme."

eLawyer Malaysia

"eLawyer was launched in November 2007 with the aim to serve the legal industry in Malaysia and to create legal awareness amongst the general public via technology. Within a short span of time, eLawyer has evolved to become a reputable and popular law portal in Malaysia with strong online appearance and reports by various local press media. We provide comprehensive services to lawyers as well as to the general public."

# **SPECIAL AFFLIATES**





The Intern Insider

"The Intern Insider began as a peer-to-peer site, only involving what students had to say to each other about their internship experiences. We have since decided to have companies on board, by inviting them to purchase subscriptions which allow them to advertise internship openings on their own profile pages. The aim is for The Intern Insider to become the one-stop center for internships in Malaysia, where users can browse current opportunities and compare feedback from interns in the past."

Asian Law Students Association (ALSA)

"ALSA is a non-political, non-profit association that welcomes cultural diversity and advances the professionalism and hard-working ethic that in which are the evident characteristics of Asians. ALSA has become and is continually improving as a premier association that provides the venue for bright law students to develop as future leaders and major players of Asia"

# OTHER SPONSORS AND PARTNERS







The Malaysian Bar

"The Malaysian Bar is a creature of statute established under the Advocates and Solicitors' Ordinance 1947 which ordinance was subsequently repealed by the Legal Profession Act 1976. It is an independent Bar whose aim is to uphold the rule of law and the cause of justice and protect the interest of the legal profession as well as that of

Prime Minister's Office

"The Prime Minister's Office is a federal government ministry in Malaysia. It is headed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia followed by other ministers in the Prime Minister's Department. Among its many departments include the Law Ministry and Performance Management and Economic Delivery Unity (PEMANDU)."

Sreenevasan Advocates & Solicitors

"Sreenevasan's lawyers are experienced in civil, commercial and corporate litigation as well as employment and administrative law. The firm has a client base that ranges from individuals and small businesses, to local and multinational corporations. The firm also continues to enjoy a high reputation in intellectual property litigation and has been rated by international publications such as Managing Intellectual Property as a first tier Malaysian law firm for trade mark, copyright and patent litigation."



Hafarizam Wan & Aisha Mubarak Advocate and Solicitors

"The mission of Hafarizam Wan & Aisha Mubarak is to provide reliable, efficient, dependable professional legal and corporate services to facilitate transactions and problem solutions. We bring to our clients a team of professionals with diverse expertise and experience that will foster confidence between the clients and our legal team. We

have been appointed as solicitors for considerable number of corporate and private transactions. Our reputation has expanded promisingly well and our client base in Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur is growing. We have been engaged in numerous corporate secretarial and corporate litigation cases which includes several land base, corporate social responsibility, banking and criminal matters since the inception of the firm."



Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors

"Our success is measured by how well we achieve our clients' business and legal objectives, whilst advancing their interests. We are committed to providing personalised and cost-effective service, as well as practical and innovative solutions.

Thomas Philip represents clients in the following dispute resolution forums: Federal Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, Sessions Court, Arbitration and Mediation"



Malik Imtiaz Sawar// Malik Imtiaz Sawar Advocates and Solicitors

"The firm was established by Malik Imtiaz Sarwar in 1997 and has developed into one of the country's leading litigation practices, operating predominantly as a counsel's practice.

Malik Imtiaz is an activist who has been at the forefront of efforts to promote the Rule of Law and civil liberties in Malaysia. Called to the Malaysian Bar in 1994 he has practiced law since, primarily in the areas of civil and commercial, constitutional and public interest litigation. He is a member of the Bar Council, and is involved in the administrative aspects of the system of justice."



Roger Chan// Chan Weng Keng & Associates

"Roger currently serves as Co-Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee (HRC) and also Co-Chairperson of the Environmental and Climate Change Committee (ECC). In terms of civil society work, Roger chairs a coalition of civil society organisations calling for the national ratification of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966 (ICESCR).

He represented the Malaysian Bar in all the Suhakam Public Inquiries since 2006 and in some of these, assisted or led in the drafting of the Bar Council's Reports on Submission of Observations as well as their recommendations."



Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA)

"KLRCA was the first regional centre in Asia to provide institutional support as a neutral and independent venue for the conduct of domestic and international arbitration proceedings in Asia.

KLRCA was also established pursuant to a host country agreement with the Government of Malaysia. Furthermore, it is a non-profit, non-governmental and independent international body. It was also the first centre in the world to adopt the UNCITRAL Rules for Arbitration as revised in 2010. There has been a tremendous interest in the i-Arbitration Rules and this is evident with KLRCA winning the prestigious Global Arbitration Review Award for 'innovation by an individual or organisation in 2012."







Kelab UMNO London

"Established in 1970, London UMNO Club is one of the 74 Overseas UMNO clubs around the world. The club members consists of undergraduates, postgraduates, young professionals and permanent residents based in London and the surrounding region. The club strives to provide a wholesome community living experience for Malaysians in London (and United Kingdom) and organize wide range of high quality events based on our 4 core areas; Academic, Welfare, Religion and Sports.

Despite the name being derived from the current ruling party in Malaysia, the club is apolitical in its management and organization. This club is dynamic and youth-driven with dedicated committee members consist of undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as professionals."

United Kingdom and Eire (Ireland) Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC)

"Officially founded in 1995, the council serves as a common platform of interaction for Malaysian students across the region, at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels. UKEC traces its humble origins as far back as the pre-war years when a group of hopeful students initiated an unofficial student movement in London.

This movement was instrumental in creating a socio-political network among the educated Malayans back then. Camaraderie created through this network pioneered the fight for independence and later helped establish Malaya's post-Merdeka governments. The country's first two premiers, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj and Tun Abdul Razak were among the prominent members of the network. It has been widely said that the nation first two premiers started discussing the road to independence in the 1940s."

Monsoons Book Club

"Monsoons Book Club is a non-profit making association of concerned individuals interested in books and ideas relevant to the social, political and economic progress in the South East Asian region. Our goals are to promote the reading of books which offer challenging ideas for social change and to encourage discussions and critical thinking about the social, political and economic progress in the region. Our objectives are to create a platform for people from all walks of life, including writers, intellectuals, artists, researchers and politicians to inform, share their thoughts, challenge conventional views, and be challenged and to disseminate reports and recordings of such events to a wider audience through written and audio visual media."

# THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE INNER TEMPLE

# Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill

"The Inner Temple is one of the four Inns of Court and here you can find information on how to become a barrister; how to join the Inn; scholarships; student barrister (BPTC) qualifying sessions; CPD for practising barristers and social events. You will also be able to find out about the Inner Temple's history, from its buildings to some of its more famous members; filming and even hosting your own function at Inner Temple. As one of the four Inns of Courts, the Inner Temple has welcomed numerous famous members including Malaysia's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman."

Lee Hishammudin Allen & Gledhill

"Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill is a multi-practice law firm offering top quality service as well as providing personalised legal representation to both businesses and individuals. The firm is recognised for its ability to combine all areas of expertise and experience, giving our clients a competitive edge as well as optimum results."



Raja, Darryl & Loh

"Raja, Darryl & Loh currently ranks as one of the larger law firms in Malaysia. Our client base includes financial institutions, multinationals, public-listed companies, corporations, small & medium enterprises and individuals. Presently, we have more than 65 legal practitioners. Our practice areas include, among other things, Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution, Aviation, Banking and Finance, Capital Markets, Commercial Law, Companies and Company Secretarial Support, Competition Law, and many others"

# 30 DAYS OF SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME PARTNERS 2015

Zaid Ibrahim and Co.

Zaid**lbrahim**&co

"Zaid Ibrahim & Co is a member of ZICOlaw. It is amongst Malaysia's leading law firms and one of the most highly regarded. Always committed to providing high-quality legal services, ZICOlaw has earned a reputation for its ability to devise innovative and workable solutions to satisfy the complex needs of its clients.

The firm's impressive track record features engagements by local and multinational corporations on unique and complex commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions exercises, fundraising on large infrastructure projects in Asian emerging markets, as well as strategic law reform initiatives."

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Azmi & Associates



"Azmi & Associates is a full-service international law firm that was founded on the principle that we would succeed only if we deliver prompt, high-quality and cost-effective services to our clientele. We progressively strive to be a world-class corporate and commercial law firm, providing integrated, innovative and comprehensive solutions globally by synergising human capital, technology and best practices.

With more than 100 professionals and support personnel and the 7th largest law firm in Malaysia, the Firm offers world-class expertise in the following areas: Foreign Investment, Corporate & Commercial, Mergers & Acquisitions and many others"

# SKRINE Skrine

"Skrine is a full-service law firm and one of the largest firms in Malaysia, with over 100 lawyers. It has been ranked as the Who's Who Legal Malaysian Law Firm of the Year 2014 and has leading lawyers ranked in the Legal 500 Asia-Pacific and Chambers Asia-Pacific. The firm is also the exclusive member firm in Malaysia for Lex Mundi – the world's leading network of independent law firms with in-depth experience in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Skrine's culture is special. Although we encourage individual talent, personal initiative and innovativeness, the working atmosphere is genuinely friendly with a team spirit and camaraderie that pervades all levels of our firm from pupils and associates to the partners. The fact that the majority of our partners and senior associates were former pupils in Skrine is a testament to the conducive working environment and to their unswerving loyalties."

# THOMAS PHILIP ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors

"Our success is measured by how well we achieve our clients' business and legal objectives, whilst advancing their interests. We are committed to providing personalised and cost-effective service, as well as practical and innovative solutions.

Thomas Philip represents clients in the following dispute resolution forums: Federal Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, Sessions Court, Arbitration and Mediation"

# Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill

Lee Hishammudin Allen & Gledhill

"Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill is a multi-practice law firm offering top quality service as well as providing personalised legal representation to both businesses and individuals. The firm is recognised for its ability to combine all areas of expertise and experience, giving our clients a competitive edge as well as optimum results.

Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill was formed when the partners of Lee Hishammuddin and Allen & Gledhill decided to combine their strengths into one entity. With its expanded wealth of knowledge and experience the firm has established itself amongst the top multi-practice firms in Malaysia.

We have offices throughout Malaysia, with the head office in Kuala Lumpur, and other offices in Johor and Penang."



Christopher & Lee Ong

"Formed in 2013 as the result of a merger between three Malaysian law firms, Christopher & Lee Ong is led by a senior team of Malaysia-qualified partners who have accumulated considerable experience over the years in the Malaysian legal market. Our aim is to provide a truly collaborative approach in the best interests of our clients. At Christopher & Lee Ong, we firmly believe that a winning performance for our clients depends on a truly co-operative and collaborative approach to the practice of law. We also have strong and long-established working relationships with top international law firms, as well as leading accountancy firms, forensic accountants and commercial investigators."

# ASASI INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME PARTNERS 2015



Center for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC)

"COAC was established in 1989 to advance the cause of the Orang Asli -

whether via the greater dissemination of Orang Asli news and views, assisting in court cases involving Orang Asli rights, or in developing arguments for lobbying and advocacy work."

#### Women's Aid Organisation

"Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) provides social work and counseling services for domestic violence survivors and advocates for women's human rights. Call our counselling line at 03 7956 3488 or SMS TINA at 018 988 8058 if you or someone you know is experiencing abuse. Together, we change lives."





Penang Institute

"The Penang Institute is the public policy think tank of the state government of Penang. Established in 1997 as the Socio-economic and Environmental Research Institute (SERI), it has now been rebranded to better reflect the aspirations of the state to transform Penang into an international and intelligent city.

Penang Institute also constantly engages the public by promoting and highlighting various issues of local, national and regional concern through facilitating conferences, lectures, workshops and public seminars.

Penang Institute is governed by a board of directors with the Chief Minister of Penang as its chair. It houses more than 20 researchers and writers, and is currently led by Executive Director YB Zairil Khir Johari."

Shook Lin & Bok



"The firm has distinguished itself in its commitment to high standards of professionalism and integrity for

over nine decades. It has built on that heritage and continues to invest in the development of its human resources, team of legal practitioners and infrastructural resources, including the latest technological systems, for the benefit of its clients. Always solution-focused, the firm prides itself not just in highlighting pitfalls in transactions but also in providing alternatives.

The latest in online legal research facilities enhances and complements one of the most comprehensive traditional library facilities in the country, enabling the firm to deliver on its mission of service with effectiveness and efficiency."



Lawyers for Liberty

"Lawyers for Liberty is a human rights lawyers' organisation that seeks to protect and promote human rights and civil liberties for all including those most

at risk – human rights defenders, students, grassroots activists, opposition politicians and members of Parliament, and ordinary Malaysians who have asserted and demanded their rights.

We are a collective of lawyers and activists who believe in the universality of human rights, the value of individual human dignity, and equal treatment and fairness as the foundation of a democratic and just society."

#### MCCHR



"MCCHR is a non-governmental organisation focused on promoting and protecting human rights in Malaysia. Established in March 2011, the MCCHR's main activities includes UndiMsia!, its civic education programme and its strategic litigation programme."







"In response to the growing need for informed analysis and discussion on public policies, ASLI has established the CPPS. CPPS is an independent and non-partisan public policy institute that aims at fostering open-minded dialogue, enlightened leadership and better governance. CPPS upholds an independent, non-partisan and non-racial stance in its research and other policy-oriented activities."



Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS)

"The IDEAS is inspired by the vision of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj, the first Prime Minister of Malaysia. IDEAS shares his vision as stated in the 1957 Proclamation of Independence that this nation should:

'be for ever a sovereign democratic and independent State founded upon the principles of liberty and justice and ever seeking the welfare and happiness of its people and the maintenance of a just peace among all nations'

IDEAS is Malaysia's first think-tank dedicated to promoting market-based solutions to public policy challenges. We are an independent not-for-profit organisation. As a cross-partisan think tank, we work across the political spectrum. Our purpose is to advance market-based principles, and we are not bound by party politics, race or religion."

Malik Imtiaz Sawar// Malik Imtiaz Sawar Advocates and Solicitors

#### MALIK IMTIAZ SARWAR Advocates & Solicitors

"The firm was established by Malik Imtiaz Sarwar in 1997 and has developed into one of the country's leading litigation practices, operating predominantly as a counsel's practice.

Malik Imtiaz is an activist who has been at the forefront of efforts to promote the Rule of Law and civil liberties in Malaysia. Called to the Malaysian Bar in 1994 he has practiced law since, primarily in the areas of civil and commercial, constitutional and public interest litigation. He is a member of the Bar Council, and is involved in the administrative aspects of the system of justice."



BON

Edmund Bon// Bon Advocates

"Practising the values and virtues of the Malaysian Bar, BON's advocates spend significant time on pro bono legal services and representation for the impecunious particularly in matters of public interest. Fees earned are, in part, channelled towards funding legal work for the lower-income group. In the larger scheme of the profession, BON's cause through its Collective of Applied Law and Legal Realism (CALR) is to revolutionise the law, radicalise the lawyers and re-shape legal education."

#### Honey Tan// Tan Law Practice



"Besides being a Family Law practitioner, Honey is engaged in public interest litigation in the areas of equality and non-discrimination.

In Malaysia, she often trains pupils and young lawyers in the areas of Feminisms and Feminist Perspectives of

the Law, Family Law, Domestic Violence and strategic public interest litigation. Abroad, Honey regularly runs workshops for the United Nations Entity on the Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality (UN Women) in the areas of equality and non-discrimination.

Honey is the spokesperson and lead writer of the report submitted by the Coalition of Malaysian NGOs in the UPR Process (COMANGO) to the UN Office of the High Commission of Human Rights for Malaysia's 2nd universal periodic review (UPR) in 2013 by the UN Human Rights Council."

#### Roger Chan// Chan Weng Keng & Associates

"Roger currently serves as Co-Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee (HRC) and also Co-Chairperson of the Environmental and Climate Change Committee (ECC). In terms of civil society work, Roger chairs a coalition of civil society organisations calling for the national ratification of the International Covenant of Economic, Social



and Cultural Rights 1966 (ICESCR).

He represented the Malaysian Bar in all the Suhakam Public Inquiries since 2006 and in some of these, assisted or led in the drafting of the Bar Council's Reports on Submission of Observations as well as their recommen-



## MEMBERSHIP ROLL AND PUBLICITY

Membership Roll

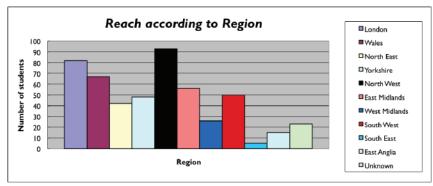
- United Kingdom
- Malaysia
- Overall Reach

#### **Publicity**

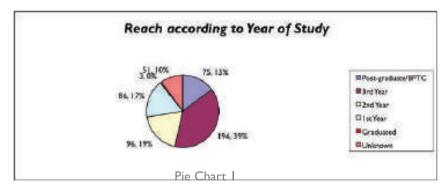
- Rebranding
- Internet
- Others

# MEMBERSHIP ROLL

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**



Bar Chart I



Total number of members that came in contact with KPUM 2014/15: 507 students

#### Universities

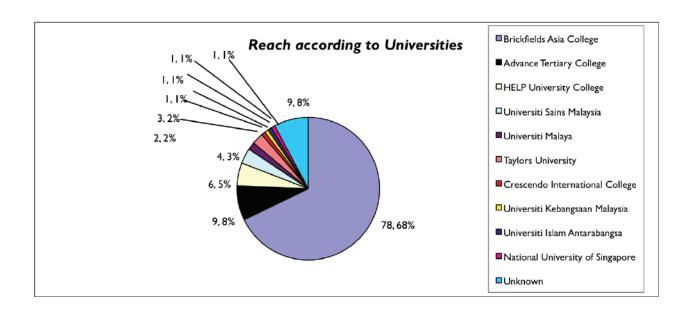
- I.London Region
  - a)BPP University
  - b)City University
  - c)Imperial College
  - d)Kings College
  - e)London School of Economics
  - & Political Science
  - f)Queen Mary,
  - University of London
  - g)School of Oriental and African Studies
  - h) University College London
  - i) University of Law
- 2. Wales Region a) Abersytwth University b)Cardiff University

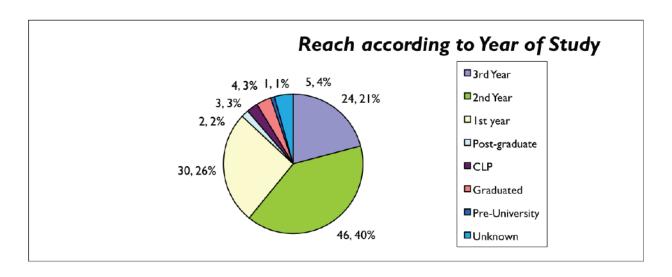
- 3. North East Region
  - a) Northumbria University
  - b) Durham University
- 4. Yorkshire Region
  - a)University of Leeds
  - b)University of Hull
  - c)University of Sheffield
- 5.North West Region a)University of Manchester
- b)University of Liverpool
- 6.East Midlands Region a)University of Nottingham
  - b)University of Leicester

  - c)University of Hertfordshire

- 7. West Midlands Region a)University of Warwick b)University of Birmingham c)University of Oxford
- 8.East Anglia Region a)University of Essex
- 9. South West Region a)University of Bristol b)University of West of England
- 10.South East Region a)University of Kent b)University of Portsmouth c)University of Reading
- I I.East Anglia Region a)University of Essex b)University of Cambridge

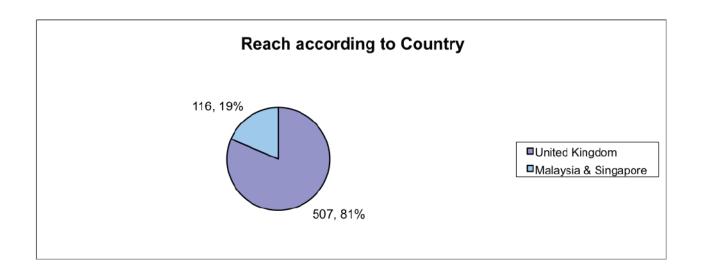
# **MALAYSIA**

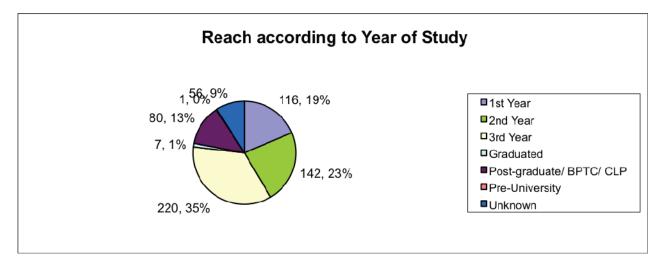




Total number of students that came in contact with KPUM 2014/15:115 students

# **OVERALL REACH**





Total number of students that came in contact with KPUM 2014/15: 622 students

# **PUBLICITY**

#### REBRANDING



#KPUM3R was a term-long campaign under the new executive committee of KPUM 2014/15 to:

**RENEW** the reputation and the prestige that this union of three decades used to have

**REBUILD** the foundations of the union and relationships with the rest of the student body and the legal profession **REBRAND** the union as a progressive and dynamic body eager to benefit the law student body in UK as well as add value to the legal profession

**INTRODUCE** a motto for the union as the philosophy of our commitment and cause in which we defend: Uniting Law Students, Empowering Future Lawyers, Upholding the Rule of Law. All efforts were catered to achieving these goals. We are a law students' union, not an event management society

**ENSURE** that the foundations, values and work in which we will build during our term will be smoothly and entirely be transitioned to an equally or even capable team in the coming terms

#### **RENEW**

We aimed to renew this union into a union that is relevant, dynamic and progressive. In order to do so, the action plan was two folds.

Firstly, we aimed to establish wide-ranging corporate relationships with law and non-law firms as well as to establish relevant affiliations and partnerships with different bodies and organisations with similar objectives and values. These partnerships were either financial or non-financial. Financial partnerships were done through a tier sponsorship system in which firms would opt for a term-long tier sponsorship package most suited for them. This was more stable and struc-

tured than the previously employed project-by-project basis sponsorship system. Non-financial partnership came in through mutually beneficial resource sharing or publicity.

The second fold was to re-establish relationships with the law student body through having a lot more activities, beneficial and relevant to Malaysian law students such as road shows and field trips. We established a KPUM Executive Programme (KEP) whereby law students could apply to shadow an Executive Committee member to learn and help out as well as to co-lead any of our newly-introduced ad-hoc or sub-committees. Ad-hoc

and sub-committees were introduced this term not just to spread out the larger workload that we had but also to provide law students with more opportunities to participate in KPUM initiatives. The KPUM Fellowship served a similar purpose for law students with specific interests. Besides, the Malaysian legal education sphere has undergone a lot of change in the past 35 years; there was now a large pool of Malaysian law students who are in the UK Transfer Program in local universities for their first or first two years of law school. Hence, we decided that it was time to expand our jurisdiction to cover this pool of law students.

#### **REBRAND**

We introduced a new modern-looking KPUM logo in replacement of the old one which has served us for over 30 years to show our commitment towards breathing a new life into this union to be more professional, dynamic and progressive. All KPUM official documents and templates would also now have a standardized format and design.

Old logo



New logo



We also produced a professional Prospectus and Sponsorship Packages booklet with this branding in mind to be distributed to potential sponsors and partners. We aimed also to be able to publish a good and thick professional Annual Report by the end of our term as a testament to #KPUM3R.

#### REBUILD

As mentioned above, ad-hoc committees and sub-committees were established in order to streamline the various workloads into efficient systems, supported with the proper amount of manpower required for the specific event or project. This allowed us to be able to do more and have a larger impact as compared to the past where our initiatives were only limited solely to the amount of talents present within the Executive Committee itself.

The KEP, as aforementioned, served as a good "breeding ground" for the successors of the current committee. Great committees leave too often without comparable successors.

Hence through the KEP and ad-hoc/sub-committees, we we were able to spot capable talents through our experience of working with them in these various projects to follow up and expand further on what we have already achieved. Having a good amount of time working with the Executive Committee members and co-leading KPUM projects, these students have caught the vision of #KPUM3R as well as formed valuable relationships with fellow Executives or sub-committee members.

We also started to emphasise the need for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for every portfolio, projects, events and ad-hoc/sub-committees as well as the need to properly store all related documentations and evaluations from past events. This initiative. together with talent-spotting strategy, would prevent the need for the new committee to face the issue of "starting from a blank sheet" and instead be able to move on directly to improve and innovate on what we already have and further develop this 35 year old union.

# INTERNET

## **FACEBOOK**

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/KPUM79 (1964 likes)



## **TWITTER**

Twitter: https://twitter.com/KPUM79 (381 followers)



### **WEBSITE**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/





## **KPUM TIDBITS**

KPUM Tidbits is an initiative by the Secretarial Department to constantly update members on upcoming activities. A total of 3 issues were sent out to members of the union whose emails are stored in Google groups. The Google groups were also used to email members informing them of activities planned at the last minute.

# **INSTAGRAM**

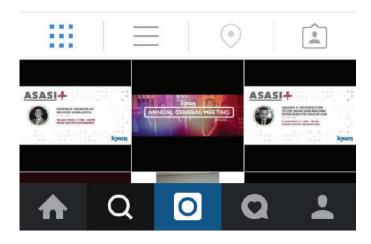
Instagram: KPUM79 (30 followers)



#### **KPUM**

KPUM exists to promote the interests of every Malaysian law students enrolled at a university in the UK & Ireland

www.kpum.org



# **OTHERS**

Nottingham Malaysian Games (known to many as Notts Games) is the largest sporting event of its kind, attracting an average of 5000 members of Malaysian-related university societies from all over England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. In 2014, Nottingham Malaysian Society held the Notts Games on 21 November 2014. KPUM seized the opportunity to open up a booth to the public for the purpose of explaining our goals and promoting KPUM's activities. We also handed out flyers to the public containing short and concise information on KPUM.





Photo taken at Nottingham Malaysian Games Booth | 21 November 2014 | University of Nottingham.

## STUDENT RELATIONS AND OUTREACH

- Road Shows
- KPUM Ambassador Programme
- KPUM Lepak
- Lawatan Sambil Belajar
- Rentap Project
- KPUM Book Exchange

# STUDENT RELATIONS & OUTREACH

The Student Relations and Outreach Department was instrumental in KPUM's growth in reach for the term 2014/15. This new department was created as the Executive Committee saw the need to reach out to more students as KPUM sought to expand its jurisdiction. The various activities held this year are as follows:

- I.Road Shows
- 2.KPUM Ambassador Programme
- 3.Lawatan Sambil Belajar
- 4.Rentap Project
- 5.KPUM Book Exchange



Photo taken at Lawatan Sambil Belajar 27 March 2015 The Honourable Society of Inner Temple

# **ROAD SHOWS**



As the Union began rebuilding itself from scratch, it came to KPUM's attention that many students were not aware of the existence of KPUM and the Union's relevance in their lives as Law students. To solve this problem, the Student Outreach and Relations Department came up with KPUM Road Shows in which KPUM would liaise with Malaysian Societies in universities where Malaysian Law students were studying. Each road show contained a presentation of what KPUM was about, its various initiatives and steps on how students could get involved. Each road show was conducted by I or 2 persons who were either a part of the Executive Committee, an Executive or an Ambassador.

Below is the timeline of the various road shows that were held over the year and the following avenues used to promote each road show.

**October** University of Warwick (19th) City Law School (31st)

**January** Brickfields Asia College KL (8th) Brickfields Asia College PJ (12th)

**March** KDU University College (4th)
University of Reading
(6th) University of Hertfordshire (9th) Taylors University (18th) University of Birmingham (21st)











**November** University of West of England (6th) University of Bristol (8th) University of Nottingham (15th)

February University of Leeds (7th) University of Sheffield (13th)

Date	University	Website	Facebook
19-Oct-14	University of Warwick	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road- show.afternoon-tea-warwirk/	https://www.facebook.com/events/553142571499264/?ref=5&ac-rion_history=null
31-Oct-14	City Law School	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road-show.coffee-with-city.law.school.etudents-2/	https://www.facebook.com/events/900272849992044/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null
6-Nov-14	University of West of England	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road-	https://www.facebook.com/events/1525233031049917/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null
8-Nov-14	University of Bristol	silow-illeet-gleet-at-uwe-bilstol/ http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road- show-affernoon-fea-Iniversity-of-bristol/	https://www.facebook.com/events/728518750567311/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null
15-Nov-14	University of Nottingham	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road-	https://www.facebook.com/events/1504070776543482/?ref=5&ac-
8-Jan-15	Brickfields Asia College KL	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road-show.hric/fields-asis-college-ll-campus/	https://www.facebook.com/events/1394820360820823/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null
12-Jan-15	Brickfields Asia College PJ	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road- show, briel/fields asia college ai campus/	https://www.facebook.com/events/710013629095842/?ref=5&ac-
7-Feb-15	University of Leeds	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road-show.inivarsity.of-leads/	https://www.facebook.com/events/371780509670946/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null
13-Feb-15	University of Sheffield	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road- show.university.of-sheffield/	https://www.facebook.com/events/848604491862623/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null
4-Mar-15	KDU University College	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road-shows/kdu-injversity.college.7/	https://www.facebook.com/events/708939255886053/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null
6-Mar-15	University of Reading	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road-show.univarsity.of-reading/	https://www.facebook.com/events/1591232921094975/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null
9-Mar-15	University of Hertfordshire	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road- show-university-of-hertfordshire/	https://www.facebook.com/events/416605605181426/?ref=5&action_history=null
18-Mar-15	Taylors University	n/a	n/a
21-Mar-15	University of Birmingham	http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-road-	https://www.facebook.com/events/435297936625127/?ref=5&ac-tion_history=null

# KPUM AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME



On 14 December 2014, the Student Outreach and Relations Department launched the KPUM Student Ambassador Programme. Initially open to 18 universities, the department added 2 more universities to the list and the final list of universities were as follows:

I.Aberystwyth University

2.Cardiff University

3.King's College London

4.London School of Economics and

Political Science (LSE)

5. Northumbria University

6.Queen Mary University of London

7. The School of Oriental and African

Studies (SOAS)

8. University College London (UCL)

9.University of Bristol

10.University of Hertfordshire

11.University of Hull

12.University of Leeds

13.University of Liverpool

14.University of Nottingham

15.University of Reading

16.University of Sheffield

17.University of Warwick

18. University of West of England,

Bristol (UWE)

19.University of Essex

20.University of Birmingham

The main job scope of these ambassadors was to increase awareness on KPUM, to obtain statistics on Malaysian Law students and, to develop and maintain a good relationship with the Malaysian Societies in their respective universities.

Apart from having to provide their basic details and CVs, applicants were required to state the reasons on why they were applying for the position in no more than 200 words. Applications closed on 12 January 2015 with a total of 23 students applying for selection. There were no applicants from universities 1, 2,3, 6, 10, 15, 16 and 18. A total of 13 applicants were selected.



YouTube video published on KPUM's Youtube account, KPUM UKMLSU.The video can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioc-PBGl7gk (Published: 20 December 2014)

## **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/ourprojects/kpum-student-ambassador-programme/

# **KPUM LEPAK**



Apart from the aforementioned job scope, ambassadors were required to hold an activity in their respective universities according to their respective discretion. All ambassadors did so except the Birmingham ambassador who's activity was converted into a road show. The term coined for these activities was 'KPUM Lepak'. KPUM Lepak was held over the months of March and April 2015. Below are the reports of the said events

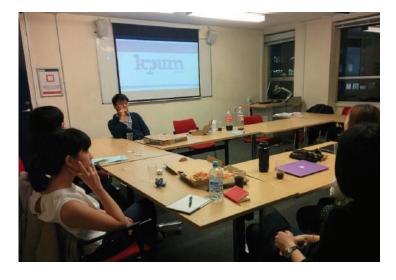
A Warwick Social Date: 9 March 2015

Time: 7pm

Venue: University of Warwick

On 9 March 2015, our Fellowship Director, Shaun Kua headed to University of Warwick for the first KPUM Lepak event. He was welcomed there by Lee Yuan Yao from University of Warwick, KPUM's newly appointed ambassador.

Shaun Kua commenced the social in an enlightening fashion as he introduced to the attendees, the legal career prospects in Malaysia and UK. This was substantiated with comparisons between the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), Legal Practice Course (LPC) and the Certificate of Legal Practice (CLP). Subsequently, the social continued with a discussion of everyone's aspirations and source of inspirations to read a law degree.



Moving on, he introduced KPUM's roles and responsibilities with regard to students' welfare and career opportunities in Malaysia. The presentation started off with KPUM's objectives and activities, while introducing the Executive Committee at the same time. Additionally, more information regarding the 30 Days of Summer Internship Programme, ASASI Internship Programme, and KPUM Professional Perspectives Sessions. At the end of the social, Yuan Yao took the floor to iterate the beneficial coverage and importance of attending the inaugural KPUM Law Career Convention (LCC) 2015.

The social ended in 2 hours and 30 minutes. It was effective in terms of forming a collegiate atmosphere among those who attended. Majority of the crowd adjourned to a nearby restaurant to continue to speak more about KPUM's initiatives under the Fellowship programme.

#### **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/602091716592346/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# AN ESSEX SOCIAL

Date: 17 March 2015

Time: 6pm

Venue: University of Essex

The event was led by KPUM's student ambassador, Hadhinah Hairudin, with the help of the Malaysian Society Essex.

Before the event began, the refreshments for the social was set up with the help of the members of the Malaysian Society Essex. The event kicked off with ice breaking and registration before the presentation began at 6:15pm. Hadhinah began by introducing KPUM's objectives and events as well as introducing KPUM's Executive Committee. In the presentation Hadhinah also talked about the recent KPUM Spring Formal and KPUM Law Career Convention which was recently held. She was later joined by KPUM Careers Development Director, Adrian Koh via Google Hangout and KPUM's Career Development Executive, Leo Wai Kin, who was on standby via Facebook to answer questions from the attendees.

Before Adrian began answering questions from students regarding KPUM's activities, he briefly talked about his role as the Careers Development Director and KPUM's rebranding. He then went on to talk about the 30 Days of Summer and ASASI Internship Programme and encouraged students to take part in KPUM activities and events. At the end of the presentation, Hadhinah spoke about her objectives of helping all the Malaysian Law Students in Essex to secure at least one internship opportunity in their duration of studies regardless whether she is still an ambassador or not. The presentation and Q&A session ended within 40 minutes.

Later on, Hadhinah opened the floor for KPUM Fellowship group lead for Islamic Finance, Eniza Fasiha Ellias, to speak and also to UKEC representatives to promote the event UKEC In Focus (in collaboration with KPUM) - The Anwar Ibrahim Verdict: Law and Consequences. The remaining time was used to socialise and discuss current events, and future opportunities.

Overall, the response from students were good. Majority of the Malaysian students reading law were present and those who could not turn up to the event had approached the student ambassador before and after the event to find out more about KPUM and the work that it does as a union.

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/1645216999032790/?ref=5&action history=null

# **Q&A AND OPEN DIALOGUE AT NORTHUMBRIA**

Date: 19 March 2015

Time: 6pm

Venue: Northumbria University

Daniel Hong from Northumbria University (KPUM's newly appointed ambassador under the KPUM Ambassador Programme) took the lead role in conducting the Open Dialogue and Q&A.

Shortly before the Lepak session, the students present were given a lecture on EU Law by Northumbria University's senior lecturer, Tony Storey. At the end of Mr Storey's lecture, Daniel was given the floor and he began the

presentation at 5:50pm in the evening. To the surprise of many, Mr Storey decided to stay on for the Lepak session. Daniel spoke about KPUM's history, objectives and activities, while introducing the Executive Committee at the same time. Daniel also provided information to the students on the various internship programmes, namely 30 Days of Summer and the ASASI Internship Programme. At the very end of the presentation, the students were treated to snacks and titbits courtesy of Northumbria University's Cross Cultural Committee for Legal Studies.

The Lepak session ended within an hour. Overall the response was good: at least 50 students were present to find out about KPUM. KPUM would like to thank Jeremy Oliver Omar, Vice-President of the Northumbria Malaysian Society for his support and for taking photographs throughout the event. KPUM would also like to wish every Law student at Northumbria University who took the time to come.

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.fac-book.com/events/920451861319239/?ref=5&action history=null

# A UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (UOL) MEGA SOCIAL

Date: 20 March 2015

Time: 7pm

Venue: Main Building, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

Ambassadors from University College London (UCL), SOAS , Queen Mary University of London, Kings College London and the London School of Economics (LSE) jointly organised a KPUM Lepak social event. The primary goal of the event was to reach out to more students about KPUM and it's aspirations. The event was also geared towards enabling students from the aforementioned universities to get to know each other and widen their social circles. The event was attended by students from UCL, Kings, SOAS, City University and the University of Oxford.

The event was held in the main building of the SOAS campus in Bloomsbury. The Social officially commenced at 7:30 p.m. Sophia Choy, Ambassador from LSE proceeded to kick off with the presentation by giving the attendees a brief overview of KPUM, before proceeding to talk about KPUM's mission, and outreach programmes. She then elaborated on KPUM's

reach, before introducing the audience, to the Executive Committee 2014/2015.

Darinee Kunasegaran, Ambassador from UCL then took over the second segment of the presentation, which entailed giving the audience a run down of events held within the past year as well as outlining future events that were to be held later that year.

Particular focus was given to the KPUM Spring Formal, the KPUM Law Career Convention, the "Lawatan Sambil Belajar" Events as well as to internships like the 30 Days of Summer Programme and the ASASI Internship Programme where the audience was given a brief overview of what those programmes entailed. Shaun Kua, KPUM's Fellowship Director, then gave a brief speech on the Fellowship programme which kindled the interest of quite a few members of the audience.

The presentation then resumed to give the audience an idea of of the Student Outreach Initiatives currently in progress and upon completion of the presentation, there was a brief Q&A session where the audience was

given the opportunity to ask any burning questions they had regarding the presentation itself or pertaining to any other related matters. The audience was given more information about the upcoming Law Awards Dinner to be held later that year and the President of KPUM, Pang Jo Fan also gave the audience a diagrammatic explanation of the structure of KPUM during the Q&A session.

Upon wrapping up the session, everyone helped themselves to the food and drinks provided as they socialised. At approximately 9pm the audience gradually began to disperse and the organisers proceeded to clean up before vacating the room. Overall, the event went well and it is hoped that this event will be replicated in the near future.

#### **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/647031548759949/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# NASI LEMAK AT HULL

Date: 20 March 2015 Time: 7:30pm

Venue: University of Hull Students'

Union

This was the very first time KPUM was hosting an event in The University of Hull, therefore there were a number of students who had not heard of KPUM at all. Joanna, the ambassador, began the presentation at 7:30pm by introducing KPUM and by talking about KPUM's objectives and introducing the Executive Committee.

Joanna also elaborated on KPUM as a good platform for Malaysian law

students to obtain career opportunities by introducing the 30 Days of Summer and ASASI Internship Programme. She also explained KPUM's past, present and future events and activities for the students to have a better understanding of what KPUM does.

Joanna also explained KPUM's flagship events; the KPUM Spring Formal and the KPUM Law Career Convention 2015, which provides law students good networking and career opportunities.

The presentation was accompanied by Executive Committee member

Adrian Koh and Executive Leo Wai Kin via teleconference to answer the questions and issues raised by the students.

After the presentation, the students then proceeded with dinner while Joanna continued sharing about her experience as a KPUM Student Ambassador in KPUM. Overall the response from the students was good; almost 20 Malaysian law students attended and the students were pleased to have a better and clearer understanding of KPUM.

### **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/813018345433018/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# AN IKEA ADVENTURE (LEEDS UNIVERSITY EDITION)

Date: 22 March 2015 Time: I2pm Venue: IKEA Leeds

A group of 9 Malaysian Law students from the University Of Leeds together with their student ambassador had their KPUM: Lepak session at IKEA in Leeds. Since IKEA was located half an hour out of town, they had to take the bus in the morning at around 9am. The aim of the session was to foster togetherness between the Malaysian law students.. Lunch was

first on the agenda when they arrived. Over lunch, everyone bonded - by taking pictures, through a brief introduction and the ambassador explained what KPUM was all about objectives, activities answered any questions they about KPUM). They the took a walk around IKEA, a pet store nearby and went home right after at 3pm. The turnout was small because it was the start of the mid semester break and many students had gone off for short trips. Nevertheless, it was an eventful

afternoon - everyone had an enjoyable evening with their meatball lunch and £1 ice cream.

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/584680281668052/?ref=5&action history=null

# A NOTTINGHAM SOCIAL

A Nottingham Social Date: 24 March 2015

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Portland Building, University of

Nottingham

The event circulated around the discussion of the topic of Anwar Ibrahim's conviction and the Sedition Act. The event was organised by the KPUM student ambassador of the University of Nottingham, Wei Jun, with assistance from Cassandra (General Secretary) and Nicholas Wong.



Cassandra arrived with the boxes of pizza. Wei Jun arranged the tables and

chairs for the speaker and moderator to be seated at. The event started as the expected time as the

students were present on time. Wei Jun gave a welcoming speech to all the audience and the event begun. The event kick started with the first session of discussion on Anwar's conviction. The moderator Ahmad Ibrahim led the session and Nicholas Wong shared his opinions and thoughts on the topic.

Example of questions are if the judiciary has felt the pressure to 'give wa' to the government in judging such a sensitive court case, how the outcome might have differed if the bag of evidence was not cut open. It was an engaging session overall and the students while not highly responsive, did ask a few questions and Nicholas Wong proceeded to satisfy their enquiries.

The 30 minute session ended and pizzas were distributed and enjoyed by all. About 15 minutes later, the second session started with Wei Jun taking over as Emcee and Ahmad Ibrahim continued playing his role as a moderator and Cassandra Chung being the speaker on the Sedition Act topic.

The students were less familiar with the second topic. However, Cassandra

kindly prepared brief yet concise notes and gave out the papers to the students to read during the break before the session started. Cassandra made use of the slides as a form of answering during the discussion to help the students understand better the topic. Cassandra also asked questions to the floor to encourage participation.

The 30 minute session ended at 9:05pm when Wei Jun thanked the students, the moderator and speakers who were willing to spend their time and effort into making this event happen. The students gave feedback that they have gained and acquired some knowledge on the topics. Nicholas, Cassandra and Wei Jun then cleaned up the place before leaving.

Publicity
Website:
http://www.kpum.org/event
/kpum-lepak-a-nottingham-social/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/897 270900296330/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# DISCUSSION CUM SOCIAL AT LIVERPOOL

Date: 28 March 2015 Time: 3:45pm

Venue: Liverpool Guild of Students,

University of Liverpool

The event was co-hosted by KPUM's University of Liverpool Student Ambassador, Chengxuan Boo, and Finance and Corporate Relations Executive, Christine Lay. Liverpool Malaysian Society supported the event by providing the necessary venue, since most of the attendees are also members of the Liverpool Malaysian Society.

40 students turned up for the event, most of them being law undergraduates students from the University of Liverpool. However, there were also attendees who came from the University of Leeds and Bristol Law School.

The first segment of the event, an introduction to KPUM, was co-presented by both the hosts. Cheng Xuan briefed the students on the background and aims of the union, and introduced prominent figures within the union, while Christine talked about the union's past and future events. Attendees were

encouraged to follow the union's Facebook page to be kept updated on the happenings of the union.

The second segment was a Skype session with Henry Koh, a current CLP candidate at Brickfields Asia College. Henry delivered an overview of what the course is all about, including his personal encounters as a student of the course. It followed by a Q&A session where attendees were allowed to raise questions regarding the mentioned course. The third segment was largely similar in structure to the second, with JoFan Pang, president of the KPUM, discussing the BPTC and sharing his own experience of the course, followed again by a Q&A session. The bad internet connectivity affected the quality of the Skype communication for about 10 minutes, but the segment nevertheless ended well.

The final segment was a social session where attendees were allowed to interact among themselves while enjoying the complimentary refreshments. This was also when the hosts were able to interact with the law students more casually, thus stimulating further awareness and support for

ongoing movements at KPUM.

The event ended later than scheduled due to the extension of time for both guest speakers to more thoroughly cover their topic and also to answer the many questions raised by the attendees. However, no one complained about the time extension, and most attendees have gained from the event and appear satisfied. Online feedback forms were emailed to each attendee after the event.

Similar events would be held in Liverpool as the new academic year starts in September. The hosts hope that future KPUM events here would achieve the same, if not higher level of participation from the Malaysian law students at Liverpool.

### **Publicity**

Website:

http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum -lepak-discussion-cum-social-liverpool/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events /384194958429883/?ref=5&action\_ history=null

# CAREERS PATHWAY EVENT AT MANCHESTER



Date: 24 April 2015 Time: 2:30pm Venue: Students' Union, University of Manchester

Manchester's newly appointed student ambassador, Christy Chua, organised a Careers Pathway Session for Malaysian Law students at the University of Manchester. The event was organised after having received feedback that many Malaysian Law students were doubtful about their career path and ignorant of the opportunities available to them. Tengku Nur Qistina, the previous student ambassador and Su Wen, the Student Outreach Executive also contributed to facilitate Christy's efforts in this event.

The event started promptly at 2:30pm. The event kicked off with Su Wen introducing what KPUM is all about and what KPUM could offer to Malaysian Law students. The representatives

explain about the extremely useful services they offer and also clarified some doubts and queries on opportunities to work in the UK.

Moving on to the main feature of the event, Christy then shared with the fellow attendees on the legal qualification pathway in Malaysia and how it differs from the pathway in UK. Qistina and Christy both also shared on their personal experiences being involved in the various activities in the law school that they thought would be highly beneficial to all law students such as the Legal Advice Centre and Mooting & Debating Competitions.

Following that, Christy presented on the various internships and events by the KPUM during the summer in Malaysia that the attendees could look forward to applying for. She compiled the material in this presentation from various KPUM ex-co and executives such as the President, Jo Fan and the Fellowship Dierector, Shaun Kua. The presentation focused on personal feedback of their involvements, what they did during their stint in a particular organization or firm and advice they could impart to those who are interested in involving themselves in it. The material was well received by all as it provided a good guideline on opportunities and involvements in various fields of law.

The event received a good response with 18 people attending. A majority of them were enthusiastic about having a CV writing workshop to be organized and are looking forward to attending more KPUM events. It can be concluded that the event was insightful to most of the attendees and has definitely raised awareness on the opportunities KPUM offers to Malaysian Law students.

# **Publicity**

Website:

http://www.kpum.org/event /kpum-lepak-career-pathways-eventmanchester/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/795 599000524375/?ref=5&action history=null

# PIZZA, MOVIE, ACTION! AT BRISTOL

Date: 24 April 2015

Time: 6pm

Venue: Multifaith Chaplaincy,

University of Bristol

The event started off with a short ice breaking session by playing the balloon game. Here, all the attendees were broken down into team of twos, and each team was provided with a big balloon. Starting from the bottom, they have to find ways to rise the balloon up to their chin without using their hands and the fastest will win the game. There were lots of laughters and fun! The fastest team took 10 seconds!

The ambassador then proceeded with a presentation on KPUM – who they are, what do they do, as well as KPUM's mission, past events, upcoming events. A video presentation on the committees and events was projected too.

Then, the food portion of the event came. The participants had pizzas, garlic bread, cakes, tea and some soft drinks. While enjoying the food, the attendees were mingling around and talking to each other. The Year 3 seniors were giving advice to the 1st and 2nd years, some were giving tips on how to prepare well for the exams too! During this time as well, the attendees seized the opportunity to ask further questions on internship opportunites, the Strategic Litigation camp and other questions on KPUM.

As the event went on, there was a video call through Google Hangout with the Careers Development Director, Adrian Koh, to 'hang out' with us. He gave a full details on how the application, selection and the overall programme outline of 30 days of Summer and ASASI programme.

Then the participants moved on to movie time! The attendees grabbed their favourite chips and sat comfortably on the couches with the movie 'Legally Blonde' being aired. Lots of laugter, lots of fun, definitely a well deserved short break before continuing to push on for the exams!

Publicity

Website:

http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-lepak-pizza-movie-action-bristol/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/671036176340328/?ref=5&action\_history=null



I was told during the interview that if I am chosen, I will be in charge of the brand new KPUM Student Ambassador Programme. The journey of recruitment and running it was tough but amazing.

Kiu Yik Chiaw, Student Outreach and Relations Executive 2014/15

# LAWATAN SAMBIL BELAJAR

# THE OLD BAILEY & ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

KPUM organised a visit to the Old Bailey & Royal Courts of Justice on 24 October 2014 for our members to experience the history of the United Kingdom (UK) courts and the courts' environment. This trip was joyfully participated by students from University of Cardiff, Bristol, Manchester, Nottingham and Hertfordshire. The trip lasted from 10 am till 5:30 pm and was guided by Ms Safwa Tahir, the Student Outreach & Relations Director for KPUM.

### The Old Bailey

Firstly, the participants visited the Old Bailey, which is known as Central Criminal Court located at Newgate Street. Our guide, Mr. Tim Woods, briefed us on the history of Old Bailey. Before the first courthouse was built in the 16th century, sessions were held in nearby rooms specially hired for the purpose or in Newgate, the 'notorious prison' used to house prisoners from at least the end of the 12th century.

The Statue of Justice stands 60 metres above the street and is 3.7 metres high, cast in bronze and covered with gold leaf. Her outstretched arms span 2.4 metres; in her right hand she holds the sword of retribution and in her left the equally balanced scales of justice. She is especially distinguished from other statues of Justice, by not being blindfolded.

While at the Old Bailey, the participants caught their very first glimpse of the real court environment with the Judges, Barristers and Juries in one of the proceedings. The first impression was awe striking. It was a remarkable sight, which made the participants appreciate all that they were studying for the past years in Law.

#### Lunch

The participants also had the long awaited delicious Malaysian lunch treat (Nasi Lemak) at the Christ-church Greyfriars Garden. It gave us opportunities as well as a good time to meet and get to know the students from other universities. During lunch-time, students had the quick opportunity to exchange views and catch up on various topics either concerning UK news or Malaysian news up comings. Once the participants were done with lunch, they headed to the Royal Courts of Justice.



## **Royal Courts of Justice**

Next, the participants had the tour of the Royal Courts of Justice situated on the Strand within the City of Westminster. They were guided by a tour guide who explained in detail about the history of the court while sitting in one of the court rooms.

The High Court deals with higher-level civil disputes. There are three divisions of the High Court: the

Queen's Bench Division, the Chancery Division and the Family Division. The Court of Appeal consists of two divisions: the criminal division, which hears appeals from the Crown Court and the civil division which hears appeals from the High Court. The Royal Courts of Justice also deals with other areas of the High Court e.g Administrative Court which hears the Judicial Reviews, Applications under Drug Trafficking Act 1994 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

While there The participants also got a chance to look at the court dresses, which was showcased on the 1st floor. The building is impressive both inside and out and worth a visit. The interior was amazing with gothic architecture. It is one of the fascinating legal places to visit. This visit to the RCJ has made the participants feel the presence of the justice and the struggles made to uplift it in the past and also the present.

## **Meet and Greet**

The participants ended the tour with a meet and greet session in University College London with KPUM committee members. They were given an insight of KPUM as a law students' union and the exciting future plans for the coming year. It was a pleasure to meet the members who have been working hard to organise and help fellow Malaysian students in better prospects.

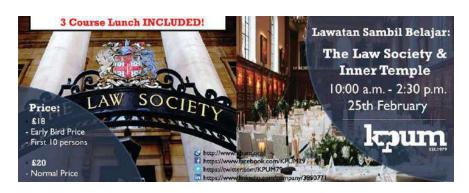
### **Publicity**

Website:

http://www.kpum.org/event/lsb2014/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/ 711169645633719/?ref=5&action\_his tory=null

# THE LAW SOCIETY AND INNER TEMPLE



The participants of Lawatan Sambil Belajar visited The Law Society and the Inner Temple on 25 February 2015; they learnt about the history and role of these professional bodies, and the distinction between being a solicitor and barrister in the United Kingdom (UK). There were students from a variety of universities including University of Leeds, Birmingham, Hertfordshire, Kings College London, University College London and School of Oriental And African Studies. The trip lasted from 10 am until 3pm and Yi Hsien, KPUM's Student Outreach & Relations Executive, guided this visit.



## **The Law Society**

The first venue of visit was The Law Society in Chancery Lane. The participants were brought on a tour by our guide, Mr Richard Hopkins. He briefed us on the history of The Law Society and the function of each room we visited. The Law Society

(previously the London Law Institution) was founded in 1823 when solicitors came together to raise the reputation of the profession by setting standards for practice. It first admitted female members in 1922. Interestingly, in order to determine who should go down in history as the first female solicitor, the four women who passed the examinations raced along Chancery Lane.

Besides learning about the rich history of The Law Society, the participants visited magnificent places such as the Common Room, the Reading Room, and the library. The Common Room, which is often used for conferences, was a grand room with 17th century stained glass windows and a peacock-tiled fireplace. Our attention, however, was drawn to Conrad Dressler's Persian enamel frieze, depicting human and divine justice. In order to enhance the participants' understanding on the profession of solicitors, participants were given a brief talk on the role of solicitors and a booklet on routes to becoming a solicitor.

## Lunch

The long awaited lunch was at the Main Hall of the Inner Temple. The participants enjoyed a delightful 3-course meal in an enchanting, Harry Potter-esque atmosphere. During lunch, the participants were able to interact with each other, meeting students from different universities. Some participants also engaged in a discussion on the current affairs in Malaysia and the UK.

## **The Inner Temple**

After lunch, the participants were brought on a tour by the Outreach Coordinator of the Inner Temple, Ms. Lacara Barnes-Rowe.

As the participants walked along the picturesque King's Bench Walk, she gave the participants a brief talk on the history of the Inner Temple. In the 13th century, the Temple was formed; it took its name from the Knights Templar, who originally leased the land to the Temple's inhabitants. Like the other medieval Inns of Court, the Inner Temple was organised on the same basis as the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, offering accommodation to practitioners of the law and their students. Although Inner Temple expanded and had various beautifications within the Temple in the Elizabethan age, the Inner Temple suffered massively during the the Great Fire of London and the Second World War.

Aside from the rich history, Ms. Lacara gave an insightful talk on the history on the Inner Temple, how to become a barrister, how to join the Inn, scholarships, and the distinction between solicitors and barristers. It was helpful to students who are interested in practising in the UK, particularly those who are planning to pursue a career at the Bar.

The participants also had the opportunity to visit the Temple Church, one of the most historic and beautiful churches in London. Notably, it was the setting of a scene in the popular novel 'The Da Vinci Code'. The tour ended there with a photo taking and evaluation session.

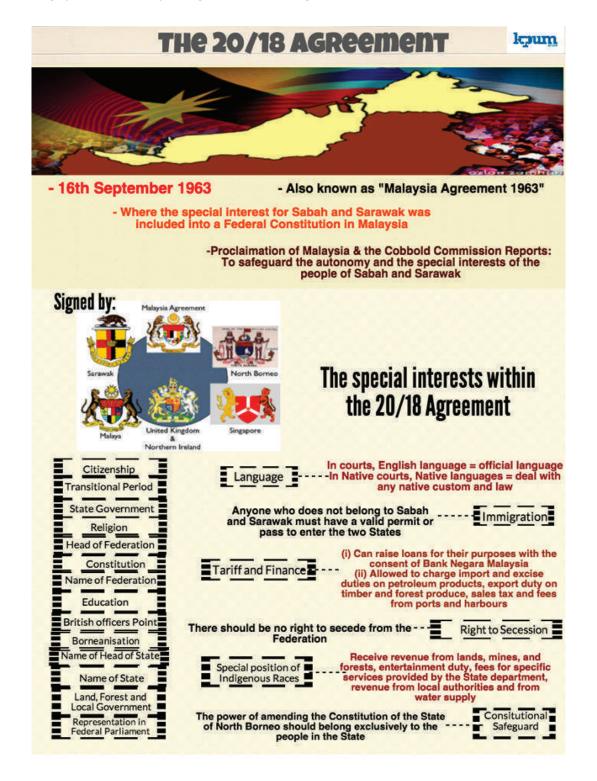
### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-lawatan-sambil-belajar-edisi-london-2015/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/348932551974733/?ref=5&action history=null

## RENTAP PROJECT

The Rentap Project was an initiative launched to educate students on the various issues faced by those in Sabah and Sarawak. The project was launched on 23 January 2015 and featured two infographics on the Malaysian Agreement, one in English and one in Mandarin.



# 沙巴 沙拉越 《20/18 条契约》 kpum



## - 签订于 1963年 9 月 16日

- 也命名为"马来西亚 1963契约"

 被列入于我国联邦宪法,主要包含了东马半岛 沙巴及沙拉越的18与20项特殊利益

> - 马来西亚宣言 与 科博德委员会: 为了维护沙巴及沙拉越公民的自主权和人民的特殊利益



# "20/18" 项 特殊利益

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(ii) 允许对石油产品出口关税的进口消费税,征收 对木材,林产品的生产<u>港口与码头的销售税</u>

沙巴和沙拉越 没有撤离马来西亚的权科 - - - - -

撤离马来西亚 联邦的权利

当地土著特殊利益 ---- 当地土著拥有的特殊利益,可征收来自于土地,矿产,与森林的收入,另外也可享有公共服务配额就业,奖学金,在公共教育机构和业务经营许可证或执照的地方

未经过沙巴 沙拉越人民的同意,中央政府无权修改或撤销联邦宪---- 宪法保障 法内保护州人民与政府条款

# **KPUM BOOK EXCHANGE**



KPUM Book Exchange is a platform set up by KPUM for all Malaysian law students whether studying in UK, Ireland or even in Malaysia doing the UK Transfer Program or University of London External Programme.

This Facebook group is for every senior who is interested to sell (or give for free) their old textbooks or notes and to all juniors who would like to buy second hand textbooks from their seniors. Selling of photostatted books is strictly prohibited. All posts advertising such books will be promptly removed. KPUM will not be liable for any transactions that take place. Members: 422 members

## **Publicity**

Website: https://www.facebook.com/groups/933849639964879/?fref=ts



## **FLAGSHIP EVENTS**

- Law Awards Dinner 2014
- #MsiaLegalWeek
- Spring Formal
- Law Career Convention

# **FLAGSHIP EVENTS**

KPUM 2014/15 features the following several flagship events:

**Dates** Event

16 August 2014 19-28 November 2014 13 March 2015 14 March 2015

**KPUM Law Awards Dinner** #MsiaLegalWeek **KPUM Spring Formal** KPUM Law Career Convention



Photo taken at Spring Formal 2015 | 13 March 2015 The Honourable Society of Inner Temple

# LAW AWARDS DINNER



The Law Awards Dinner was held on 16 August 2014 at Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral. The dinner is organised annually by KPUM to recognise the outstanding academic and curricular achievements of Malaysian law students who are/were reading law in the UK. The momentous event was sponsored by ZICOlaw, Christopher and Lee Ong and Shook Lin & Bok.

The rendezvous of legal scholars, aspiring lawyers and respected members of the legal profession started with a pre-networking session outside the grand ballroom. The event began with an aspiring speech by the President of KPUM 2013/2014, Ms Ang Pei Hsia. The secretary to the Malaysian Bar Council, Mr. Richard Wee, graced the event by sharing a few words at the podium.

All eyes were on the nominees as the highlight of the event- the law awards ceremony- began. A pleasantly surprised Ang Pei Hsia bagged the ZICOlaw Excellence Award: Best Penultimate Student, presented by Mr Yong Hon Cheong.

Meanwhile, Shuan Kua who recently graduated from the University of Oxford took home the Best Final Year LL.B Student Award, which was sponsored by Shook Lin & Bok, presented by Ms Khong Mei Lin. Samantha Chew, represented by her sister, Sarah,

received the ZICOlaw Excellence Award: Best BPTC Student.

The Christopher & Lee Ong and Rajah & Tann Excellence Award: Best Overall UK Law Student was conferred to Dipti Kumar by Mr Heng Yee Keat. During the dinner, Nicholas Wong, a representative from the Pilot Cohort of KPUM's ASASI Internship Programme gave a brief presentation on his experience under the initiative lead by the Human Rights and Activism Officer, Pang Jo Fan.



This was followed by the featured speed networking session with the VIPs (Mr Richard, Mr Ravi Nekoo and Mr HR Dipendra) and the representatives from ZICOlaw, Christopher and Lee Ong and Shook Lin & Bok. The evening ended with some group photos. A group of students also signed up for an office tour and networking session in Christopher and Lee Ong, which brought the evening to an end.



The organising team would like to thank our sponsors, ZICOlaw, Christopher and Lee Ong and Shook Lin & Bok for their support in ensuring the success of this event.

## **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/our-projects/flagship-programs/lawawa rdsdinner/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.-facebook.com/events/144244232678690/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# **#MSIA LEGAL WEEK**



A series of legal talks featuring prominent lawyers, most notably, office bearers of the Bar Council.

# **KELAB UMNO SEDITION TALK**

Date : 19 November 2014 Time: 7pm Venue: Dewan Putrajaya,

Malaysian Hall

In collaboration with Kelab UMNO London, KPUM held a the Tarik session to discuss the Sedition Act

1948 at Dewan Putrajaya, Malaysia

Hall.

The session was attended by approximately I4 students from Kelab UMNO London and KPUM collectively. Observers present were Paul Subramaniam (ZICOlaw), Datuk SK Lingam (Friends of Barisan Nasional), Hadrizammi Mustafa (Malaysian High Commission London) and a few others.

The session started with moderator Shaun Kua (KPUM) giving a 10 minute brief outline on the Act and stating the controversial aspects of it. He then proposed a structure in which the discussion may proceed as

it was adopted by everybody from the floor. The floor was then opened for views on the Act.

As there were substantial amount of non-law students present at the discussion, a few points of law such as intention and standard were clarified both by the law students present and the legal practitioners present as observers.

Lots of honest views and concerns were raised from what we all individually thought was the heart of the issues with this Act. We may not have come to an agreement as to the form in which these changes should be made, ie repeal the act, amend the act, use penal code as an alternative, etc. But we did come into a full agreement as to what the law should be when dealing with issues of "sedition".

After two gruelling hours of very mature discourse, we agreed that

intention is required to prove the guilt, that "seditious tendencies" should be redefined to "high likelihood that the action would result to breach of peace and violence", that criticising the government is not criminal and that above all that, the status of the King should not be questioned but not his privileges.

These would be the points tabled at the general assembly and hopefully to the Prime Minister personally.

Kelab UMNO president, Arief Azli, then approached the KPUM President, Jo Fan, at the end, both agreeing that the session was a breath of fresh air to what has always been a hostile topic. As a very encouraging conclusion, they both agreed that regardless of the different approaches we have taken, we are all in this for the betterment of the country.

# BAR COUNCIL ROUND TABLE



Date: 23 November 2014

Time: 7pm

Venue: Jz Young Lt, Anatomy Building, University College London (UCL)



With a less graduate recruitment and commercial focused objective like most events in the calendar, this unique event was organized by KPUM to allow the Malaysian Bar Council to engage in a semi-formal setting with Malaysian law students who are miles away from home. The Malaysian Bar Council representatives headed by the current President, Christopher Leong comprised of Vice President Steven Thiru, Secretary Richard Wee, Council Members Syahredzan Johan and Honey Tan.

Despite President Christopher Leong acknowledging that the presence of the Bar Council has been noticeably lacking over the past few years, he vowed that the Bar Council will be playing more eminent roles in engaging with Malaysian law students in the UK.

The event saw 30 students from various universities from across the UK gathering in University College London to participate in a 45 minute-long fruitful discussion on issues in the legal scene back home. President Christopher Leong first of all highlighted in his presentation the functions of the Bar Council that is to protect the reputation of the legal profession, uphold the cause of justice and to express its views on matters relating to legislation, amongst others. He also spoke about the stance of the Bar Council in relation to the recent controversial issues including the recent proposed repeal of the Sedition Act, the Bersih rally and the Himpunan Kemuncak 505 in 2013 after the General Election. Besides that, he broke down the figures of the number of law firms in Malaysia according to firm sizes and noted that the legal sector has grown significantly profitable over the past few years. To end the presentation, he emphasized the importance of Malaysian law students returning to Malaysia and being part of the

gallant movement to uphold the rule of law in the country and be courageous defenders of constitutional principles.

Before the session ended, the floor was opened to the audience to raise questions or points of information. The interaction was interesting on different levels as issues about the regulation of the standards of the Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) and the potential restructuring of the CLP into a hybrid course incorporating both the essence of the roles of an advocate and a solicitor were raised. As the session came to a close, Christopher was handed a token of appreciation by the KPUM President, Pang Jo Fan.

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.-facebook.com/events/1490405407898328/

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/msialegalweek-roundtable-ses-sion-with-bar-council/

# RICHARD WEE AT LIVERPOOL



Date: 23 November 2014

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Liverpool Guild of Students

Richard — in all his Everton jersey glory, equipped with much Malaysian humour - took the floor with a short speech after a brief introduction of KPUM by one of its Executives. Apart from the practical advice he gave the crowd, he mesmerised them as well regaled them with personal stories of cases and clients. He gave the students an insight into being a lawyer in Malaysia, highlighting the burden yet honour of being "defenders of the judiciary, sentinels of equity and upholders of the law".



Finally, the food portion of the Meet & Greet came (a Malaysian must-have). We had light refreshments of muffins, pastries and some coffee and tea during which students seized the opportunity to ask Richard further questions as well on internships, pupillages, CLP and many other

questions to which he gave very substantial answers and advice to.

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.-facebook.com/events/2818091386 83939/

Website: http://www.kpum.org/ event/msialegalweek-breakfast-with -richard-wee/

# LEE HISHAMUDDIN NETWORKING SESSION



Date: 25 November 2014 Time: 5pm Venue: Bentham BII, Seminar Room 4, UCL

Before heading off to Brussels for a conference on transfer pricing, Datuk Naban, Mr Saravana and the Mr Shanmugam decided to spend an evening with Malaysian students in London, UK. The evening session was an event co-organised by the UCL Malaysia Society and KPUM as a platform for the partners to share their experience as leading lawyers in Malaysia.

Students who attended the talk were given the opportunity to speak with Mr Shanmugan, the recruiting partner of Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill and Mr Saravana who also shared his experience as a tax partner. Datuk Naban's presence was felt as the two younger lawyers attribute their success to his guidance since they joined the firm.

1.Starting off as a pupil

As standardised by the Legal Profession Act, graduates must complete nine months of pupillage before they can be called to the Bar. While starting off as a chambering student in a law firm can be

quite overwhelming, Lee Hishammuddin offers a holistic and well-structured pupillage programme. Mr Shanmugan shared that chambering students are given the opportunity to work alongside their mentors (usually a partner in the firm) whilst managing real files. The firm also incorporates classes which provides continuous learning support, placing their members in an advantageous position as they are constantly updated about the law.

On tips for students who wished to join and be retained in the firm, Mr Shan shared that it is essential to be yourself, make your presence felt and keep an upbeat attitude while working in the firm.

2. Specialisation: Jack of all trades or mastering just one?

As the legal practice advances and becomes more competitive, Mr Shanmugan and Mr Saravana's advice to students is to consider specialising in a practice area. They explained that this would ease one's learning process as the firm would be able to assist more directly to cater to your career progression.

However, they assured the students that most students start

off not knowing which practice area they are interested in. This is where the firm's mentoring programme plays a primary role to guide "trainees" to realise their full potential. Mr Saravana also chipped in that not all clients seek lawyers who specialise in a particular practice area. Different clients will have different needs.

The key is to determine what each person enjoys. Mr Saravana took himself as an example. Whilst reading law, he enjoyed conceptual-based subjects such as trust law and taxation. He contrasted this to advocacy-based subjects which he explained demanded a strong control over one's emotions. Litigation work goes hand-in-hand the ability to manage clients who usually are in a tensed state.

Mr Shanmugan explained that this is why it is vital to obtain proper training as a chambering student. He clarified that training would enable the pupil to work on his/her strength. He stressed that at the end of the day, it is important to keep an open mind about the wide opportunities to learn within the firm. From there, he continued, pupils will gradually identify the practice area(s) which they are naturally drawn towards.

Mr Shanmugan and Mr Saravana took the opportunity to share the pro bono work that the firm does as a commercial firm. They highlighted notable cases such as the ongoing Kassim Ahmad case (represented by Rosli Dahlan) and the one of the multiple cases in the bible seizure saga (Lim Heng Seng acting for Sidang Injil Borneo church).

3.The 'X-factor' When asked about what sets Lee

Hishammuddin Allen and Gledhill apart from the other firms, Mr Shanmugan and Mr Saravana answered that it was the firm's open door culture. This enhances the opportunity to interact between partners and students. They shared that ever since they have been in the firm, there has always been a good teamwork between the partners and the pupils. They were quick to point out that the firm also has the youngest recruiting partner in contrast to its

competitors suggesting that the firm's culture does not distinguish between age and experience.

#### **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/761640460579965/

Website: http://www.kpum.org /event/lee-hishammudin-allen-gledhill-law-opportunities-in-malaysia/

# SYAHREDZAN JOHAN AT CARDIFF



Date: 27 November 2014

Time: 7pm

Venue: Large Chemistry Lecture Theater, Room 1.123 Main Building,

Cardiff University

Students had the opportunity to meet a member of the Bar Council and President of the National Young Lawyers Committee, Syahredzan Johan. Students were treated to an informal and interactive dialogue session with the lawyer where questions were raised about what it was like to enter practice in Malaysia. Syahredzan highlighted the challenges fresh lawyers faced when

entering practice but also advised and encouraged the current students who are thinking of practice to persevere through those challenges. He also encouraged them to display an attitude of enthusiasm to learn and improve during their early years as this will help their development and their career as a lawyer.

Syahredzan also gave students a brief insight on public interest litigation in Malaysia, including what it is all about, the challenges and the rewarding experience. However, he emphasised to students the impor-

tance of securing career stability as well as the importance of learning the basics of legal work before attempting to pursue public interest cases.

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/718537541571784/

Website: http://www.kpum.org/ event/msialegalweek-meet-greetwith-syahredzan-johan/

# DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION



Date: 27 November 2014

Time: 10am

Venue: Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre of Arbitration (KLRCA)

In collaboration with the KLRCA, KPUM organised the one and only #MsiaLegalWeek event back in Malaysia in 2014, a half day visit and Seminar on International and Domestic Arbitration in KLRCA.

Established in 1978, KLRCA was the inspirational product of the Bandung Conference 1955 of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (which later became more well-known as the Asian Legal Consultative Committee), aimed at providing a national, impartial platform to administer international as well as domestic arbitration, facilitate mediation and reconciliation in the ASEAN region and beyond.

Situated in the historical building of Bangunan Sulaiman, the former home of the Syariah Court, KLRCA lies at the heart of the city, and is easily accessible by public transport. It also enjoys the privilege of immunity under the International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1992.

Participants started arriving at KLRCA around 9.30am. After registration, participants enjoyed meeting their fellow law students

in the main lobby, chatting away until they were ushered to the grand auditorium of the KLRCA to start the business of the day.

Participants received a warm welcome by the representative of KLRCA, Danaindran Rajendran. A graduate of Multimedia University, Malaysia, he is also the leading case counsel of KLRCA. Danaindran delivered the welcoming speech on behalf of the director of KLRCA, Professor Datuk Sundra Rajoo.

As soon as the speech ended, Danaindran started the Seminar on International and Domestic Arbitration. He started by giving a brief history of the establishment of KLRCA, its aim as a regional and international catalyst of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the ASEAN region, as well as its vision of becoming the priority choice of commercial parties in commercial arbitration.

He stressed the advantages of the KLRCA comparing to its regional competitors, like the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, i.e. its cost effectiveness. KLRCA provides world class arbitration services at a much lower cost compared to its counterparts in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Besides that, he also highlighted that the most essential advantage that parties are going to get in KLRCA is the full support of the Malaysian government and judiciary. Numerous cases have been showed to elucidate the Malaysian judiciary's full support of the finality and conclusiveness of arbitration awards by KLRCA. The Malaysian courts generally uphold the sanctity of the arbitration award and have a non-intervention policy in favour of arbitration decisions. This plays a crucial role in giving parties confidence that decision of arbitrators is final and reliable.

Danaindran also mentioned and showed the participants that various rules and procedures developed by KLRCA over the years to ensure absolute due process and impartiality would be observed in every case referred to them.

The Seminar ended at 11.50am. It was followed by a simple ceremony by the KPUM Malaysian Representative, Pauline Ting, who offered the KLRCA representative a token of appreciation to express our gratitude for KLRCA's cooperation and tireless efforts in making this event a success.

Participants, led by staff of KLRCA, started a tour around the KLRCA premises to have a brief idea about where and how arbitrations were being conducted. We are grateful to have the opportunity to visit different parts of KLRCA, including the Arbitrator Lounge, Hearing Rooms and the KLRCA Library. Located in the colonial-style historical Sulaiman Building, it is fully refurbished with eye-opening modern interior design to provide a cosy yet conducive environment for arbitration.

The facilities offered by KLRCA include the fully functioning hearing rooms equipped with recording, tele-conference and presentation facilities. Participants were amazed and astonished by the cosy environment and state-of-the-art facilities.

Danaindren, as the leading case counsel of KLRCA, also offered some valuable advice to participants with regards to the career prospects working in the field of arbitration. He encouraged young lawyers and law students to expand their view in career planning to this booming industry within the legal field and to be part of the driving force of the further success of KLRCA as a regional resolution platform provider.

The day ended with participants enjoying some light refreshments provided by KLRCA in the beautiful outdoor café. Eager to win the mysterious gift in the #MsiaLegal-Week Arbitration Seminar Selfie Event, participants were busy taking photograph of themselves in various part of the KLRCA.

KPUM offers our deepest gratitude to KLRCA to make this event not only a success but also an enjoyable experience. KPUM sincerely hopes that the event will spark interest among law students to further their legal pathway in the field of arbitration. Just like the slogan of KLRCA" Regional Resolution, Solution", KPUM is beyond delighted to play an active role in the efforts of shaping the law students' community with a global vision.

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.f acebook.com/events/5192163181 80807/

Website: http://www.kpum.org/eve nt/msialegalweek-domestic-international-arbitration/



# **LUNCH WITH STEVEN THIRU**



Date: 28 November 2014

Time: I2pm

Venue: Dapur Restaurant, London

"If you squander time, you will never make it back"

Law students had a chance to meet with Mr Steven Thiru, Vice-President of the Malaysian Bar Council and partner of Shook Lin & Bok, over an informal lunch where he shared with us some useful advice, his experiences as a lawyer and with the Bar Council and also his passion for Manchester United.

Steven Thiru graduated from the University of Leicester and joined Shook Lin & Bok as an associate in 1992 and has never left Shook Lin & Bok since. Steven has been practising for over 23 years and his main areas of practice are General Litigation and Employment Law.

During this session, the main advice Steven imparted on us was his attitude towards work, telling the law students that he has no problem working 7 days a week.

However, he still maintains a healthy work-life-balance. How does he do it? The key to this is discipline. He knows when he should turn the valve off and when to turn it back on again. Steven said that this practice was instilled in him even since his days as a law undergraduate, where he would work throughout the week and would only rest on a Saturday to play 6 hours football with his friends, then continuing work again on a Sunday. This is because he strongly believes in being well prepared. "If we squeeze 2 hours worth of work into half an hour, we will definitely be cutting corners, taking shortcuts and missing out on a lot of important issues. This is unfair to both the person we are representing and ourselves as well."

He then moved on to share with us some of his past experiences and cases that he has been part of, e.g. where he represented the plaintiff claiming damages against Monorail where a 14kg monorail wheel fell on the journalist's head. Besides that, Steven also emphasised the importance of finding a good mentor/master. He believes

that a good mentor will instil the proper values and right mind-set in a mentee and that is crucial in ensuring that quality lawyers are produced. One of the reasons why Steven stayed with Shook Lin & Bok for so long was because he was able to find an excellent mentor that could motivate him and provided him with opportunities to develop important skills.

In a nutshell, Steven provided the attendees with a lot of insight of the current legal situation in Malaysia and also a real feel what it is like working. It was overall very insightful and enlightening.

The session ended with a group picture.

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/342546 999250555/

Website: http://www.kpum.org/ event/msialegalweek-dinner-withsteven-thiru/

# LEGAL CAREER AS A SOLICITOR IN THE UK



Date: 28 November 2014

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: David Sizer LT, Francis Bancroft Building, Queen Mary University of London

KPUM enlisted the help of a Malaysian trainee solicitor at an American law firm (who wishes to remain anonymous), to enlighten law students on the mysterious subject of training contracts and vacation schemes. Budding lawyers gathered at the Queen Mary University of London to listen to his journey throughout his career-from the start of law school to his experiences as a trainee solicitor for the past year. Before the talk by the speaker, our Careers Development Director, Adrian gave an introductory speech to welcome our guest speaker.

Many students were curious as to how to map their career journey post law school. Most of us would go down the familiar route of doing the BPTC and obtaining the English Bar qualification. But unbeknownst to most students, law graduates could also consider a career as a solicitor. According to the speaker (who prefers to remain anonymous), this is a highly recommended option as it gives law graduates the opportunity to gain working experience in an international workplace and unlike BPTC schemes, graduates do not have to fork out as much money to do the LPC (the official qualification required to practise a solicitor). This is due to the fact that upon securing a training contract, most, if not all, firms would sponsor the cost of doing the LPC. Plus, trainee solicitors also get allowance!

Attendees were then walked through the whole process of securing a training contract. This entails getting consistently good grades throughout university, doing a vacation scheme or a summer placement in a law firm and finally, making a presentable training contract application. The speaker gave some tips to address most concerns that students may have at this stage, such as the ambiguity of increasing 'commercial awareness' and the true way of networking. He also talked about his experience so far as a trainee solicitor and the type of workload that he does at his law firm.

The speaker emphasised the fact

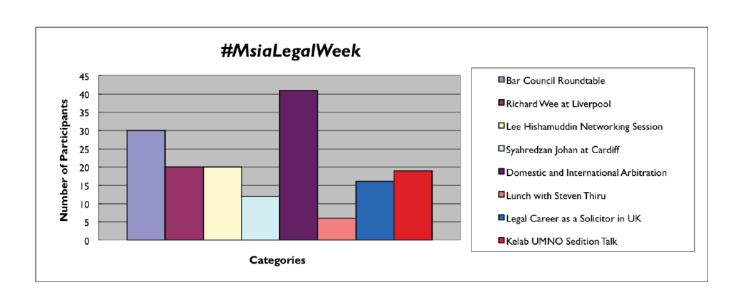
that all this may sound very daunting, but it is highly obtainable if law students plan ahead and really make an effort to proofread their applications. Many students remarked that this talk was very useful and productive as they felt more assured now in mapping their career journeys. They also got to experience an intimate Q&A session with the speaker regarding their concerns about getting a training contract. The fact that a Malaysian has 'been there, done that' is very inspiring as it shows that it is indeed not impossible to practise as a solicitor if you choose to do so.

And with that #MsiaLegalWeek came to an end!

## **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/KPUM79/photos/gm.308410946021353/749946 201744979/?type=1&theater

Website: http://www.kpum.org/ event/msialegalweek-a-legal-career-as-a-solicitor-in-the-uk/



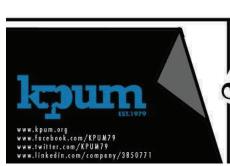
# SPRING FORMAL

# Sponsored by:





Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill



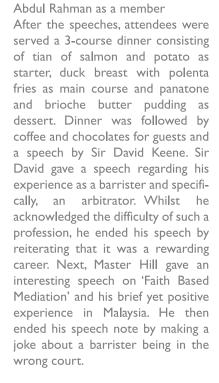
Spring Formal In collaboration with

Prime Minister's Department

Time: 6pm Date: 13th March 2015 Venue: The Honourable Society

KPUM Spring Formal is an initiative by KPUM to revive the tradition of a formal dinner between Malaysian law students and the English Bar and Bench, in an authentic English Bar formal dinner setting. Spring Formal 2015 was held at the Inner Temple in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia and the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. It was a black tie event with 88 attendees in total. Guests of honour include YB Hajah Nancy Haji Shukri (the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia), ZICO Holdings. Many attendees also participated in the Red Campaign in support of one of our working partners, Teach For Malaysia.

After the call for dinner, YB Nancy gave an opening speech regarding the relationship between governments and the rule of law. She cautioned us against jumping to conclusions, especially when it involves difficult decisions made by the government; it is more beneficial to give constructive feedback rather than criticising in haste. Following YB



of Inner Temple, London

Following the conclusion of speeches, KPUM president, Pang Jo Fan and Fellowship Director, Shaun Kua presented gifts to the speakers as a sign of gratitude. This marked the end of the event and attendees proceeded to make their way home. The event was a success with 83.3% of the attendees who responded to the evaluation form, indicating their interest in similar events in the future.



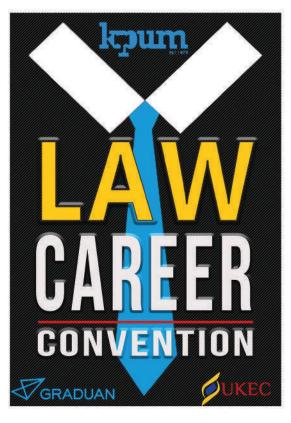
Sir David Keene (ex-Court of Appeal judge), Mark Hill QC, and Patrick Maddams (Sub-Treasurer of the Inner Temple). During reception, attendees had a networking session with our guests of honour and VIPs including Paul Subramaniam from

Nancy's speech, Patrick Maddams spoke about the long-standing relationship between Malaysia and the Inner Temple; he commented about the substantial amount of Malaysians who join the Inn each year and the Inn's pride in having Malaysia's first Prime Minister, Tunku

#### **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/581325891968601/ Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-spring-formal-2015/

# LAW CAREER CONVENTION



2.Corporate Luncheon

Corporate luncheon was held at the Bar of the Society Restaurant in the hotel between II.15am - Ipm. Partners and selected participants were served with an oriental buffet. Participants had the opportunity to learn more about the culture of the firms by engaging in deep conversations with representatives from the firms. The general flow of the event went smoothly and every attendee had a fruitful session.

### 3. Negotiations Competition

At approximately 12.30 pm the contestants were told to proceed to the Tower Room where they were to be given a brief summary on the structure of the negotiation competition. They were also informed of the rules and regulations of the said competition and were then divided into 4 groups. The contestants for the competition were allocated approximately half an hour to prepare and each team was presented with a sheet detailing the set of general facts that was known to all the teams, as well as to the audience and a separate set of confidential facts that was known only to their team. Discussion then ensued on how each team would proceed in furthering their goals.

In conjunction with the KPUM Spring Formal, KPUM organised the inaugural Law Career Convention (LCC) on the 14th of March 2015. This event was catered specifically for Malaysian law students. It provides them with a platform to interact with partners from participating firms in order to understand the legal career in Malaysia.

#### **I.Presentation**

The event officially began at 10:30am with the MC of the event, Sophia Choy addressing the crowd and representatives from the participating firms. The event started with a short speech by the President of KPUM, Pang Jo Fan, followed by a speech from the UKEC representative, Nicola Tang.

After the speeches, the first presentation was by Mr Paul Subramaniam from Zaid Ibrahim & Co, followed by Mr SM Shanmugam representing Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill and ended with Ms Asma Mohd Yunus representing Thomas Phillip. Each presentation was followed by a short Q&A session and at the end of the final Q&A session, tokens of appreciation were presented by KPUM's President to the representative of each firm. All representatives from participating firms and selected participants were then told to proceed to the Society Bar & Restaurant for the Corporate Luncheon.



The competition commenced at 1.30 pm. Throughout the course of the competition almost all the contestants had an opportunity to put forth their arguments and overall, there was substantial participation from all the contestants involved. There were many excellent speakers who articulated their points with ease and finesse, and the competition progressed smoothly. Halfway through the competition, the competitors were given pep talks by their mentors. The mentors also provided them with much needed guidance on how to further proceed during the second half.

The competition recommenced after the consultation session and consensus was reached on most of the major points in issue. The judges were then given time to deliberate and come to a decision on which team was to emerge victorious. The team representing the Ministry of Trade and Industry were declared to be the winners of the competition, and David Lim from the team representing Justice and Suits LLP was awarded the title of best speaker, though there were honourable mentions as well. All contestants were awarded certificates of participation, and the winning team and Best Speaker were awarded prizes in addition to the certificates. As a whole, the four-way negotiation competition was a success and it is certainly something that should be replicated in the conventions to come.

#### **4.Interview Sessions**

One of our partnering firms, Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors conducted their interview sessions before the commencement of the Convention, and also during the Negotiation Competition due to a personal request by the firm's representative. On a different note, the interview sessions conducted by other partnering firms commenced after the Negotiation Competition. Selected candidates were ushered to their interview locations. In addition. the firms' feedback displayed that they were very satisfied with in-depth engagement and assessment of both the selected and additional candidates during the interviews. The sessions ended at 7:00pm as the candidates left the Convention.

KPUM would like to thank all the participants of the convention and

the competition and participating partners for making this event a success!nd at the end of the final Q&A session, tokens of appreciation were presented by KPUM's President to the representative of each firm.All representatives from participating firms and selected participants were then told to proceed to the Society Bar & Restaurant for the Corporate Luncheon.

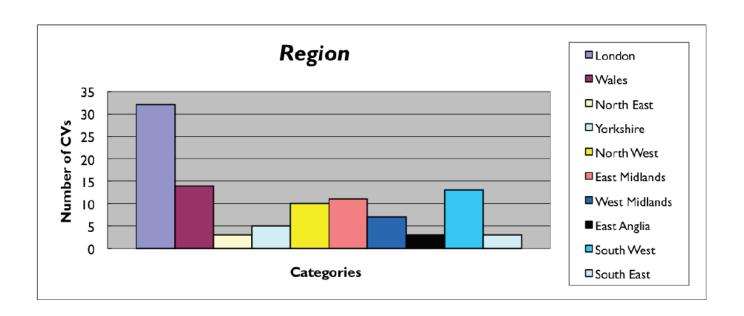
#### **Publicity**

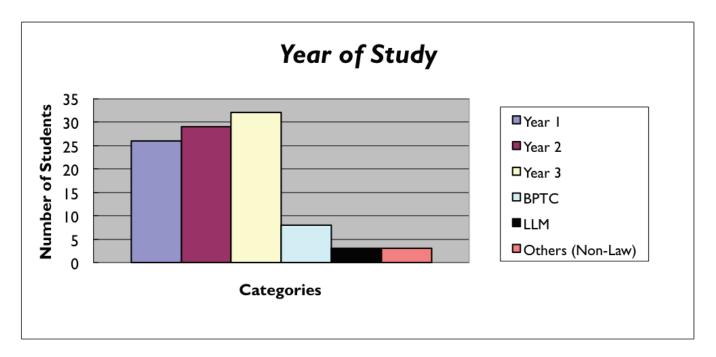
Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/1559709730977365/

Website: http://www.kpum.org/ event/kpum-law-career-convention-lcc-2015/



Cover picture on the Facebook Event Page for Law Career Convention 2015





Total number of CVs collected: 101

#### Universities

- L.London Region
  - a)BPP University
  - b)City University
  - c)Imperial College
  - d)Kings College
  - e)London School of Economics &
  - Political Science
  - f)Queen Mary, University of
  - London
  - g)School of Oriental and African
  - Studies
  - h)University College London
  - i)University of Law
- 2.Wales Region
  - a)Abersytwth University
  - b)Cardiff University

- 3.North East Region a) Northumbria University b)Durham University
- 4. Yorkshire Region a)University of Leeds
- 5.North West Region a)University of Manchester b)University of Liverpool
- 6.East Midlands Region a)University of Nottingham b)University of Leicester c)University of Hertfordshire

- 7. West Midlands Region a)University of Warwick
- 8. East Anglia Region a) University of Essex
- 9.South West Region a)University of Bristol b)University of West of England
- 10.South East Region a)University of Kent b)University of Portsmouth c)University of Reading



Pioneering the inaugural Malaysian Law Career Convention in London has never been easy, especially when the idea only took 2 months to materialise. I am glad to have worked with the team, 8 captivating individuals who had given their best to bring legal career opportunities from Malaysia to students in the UK. 99

Leo Wai Kin, Head of the LCC team



# **CORPORATE EVENTS**

- Roundtable Series
- Professional Perspective

# **CORPORATE EVENTS**

# ROUNDTABLE SERIES ZICO ROUNDTABLE SERIES 2014

Date: 6 Septmber 2014

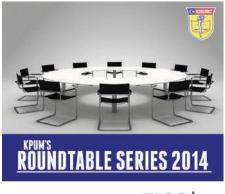
Time: 9am

Venue: ZICOlaw Head Office

The event began with 30 minutes of registration before the opening address by the Vice President of KPUM 2014/15, Jasmine Cheng. In the address of the ZICOlaw representative, Mr Paul Subramaniam, he spoke on the career progression within the firm apart from elaborating on the working culture and ASEAN regional development of the firm. Mr Subramaniam also emphsised the importance of having a two way discussion with future lawyers as a method to keep ZICOLaw on par with the changes in mind-set and technology of the new era.

The discussion then kicked off. The 2 questions for discussion were:

- I. How should law firms prevent outflow of talent?
- 2. Is Malaysia's legal market ready to be liberalized?







The participants were split into 4 pre-determined groups and each group was assigned a representative from ZICOlaw. Each group had 20 minutes each to discuss the issue brought up. The ZICOlaw representative was tasked with selecting the best speaker from each group and the four finalists would compete with each other.

After over 3 hours of intense competition, the winners were decided on. The session ended with the ZICOlaw representatives giving a tour of the office and availing themselves to a Q & A and photo session. Lunch was provided in a nearby restaurant and participants finally headed home at approximately 4pm.

Publicity

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/roundtablezico14/

 $Facebook\ Event\ Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/274672486063769/?ref=5\&action\_history=nulled for the control of the c$ 

# PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE LITIGATOR: PEACEKEEPER OR TROUBLEMAKER?



Date: 18 October 2014

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Thomas Philip Advocates and Solicitors

The gap in terms of employability skills between local law students and their counterparts who have returned from the UK moved us, compelled the Malaysia Representatives to seize the opportunity when Mr Eddie, the founder of eLawyer offered us a chance to train the students in basic job search skills. The idea sprout and 75 students signed up for our first ever Professional Perspective Programme: Litigator-Troublemaker or Peacemaker. The Malaysia Reps had a fateful encounter with Mr Mathew Thomas Philips in court. He then graciously offered his office as the venue of the event as the countdown clock to the event began to tick. Logistics were ironed out, and confirmation emails sent.

#### Registration

The striking blue buntings of KPUM were placed in strategic corners. We were moved when students unexpectedly arrived an hour earlier before the stated time, and the friendly staff of Mathew Thomas Philips gladly assisted us at the registration booth. Students were treated to simple Malaysian style breakfast of popiah and teh tarik while they mingled with fellow law students.

Opening Speech & The Signing of Memorandum of Understanding Our first flagship Malaysian event began with one of our Malaysia Representatives, Ms Kee Hui Yee addressing the audience by a speech from our President, Pang Jo Fang. She welcomed the students and introduced KPUM to the Malaysian law students who are still unfamiliar with the territory of KPUM and what we do. Next, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with eLawyer, fostering a relationship to gap the employability skills between local law students and their counterpart who graduated from the UK.

## Mr Mathew's Session

Mr Mathew, a renowned civil litigator in the country, began to speak. He started by defining the terms 'peacemaker' and 'troublemaker' in the context of litigation. He quoted James Melamed to illustrate that a lawyer who seeks peace is a breath of fresh air for the legal profession. In contrast, 'troublemaker' lawyers refused to settle for the sake of financial gains and the inquisitorial nature of court proceedings worsen the condition. With the great expansion of mega law firms flourished came the notorious concept of 'billable hours', causing the law firms to hike litigation prices and discourage conciliation to cover the operating costs. The real life cases cited were particularly moving, especially where a divorce case gone wrong and the condemning tone of the opposite counsel during cross examination drove the client who suffered from clinical depression to commit suicide, ending the trial in a tragic tone. To quote him; "To be a peacemaker you must prepare for war". He concluded by a wonderful, moving piece of advice; calling for a shift in the legal profession from the traditional profit maximizing model socially capitalist to conscious business.

#### Mr Eddie's Session

During the session on basic CV writing skills as well as interview etiquette, the tastefully decorated office transformed into a lecture theatre, where students took notes diligently. We are grateful that Mr Eddie from eLawyer graced us with his presence to ease the students' burden in preparing the students for job interviews in the future. Students were told to safeguard their online reputation and be weary of what they post on social media where future employees can easily evaluate them through search engines. He could not emphasise enough the importance of leaving a pleasant first impression, beginning from a firm and solid handshake with adequate amount of eye contact

#### **Q&A** Session

During the Q&A session, Mr Mathew reminded the students the gravity of a good command in both Malay and English language because "language is the common commodity of lawyers". It is also vital for young lawyers to achieve a work-life balance; relationships are at stake and you are heading towards the path of self-destruction. When asked about the recent controversial raised by the 'DIYLaw', he welcomed the move as he opined that there is nothing revolutionary of ending the monopoly of lawyers in certain line of

work with the advancement in technology. The world is revolving, so the legal industry should make full use of technology; instead they should become legal engineers handling project management. Mr Eddie echoed his idea, adding that this would encourage law graduates to consider alternative career options.

Office Tour, Lunch and Networking Session

During the office tour, students were amazed at the well-stocked law library. One of the associates, Clinton Tan took some time off his work and explained to the students how it is like working in Thomas Philip and tasks that interns are expected to perform. We were indebted to Thomas Philip which generously bought us Subway for lunch; followed by networking session where law students formed bonds with partners, associates and pupils. A legion of students flocked to Mr Mathew for insider tips to the litigation field.

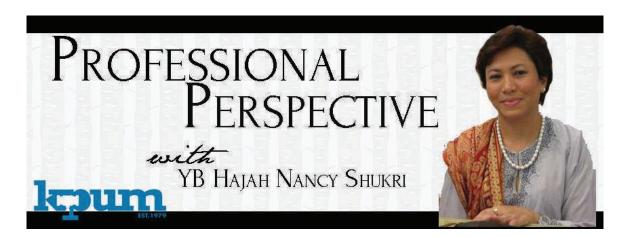
It was a moment of effortless skill. culmination of meetings & commitment from the dedicated staff of Mathew Philips and eLawyer. It is our hope that the event casted a very long shadow, establishing models and patterns that were to be followed by other events to come.

#### Publicity

Website: http://www.kpum.org/eve nt/pppelawyer I 4/

Facebook Event Page: https://www. facebook.com/events/868898559 794917/?ref=5&action history=null

# YB NANCY SHUKRI



Date: 21 February 2015

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Posto Ristorante Italiano, London

A few of the KPUM Executive Committee members and Executives met up over a dinner with YB Nancy Shukri, who is the Minister in Charge of Law in the Prime Minister's Department and also the Member of Parliament for Batang Sadong, in Sarawak. The event at II Posto Ristorante Italiano near Victoria station was also attended by several members of Badan Perhubungan Negara (BPN), Kelab Umno London (KUL) and several other law students.

The dinner began proceeded without a hitch. YB Nancy engaged with everyone present and spoke about her experiences as a Law Minister as well as her experience with helping out at the recent floods in Kelantan earlier in the year despite not feeling very well due to the long flight from Malaysia.

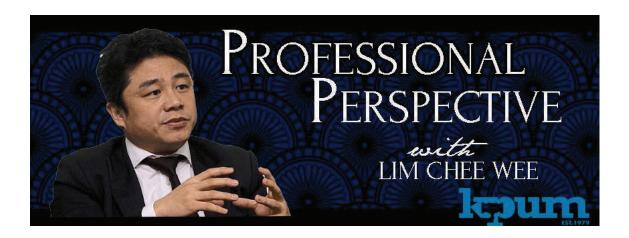
#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/professional-perspective-yb-hajah-nancy-shukri/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/783134971771566/?ref=5&action\_history=null



# **LIM CHEE WEE**



Date: 23 February 2015

Time: 7pm

Venue: Inamo St James, London

KPUM hosted Mr Lim Chee Wee, partner of SKRINE and the immediate past president of the Malaysian Bar Council for an pre-dinner informal drinks session at Inamo St James, London. Mr Lim is well-known as a leading lawyer in the dispute resolution division.

mentor-mentee relationship. He emphasised that clashes in personality are fairly common between mentors and mentees but persistence tends to see a mentee through the course of pupilage as the situation will typically only get better!

On top of that, Mr Lim also encouraged the ones amongst our members interested in



During the session, Mr Lim shared with our members in attendance the work culture of law firms in Malaysia and what it takes to establish a great returning to practice back home to familiarize themselves with the legal code of Malaysia as such discipline and self-initiative would take them a long way in terms of making the learning curve more gentle when the time comes to return home.

Besides Mr Lim, we were also privileged to have met Mr Ng lern-Fei, a Malaysian barrister who is practising at Essex Court Chambers here in London, Mr. Ng was called to the Bar in 2002 and has been practising since then. Mr Ng shared his insights and experiences practising as a lawyer in the UK, providing a very helpful contrasting set of perspectives from that of Mr Lim. One of the most important advice he imparted to the members in attendance was that the expertise and service provided by lawyer transcends boundaries of countries today, making an international experience invaluable asset to a lawyer.

#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/e vent/professional-perspectivelim-chee-wee/

Facebook Event Page: https://ww w.facebook.com/events/43215 0140275350/?ref=5&action history=null

# LEXISNEXIS NETWORKING EVENT



Date: 19 March 2015 Time: 1:45pm

Venue: LexisNexis Malaysia

Headquarters

In collaboration with KPUM and LexisNexis, a networking session cum legal research and editing skills workshop session was held with participants from various institutions such as Brickfields Asia College, HELP University, KDU University College and University of Malaya.

The main objective of this event was to forge a closer tie between the three organisations. Apart from that, it aimed to introduce participants to the process of legal editing as well as basic legal research skills via Lexis-Nexis' online legal database. As part of the workshop, participants were also given a short legal editing exercise on a draft of a particular statute and were taught on the usage of correct connectors and terms whilst conducting a search on their database. Employment and attachment opportunities in LexisNexis were promoted to the participants as well.

On top of that, the participants were also introduced to LexisNexis Malaysia's core goal in upholding rule of law across Asia, apart from publishing legal references and providing online office management systems, through extensive efforts in reconstructing democracy and law making structure as well as rebuild-

ing law schools across third world countries such as Myammar, Samoa, Fiji and Maldives and also establishing legal aid in some of these countries. This includes practical training provided to local members of the legislature, organising workshops and tutorials for local law students and donation of legal resources to newly reopened law schools. Participants were also brought for an office tour before refreshments were served.

#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/lexis-nexis-networking-session/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/784278844 958517/?ref=5&action\_history=null



# PUBLIC INTEREST AND OTHER COLLABORATIONS

- Public Interest Series
- Other Collaborations

# **PUBLIC INTEREST SERIES**

# **#MANSUHAKTAHASUTAN THE SOCIAL MEDIA EXOLOSION**





On 15 December 2015, the #MansuhAktaHasutan Committee launched the social media campaign calling for the repeal of the Sedition Act 1948. The initiative involved gathering photos of students holding up various signs calling for the repeal of the Sedition Act. This campaign was ongoing throughout the academic year of 2014/15 and those who were interested in submitting their photos could do so through the KPUM.

#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/mansuhaktahasutan/the-social-media-explosion/. All photos were uploaded for the public on the KPUM Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.719568941449372.1073741842.449088701830732&type=3

# DATO SAIFUDDIN ABDULLAH



VENUE UCL

Date: 25 September 2015

Time: 7pm

Venue: University College London

Dato' Saifuddin arrived at around 6.40pm, 20 minutes before scheduled as he refused to receive sponsorship from KPUM for his taxi fees. More than half of the participants started coming in at 6.40pm — 7.20pm as they enjoyed the short networking session as they spoke to each other and Dato Saifuddin with the snacks bought by KPUM.

Jo Fan (the President of KPUM) then called the talk into session. Everyone was asked to sit in a circle set up at the front of the room so that the session would be comfortably informal. Jo Fan thanked everyone for coming, explained about the Public Interest Series, the Union's involvement in the #MansuhAktaHasutan Campaign and about the reforms that are going on. He then immediately passed the floor to Dato' Saifuddin.



Dato Saifuddin spent the first 20 minutes or so talking about his views on the Sedition Act, on its unfairly low threshold and bizzare implementation and use for political purposes. The floor was then opened for questions. Dato' chose not to speak too much about the Act itself as most would already know how draconian and bad it is. The discussion went very much into the political aspect of the implementation and retention of this Act. He reckoned that it would have been a good political strategy for BN to abolish the Act especially as faith in Pakatan has recently went down and fails to understand why it has not been done. However, he remained confident that the PM knows what he is doing and the Sedition Act will be repealed in due time. He further went into predicting what could be based on his previous experience as a Cabinet Minister and an UMNO Supreme Council member.

Upon JoFan's question, Dato' said that it is practically impossible to have a neutral stand in this issue unless one thinks that the Sedition Act should only be subjected to amendments. However that argument seems severely flawed seeing that judges may still be able to use the well-established precedents to interpret the Act in the same spirit. Dato' also explained on NUCC's consultations and draft of the National Harmony Bills, how the 3 different bills work and the progress so far.

He ended the session at around 8.55pm urging everyone to continue debating and discussing the issue as the conversation and public pressure need be persisted. Jo Fan ended the session by once again informing everybody on the various campaigns that the Union is involved in and urging all to participate if possible. He thanked Dato for the very insightful session. As the session ended, representatives of the Union adjourned to dinner with Dato and his wife.

# **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-public-interest-series-dato-saifuddin-abdullah/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/698762366865566/?ref=5&action history=null

# THE SEDITION ACT AND IT'S RELEVANCE: AN ALTERNATE VIEW



Date: 8 December 2014

Time: 7pm

Venue: Malaysian Hall, London

Kelab UMNO London hosted, in collaboration with Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-undang Malaysia (KPUM), a session with Datuk Hafarizam Harun on the Sedition Act 1948.



Datuk Hafarizam is the Managing Partner of Hafarizam & Co and holds an LL.B (Hons) from the International Islamic University of Malaysia and an LL.M from the University of Warwick. Datuk Hafarizam has been counsel in numerous election petition cases and appellate matters. He is also Company Secretary to Yayasan Pendidikan Tun Abdul Razak and Universiti Tun Abdul Razak Sdn Bhd.

Datuk Hafarizam spoke on the following matters:

- I.The post-1969 historical context in which the Sedition Act came into being;
- 2.The fact that the Sedition Act protects the special privileges of the non-bumiputras as well; 3.The extent to which the right to freedom of expression was protected by the "basic structure" constitutional doctrine;
- 4.The distinction drawn in between Mark Koding between questioning the existence of special privileges (an offence) as opposed to their implementation.

In the subsequent Q&A session, the following issues were discussed:

- I.Comparisons to the experience of the United Kingdom in dealing with internal unrest;
- 2. Whether the existence-implementation distinction in Mark Koding is sufficiently clear to laymen;
- 3.Potential check-and-balances to prosecutorial discretion.

In the true Malaysian fashion, we ended the session with Teh Tarik, pisang goreng and mi goreng.

#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/public-interest-series-the-sedition-act-and-its-relevancean-alternative-view/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/881113775274562/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# RULE OF LAW IN MALAYSIA WITH TAN SRI SHAFEE ABDULLAH



# PUBLIC INTEREST SERIES WITH TAN SRI SHAFEE ABDULLAH

DISCUSSION ON THE BULE OF LAW IN MALAYSIA

Date: FRIDAY, 17th April 2015

Time: 17:15 to 18:30

Venue: Dewan Putrajaya, Malaysia Hall London







Date: 17 April 2015 Time: 5:30pm

Venue: Malaysian Hall, London

Tan Sri Shafee Abdullah gave a talk, hosted by Kelab UMNO London, Malaysia Forum and KPUM at Malaysia Hall, London. The session was moderated by Shaun Kua, Fellowship Director of KPUM, and lasted approximately 90 minutes.

In his short opening remarks, Tan Sri Shafee spoke about his role in the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission of Human Rights (AICHR) and his plan to convene a meeting of judges from ASEAN & overseas to discuss interpretation of constitutional human rights guarantees.

Tan Sri noted that there have been serious concerns about the independence of the judiciary since the early 1990s, but believed that, in recent years, the judiciary has returned or almost returned to its pre-1990 standards of independence. He also argued that the certain statements of previous Bar Council presidents were inaccurate and/or excessively partisan.

During the subsequent question & answer session, Tan Sri was asked about his views on the Sedition

Act. Tan Sri considered some of the recent proposed amendments such as the exclusion of bail to be excessive, but considered the criminalizing of incitement of racial/religious ill will to be necessary, given the unique characteristics of Malaysian society.

Further, Tan Sri was asked about the conviction of Anwar Ibrahim. He asserted that the High Court's reasons for acquitting Anwar Ibrahim at first instance were merely technical. DSP Jude Pereira's cutting of the plastic bag containing the samples was in line with standard police operating procedure. The integrity of the samples themselves were confirmed by the chemist to be uncompromised.

On the question of why Saiful was not charged as well as an abettor of the criminal act, Tan Sri gave two possible justifications. Firstly, Saiful did not truly consent to the sodomy and prosecuting him would be unfair. Secondly, the prosecution decision not to charge Saiful can be conceived of as a plea bargain, common in other jurisdictions. Tan Sri noted that the Attorney's General's Chambers ought to have explained their reasons better.

Tan Sri also addressed the Chambers' conduct of the Pedra Branca territorial dispute between Malaysia and Singapore. He noted that there may have been evidential problems which significantly weakened the Malaysian case.

As a final point, Tan Sri offered his opinion on the National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) case. Tan Sri cited the Government's unexpected withdrawal from funding an abattoir of sufficient capacity as preventing the NFC from operating with a positive cashflow. The NFC was then forced to alternatively invest in the impugned condominiums to avoid depreciation in value of its funds.

The organisers presented Ronald Dworkin's "Justice for Hedgehogs" to Tan Sri as a token of our appreciation. We take this opportunity to thank Tan Sri for taking the time to speak to us.

## **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/ event/public-interest-series-ruleof-law-in-malaysia-with-tan-sri-sha fee-abdullah/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/683199 571825325/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# AMERICK SIDHU: ALTANTUYA- THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS



# 18 June 2015 | UCL Anatomy G04 | 7pm

Date: 18 June 2015

Time: 7pm

Venue: University College

London

The murder of Mongolian national Altantuya Shaariibuu in 2006 has been one of the most controversial and sensational cases in Malaysian political history. The entire saga has seen a long and turbulent series of developments and twists. Most recently, the Federal Court sentenced Sirul Azhar and Azilah Hadri (the case's suspects) to death. The two special operations members were allegedly ordered to eliminate Altantuya; before the verdict, however, Sirul fled to Australia. He is not attempting to navigate his tricky position and parlay his knowledge into a new life.

KPUM held another of its Public Interest Series talks, this time welcoming prominent lawyer Americk Sidhu to present his findings on the Altantuya case and explain its still-unanswered questions.

A practising advocate and solicitor for 33 years, he has taken on a variety of high-profile cases — including a legal challenge to the GE13 elcetion results — but his most significant effort to date is his extensive work on the Altantuya case. At the session, attended by students and members of the Malaysian diaspora in the UK, attendees were given a fairly thorough walkthrough of some of the case's more questionable developments.

Mr Sidhu highlighted, in particular, elements of Sirul's statement and portions of the High Court, Court of Appeal and Federal Court judgments in the case. Key witnesses were not called, or not properly cross-examined. Judgments made very curious factual and logical assertions, among other issues.

These oddities, taken together, suggested some concerted effort in diverting a thorough and proper prosecution of the case. He also fielded plenty of questions on the case, including queries on the more popularly-mentioned elements of the

case – like the extent of Altantuya's alleged connections with then-DPM Najib Razak, whistleblower P Balasubramaniam's conflicting statutory declarations and the revelations of Deepak Jaikishan.

The session was a very lively and fruitful one, with plenty of back-and-forth on the case — and while it was impossible to cover every element of such a complicated case in such a short span of time, Mr Sidhu did an excellent job in underlining the essential questions as well as bringing a more realist perspective to the potential truths behind the case.

# **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org /event/kpum-public-interest-series-with-americk-sidhu-altantuya-the-unanswered-questions/

Facebook Event Page: https://w ww.facebook.com/events/38 8805514640237/

# OTHER COLLABORATIONS

# KPUM ROAD SHOW AND TEACH FOR MALAYSIA AT HELP UNIVERSITY



Date: 9 February 2015

Time: 4pm

Venue: HELP University

With the assistance and coordination of HELP ALSA members in HELP, Adrian and Thomas, KPUM and Teach for Malaysia (TFM) managed to conduct an introductory session about KPUM in HELP University.

What made this event more interesting was the fact that, Ken Ming, the TFM)Recruitment and Acquisition Manager and Jie Jun, TFM campus leader were with us to promote the upcoming event titled as "Education Inequality: the Rich Educated; the Poor Checkmated?", jointly organised by KPUM and TFM.

The event kick started at 4pm Malaysian time, with a brief introductory speech by KPUM

Fellowship Department Executive, Ethan Chau, about the history of KPUM and its objectives as a Malaysian Law Students Union dedicated to safeguard and further promote the welfare of law students. Brochures and contact information were distributed too.

This was followed by the Ken Ming, TFM Recruitment Manager, conducting a presentation highlighting the problem of education inequity in Malaysia. He highlighted the shocking disparity in terms of quality of education secondary school students received throughout Malaysia, as well as the high drop out rate of students in rural areas. Ken Ming conducted the session in a rather informal and interactive mode. He encouraged the audience to express their thoughts about education

issues and answered all questions meticulously.

Hui Yee, the KPUM Malaysia Representative later took over the floor, giving a detailed introduction about KPUM. She gave a detailed explanation about KPUM's vision and mission for the upcoming years, as well as introducing KPUM Exco members and KPUM Malaysia Executives to the audience.

Hui Yee highlighted wide-ranging events and **KPUM** programmes that prepared for law students, inter alia, Spring Formal with Inner Temple in London, Lawatan Sambil Belajar to the Law Society and Inner Temple, 30 days of Summer Internship Programme, as well as the ASASI Human Right Internship Programme.



Later on, Ethan, the Fellowship Executive, took the opportunity to explain the nature and purposes of KPUM Fellowship Programme. He stressed on the role of the Fellowship as a platform where like-minded law students gather to promote the teaching, learning and dissemination of knowledge regarding to Malaysian Law. He also highlighted the previous events by Fellowship such as Medical Law Borak Session, as well as the upcoming event organised by the Medical Law Fellowship, titled as "Medico-Legal in Perspective-Abortion: is it Right? And is it your Right?".

The event ended with Teach for Malaysia Campus leader distributing wish cards, for which the participants were encouraged to write down their hopes and wishes for Malaysian children and took a picture in front of the TFM bunting. Several students later make further enquiry with regards to KPUM Internship programme, which KPUM Malaysia Representative, Pauline Ting, patiently answering each and every one of them.

## **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-roadshow-help -university/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events /773111042742883/?ref=5&action history=null

# KPUM-TEACH FOR MALAYSIA: EDUCATION INEQUITY-THE RICH EDUCATED, THE POOR CHECKMATED?



Date: 7 March 2015

Time: 2pm

Venue: Teach for Malaysia Office

It is sad to know that only 15% of Malaysian children have the opportunity to receive tertiary education and I out of 5 secondary school students drop of from school. To explore what law students can contribute to stop education inequity in the country, KPUM in collaboration with Teach for Malaysia (TFM), held a joint forum on 7 March 2015, titled Education Inequity: the Rich Educated, the Poor Checkmated?

The event attracted not only law students but also members of the public concerned about the education system in Malaysia. At

2.30 p.m., the event started off with Ken Ming, the talent acquisition assistant manager of TFM welcoming the audience followed by his presentation on 2 years fellowship programme provided by TFM as a career alternative for law students. From the preparation of fellows to teach to job opportunities after the fellowship, a better insight into the fellowship programme was delivered to the audience.

After Ken Ming's presentation, the event proceeded with the panels of the forum introducing themselves and shared about their experience while teaching in high need schools. The panel was formed by four fellows of TFM who read law prior joining

the fellowship. They are Jasmine Ong, Neoh Joon Kee, Joel Lee and Alex Lim.

loel Lee shared about Project Kenyang, a project initiated by him during his fellowship where a breakfast club was set up in the school he was placed to provide free healthy breakfasts to less privileged students. mentioned that through this project, the students learnt the importance of having breakfast and the scenario of having more than half the students fall asleep in class improved. Then, Alex Lim also shared about his project with his students on presenting a sketch with the theme of love to the public in the district where the school he was placed situated in.



The session was then opened up to the floor for questions. The fellows were asked about the kind of skills they learnt while they read law relevant in teaching. They explained that analytical skills and the skill to talk to people helped a lot while they were in the classroom and further mentioned that most of everything they gained from reading law are transferable to educating.

The event ended with presentation of token of appreciation to the speakers followed by light refreshments sponsored by TFM. While having refreshments, attendees networked with the fellows to gain an even deeper insight into the experience of being a TFM fellow. Through this event, participants were provided with valuable information of being a TFM fellow as career alternative and are now able to play their role in making change in the education system of the country.

# Publicity

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/education-inequity-the-rich-educated -the-poor-checkmated/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/643273392449965 /?ref=5&action\_history=null

# UKEC-IN-FOCUS: THE ANWAR IBRAHIM VERDICT- LAW & CONSEQUENCES



Date: 30 March 2015

Time: 2pm

Venue: Anatomy G29 J Z Young Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, University College London

Last February, the Federal Court of Malaysia pronounced opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim guilty of sodomy, shutting the book on the sensational, nearly seven-year Sodomy II case.

The United Kingdom and Eire Council of Malaysian Students (UKEC) held the first of its In Focus series of events, aimed at promoting discourse amongst students on current Malaysian affairs.

The session was jointly moderated by and UKEC Strategies executive Daniel Subramaniam and KPUM member Nicholas Wong, which was held in University College London's (UCL) J Z Young Lecture Theatre. To encourage free discussion, the event also adopted the Chatham House Rule: anyone in attendance can use any information coming from the discussion, but cannot reveal the identities of commenters.

The session kicked off with a brief presentation by KPUM on the facts of the case, from the initial allegation in 2008 up to Anwar's final appeal in 2015. The summary broadly described the sequence of events involving Anwar and his accuser Saiful Bukhari Azlan, the general legal issues in contention and the unanswered questions still pending in the case.

The floor was then opened to the attendees, who wasted no time in offering their opinions on the issue.

One medical student spoke at length about the medical forensics of the case, describing how the lack of evidence for physical penetration and other apparent inconsistencies in the prosecution's narrative made the allegation of sodomy questionable.

This student highlighted how the presence of a foreign substance (like semen) in the anus would have triggered defecation, seemingly at odds with Saiful's claim that he had not passed motion for two days. Bacterial action on the semen within the rectal walls was also explained at length.

In contrast, one or two students suggested that Saiful's actions following the alleged encounter with Anwar were not as unusual as critics often suggest. They pointed out that victims of sexual abuse or assault are naturally hesitant to seek for medical attention or report the incident, therefore Saiful's apparent reluctance in approaching the police was not as irrational as some may have assumed.

Another attendee raised question of the implications of the Federal Court decision within the legal practice. Participants pointed out that lawyers might now face some difficulties in advising their clients, especially on matters of criminal evidence and procedure, given that the chain of custody in evidence could now apparently be compromised with no effect as to the evidence's admissibility. The Federal Court in its judgment had ruled that investigating officer, Jude Pereira, was justified in cutting open a sealed sample bag in order to relabel the sample containers inside.



Also raised was the topic of expert evidence and how the weight of expert testimony was strongly undermined in the case. One attendee criticised the court's reasoning for disregarding the evidence given by two experts on the semen samples, arguing that this defeated the purpose of calling in experts and would create more uncertainty in future trials where such evidence might play a vital role. The Court reasoned that since the defence's expert witnesses had not conducted the analysis of the samples themselves, their word was worth less than the prosecution witnesses who had performed the analyses.

Much was also made of the political conversation surrounding the case. Some attendees were sceptical of Anwar's refusal to subject himself to cross-examination in favour of a statement from the dock, feeling that this only contributed to public perception of his guilt. Others added that while it may have hurt public opinion on the defence, Anwar's decision not to testify should not have damaged his case legally.

The students also touched on issues like opposition pact Pakatan Rakyat's future leadership and what the verdict could mean for ordinary citizens relying on the judicial system.

At the end of the session, the moderators took an informal poll of the room on three questions: whether they agreed with the law (Section 377) as it stood, whether they believed that Anwar should have been convicted according to the law, and whether they believed Anwar was in their personal opinion guilty.

Nearly everyone in the room thought the law itself was not any good. Most thought that Anwar should not have been charged or convicted of the offence, with four abstaining and one agreeing with the verdict. Almost everyone did not have a conclusive personal opinion on Anwar's guilt, with only a few who thought he was either innocent or guilty.

The attendees were then invited to enjoy some free teh tarik and pisang goreng (no curry puffs, unfortunately) and continue their discussions informally. After an hour or so of mingling and chatting the event officially came to a close.

#### **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/710228252428122/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# **UKEC: PAN XII- STUDENT LEADERS' SESSION**



Date: 31 March 2015

Time: 9am

Venue: Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

KPUM President, Pang Jo Fan, had the privilege of being invited to speak at the Student Leaders Session this year's Projeck Amanat Negara at University of Birmingham on the topic of Student Involvement in Nation Building.

# **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/867825013238728/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# KPUM-MONSOONS BOOK CLUB (MCB):ZUNAR AT THE PARK



Date: 17 May 2015 Time: 12pm

Venue: Speakers' Corner, London

The event begun as the members of the Monsoon Book Club arrived with Zunar KPUM helped set up the simple fold-up platform. Zunar also helped draw up a simple banner as his backdrop beforehand.

The platform was then set up nearby the Speaker's Corner sign at Hyde Park while the banner was held by two representatives of MBC. The KPUM President started with a welcome speech, introducing the Union and introducing the speaker for the day. Zunar then took the stage as more gathered around the platform to listen to his speech. In his speech, Zunar introduced

himself, what he does and the struggles he faced as a political cartoonist in Malaysia.

He also took the opportunity to introduce some of his books as well as the usual subjects of his artistic work. He mentioned the many court cases he faced for his work and especially the most recent one under the Sedition Act for a tweet he posted. He managed to highlight the prevailing issues of human rights and freedom of expression in Malaysia as this gained interest of the relatively international audience beside the Malaysians present from MBC and KPUM.

He patiently answered the many questions of the curious audience about his work and the state of human rights in South East Asia, particularly in Malaysia. The Speakers Corner session ended after about half an hour and everybody present was invited to a picnic session at the park. Through the informal picnic session at the park, students and experienced activists such as Dato' Noor Farida who was also present were given the opportunity to interact with each other as they enjoyed the pleasant afternoon.

#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org /event/kpum-mbc-zunar-in-thepark/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/838549939556728/?ref=5&action\_history=null

# THE ROLE OF THE MALAYSIAN BAR- RULE OF LAW

# The Role of Malaysian Bar - Rule of Law Date: 20 June 2015 Time: 10a.m. - 12p.m. Venue: Bar Council Auditorium, KL

Date: 20 June 2015 Time: 10am

Venue: Raja Aziz Addruse Auditorium Bar Council

KPUM kick started its series of summer events with an insightful discourse with the Bar Council of Malaysia about its role as a professional body in upholding the Rule of Law in Malaysia, in light of many of the ongoing issues that the nation is currently facing, from the failure to secure the abolishment of Sedition Act, its record breaking invocation recently against politicians and outspoken activists, to the recent enactment of Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) that brought back the draconian power of the authority to detain without charge and trial in the name of the all embracing "national security".

KPUM organised this event to raise awareness among the law students about the urgent need of reviving Rule of Law as the cornerstone of our democratic society. During the event, students had the chance of listening first hand from the office bearers of Malaysian Bar Council about the role of Malaysian Bar as the bulwark of liberty in the ongoing struggle to safeguard fundamental rights of citizens and its effort in reversing the worrying trend of ignoring Rule of Law.

The session began with the KPUM Malaysian Executive Angel Khoo giving a brief introduction about the history of KPUM, its new 3R strategy as well as the events KPUM had organised throughout the year. This was followed by a 5 minutes short speech by KPUM President, Pang lo Fan, expressing gratitude for the proactive Bar Council office bearers to actively engage with law students and enhance better cooperation with students in the effort of reviving Rule of Law in our beloved country.

This was followed by an insightful speech delivered by the President of the Bar Council Malaysia, Mr. Steven Thiru. He started his speech by welcoming students to the Bar Council and stressed the importance of the younger generation of the legal profession to be consciously aware of the role of lawyers in safeguarding fundamental rights of citizens.

Mr. Steven Thiru reiterate the crucial notion of "Rule of Law" should not be replaced by the draconian "Rule by Law". He explained that law should not be passed to silence citizens and every effort in securing national security should not be at the expense of unjustifiable scrapping of individual's fundamental rights.

"Ever since the independence of our nation as a democratic nation in 1957, it is 58 years too late for the state to ignore fundamental rights," he commented on the Parliament recent passing of POTA.



Mr. Steven Thiru expressed his fear for the nation on the current trend of retracting from fundamental values enshrined in the Federal Constitution and certain quarters' irresponsible, strange interpretation of the Federal Constitution, to an extent that has no difference compared to re-writing it, for the mere purpose of furthering their own interests.

He also commented on the often sidelined interest of the people of state of Sabah and Sarawak (East Malaysia), reminding us that the two Borneo states did not join Malaysia, but rather their accession with the Federation of Malaya formed the very sovereign nation of Malaysia. "We can't change history, history lies in the mind of the people.." he said.

Lastly, Mr. Steven Thiru speaks of the role of the legal profession to be the voice of those who cannot or not brave enough to speak up for themselves, and stressed the importance of "independence of the competent Bar", as much as the "independence of the judiciary".

Mr. Steven later passed the floor to the other office bearers of the Bar, recommending that each of them give their share of the comment on the issues that they are currently dealing with. They were Secretary of the Bar Council, Karen Cheah, ex President of Bar Council and Co-Chair of Arbitration & ADR Committee, Dato Khutubul Zaman, Chairperson of Human Rights Committee, Mr. Andrew Khoo, Chairperson of Environmental Law and Climate Change, Mr. Roger Chan, Chairperson of National Young Lawyers Committee, Syahredzan Johan, Co-Chair of Constitutional Committee, Firdaus Husni, and Safer Malaysia Committee Member, Richard Wee.

Karen Cheah spoke of the importance of vocal Bar Council members in confronting injustice in daily life. She stressed that the role of the Bar Council to speak up has moral as well as statutory basis, pointing out that s.42 of the Legal Profession Act 1976 requiring Malaysian Bar Council to uphold the cause of justice, uninfluenced "by fear or favour". She stressed that no matter how many attempts to re-interpret Legal Profession

Act 1976 to dilute the role of Bar Council, those 4 words, ie: "without fear or favor" was never going to change.

Dato Khutubul Zaman spoke on the topic is Hudud Law and its inevitable irreconcilability with the Federal Constitution. He first explained what Hudud is, its nature and components, as well as the origin of the controversy, i.e.: when the Kelantan State Legislative Assembly passed Kelantan Syariah Enactmet back in 1993, an attempt to enforce Hudud law in the state of Kelantan.

This was of course was in vain because Art 74 of the Federal Constitution stipulated individual states in the federation can only legislate via its legislative assembly in matters permitted under the State List. Although Islamic affairs is under State List, Criminal Law is a federal matter and thus such an enactment would be "unconstitutional". The controversial issue renewed itself recently, with PAS President seeking to push for a Private Member Bill in Parliament to extend the sentencing power of Syariah court, indirectly laying down the path for actual implementation of Hudud in the rather conservative State of Kelantan.

This was followed by the comment of Andrew Khoo on issues revolving around the current state of Human Rights for both citizens and non-citizens in Malaysia. Andrew commented on the controversial and high profile issue of the Rohingya boat people that create the latest round of Humanitarian crisis due to their displacement in Myanmar.



He pointed out that unlike many other countries, Malaysia did not sign the Rome Statute on International Criminal Court and more importantly not even a party of the 1951 UN Status of Refugee Convention. This creates a vacuum as to the recognition of international obligation of Malaysia as part of UN to recognise provide humanitarian support to refugees. In short, there is no law both domestically and internationally that bind Malaysia with regards to refugee issues and therefore highly unsatisfactory.

Mr. Andrew later touched on the issue of independence of the judiciary, and commented that somehow and quite unfortunate-

ly, the judiciary can sometimes be its worst enemy for its own independence by countenance and accede to the attempts to restrict the role of judiciary and its discretion in various aspects of the administration of justice, such as sentencing power.

Richard Wee later explained the role of Safer Malaysia Committee in searching for a long term strategy to combat crime alongside the police, and jokingly teased on the Bar Council's wide ranging responsibility to such an extent to even include securing safety of fellow Malaysian in daily life! However, he pointed out that a safer Malaysia is crucial as "People should not live in fear.. Crime hurts the soul of the

society," he said. Richard then reminded law students that every area of law that we came across in our studies teach us to be bona fide in fulfilling our duty.

Syahredzan Johan explained that young lawyers should be aware that the legal profession is a noble profession with a rich tradition of speaking up for what is right. It is the calling of lawyers to be at the forefront of the fight against injustice, and "lawyers are the foot soldiers if the constitution," he said. "However, law at the same time not a perfect profession and success cannot be achieved without sacrifice."

Roger Chan took the opportunity to comment that too little has been done to stop the drastic climate change, global warming and further deterioration of our environment. He reminded students that throughout his career as a lawyer, there is always one criteria he sees critical and crucial, that is the ability to question everything. One should never stop questioning even the most established and well-accepted norm and state of knowledge in daily life.

Firdaus Husni pointed out that lawyers, with their added knowledge on law, should take on the added responsibility to utilise the knowledge for the welfare of people. Firdaus was also able to give her view from the feminist perspective, giving example like the Selangor Menteri Besar saga, where Kajang assemblywoman, Wan Azizah, was facing enormous pressure and resistance in the bid of becoming the first female Menteri Besar of the nation.

She commented that most if not, all, controversies that surfaced in our nation, such as the conflict between Civil Law and Syariah on faith conversion, child custody between Muslim and non-Muslim, can be settled at ease by adhering to the Federal Constitution, the highest law of the land. After this, there was a short O&A session.

The event came to an end with photo session of the Bar Council office bearers with all the attending students. A token of appreciation was delivered to express KPUM whole-hearted gratitude of the Bar Council commitment in upholding Rule of Law and foster closer tie with student body like KPUM. Lunch was served, owing to the generous Bar Council of Malaysia. Students managed to engage in informal conversation with each other as well as the some of the office bearers.

#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/session-with -bar-council-the-role-of-malaysian-bar-rule-of-law/

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com /events/555064571299249/



# CAREERS DEVELOPMENT

- 30 Days of Summer Internship Programme 2015
- ASASI Internship Programme 2014 & 2015

# **CAREERS DEVELOPEMENT**

# **KPUM'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1.30 Days of Summer Internship Programme A corporate-based internship for law students interested in the area of commercial law.

2. ASASI Internship Programme A internship based upon human rights and civil liberties for those interested in public interest litigation and NGO work.



Photo taken at ASASI 2014 Appreciation Dinner 2014 | 29 August 2014 | Acme Bar and Coffee

# 30 DAYS OF SUMMER 2015



30 Days of Summer is KPUM's new structured corporate internship programme. This initiative seeks to empower law students by connecting undergraduates with our legal partners in the corporate and commercial field.

## The Philosophy

- a. To establish professional and lasting relationships between law students and law firms.
- b. To facilitate law students in achieving their career aspirations.
- c. To provide law students with the insights in the working of law firms and latest legal developments in Malaysia.

This internship initiative seeks to help participants to identify the unique culture, long-term prospects and non-pecuniary perks of a career with our partner legal corporate firms, beyond relying on short-term remuneration advantages or mere brand placement.

30 Days of Summer seeks to provide a full spectrum of approaches for law firms to engage law students by assessing not just their curriculum vitae but also desired soft skills, which do not show up well on paper.

#### **The Structure**

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to intern with two different law firms during the internship period.

Weekly sessions are organized EXCLUSIVELY for successful candidates. It is a series of

happening side-events conjunction with 30 Days of Summer featuring informal with prominent sessions Malaysian lawyers, fun and engaging workshop problems and a chance to give participants a taste of what it takes to get involved in legal work in Malaysia. In addition to the working hours with our partners, interns are expected to participate in all of the following:

Date	Session
3 July 2015	Opening Session with Zicolaw
13 July 2015 24 July 2015	Law Firm Visit to Skrine Law Firm Visit to another selected partner
31 July 2015 7 August 2015	Mooting/ Negotiation Competition Legal case-based Challenge
14 August 2015	Wrap-Up Session with Zicolaw

# **Eligibility**

The programme was open to ANY Malaysian law student currently studying either in the UK or Malaysia. Each applicant was required to answer the following questions:

I.Elaborate on why you are interested in applying for this programme (Not more than 300 words).

2.Answer ONE of the following two questions:

a) In a fictitious new state, A and B agree to enter into a transaction to sell a newly discovered technological product. As a commercial lawyer, newly employed, advise A and B on the possible complications that might occur and the possible regulatory laws involved. Assumption: The new state is a free market democratic country (Not more than 700 words).

#### OR

b) "The passing of these amendments marks the next step towards liberalisation of the Malaysian legal services market. UK law firms are highly regarded around the globe. The success of these talks is good news for both our members and the Malaysian profession. We look forward to continuing to work with colleagues in Malaysia so that Malaysians will soon see the benefits of more choice of high-quality legal services."

- Nankunda Katangaza, Head of International Policy at the Law Society.

In 2012, the Legal Profession (Amendment) Act 2012 passed by Parliament and subsequently gazetted. With economic power and influence shifting from West to East, in particular the Asia Pacific region, the ASEAN economies are expected to pose a vibrant contrast to their counterparts in Europe in the foreseeable future. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) aims to transform ASEAN into a "single market and production base," which targets to substantially remove restrictions on services sectors by 2015. Thus, ASEAN governments have also called for the "progressive liberalisation of trade in legal services".

Are Malaysian lawyers ready for globalization?

Discuss (Not more than 700 words).

## **Time Period**

Applications opened on 31 January 2015 and closed on 28 February 2015. The interns began their work placements on 1 July 2015 and the work period will end on 14 August 2015.

#### **Publicity**

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/30daysofsummer

Website:http://www.kpum.org/ ourprojects/flagship-programs/30 -days-of-summer-2015/

#### The Interns

A total of 47 applicants applied for the programme: 23 residing in the United Kingdom and 24 residing in Malaysia. A total of 16 applicants were selected for the programme and their details together with their placements are as follows:

I.Carmen Lew Jia Min, LL.B Law, Brickfields Asia College (Year 1) Placement: ZICOlaw, Raja Darryl & Loh

2.Chaw Wei Ting, LLB Law, University of Manchester (Year I) Placement: Azmi & Associates, **ZICOlaw** 

3. Chuah Jia Yuen, LLB Law, University of Nottingham (Year 2) Placement: ZICOLaw, Skrine

4.Emily Chew Siew Wah, LLB Law, University of Bristol (Year I) Placement: Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors, Lee Hishammudin Allen & Gledhill

5. Eunice Ling Jie Ying, LLB Law, University of Manchester (Year I) Placement: Lee Hishammudin Allen & Gledhill, Skrine

6. Haniza Abdul Ghani, LLB Law, University College London (Year 2) Placement: ZICOLaw, Raja Darryl & Loh

7.Ili Syazwani Shairi, LLB Law, Queen Mary, University of London (Year 2) Placement: Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors, ZICOLaw

8. Jacie Tan Cheng Hwee, LLB Law, University of Warwick (Year 2) Placement: Raja Darryl & Loh & **ZICOLaw** 

9. Karen Yung, LLB Law, University of Warwick (Year I) Placement: Skrine, Azmi & Associates

10.Lee Wan Xin, LLB Law. University of Bristol (Year 2) Placement: ZICOlaw, Lee Hishammudin Allen & Gledhill

11.Lim Sheau Swan, LLB Law, Brickfields Asia College (Year 2) Placement: Christopher & Lee Ong, ZICOlaw

12. Michele Peh, LLB Law, Queen Mary University of London (Year 2) Placement: Skrine, Thomas Philip Advocates & Solicitors

13. Phang Jian-Jie, LLB Law, University of Bristol (Year 2) Placement: Christopher & Lee Ong, Azmi & Associates

14. Tan Iyan Xin, LLB Law, University College London (Year I) Placement: Raja Darryl & Loh, Skrine

15.Teh Xin Yi, LLB Law, Brickfields Asia College (Year 2) Placement: Lee Hishammudin Allen & Gledhill, Christopher & Lee Ong

16. Wong Han Wey, LL.B Law, University of Leeds (Year 2) Placement: Azmi & Associates, Christopher & Lee Ong





I started this programme with ultimate goal of exposure; bridging the gap between academic knowledge and legal work experience. Having the opportunity to be part of KPUM's first human rights internship, I am excited to see what our legal corporate internship has in store for our interns.

Adrian Koh, Careers Development Director 2014/15

# **ASASI INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2014 & 2015**



ASASI was pioneered as an internship programme under KPUM's new human rights and activism portfolio led by Jo Fan Pang in 2014. This internship programme focuses on human rights and activism in the legal profession – an area so vital, yet not given the attention that it deserves.

#### Why ASASI?

One word: exposure. Law students nowadays would mostly be on the lookout for big law firms, viewing the legal profession solely as a money-making platform. This is not wrong, but one must remember Section 42(1) of the Legal Profession Act 1976, which clearly states that the role of the Malaysian Bar (and all its members, i.e. lawyers) is to "uphold the cause of

justice... without fear or favour". Readers of the law are not only given a statutory duty to uphold justice, rule of law and condemn oppression, but also have a higher moral obligation to actively promote these values in whatever way we can.

Through the various internship opportunities and activities that go beyond office hours, ASASI aims to provide such an exposure to every single intern within the span of two months. Although one may not be able to grasp everything during that short period of time, KPUM believes that any exposure is good exposure as we aim to widen the perspectives of these participants to the many possibilities of branching out within the legal profession itself. KPUM hopes to see "graduates" of this programme searching for more of such internship opportunities to further hone their personal capacities, or to get involved with one of the many movements currently in existence.

KPUM also most certainly wishes to provide an opportunity for those already eager to pursue this area of legal practice, but who do not know where to begin.

KPUM did not recommend this internship for those who are already experienced volunteers in civil society initiatives and who have had prior experience, bearing in mind that the objectives of this programme should always be to train, equip and share with others who have not had similar opportunities.





# **Eligibility**

The programme was open to ANY Malaysian law student currently studying either in the UK or Malaysia. Applicants were required to answer the following questions:

I.Elaborate in not more than 300 words why you are applying for this programme

2. "... a meaningful understanding of the right to freedom of speech under the Constitution must be based on the realities of our contemporary society in Malaysia by striking a balance of the individual interest against the general security or the general

morals, or the existing political and cultural institutions."

- Raja Azlan Shah J in PP v Ooi Kee Saik & Ors [1971] I LNS 113

"...in the present case the line between what is seditious and what is not seditious is drawn by a judge. In the United Kingdom, it is drawn by a jury. If the judges are independent, as they are in Australia and in this country, then there is nothing to fear — the rule of law is preserved. It is then the province of the judge to hold the balance between the competing interests."

-Chan J in Public Prosecutor v Param Cumaraswamy (No. 2) [1986] | ML| 518 [24]

Comment in not more than 1000 words on the relevance of the Sedition Act 1948 in Malaysia based on current events and on the following book, cases and legislation;

a)Sedition Act 1948 b)KPUM Wiki: http://wiki.kpum.org/doku.php?id=sedition\_act c)Public Prosecutor v Ooi Kee Saik [1971] 2 MLJ 108 d)Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar 1962 AIR 955

\*You may also include sources other than those listed.\*



#### **Time Period**

#### 1.2014

Applications opened on March 7 2014 and closed on 30 April 2015. The interns began their work placements on 1 July 2014 and the work period ended on 29 August 2014.

#### 2.2015

Applications opened on 31 January 2015 and closed on 28 February 2015. The interns began their work placements on 1 July 2015 and the work period will end on 28 August 2015.

#### **The Structure**

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to intern with their allocated law firm or NGO for the full internship period.

Weekly sessions are organized for successful candidates and it was also open to interested members of the public, the exception being the final session which is EXCLUSIVELY for the interns. These side sessions are known as ASASI+ and it features informal sessions with prominent Malaysian lawyers, fun and engaging workshop problems and a chance to give participants a taste of what it takes to get involved in human rights work in Malaysia.

ASASI+ was organised for both 2014 and 2015. All sessions were held from 7-10pm on their respective dates at Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights [MCCHR] (Pusat Rakyat LoyarBurok). The schedules for both years are as follows:

# 2014

Date	Session
4 July 2014	Conversations with Richard Wee (Introduction to the Malaysian Bar and Upholding the Rule of Law)
11 July 2014 18 July 2014 1 August 2014 8 August 2014 15 August 2014	MyConsti Workshop with Firdaus Husni Conversations with Shanmuga Kanesaligam (Freedom of Religion) Conversations with Honey Tan (Women, Family and Law) Conversations with Roger Chan (Environmental Law) Wrapping-Up Session (New Sin Yew)

# 2015

Date	Session
3 July 2015	Richard Wee: Introduction to the Malaysian Bar and Upholding the Rule of Law
10 July 2015	Fahri Azzat: Freedom of Religion in Malaysia
24 July 2015	Syahredzan Johan: Role of the National Young Lawyers'
31 July 2015	Committee in Empowering Lawyers and Shaping the Legal Field
6 August 2015	Firdaus Husni: MyConsti Workshop  Lawyers for Liberty: Brutality, Oppression and Statelessness
14 August 2015	Honey Tan: Women, Family and Law
20 August 2015	Tunku Zain Al-Abidin: Globalization and Malaysia – A
28 August 2015	Crossroad at Human Rights, Democracy and Capitalism Pang Jo Fan:Wrapping-Up Session

Apart from ASASI+, interns were exposed to informal out of office hours activities. The 2014 cohort paid a visit to the Orang Asli Village of Kampung Sungai Gabai, Hulu Langat. The 2015 cohort will be expected to visit a refugee school under the care of the NGO, Refuge for the Refugees at the end of June, just before the internship period commences.

#### **Publicity**

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/kpum.asasi Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/kpum\_asasi Website: http://www.kpum.org/asasi



The ASASI 2014 cohort was interviewed in Sin Chew Today (Published: 16 December 2014)







Brickfields Asia College featured a write-up on the programme which can be found at http://bacmag.bac.edu.my/kpums-asasi-internship-programme/ (Published: 21 January 2015)



YouTube video published on KPUM's Youtube account, KPUM UKMLSU. The video can be found athttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPvIAwNQXrI (Published: 9 February 2015)

#### The Interns

A total of 9 applicants applied for the programme in 2014, 5 residing in the United Kingdom and 4 residing in Malaysia. A total of 7 applicants were selected for the programme. The interns were expected to write weekly reports on their work placements and take turns curating the Twitter account outside office hours. Their details together with their placements are as follows:

- I.Nicholas Wong, LL.B Law, University of Nottingham (Year 2)Placement: Malik Imtiaz
- 2.Cassandra Chung, LL.B Law, University of Nottingham (Year I) Placement: MCCHR
- 3. Pauline Ting, LL.B Law, Brickfields Asia College (Year 2)
  Placement: MCCHR
- 4.Kee Hui Yee, LL.B Law, Brickfields Asia College (Year I)
  Placement: Honey Tan
- 5.Adrian Lim, LL.B Law, HELP University (Year I) Placement: Lawyers for Liberty
- 6.Adrian Koh, LL.B Law, University of Bristol (Year I)
  Placement: Lawyers for Liberty
- 7.Kelvin Yii, LL.B Law, Brickfields Asia College (Year 2) Placement: Roger Chan

A total of 29 applicants applied for the programme in 2015, 13 residing in the United Kingdom, 15 residing in Malaysia and 1 in Singapore. A total of 13 applicants were selected for the programme and they were expected to carry out similar out-of-work duties as the 2014 cohort. Their details together with their placements are as follows:

- I.Goh Cia Yee, LL.B Law, University of Nottingham (Year I) Placement: BON, Advocates
- 2.Leslie Chong, LL.B Law, Aberystwyth University (Year 3) Placement: Malik Imtiaz
- 3.Kit Hoo, LL.B Law, University of Bristol (Year 2)
  Placement: Honey Tan
- 4.Pang Chien Chien, LL.B Law, Advance Tertiary College (Year I) Placement: Roger Chan
- 5.Natalie Lee, LL.B Law, HELP University (Year I) Placement: Shook Lin & Bok
- 6.Neoh Jia Shern, LL.B Law, Taylor's University [Lakeside Campus] (Year I) Placement: Center for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC)

- 7.Fong Jia Sheng, LL.B Law, Brickfields Asia College (Year I) Placement: Center for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC)
- 8.Tan Ian, LL.B Law, University of Birmingham (Year I) Placement: Lawyers for Liberty
- 9.Jay Teo, LL.B Law, University of Bristol (Year 1) Placement: Women's Aid Organisation
- 10.Siti Khadijah, LL.B Law, University of Essex (Year I) Placement: MCCHR
- I I. Vicky Tan, LL.B Law, Durham University (Year 2) Placement: Institute for Democratic and Economic Affairs (IDEAS)
- 12. Vivian Chng, LL.B Law, Brickfields Asia College (Year 2) Placement: Penang Institute, Kuala Lumpur
- 13.Shona Yean, LL.B Law, School of Oriental and African Studies (Gap Year) Placement: Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS)/ Asian Strategy for Leadership Institute (ASLI)



It is indeed a privilege to have planned the ASASI Internship Programme 2015 alongside my colleague Adrian. Having been part of the 2014 cohort ourselves, we are indeed excited to see what 2015 has in store for the new cohort ??

Cassandra Chung, General Secretary 2014/15

## THE FELLOWSHIP

- The Matrix
- Borak Sessions
- KPUM Human Rights Group

## **FELLOWSHIP**



Photo taken at Medical Law Meet-Up | 18 December 2014 | Teh Tarik Place, NU Sentral

The Fellowship connects Malaysian Law students according to their area of interest in Law in order to empower them to start projects on Malaysian Law. Over the course of the term, this new department has come up with several initiatives and events including:

- I.The Matrix
- 2.Borak Sessions
- 3.KPUM Human Rights Group



We remain committed to a movement for Malaysian law students studying English law to look at Malaysian law & public policy from a comparative perspective. Our next steps will be to reinforce the foundations for next year's cohort

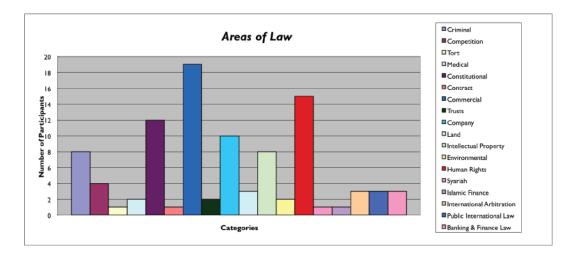
Shaun Kua, Fellowship Director 2015/16

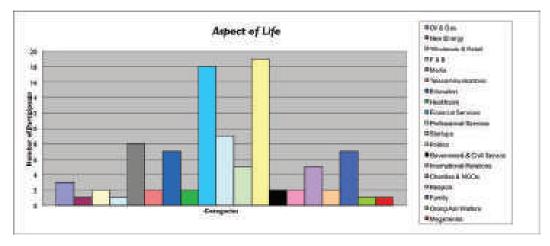
## THE MATRIX



## **MATRIX**

The Fellowship recruits primarily from the Matrix, KPUM's database of Malaysian law students and their interests. All Fellows are grouped by their choice of Area of Law and Aspect of Life (to which their favourite area of law applies). The data on groupings are as follows:







All who signed up for the Matrix will be subscribed to KPUM's **Red Pill,** an email publication highlighting work that other Malaysian law students have done towards advancing Malaysian law & legal practice. "Work" is broadly defined to include activities such as writing and, community initiatives. A total of 3 issues of Red Pill were issued during the term 2015/16. The

respective dates of the said issues and their highlights are as follows:

#### 14 October 2014

a)The freedom of speech and the sedition act- Adrian Lim http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/sideviews/article/the-fredom-of-speech-and-the-sedition-act-adrian-lim-chee-en#sthash. DufPrmRT.dpuf

b)The Curious Case of Our Home Minister- Casssandra Chung

i.A case analysis of the court hearing on election fraud at the Parliamentary constitutency of Bagan Datok

#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.loyarburok.com/2014/09/30/curious-case-home-minister/



#### 2.30 October 2014

a)Announcement of the **KPUM Fellowship: Human Rights Group** to be led by Ng Lee Yin.

The Group's aim is to highlight and encourage constructive & intellectual discussion of, Malaysian human rights issues, among Malaysian students in the UK. The Group ran a poll to canvass opinions on what the Top 3 Malaysian human rights issues were.

b)No God For Ahmadiyah- Pauline Ting i.An analysis of the position of the Ahmadiyah people in Malaysia

http://www.loyarburok.com/2014/09/11/god-ah-madiyah/

c)Questions that need answers- Shaun Kua i.A critique on the clarity of the Sedition Act 1948 http://www.thestar.com.my/Opinion/Letters/2014/10/18/Questions-that-need-answers/

#### 3.18 December 2014

a)The call for writers for KPUM Fellowship: Human Rights Group who are interested in the law governing police custody to write about the following:

i.The adequacy of the law providing for redress and the protection of detainees in the custody of the police or equivalent authorities (may involve a consideration of non-legal circumstances surrounding the relatively recent spate of deaths in police custody)

ii.A consideration of similar laws in other jurisdictions and how Malaysia's current legal regime can be changed

iii.A proposed structure / model for a complaints and misconduct commission

b)KPUM Fellowship: Medical Law Group will be hosting a medical law talk but the topic is to be determined by students through a short poll, linked in this issue of Red Pill

c)Planning A Protest: A Personal Perspective-Cassandra Chung

i.On what it was like planning the #Walk4PeaceN-Freedom, 18 October 2014

#### **Publicity**

Website

http://www.loyarburok.com/2014/11/28/planning-protest-personal-perspective/

## **BORAK SESSIONS**

Borak sessions serve as an informal platform for Law students to meet and discuss an area of law. These sessions also serve as a platform for those interested in finding out more about a particular area of law. A total of 2 Borak sessions were held over the term, the first one being in FreeState Coffee, London on 31 October 2015 to discuss Intellectual Property Law. Unfortunately, due to the lack of publicity and manpower, the turnout for this session was poor.



However, the next Borak session in Kuala Lumpur was more successful. This session was primarily for discussing Medical Law in Malaysia and was held in NU Sentral on 18 December 2014. Mr Alex, a non-Law student, was given the opportunity to share with the 6 participants his encounter with a negligent doctor in a local private hospital for purely academic purposes. The students then discussed the case on its merits based on their current knowledge of Medical Law.



The growing appetite in Medical Law among Law students in Malaysia eventually led to the Fellowship Department collaborating with Raja, Darryl and Loh (RDL) Advocates and Solicitors to host a talk on abortion (Is It Right? And Is It Your Right?) in conjunction with Pn. Maidzuara bt Mohammed- a partner of RDL- sharing her journey of being a Medical Law practitioner.



The session boasted a total of 31 participating students from both private and public learning institutions. Representatives from RDL compared UK's abortion laws with Malaysia's and discussed the various methods of abortion commonly used. Pn Maidzuara shared with the participants her most memorable medical cases and why she chose to enter this field: it offers an opportunity to constantly learn and grow in addition to learning a bit of 'psychology'. Despite the fact that she did not have a post-graduate degree in Medical Law, she has never looked back since she was invited to join RDL's Medical Law team. Overall, the event was well received by participants with many commenting that they highly appreciated the comparison of the local law with UK law and the views of both professionals and academics in this field.

### **KPUM HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP**

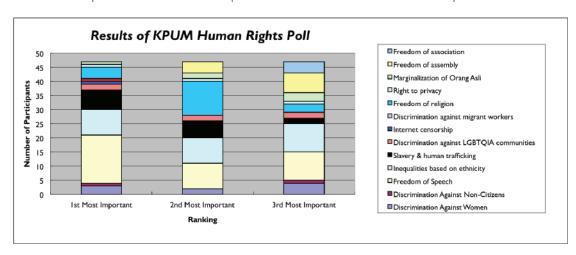
The Group was formed from those who indicated their interest in Human Rights in the Matrix. The Group undertook 2 main projects this term: they were the Human Rights Poll and the KPUM Human Rights Law Journal.

#### The Human Rights Poll

The project was started to highlight and encourage constructive & intellectual discussion of Malaysian human rights issues among the Malaysian students in the UK. Launched on 5 November 2014, those who took the poll were required to rank from 1 to 3 what they felt was the most important human rights issue to them. The categories are as follows:

- I.Discrimination against women
- 2. Discrimination against non-citizens
- 3. Slavery & human trafficking
- 4. Marginalization of Orang Asli
- 5.Inequalities based on ethnicity
- 6.Freedom of speech
- 7.Freedom of assembly
- 8.Freedom of association
- 9. Discrimination against LGBTQIA communities
- 10.Inequalities based on disability
- 11.Freedom of religion
- 12. Right to privacy

Results of the poll were released to the public on 8 November 2014. The final tally of results are as follows:



## **KPUM HUMAN RIGHTS LAW JOURNAL**



The KPUM Human Rights Law Journal is due to launch I August 2015 and features research works by students on various areas in human rights law. The articles may be found at http://hrlj.kpum.org/ and listed below are the articles one can look forward to upon launch:

No	Author	Brief summary of proposed article
I	Jay Teo	An analysis of flaws in the regime protecting migrant workers
	Kamilia Khairul Anuar	Gender equality in employment, politics and laws governing domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape and reproductive rights
2	Teh Ee Chern Amirah Hamidon	A 2-parter series on the downgrading of Malaysia from Tier 2 to Tier 3 of the USTiP report index, with specific reference to the Rohingya
3	Lim Yi Ying	An analysis of Orang Asli land rights which looks specifically at the position of the Orang Asli in the Federal Constitution, existing legislation and the JAKOA
4	Esther Goh	Flaws in the system providing protection for persons in police custody
5	*Ng Lee Yin, Shaun Kua, Wilson Pang, Pang Jo Fan	A series of articles analyzing the Sedition Act, including analyses of:  1. Justifications for the 1948 Act  2. The purported lack of a mens rea requirement  3. The lack of applicable defences, in particular the non-defence of s.3(2)  4. The meaning of 'seditious tendency'  5. The constitutionality of the Act
6	*Julius Yee	An analysis of the extent to which religious freedom is protected by the law

<sup>\*</sup>Subject to change



YouTube video published on KPUM's Youtube account, KPUM UKMLSU. The video can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zzzAfqQU-Y (Published: I I March 2015)



## MISCELLANEOUS & UPCOMING EVENTS • Miscellaneous • Upcoming Events

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **UKEC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

From 31 October to 1 November 2014, the United Kingdom and Eire Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC) had their Annual General Meeting at the Malaysian High Commission. Malaysian societies from all over the UK and Eire (including KPUM) were given the opportunity to vote for the new UKEC Executive Committee. They were also given the opportunity to table motions to compel UKEC to act on certain matters.

KPUM tabled the following motions:

#### I.Title: Access to Healthcare in the UK

Council notes: International students have to wait long hours or are forced to make a booking at least a day in advance to see a GP even though they are very unwell.

Council believes: That this causes extra hardship to international students in accessing healthcare and adds extra pressure on them as they are long way from home.

Congress mandates the Equality Officer: To propose a general induction guideline to be released by UKEC for Malaysian students (particularly freshers) on access to healthcare in the UK and the various alternatives available for emergency healthcare needs.

#### 2. Title: Open Election of the UKEC Executive Council

Council notes: UKEC candidates are submitted by proxy through society representatives.

Council believes: That this will sway students' participation in UKEC and gives an impression that UKEC is exclusive to selected pool of people.

Congress mandates the Equality Officer: To consider opening the election of the UKEC Executive Council (or Chairmanship) to a popular vote by all Malaysian students in the UK. This would increase awareness of the UKEC among students (most of whom still wonder what it is), in addition to the excitement it generates, and creates a space for discussion and debate across Malaysian societies in the UK by giving them something to talk about. In addition to this, it would also boost student participation in the campaign and other things.

#### 3. Title: Visa restrictions and NHS charges

Council notes: The Border Agency plans to tightened visa requirements and impose extra NHS charges for international students starting next year.

Council believes: That this is an injustice and causes extra hardship to international Students.

Congress mandates the Equality Officer: To open a discussion with the UK Border Agency to cease tightening visa requirements and imposing extra NHS charges for international students.

## **UKEC AWARDS**

On 16 March 2015, UKEC launched for the 2nd time round, the UKECAwards. This ceremony is held to recognise the achievements of the Malaysian student societies around the UK and Eire. There were various categories student bodies could participate in but KPUM chose to participate in the following categories:

- I.Most Improved Society
- 2.Event of the Year
- 3. Malaysian Society of the Year

Category I and 2 required KPUM to submit data to UKEC pertaining financial records, KPUM's main flagship event, growth in membership etc. Category 3 was partially open to the public to vote. UKEC had posted up a picture featuring KPUM and did the same for other relevant societies. The scoring system would take into account how many likes each picture received on UKEC's Facebook page. The following picture features KPUM and was posted on UKEC Facebook page; it managed to garner 562 likes, the highest amongst all the other pictures.

However, KPUM lost in all categories to other competitors



Picture can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/ukeconline/pho-tos/pb.104643989652761.-2207520000.1437217198./72696845 4086975/?type=3&theater

# UKEC AWARDS SUBMISSION EVENT OF THE YEAR



The idea of the Spring Formal came about as we possessed perhaps the only photograph we had of the Union in 1979 of our first annual dinner held at an inn of court with Lord Denning present as our Guest of Honour. With no records of what happened to such dinners in the years after, it was not long before we were absolutely gripped with the idea of reintroducing such a prestigious dinner. 36 years later, on the 13th of March 2015, KPUM launched KPUM Spring Formal 2015 with collaboration with Inner Temple, an Inn of Court.



The KPUM Spring Formal represents the culmination of three months of hard work by a small yet outstanding team. We hope to bring not just an experience of the lnns of court but also a night of intellectual discourse with lectures from prominent Malaysian and English speakers. It was also our hope that this dinner will bring our Malaysian law students together and strengthen networks and ties between members of the Union.



Jason Yong KPUM Spring Formal Co-Director



Spring Formal is more than just fancy suits and ties, Harry Potter-esque dining halls or the manifestation of age-old English tradition. It epitomizes the culmination of gruelling efforts from the team - all of whom share the vision of making the Union more inclusive and innovative to all law students.

XIn Chi Cheong KPUM Spring Formal Co-Director



Part of KPUM's submission for the 'Event of the Year' category





### **#KPUM3R**

## Renew | Rebuild | Rebrand

#KPUM3R is an initiative by the KPUM Executive Committee 2014/2015 that intends to:

RENEW the reputation and the prestige of the union

**REBUILD** the foundations of the union and relationships with the rest of the student body and the legal profession.

**REBRAND** the union as a progressive and dynamic body eager to benefit the law student body in UK as well as add value to the legal profession.

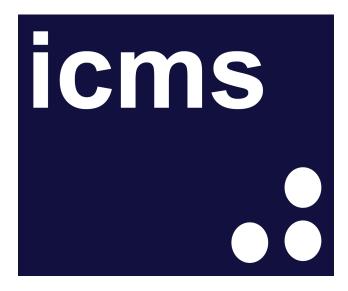


Part of KPUM's submission for the 'Malaysian Society of the Year' category

## **RE-DRAFTING CONSTITUTIONS**

During January 2015, UKEC approached KPUM to assist in amending their constitution for the purposes of:

- I.Greater decentralization
- 2. Greater accountability



The International Council of Malaysian Scholars & Associates (ICMS) approached KPUM during April 2015 to assist in amending their constitution for the purposes of:

- I.Facilitating their new international structure
- 2. Compliance with Registrar of Societies (RoS)
- 3.General conciseness & precision of constitution as a whole

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **KPUM-MCCHR STRATEGIC LITIGATION CAMP 2015**



Date: 7-9 August 2015 (Friday to Sunday)

Venue: El Sanctuary, Melaka

Fee: RMI65/£30 (inclusive of food,accommodation,transportation and materials)

In collaboration with the Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR), KPUM organised the KPUM-MCCHR Strategic Litigation Camp 2015, the very first of its kind. This camp focuses on the public interest litigation scene in Malaysia. Participants will be put through a comprehensive course on international human rights law and how these apply to the Malaysian context.

There were a total of 30 applications to participate in the camp but only 20 participants were selected. The application window was between 14 April and 21 April 2015. Apart from being required to submit basic details and their CVs, applicants also had to elaborate in not more than 100 words on the human rights issue in Malaysia they feel most strongly about and their reasons for it.

#### **Publicity**

Website: http://www.kpum.org/event/kpum-mcchr-stlit-camp-2015/ Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=389857301215808&fref=ts

### **ANNUAL DINNER 2015**



Date: 22 August 2015

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Westin, Kuala Lumpur

Standard price: RMI50

Early bird price: RMI35 (First 50 to register)

KPUM is proud to present the KPUM Annual Dinner 2015 to celebrate the fact that the Union has reached new heights this term! Members of the Union as well as non-members are cordially invited to join this grand dinner.

Parallel to KPUM's vision to empower its members, this event will also award deserving law students under KPUM's jurisdiction who have stood out academically and non-academically in the term 2014/2015.

Registration is set to open on 22 July 2015, 8pm.

#### **Publicity**

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/389857301215808/



### **OFFICIAL STATEMENTS**

- The Deliberate Abuse Of The Sedition Act
- Urging the Malaysian Bar to Hold Protest Against Sedition Act
- In Solidarity with the Students of Universiti Malaya
- Disproportionate Remand of YB Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad and Others a Threat to Freedom of Speech and Assembly
- Student Survey Results on the Anwar Ibrahim Verdict
- Arrest of Mr Eric Paulsen and Continuous Crackdown on Political Dissenters
- Passing of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill 2015
- Sedition (Amendment) Bill 2015
- How the British Abolished Their Sedition Laws
- On the Inhumane Treatment of Refugees

## **OFFICIAL STATEMENTS**

### OFFICIAL STATEMENT: THE DELIBERATE ABUSE OF THE SEDITION ACT

#### Date: | SEPTEMBER 2014

The United Kingdom & Eire Law Students' Union (KPUM) would like to officially state our strong concern towards the recent increase in arrests and charges made by the Royal Malaysian Police Force and the Attorney-General under the Sedition Act 1948.

An Act of such nature should have no place in the 21st Century. It breaches the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the protection of the fundamental freedom of expression, clearly provided for under Article 10 of our Federal Constitution.

Unlike the usual elements needed to prove a crime, there is no need to prove intention under the Sedition Act. The elements required for a successful charge is merely that the courts be satisfied that the statement made has "seditious tendency" under Section 3 of the Act. The word "sedition" is not clearly defined within the Act hence allowing it to be used as a tool to silence political dissidents or whoever else is viewed as a threat to the ruling government.

This disturbing trend has been observed with the charging of Teresa Kok under the Act for her Chinese New Year video which was merely a form of political satire, N. Surendran for claiming the Anwar sodomy trial is a political conspiracy and Khalid Samad calling for the review of the Enactment on Islamic Laws Administration (Enactment No. 3, 1952) and the Islamic Religion Administration Enactment 2003 to be reviewed. Recently, a student was also investigated for sedition for "liking" a Facebook page and tomorrow, Dr. Azmi Sharom, an academician, will be charged for sedition for giving his academic opinion on the Selangor MB crisis. Such occurrences are disturbing as they undermine the democracy and academic freedom in this country.

The Sedition Act, as can be seen on the year of enactment, is a creature of our British colonial masters in the 40s aimed at combating communist-terrorism as well as the rising dissent amongst the leftist nationalists against the British. Hence, the Act should no longer serve its purpose the moment we gained independence from the British and communism is no longer a present threat in Malaysia.

Hence, we are of the opinion that the Sedition Act is an archaic, draconian law which no longer serves its enacted purpose and is not compatible with the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). We believe that there are sufficient laws within the Defamation Act and Penal Code to regulate speech and resolve unreasonable damage of reputation or physical threats made.

Having participated in one of the consultation roundtables, we would like to state our support for the National Unity Consultative Council's (NUCC) Religious and Harmony Bills particularly the Religious and Hate Crimes Bill as a replacement as long as the oppressive spirit of the Sedition Act does not remain. Nevertheless, even with this promise of a replacement, the authorities have shown insufficient political will to cease using the Sedition Act. Hence, until and unless the government hold fast to their promise to repeal the Sedition Act, we will not stay silent on this matter.

We would like to stress that KPUM is strictly a non-partisan organization that is in favour of upholding the interests of Malaysian law students in line with the rule of law. It may be true that majority of the victims of the Sedition Act are politicians and the issue may be political, but this in no way represents a partisan view. As a union of law students who actively promotes human rights, rule of law and academic freedom, we have no choice but to speak up on this matter and condemn the actions of the authorities. We have seen an academician being charged for Sedition in court for his academic views. The iron claws of the Sedition Act has entered the doors of the universities, we cannot and will not wait for law students to be charged under this draconian law before we speak up.

We will be supporting and participating in the National Young Lawyer's Committee (NYLC) of the Bar Council's #MansuhkanAktaHasutan campaign. Finally, we strongly urge all our law-reading peers in Malaysian and UK Universities to speak up against this draconian law and the Attorney-General together with the police to stop this continuous breach of civil liberties.

Statement by:

Pang Jo Fan President (BPP University)

Cassandra Chung (General-Secretary(University of Nottingham)

Endorsed by:

Foong Lily
Finance & Corporate Relations Director
(London School of Economics & Political Science)

Adrian Koh Careers Development Director (University of Bristol)

Safwa Tahir Student Relations & Outreach Director (University of Hertfordshire)

Shaun Kua KPUM Fellowship Director (BPP University)

Pauline Ting Malaysia Representative (Brickfields Asia College)

Kee Hui Yee Malaysia Representative (Brickfields Asia College)

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT: URGING THE MALAYSIAN BAR TO HOLD PROTEST AGAINST SEDITION ACT

#### Date: 10 SEPTEMBER 2014

The United Kingdom & Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union (KPUM) believes that it is time for the Bar to take the next step in the campaign and organise a walk, as it has previously done. The Malaysian Bar should Walk for Freedom again, following the #MansuhAktaHasutan campaign's strong launch.

As the Bar has set the standard for public demonstrations before, we are fully confident in the Bar's ability to again marshal a peaceful and disciplined show of support - for abolishing the Sedition Act.

This call is not made lightly. It is precisely because the Bar walks so rarely - and only in cases of immediate need - that we feel a Walk will cause enough impact to spark even more urgency in the campaign.

The lawyers defending victims of sedition charges are definitely admirable. However, we must move beyond merely defending the people from bad law. We must also push to abolish it.

The students we represent have always admired the Bar's conduct, and have benefited from its ironclad dedication to upholding the Constitution and the rule of law. It is no exaggeration to say that many are eager to join a profession they view as consistent and successfully independent.

Our law students will continue to stand with the Bar in this movement, and as part of the larger struggle against social injustice for a better Malaysia. We are happy to walk with the Bar should it decide to.

In fact, we stand in solidarity today with our peers in Universiti Malaya(UM) who are holding a protest against the use of the Sedition Act against Professor Azmi Sharom and against the Sedition Act in general. Members from our Union will also be present at UM today to participate in this protest. We urge our respected seniors at the Bar to do the same by coming down the streets and holding a protest against the Sedition Act.

This Walk will be more than just a symbol. When the Bar walks, Parliament inevitably takes notice. In 2007, the Bar's Walk for Justice was integral to the campaign for greater judicial integrity; as hardly two years later, the Judicial Appointments Commission was established in response.

It was at that particular Walk that the then-President of the Bar Council Ambiga Sreenevasan said: "Lawyers don't walk every day. Not even every month. But when they walk, then something must be very wrong."

It is not every day that politicians, academics, students and the common people are swept up in charges under an outdated law from Malaysia's colonial days. When a respected academic is hauled up for providing a professional and non-partisan legal opinion, then something must indeed be very wrong.

It surely follows, then, that this is a day for lawyers to walk.

KPUM hopes that a motion for this will be tabled and passed by the Malaysian Bar in the upcoming EGM.

Statement by:

Pang Jo Fan President 2014/15, Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di United Kingdom dan Eire(KPUM)

AND

Nicholas Wong KPUM Ad-hoc Committee for #MansuhAktaHasutan

#MansuhAktaHasutan

Featured in the Malay Mail Online, 10 September 2014 http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/time-to-march-against-sedition-law-students-tell-lawyers

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT: IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITI MALAYA <sup>2</sup>

#### Date: 7 NOVEMBER 2014

The United Kingdom & Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union (KPUM) expresses its concern at the recent saga of events culminating in disciplinary action taken against 8 Universiti Malaya student leaders.

As a student union which is primarily based in the United Kingdom, we have hosted speakers and leaders from both the ruling government and the opposition parties, without significant interference from our universities. We appreciate that there are nuanced & complex differences between the Malaysian context and that of the United Kingdom. But, we consider that expulsion and/or suspension of the UM8 for organizing the talk by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is disproportionate, even for Malaysia. It is an inappropriate calibration of the balance between the desirability of university students engaging in dialogue with prominent Malaysian personalities & the institutional requirements of a university.

We also have the privilege of being educated in an environment where student unions can freely lobby for issues that the university administration may not agree with and have even seen the universities respecting all forms of protests and strikes being undertaken by students and staff. Although we may have differing views on various issues, all these has greatly contributed to our understanding of free discourse and how it contributes to the progress of a democratic society. The lack of academic freedom would prove itself detrimental to the intellectual development and education of the students.

University student dialogue with politicians is desirable, not least because it holds politicians to account. It allows for sustained & sophisticated criticism of policies & politics, a luxury many in society will do not enjoy. Indeed, if the views & stances of a politician are impugned, all the more reason to subject it to withering scrutiny by students, whose very purpose in university is to learn to distinguish the true from the merely seemingly true, the logic from the rhetoric, and the right from the popular. If he emerges unscathed, so be it. If his weaknesses are revealed, so be it. We do not need to add that engagement by politicians with our youth rejuvenates the ideas of and promotes a sense of inclusiveness in our politics.

Furthermore, the issue moves from the restriction of academic freedom to the crack-down on student autonomy. We are also concerned about the considerable amount of discretion enjoyed by the university's student affairs department by virtue of the UUCA. It is clear that through the years of university history all around the world, student politics and activism is a fertile breeding ground in equipping students with the experience, no matter what field they eventually venture into. None of these can be achieved without full and absolute student autonomy given to student councils and student unions to pave their own way into their own future. Therefore, we are heavily disappointed with the unnecessary crackdown on student autonomy by the UM administration with the heavy abuse of the UUCA in pressing charges against the 8 student leaders. It is our view that none of these contributes to the development of the students, the university and the society as a whole in the long run.

We admit that a university as an institution requires some control over its branding &reputation. However, structures can be adopted to modulate any effect student-organized talks may have. It is abundantly clear to the public that the talk by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was organized by a student body, as opposed to any faculty of Universiti Malaya. If need be, Universiti Malaya can promote the establishment of an entity like the Oxford Union, distinct and separate from Oxford University, to establish critical distance vis-à-vis any controversial figures. In comparison to these methods, penalizing the UM8 with expulsion/suspension seems heavy-handed.

We stand in solidarity with the 8 student leaders and all of our friends at University Malaya in As the UM disciplinary board postpones the decision on the charges brought against them, we plead for the UM administration to drop all charges against our fellow student leaders who were merely attempting to reclaim their rightful autonomy. We would also like to propose for the Ministry of Education and lawmakers of the Parliament of Malaysia to consider amending the UUCA to only regulate administrative areas of the public universities and not interfere with student autonomy and academic freedom.

We stand in solidarity with the 8 student leaders and all of our friends at University Malaya in their aspiration to break free from the chains of unfair treatment and towards being the pioneers of their own dreams. Equally, all of us as students must continue to maintain our commitment to intellectual sophistication and academic rigour.

#SaveUM8

On behalf of the Union,

Pang Jo Fan

President 2014/15,

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK & Eire (KPUM).

Endorsed by the KPUM Executive Committee and Executive Members

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Featured in the Malay Mail Online, 8 November 2014 http://www.themalaymailonline.com/what-you-think/article/in-solidarity-with-the-students-of-universiti-malaya-kesatuan-penuntut-unda

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT: DISPROPORTIONATE REMAND OF YB NIK NAZMI NIK AHMAD AND OTHERS A THREAT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY

#### Date: II MARCH 2015

The United Kingdom & Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union (KPUM) expresses its concern at the recent arrest and extensive remand of Yang Berhormat Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, current State Executive Councillor of Selangor, former General Secretary of KPUM and former Vice Chairman of UKEC (the United Kingdom and Eire Council of Malaysian Students). The Union notes that YB Nik Nazmi was arrested on Sunday the 8th of March for the second time in a month under s9(5) of the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012 and Section 143 of the Penal Code. This was in relation to the #KitaLawan rally held on the 7th of March in Kuala Lumpur.

The Union recalls that the constitutionality of s9(5) of the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012 was contested in the landmark case which was also brought by YB Nik Nazmi to the Court of Appeal in 2014. Mohd Ariff Yusof, JCA stated in his judgment that "The Section 9(1) requirement of 10 days' notice under the PAA is constitutional, but Section 9(5) that punishes peaceful assembly is unconstitutional". He also ruled that "There was no provision in the PAA which stipulated that an assembly held without the giving of the requisite prior notice was per se unlawful. That which was fundamentally lawful could not, in the same breath, result in an unlawful act on the part of the organiser by reason of an administrative failure or omission. Such a dichotomy was irrational in the legal sense." The case of PP v Nik Nazmi therefore effectively struck out s9(5) as invalid and was held that there is nothing in the Act that allows the authorities to declare a peaceful assembly as illegal.

The Union also recalls that YB Nik Nazmi has also been charged and acquitted under s9(5) for a total four times even after the provision was deemed null and void by the Court of Appeal. As a result, YB Nik Nazmi has brought an action against the Attorney-General for malicious prosecution in November 2014.

As of now,YB Nik Nazmi has been arrested and investigated under the same provision for yet another two times. It is trite that the decision of the Court of Appeal shall stand pending the appeal to the Federal Court. Given what is established in the above, it is the Union's view that the recent remand of YB Nik Nazmi for 3 days under the same provision to assist investigations is wholly unreasonable and disproportionate to his actions. There could be no reasonable explanation as to why he is arrested under a provision deemed null and void and on top of that to be arrested for the sixth time and on the sixth time be remanded for 3 days. These glaring anomalies fuel a legitimate suspicion of whether the authorities have in fact acted maliciously and in bad faith.

The Union also notes that there was a chain of arrests done during the Chinese New Year period targeted only at politicians and activists such as Adam Adli, Zunar, Arul, Nga Kor Ming, Rafizi Ramli as well as Nik Nazmi. These arrests were done under s9(5) of the PAA, s143 of the Penal Code and also the Sedition Act. It is the Union's view that this presents a threat to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 5 and Article 10 of the Federal Constitution of Malaysia.

The Union reiterates our stand that there is no place in a democratic society for laws and administrative actions which seek to silence and forcefully remove any possible dissent. The Union stands for open and peaceful discourse between all parties regardless of the platform in which they opt to do so.

Uniting Law Students, Empowering Future Lawyers, Furthering the Rule of Law.

On behalf of the Union,

Pang Jo Fan

President 2014/15,

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK & Eire (KPUM).

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT: STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS ON THE ANWAR IBRAHIM VERDICT<sup>3</sup>

#### **Date: 17 MARCH 2015** 4

The United Kingdom & Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union (KPUM) has recently conducted a survey between 14 February 2015 to 28 February 2015 asking members of the Union on their views as to whether they agree with the verdict in the case of PP v Anwar Ibrahim recently decided by the Federal Court whereby the Malaysian parliamentary Opposition Leader was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. The Union included links to the full written judgment of the Federal Court as well as the Press Summary of the same judgment and we encouraged the respondents of the survey to read and analyze the judgment before stating their opinion.

A total of 116 students, predominantly law students, responded to the survey, whereby only a grand total of 3 students who was of the opinion that they agreed with the judgment. This means that an overwhelming percentage of 97.41% of the Malaysian law students in the UK and Ireland disagreed with the conviction of the leader of the opposition.

Students have gone at real length to critically analyze and justify their opinion which could be widely sorted into these few categories:

#### **Beyond Reasonable Doubt**

Most respondents of the survey were of the opinion that the Prosecution failed to prove their case beyond reasonable doubt. By reciting what all law students learnt in Criminal Law in their legal education, many reasoned that the evidence brought forward was not sufficient enough to satisfy the high criminal standard of proof which is equivalent to being 99.9% sure that the defendant committed the crime. A few respondents also mentioned that albeit limited, the defence has successfully raised a substantial amount of reasonable doubt and hence, the Defendant should by logic and law be acquitted. The reasonable doubts cited were such as the delay of filing police report, the inconsistent statements of the complainant, the "flying carpet", the lack of evidence to prove penetration and many others as can be found in the judgment stating the submissions of the Defence counsel. One student recalls that according to the criminal standard of proof, "even 2% reasonable doubt is enough reasonable doubt to acquit a defendant".

#### **Political Persecution**

Another popular reason which was cited by respondents of the survey to justify their opinion was that the judgment was a form of political persecution. The Union notes that this may be a strong allegation, but most respondents arrived at political persecution as a probable conclusion upon finding that the Defendant was found guilty despite the allegadly substantial presence of reasonable doubt. Therefore, it may be inferred that the allegations made were reasonable and grounded in legal principles. The inference was also made based on some of their observations of the recent series of arrests and convictions under the Sedition Act as part of efforts to curtail freedom of speech and stifle dissent against the government.

#### **Dangerous Precedent**

There were also students who raised the fact that this judgment has set a dangerous precedent to future cases in the aspect of corroboration of evidence (whether the testimony corresponds with the evidence), or rather the lack thereof. They raised their concerns that this would lead to possible inconsistencies and injustice in future cases as cases in the future will be bound to be subject to this standard of proof.

#### **Agreement with the Judgment**

The few who agreed with the judgment justified their position by stating that the prosecution team managed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt. One urged the rest not to make any comments based on emotions alone. Another student said this case should be viewed in isolation of politics and that the Chief Justice in his judgment had justified His Lordship's reasoning in accordance with the law and that all points made were reasonably justified.

The Union would like to hereby state that all reasons raised above may not necessarily represent the full and absolute opinion of the Union, but rather to reflect the overall view of the 116 members of the Union who responded to the survey.

In furthering the discourse on this very controversial case, the Union would also like to note that Union has been invited by the United Kingdom and Eire Council of Malaysian Students (UKEC) to be a part of their "UKEC In Focus - The Anwar Ibrahim Verdict: Law and Consequences" event which would take place in London on 22 March 2015. Alongside representatives of the UKEC and KPUM who will be moderating the session, members from BPN (Badan Perhubungan Negara) and MPUK (Malaysian Progressives in the United Kingdom) will also be present as speakers to give their opinions on the issue, followed by an open floor discussion. All Malaysian students in the UK and Ireland are invited to participate in the event and contribute to the discussion. More details can be found at https://www.facebook.com/events/710228252428122/.

As an umbrella body representing readers of the law,the Union commits itself in furthering the cause of justice, human rights and the rule of law.

Uniting Law Students, Empowering Future Lawyers, Furthering the Rule of Law.

On behalf of the Union,

Pang Jo Fan President 2014/15,

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK & Eire (KPUM).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Featured in the Malay Mail Online, 18 March 2015 http://www.themalaymailon-line.com/malaysia/article/an-

war-a-victim-of-political-persecution-malaysian-law-students-in-uk-irelan
The poll began shortly after the verdict was released and ended on 28 February

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT: ARREST OF MR ERIC PAULSEN AND CONTINUOUS CRACKDOWN ON POLITICAL DISSENTERS

**Date: 22 MARCH 2015** 

The United Kingdom and Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union (KPUM) expresses it's disappointment at the recent arrest of Eric Paulsen, CEO of Lawyers For Liberty and partner for KPUM's ASASI Internship Programme over a alleged tweet he made (http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/human-rights-lawyer-eric-paulsen-nabbed-for-sedition-in-kl). Mr Paulsen will possibly be kept in the lockup overnight while waiting for a remand order tomorrow morning. The arrest was made under the Sedition Act. This arrest has called for the Union to reiterate stances that the Union has made throughout this academic year.

The Union believes that the arrest, just as the other II arrest over the span of the past month, is wholly unreasonable and disproportionate to the alleged actions which were merely tweets stating personal opinion on a current issue. (KPUM Statement - II March 2015) The Police may have exercised their legitimate discretion to arrest based on reasonable suspicion, however more tasteless and offensive statements have been made by people all over social media and yet similar actions has not been taken on them. The Union does not condone the criminalisation of any person's freedom to express their views, however these glaring anomalies once again fuel a legitimate suspicion of whether the authorities have in fact acted selectively and in bad faith.

The Union stands on our statement that an Act of the Sedition Act's nature should have no place in the 21st Century. It breaches the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the protection of the fundamental freedom of expression, clearly provided for under Article 10 of our Federal Constitution. The Union stands strongly on our view that the Sedition Act is archaic and draconian and will continue to campaign for the Act to be repealed. (KPUM Statement - 1 September 2014)

The Union also reiterates our stand that there is also no place in a democratic society for laws and administrative actions which seek to silence and forcefully remove any possible dissent. The Union welcomes open and peaceful discourse between all parties regardless of the platform in which they opt to do so. Debates, discourse and discussions are the way forward to establishing a mature democracy. (KPUM Statement - 11 March 2015)

The Union also believes that all of us as Malaysians, and especially students, must continue to maintain our commitment to intellectual sophistication and academic rigour. (KPUM Statement - 7 November 2014)

Therefore, the Union pleads for the release of Mr Eric Paulsen and for all arrests, investigations and charges against Malaysians who merely reasonably exercised their constitutional right of freedom of speech and assembly to be ceased altogether.

Uniting Law Students, Empowering Future Lawyers, Furthering the Rule of Law.

On behalf of the Union,

Pang Jo Fan President 2014/15,

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK & Eire (KPUM).

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT: PASSING OF THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM BILL 2015

#### Date: 7 APRIL 2015

The United Kingdom & Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union (KPUM) expresses its concern at the recent passing of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill 2015 (POTB) in Parliament. The Union would like question the passing of this Bill as it is largely open to abuse and has great potential to undermine the rule of law.

#### Scope of the Bill

The Union notes that the Bill excludes the application of POTB's provisions for those who fall under the Societies Act 1966. POTB will not apply to those who express political views so long as they are active members of the political party under the 1966 Act.

The Union notes that such a provision excludes political coalitions that are not registered under the 1966 Act (i.e. Pakatan Rakyat) and natural persons such a journalists, lawyers and other kinds of lay people. As such, natural persons may be detained under this provision for expressing political views if they are not active members of a recognised political party under the 1966 Act. The Union affirms that such a provision is capable of undermining free speech (which includes political expression) of every Malaysian citizen as guaranteed by Article 10 of the Federal Constitution of Malaysia.

#### Lack of judicial scrutiny

The Union notes that before detention by the police for 21 days can be authorised by the Magistrate, a statement signed by a police officer not below the rank of an inspector must be produced. The said statement must state the grounds for believing the accused is involved in terrorist acts. No provision is made for the Magistrate to contest the reasonableness of the claims within the statement thus there is nothing that will prevent the abuse of power by the police. In light of the selective arrests in regards to the Sedition Act 1948, the possibility of such abuse extending to the POTB is highly probable.

The detention of the accused by the police may be extended by 38 days if a statement signed by the Public Prosecutor and a statement signed by an officer not below the rank of an Assistant Superintendent justifying the detention is produced before the Magistrate. Again, there is no judicial scrutiny of the grounds of detention thus rendering it very easy to abuse.

The Union notes the creation of the an Inquiry Officer and a Prevention of Terrorism Board. The police are required under POTB to bring the accused to the Officer who is tasked with presenting a report to the Terrorism Board on whether there are reasonable grounds to detain the accused. The Board is to come to a decision on whether to detain the accused for a maximum of 2 years for the alleged crimes. Upon expiration of those 2 years, the Board is empowered to decide whether to extend the detention for another 2 years. There are no limits to the renewals of extensions.

The Union is especially concerned that POTB explicitly provides that no court may question the decision of the Board to detain which may lead to abuse of discretionary power and detention without trial for years without end. This violates the basic precept of the rule of law: equality before the law which is guaranteed in Article 8 of the Federal Constitution.

#### **Overly broad discretion**

The Union questions the broad discretion accorded to the Minister in charge of home affairs in selecting the Inquiry Officer. Essentially, such a provision is of no help in guarding against abuse of discretion by the said Minister who may potentially appoint an Officer who favours the ruling party. This is perpetuated by the fact that there is no requirement of impartiality or reasonableness in the Act when it comes to selecting the Inquiry Officer. The impartiality of the Inquiry Officer is crucial as it is one of the bases that the Board decides whether to detain the accused.

The Union notes that Malaysia has committed herself to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 which provides for the combating of terrorism while respecting the rule of law. The Union would also like to highlight the open letter from the International Commission of Jurists calling upon Malaysia to respect its international human rights obligations. The Union re-emphasises that the Sedition Act 1948 has been used to silence political dissidents of the ruling government and is concerned that the POTB will provide more leeway for such stifling of dissidents.

The POTB has no place in a democratic society such as the one Malaysia claims and continues to strive to be and hence, steps should be taken to repeal its passing.

Uniting Law Students, Empowering Future Lawyers, Furthering the Rule of Law.

On behalf of the Union,

Pang Jo Fan

President 2014/15,

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK & Eire (KPUM).

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT: SEDITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015

Date: 7 APRIL 2015

The United Kingdom & Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union (KPUM) expresses its concern at the recent tabling of the Sedition (Amendment) Bill 2015 in Parliament. The Union questions the tabling of this Bill as it is severely broadens the scope of the already existing Sedition Act 1948 thus rendering easier than it already is for abuse.

#### Scope of the Bill

The Union is particularly concerned that with the amendments, one can be found to be guilty of an offence in the course of "administration of justice". Coupled with the fact that sedition is inadequately defined, there is great uncertainty as to the effect of such an amendment to those in the legal profession. The Union fears lawyers will be guilty of sedition based on their case submissions in court as will judges from their judgements. Such uncertainty is capable of violating the right to a fair trial; a precept of equality before the law guaranteed in Article 8 of the Federal Constitution of Malaysia.

The Union notes that the scope of offences concerning electronic devices is not sufficiently dealt with. "By electronic means" in relation to publishing, is defined in the Bill to include broadcasting of information whereby the information is accessible to members of the public. It is unclear if these will include public comments on articles on online news portals and blogs. The Union is also concerned that these provisions may encompass public Facebook postings, comments that follow from such a postings, public Twitter tweets and retweets.

Furthermore, the amendments provide for those who caused the publishing of such "seditious" material. The Union questions if this means that by allowing comments to be public, the owner of the website will be held liable for the "seditious" comments of his/her readers. Will the writer of the said article be held personally responsible? Or will it be both the website owner and the writer of the article? Will those who retweet tweets be held under the same head of liability of those who "seditiously" post public comments on Facebook?

In the amendments, the court will also be empowered to confiscate "seditious" material through electronic means from everybody in possession of such material. Such confiscation of material is difficult to envisage: is the court entitled to confiscate electronic devices of readers who have downloaded the seditious material? What of mobile phone applications that have been held to be distributing seditious material? Shall the owners of such mobile phones have their phones confiscated?

The Union notes that Mr. Eric Paulsen from Lawyers for Liberty (one of our partners) was previously remanded for one of his tweets under the 1948 Act. The Union is concerned that the uncertainties in defining the scope of the Bill will result in a liberal interpretation by prosecuting authorities which will lead to more arbitrary arrests and charges. Journalists of online news portals are vulnerable to attack under this Bill as are members of our Union who are engaged in giving legal opinions on various online platforms, noting the charge for sedition of Professor Azmi Sharom for giving his legal opinion on the Perak constitutional crisis.

#### **Severity of punishments**

The Union notes that the punishments for offences under this Bill will be more severe. The Bill proposes to amend the fines and prison sentences of maximum of three years to just prison sentences of a minimum of three years, the maximum being seven years. A bail provision has also been proposed; if the Public Prosecutor maintains that release of the accused is against public interest, then no bail shall be granted. Noting the increasing abuse of the 1948 Act in the recent weeks, the Union is concerned that such wide discretion will transform sedition from being a non-bailable offence to an unbailable one. While the Union recognises the need for deprivation of liberty in accordance with the law under certain circumstances, the Union also notes that it is usually the case that crimes more serious in nature are classified as unbailable; crimes such as drug trafficking and murder.

Such crimes contrast in terms of seriousness with sedition, which in some cases, only requires the utterance of "seditious" words. An aggravating factor is that sedition remains an offence in which no intention to commit the crime is required. There is no deterrent effect produced from such punishments because nobody will know if they are committing an offence or not. One can only conclude that the 1948 Act's only purpose is to stifle dissent whenever convenient and the amendments to the punishments only serve to re-emphasis this purpose. The Union reaffirms that this Act violates freedom of speech as provided for in Article 10 of the Federal Constitution.

#### **Deliberate targeting of students**

The Union also questions the amendments that prohibits leaving the country during the course of an investigation. There are also amending provisions to take away the discretion of courts to charge offenders between the ages of 10 and 16 in accordance with the Juvenile Courts Act 1947. The courts' discretion to discharge such an offender on a bond of good behaviour will also be taken away should such amendments pass in Parliament. The Union also notes that three years (the minimum prison sentence) is the usual amount of time taken to complete an undergraduate degree.

In light of the countless arrest of student activists such as Adam Adli and the attempted stifling of student uprisings in public universities (i.e. Universiti Malaya), the Union cannot help but be wary that such provisions are specifically targeted at students. The Union is concerned that such amendments will only serve to subvert the thinking of students and prevent them from speaking up on issues of public concern so as to guard the future of their education. This is worrying as students are the future leaders of Malaysia and one cannot expect them to lead a country if they are unable to think independently.

The Union affirms what was stated in our previous statements: the Sedition Act is a tool to blatantly abuse freedom of speech and has no place in our democratic society. The Union reiterates that it will continually reject any attempts of its strengthening and instead, calls for the full repeal of the Sedition Act 1948.

Uniting Law Students, Empowering Future Lawyers, Furthering the Rule of Law.

On behalf of the Union,

Pang Jo Fan President 2014/15,

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK & Eire (KPUM).

Featured in the Malay Mail Online, 9 April 2015 http://www.themalaymailon-line.com/what-you-think/article/kpums-take-on-the-sedition-amendment-bill-2015-pang-jo-fan

# OFFICIAL STATEMENT: HOW THE BRITISH ABOLISHED THEIR SEDITION LAWS

Date: |5 APRIL 20|5

This statement follows the United Kingdom & Eire Malaysian Law Students' Union (KPUM)'s recent statement in response to the Sedition (Amendment) Bill 2015 recently tabled and passed in the Dewan Rakyat to strengthen the Sedition Act 1948. As many would have known, the Sedition Act 1948 is a pre-Merdeka British enactment aimed to control dissenters and to strengthen their political grip in Malaya during a period when the spirit of nationalism was rising high among the people. However, sedition laws were nothing new even back then. Its roots could be traced deep within the age-old English common law. In fact, English sedition laws were not repealed until recently in 2009, when the British Parliament voted to do away with them altogether. Therefore, as Malaysian law students reading English law, the Union feels that it is its duty to educate the Malaysian public on sedition laws, its British origins and how the British came to terms with abolishing it.

Sedition, or seditious libel as it is here, was a common law (case law) criminal offence in the UK– just like most criminal offences such as murder and theft – and unlike Malaysia where most criminal offences are codified within statutes such as the Penal Code or the Sedition Act itself. The common law principles of seditious libel evolved from the Britain's oldest laws such as the Statute of Westminster 1275, when Kings were divine and the feudal society could not be questioned. The case establishing the principles of seditious libel was the Star Chamber case De Libellis Famosis of 1606. This was where it was first established that for the crime of sedition, truth was no defence and intention was irrelevant as was whether there was any actual harm done, which is still the cornerstone of the principles of sedition in modern day Malaysia 409 years later today. The punishment back then include imprisonment and the loss of the offender's ears. British sedition laws were extensively used in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, most notably against John Wilkes, who was a radical MP and civil rights activist who bravely challenged the extent of freedom of speech and media freedom in Britian at that time through his publication North Briton, but it was eventually declared seditious by parliament and was publicly burned.

A more contemporary and widely-cited definition of sedition can be found in Article 114 of Stephen's Digest of the Criminal Law, where it bears an almost identical wording as section 3 of our Sedition Act 1948, except where the requirement of seditious intent is surprisingly found within this "revised" version of English sedition. At least defences were made available to the defendants to prove that they did not intend to cause hatred or contempt.

The offence of seditious libel remained largely unused for the most of the twentieth century as British democracy liberalized. The 1970s was the last time prosecutions were ever made for this offence, in which the offenders either had their sentence suspended or were conditionally discharged. In 1977, the Law Commission expressed its view that the common law offence of sedition was ill defined and unnecessary. Lord Denning, in his 1984 book Landmarks in the Law, extrajudicially wrote that the definition of sedition was "found to be too wide. It would restrict too much the full and free discussion of public affairs...So it has fallen into disuse for nearly 150 years", accurately summarizing the redundant and inappropriate nature of the offence as an established consensus for over a generation.

In March 2009, amendments to the Coroners &Justice Bill were tabled in the House of Commons by Dr Evan Harris MP, and then again in the House of Lords by Lord Lester of Herne Hill, before the Government eventually accepted the case for abolition and promised to get rid of the laws themselves. Below are some very well-articulated points by their Lordships in the House of Lords' debate on the motion:

"It is my understanding that ... Secretary of State for Justice, agrees that there is no basis for keeping the laws of seditious libel ... on the statute book and that there would be a benefit in setting an example to oppressive regimes which use similar offences to silence dissent by repealing them." - Lord Lester of Herne Hill (HL Deb, 9 July 2009, cols 843)

"The power to express forcefully political discontent is the cornerstone of democracy and lies with the people. Conversely, it is not therefore in the power of government to criminalise this expression. The fundamental rights of UK individuals would be better protected by removing the offence of seditious libel from the statute book." - Baroness D'Souza (HL Deb, 9 July 2009, cols 848)

"The ability of individuals to criticise the state is crucial to maintaining freedom. In this day and age, when we have so many journalists, bloggers and so forth who give us their views all the time, we should get rid of anything that may in any way curb their criticisms of the state. We need a vigorous culture of free speech in order to keep government up to the mark...

...Of course, the laws of seditious and criminal libel are very active in other countries. Some of them look at us and say, "You have them, so why shouldn't we have them? It is up to us whether we should use them"...

...If Britain is seen as a beacon of parliamentary democracy, even after the Governments that we have had in recent years, the laws created here have a profound influence. It is time that these antique and out-of-date laws were repealed." – Lord Thomas of Gresford (HL Deb, 9 July 2009, cols 849-850)

With that, the law of seditious libel was completely uprooted from the English legal system with the additional hope to help campaigners overseas argue for its abolishment.

The Union therefore respectfully urges the Malaysian government and parliament to consider reviewing and repealing the Sedition Act 1948 instead of the further strengthening of the law. As evident above, the law of sedition is nearly half a millennium old, an extremely archaic piece of law in which the British — whom enacted our Sedition Act has fully repealed. And even so a requirement for seditious intent existed within the offence to provide a defendant with a right to be heard before the UK repealed the offence. Malaysia, on the other hand, did not only maintain the active use of a 409-year-old draconian law, but we have also strengthened the act to cover more areas. It appears to the Union that the authority's respect for our Federal Constitution, human rights and the rule of law in Malaysia has further regressed.

The Union maintains that the Sedition Act 1948 is an archaic and draconian law containing legal principles which defies the principles of natural justice and the rule of law. The Union also reiterates that there are sufficient laws within the Penal Code to tackle incitement of violence and the breach of peace through a higher and proper criminal threshold, rendering the Sedition Act irrelevant.

The Union further submits that the continual existence of the Sedition Act is a threat not just detrimental to civil liberties, but also academic freedom, press freedom and intellectual development in Malaysia. Just as Lord Thomas very rightly said, a vigorous culture of free speech is needed to keep the government up to mark. As such, the Union respectfully urges the Malaysian government to withdraw the amendment and repeal the Sedition Act 1948.

#MansuhAktaHasutan

Uniting Law Students, Empowering Future Lawyers, Furthering the Rule of Law.

On behalf of the Union,

Pang Jo Fan President 2014/15,

Kesatuan Penuntut Undang-Undang Malaysia di UK & Eire (KPUM).

Featured in the Malay Mail Online, 16 April 2015 http://www.themalaymailonline.com/what-you-think/article/how-the-british-abolished-their-sedition-laws-kpum

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT: ON THE INHUMANE TREATMENT OF REFUGEES

#### Date: 15 MAY 2015

The United Kingdom & Eire Malaysian Law Students'Union (KPUM) notes with much disappointment and concern at the recent refusal by the Malaysian Government <sup>8</sup> to allow entry to the estimated 8,000 asylum seeking Rohingya that have been left adrift by human traffickers, while insisting that "tough measures" are necessary to ensure that this group of persecuted minority will not enter Malaysia. These thousands of exiled Rohingya people are currently left in the open seas without food and water and strong refusals of entry by surrounding countries, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. It has been reported that there are currently ten deaths on the stranded boat, with many forced to drink their own urine for survival and many suffering from illness. The <sup>9</sup>Union reckons that Malaysian students should not stay silent at the face of such injustice and has therefore decided to release this statement making a stance that we disagree with the decision made by the Malaysian authorities in refusing to assist the Rohingya people.

#### The Rohingyas: Refugees, not Illegal Immigrants

It has been well-known that the Rohingya suffers state-sanctioned discrimination and have been targeted by sectarian violence in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. According to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights and Democracy Report in 2010, the authorities has continually refused to issue birth certificates to (Rohingya) Muslim children, denying them citizenship which has led to further discrimination in access to health services, education and employment. The resulting hardship has caused the migration of thousands of Rohingya refugees across the border to Bangladesh, and from there to other countries in the region. Since 2012, a combination of intense hostility from the Rakhine Buddhist majority, as well as an official segregation policies which impose restrictions on the Rohingyas alone, have forced them to the margins of this already poor region, unwanted and unrecognised. According to an International Business Times report, more than 230 Rohingyas have been killed in religious violence in Myanmar since June 2012 and more than 140,000 have been displaced. It was reported earlier in 2015 that the government had revoked ID cards of Rohingya Muslims and most of the Rohingya are now in concentration camp-like conditions, within parameters guarded by police or military authorities. They appear to be refugees within their own country.

Article I(A) of the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees defines refugees as people having a "well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group...; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it." It is therefore clear that the Rohingyas should be viewed by the Malaysian government as refugees and not as economic migrants seeking to illegally enter a country.

- Featured in Sin Chew Daily, 16 May 2015 http://news.sinchew.com.my/node/424281 http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/13/malay-
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#### **Breach of International Law: Principle of Non-Refoulement**

It may be true that Malaysia is not a signatory state to the 1951 Convention and as such will not be bound by the duties imposed by the Convention. However, this does not mean we can cold-bloodedly ignore the few thousand currently adrift at sea. The Union echoes the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations that Malaysia should uphold the obligation to rescue at sea and comply with the principle of non-refoulement. <sup>13</sup>The principle of non-refoulement refers to a prohibition of all countries under customary international law (recognized international norms) to expel refugees who have the right to be recognized. <sup>14</sup>This is a principle applicable to all countries regardless of signatory status of the Convention. As such, Malaysia must still provide basic minimal protection and fundamental rights to both refugees and asylum seekers regardless of length of protection. Malaysia's stance to turn back all refugee boats would therefore constitute a blatant breach of customary international law.

#### Signing the Convention and setting up a Framework

Subsequently, as a country with high influx of unrecognized immigrants and refugees, the Union also urges the Malaysian government to sign the 1951 Convention and commit herself to the protection of human rights, proper treatment of refugees and the universal humanitarian cause of simply helping those in need. Nevertheless, due to a lack of recognition in the law, all refugees in Malaysia currently hold a status of illegal immigrants and are very often subjected to ill-treatment by the authorities. Therefore, whether or not Malaysia decides to officially sign the convention, the Union believes that the status of refuges should at the very least be recognized through the establishment of a legal framework for asylum and immigration. Modelling after the system in the UK, tribunals and legal procedures should be established by the government to deal with immigration disputes or application for asylum to filter the legitimate claims from the bogus ones. A blanket ban on "illegal immigrants" is arbitrary and wholly unreasonable.

The Union believes that there is no reason why refugees in search for a life free from the persecution should be denied of their most fundamental right to life.

#### Conclusion

As a conclusion, the Union would like to reiterate that we are disappointed at the decision of the Malaysian government to turn the boats away at all cost. We strongly disagree with this decision as it lacks basic compassion and breaches international customary law. The Malaysian government should take immediate measures to help these refugees who are adrift at sea.

The Union also believes that Malaysia is a land blessed with people of compassion. We believe the stance of the government does not reflect the view of the people. The Union fully support Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir and other leaders from the civil society's call to action, gathering Malaysians to collect necessary supplies to be delivered to the refugees on the boats currently desperate to survive. The Union will do what we can to contribute and promote the campaigns such as Refuge for Refugees and funds being set up from where we are to the best of our abilities.

http://www.themalaymailonline.com/world/article/united-nations-do-not-to-turn-away-migrants-maintain-prohibition-of-refoule

<sup>14</sup> UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The Principle of Non-Refoulement as a Norm of Customary International Law. Response to the Questions Posed to UNHCR by the Federal Constitutional Court of the Federal

Republic of Germany in Cases 2 BvR 1938/93, 2 BvR 1953/93, 2 BvR1954/93, 31 January 1994, available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/437b6db64.html http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/281628

