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Research Management Unit
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Embracing New Horizons: A Fresh Start for 2025



As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I welcome you to RMU4U Third Edition (January 2025). The start of a new year symbolizes renewal, an opportunity to recalibrate our aspirations and refresh our collective commitment to academic excellence, research endeavours, and impactful scholarly contributions.

The year 2024 saw significant progress within our academic and research community. It was a testament to the passion, perseverance, and creativity of all members of the UiTM Kedah family. As we reflect on those accomplishments, let us also look ahead with determination to elevate our efforts in research, publication, and innovation. Let 2025 be the year we chart new pathways for discovery and collaboration, bringing our work to greater heights.

This year, I encourage all of us to reaffirm our scholarly goals by setting clear, measurable targets for research outputs, impactful writings, and knowledge sharing, aiming to contribute meaningfully to society both locally and globally. Let us strengthen research collaborations by building networks across disciplines, faculties, and institutions to foster cross-disciplinary solutions to real-world challenges. At the same time, we must focus on innovation by exploring new ideas, embracing digital tools, and pioneering creative solutions that align with global trends and local needs. Above all, let us support each other by sharing expertise, mentoring the next generation, and collaborating to overcome challenges, creating a thriving research ecosystem where everyone uplifts one another.

Let this be a year where we balance ambition with reflection, passion with purpose, and innovation with impact. The Research Management Unit (RMU) remains steadfast in supporting your research journey through resources, platforms, and opportunities for growth.

As we embark on this new chapter, I wish each of you the strength to pursue your aspirations and the resilience to overcome any obstacles. Together, let us make 2025 a year of breakthroughs, achievements, and shared successes.

Here's to a productive and inspiring year ahead.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Roshima Said

Acting Rector, UiTM Kedah



A Message from the Chief Editor

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to announce the return of the RMU4U Bulletin with Volume 3, showcasing a diverse array of academic inquiries and professional perspectives across multiple themes. This edition continues our commitment to facilitating intellectual exchange and presenting research that engages with contemporary issues.

In this volume, the Law & Policy theme stands out with the highest number of contributions, featuring 14 papers that explore significant aspects of governance, justice, and societal well-being. These papers highlight the role of legal frameworks and policies in addressing current challenges and contributing to societal development.

Highlighted works include topics such as "Enhancing Access to Justice: The Role, Challenges, and Future of Small Claims Courts in Malaysia" and "Environmental Public Interest Litigation: Broadening Locus Standi to Safeguard Collective Interests," which examine the evolving landscape of legal rights and public interest. Additional discussions, such as "Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Islamic Banking and Finance in Malaysia" and "Balancing Nature and Faith: Protection and Conservation of Water Resources from the Perspective of Islamic Law," shed light on the interplay between ethics, faith, and law in addressing societal challenges.

In addition to the focus on Law & Policy, this issue covers a range of topics that contribute to understanding innovation and societal change. Articles such as "AI-Driven Recommendations in Mobile Shopping Apps, Podcasts, Animations & Gen Z: Revamping Organizational Behavior Learning, and The Role of Social Media in Shaping Islamic Entrepreneurship" explore the intersections of technology, education, and culture in today's world.

This edition represents the collaborative work of our contributors, whose insights and expertise have shaped the content of this bulletin. We encourage readers to engage with these ideas and consider their implications for further research and practical applications.

I would like to thank the authors, reviewers, and editorial team members who made RMU4U Bulletin Volume 3 possible. We hope this publication serves as a resource for understanding key issues and inspires further exploration.

Thank you for being part of this endeavor. Let us continue to learn and exchange ideas

Warm regards,

Dr Azyyati Anuar
Chief Editor, RMU4U E-Bulletin



UTILISING WAQF FOR SUSTAINABLE FLOOD MITIGATION IN MALAYSIA

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Flooding is one of the most severe problems in Malaysia, causing significant loss of lives, properties, and socio-economies due to extremes of monsoonal rains. In response, scholars are investigating the possibility of using waqf (the Islamic endowment) as a sustainable flood management tool as it can provide long-term local solutions. For centuries, waqf has supported religious, educational, and health institutions. However, in environmental management, its applicability is better known as an alternative to flood mitigation.

WAQF AS A TOOL FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT

The permanent nature of the assets reflects the design of the waqf system, which is meant to create permanent assets that will benefit communities. Waqf assets are perpetually dedicated to community projects, which means they have a continuous funding source for life once developed. Waqf could maintain local infrastructure projects for flood mitigation, such as retention ponds and reinforcement of riverbanks, so that the community is always proactive instead of reactive during a disaster (Yaacob et al., 2017). One such application could see communities creating retention ponds funded by waqf to contain excess rainwater during floods, not flooding the rivers or streets and making them available as water resources in drier months (Salleh et al., 2020).

LEARNING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Incorporating ideas such as designs used in the Netherlands, which incorporate nature-oriented solutions with infrastructure by developing floodplains and wetlands to absorb water from floods, into Malaysia's waqf-based flood mitigation methods are synonymous with waqf (long-term focus and local community-centred), (Pitchay et al., 2018). Flood shelters in Bangladesh funded by local communities save lives during floods, indicating the potential of waqf to support shelters for needy locals and provide immediate assistance in disasters while promoting mutual collaboration (Thaker et al., 2018).

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH WAQF

The permanence of waqf is one of its main strengths. Not only does waqf-funded infrastructure provide timely relief, but it also creates an asset that the next generation can use. Such investment in waqf, for example, could address drainage systems or rainwater harvesting facilities, which may contribute to flood control and integrated water management (Chowdhury et al., 2012). Education programs related to water conservation and flood preparedness funded through waqf can supplement these projects that aim to promote sustainable practices (Haniff et al., 2023)

IRRIGATION WAQF FOR FLOOD MITIGATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This is a valid perspective, but widening the scope of waqf to embrace flood management presents regulatory and administrative hurdles. This is because waqf in Malaysia primarily serves religious and educational purposes, which means legal adaptations are needed for waqf to participate fully in environmental projects (Ambrose et al., 2015). For this purpose, better partnerships can be established among waqf institutions, ecological specialists and local authorities to hasten the process that would allow funds from waqf for high-risk flood areas (Abdullah et al., 2023)

ENGAGING COMMUNITY SERVICE THROUGH WAQF

One of the main advantages of using waqf for flood projects is that it engages communities. Waqf-funded projects are mainly based on local needs that create ownership. Say, an initiative to strengthen riverbanks from a waqf could use the local workforce and resources. This promotes ownership behaviour among residents as they strive to maintain it. Local community involvement, including educating them about following flood preparedness, can be a part of the community initiative (Perai, 2005).



CONCLUSION

With its long-term funding model and community focus, waqf presents a promising framework for flood management in Malaysia. As flood risks increase, integrating waqf into environmental planning could create sustainable, resilient communities equipped to handle natural disasters. This approach could serve as a model for other flood-prone nations, fostering resilience throughout Southeast Asia.

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