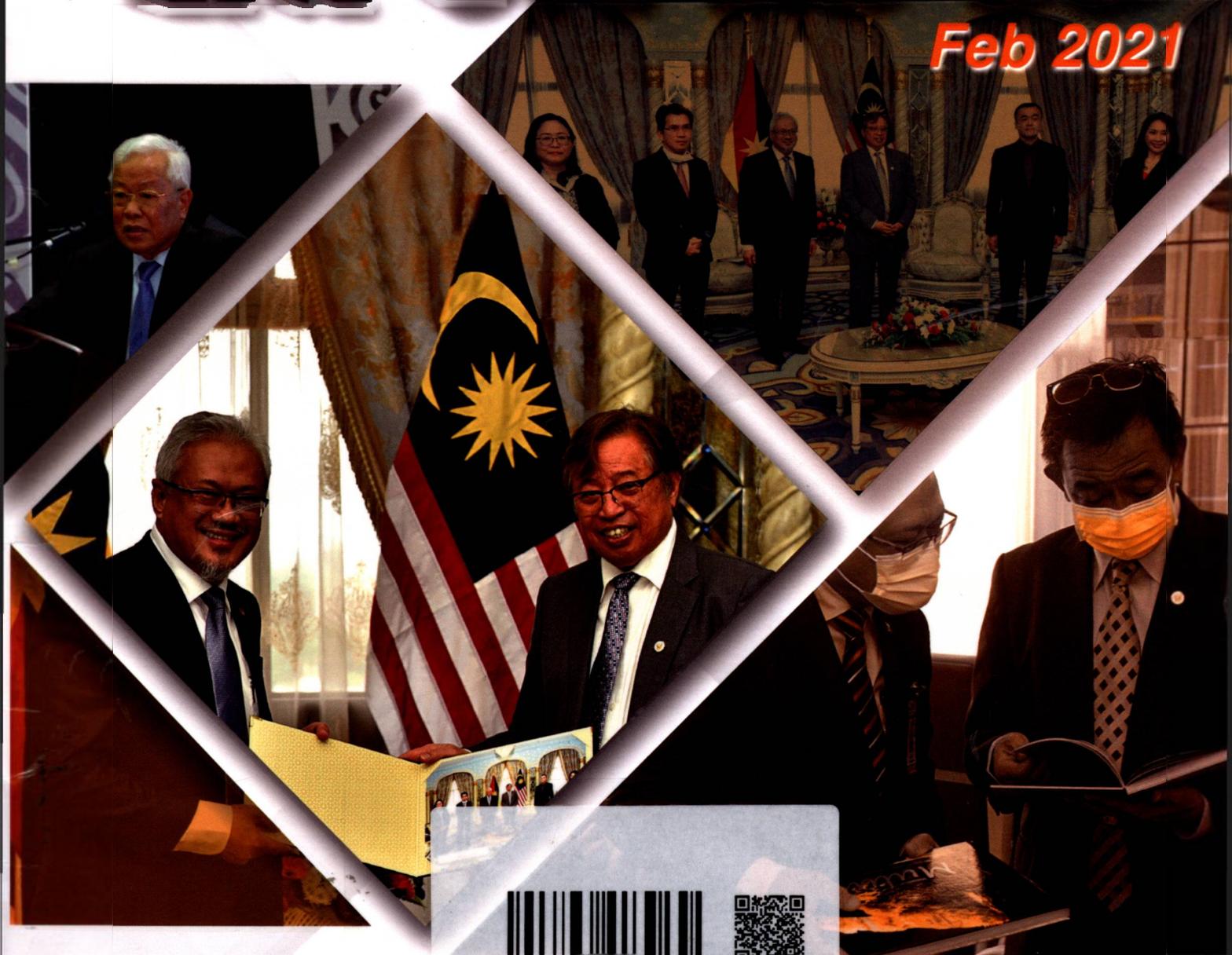


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SARAWAK

*pays courtesy visit to the
Chief Minister
of Sarawak*

Courtesy Visit
YB Datuk Hj Abdul Karim
Rahman Hamzah

MOA

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KAIB 2020

Soars to Greater Heights

innosTRE

First Hybrid Conference



On the beautiful morning of December 1, 2020, Bilik Mesyuarat Utama in Kampus Samarahan, UiTM Sarawak was turned into a makeshift studio. With a perfect purple backdrop that bears the University's name, high resolution Canon video recorder, television, projector and screen, sound mixers, speakers, lightings, pin microphones and ornamental flowers, Rector Professor Dato Dr. Jamil Haji Hamali went live on Zoom to officiate the Konferensi Antarabangsa Islam Borneo (KAIB) 2020, viewed by participants from different parts of the world.

Dubbed as **KAIB Online 2020**, with the theme **"World Halal Industry: Opportunities and Challenges Post COVID-19 Pandemic"**, UiTM Sarawak has successfully organised Konferensi Antarabangsa Islam Borneo (KAIB) 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Eight speakers from different parts of the world, namely Australia, Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Spain and Taiwan, presented their views with regard to the Conference theme. KAIB Online 2020 was jointly organised by UiTM Sarawak together with Universiti Teknologi Mara Sabah, Institute Halal of Spain, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali Brunei Darussalam, Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Bagawan Brunei Darussalam, Universitas Lambung Mangkurat Banjarmasin Indonesia, Universitas Mulawarman Samarinda Indonesia, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Pontianak Indonesia, Universitas Islam Negeri Antasari Samarinda Indonesia and Institut Agama Islam Negeri Palangka Raya Indonesia.

Datuk Nadzim Johan, President of the Malaysian Islamic Consumers' Association presented his views on the challenges facing halal products consumers during COVID-19. He highlighted that there has been a huge drop in demand for halal products and all sectors have been adversely affected. From Brunei, Dr Hajah Norkhairiah Haji Hashim of Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University has seen halal product supply-chain

interrupted as Brunei depends greatly on import of halal meat from countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. Chief Executive of Halal Australia Dr Muhammad Khan, in his presentation mentioned that halal certification is a tricky and sticky issue in Australia due to a lack of regulation. Dr Irene Lin, the Research and Development Director of Chappion Biotechnology shared interesting facts about halal natural food colouring derived from fruits and plants. She added that too much artificial colouring could bring about adverse effects on human health. She recommends businesses and consumers alike to choose natural food colourings for its long term sustainability. Mufti of Sabah, Datuk Hj Bungsu @ Aziz Hj Jaafar presented the future of tourism industry in Sabah post COVID-19. He also mentioned that Sabah has suffered a drop of 61% in domestic tourist arrival and 82% of international tourist arrival up until November 2020 due to COVID-19. Dr Maisyarah Rahmi from Institute Agama Islam Negeri Samarinda, Indonesia in her keynote speech mentioned that Indonesia's Halal Product Law has come into effect since October 2019. However, some products and services have until 2022 to comply. Foreign products need to check if they are compliant with Indonesia's Halal standards. Dr Barbara from Institute Halal, Spain shared her opinion about the various challenges halal products face in Europe. Some producers get boycotted when they have halal logo on their products. Professor Zhang from Beijing Wuzi University, highlighted that there is a wide network of halal logistics available from the moment halal products arrive in Beijing from different parts of the world. Out of the 20 million people in Beijing, there are about 300,000 Muslims there who buy up to an average of 6.5kg of halal meat products per month.

According to Conference Chair Dr. Mohd Syahiran Abdul Latif, 710 participants from different parts of the world registered for KAIB Online 2020, the highest number of participants since its humble inception in 2008. Through the virtual platform, it has reached wider audience from Australia, Argentina, Brunei, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Taiwan and beyond.

KAIB Online 2020 organising committee wishes to acknowledge the following staff: Adib Sarkawi, Abdul Khalid Karim, Abdul Razak Bana, Safizie Saji, Shaza Safura Abdullah, Awang Hasbie Awang Kan and Juhari Norily. They were the first to arrive and the last to leave Bilik Mesyuarat Utama during KAIB Online 2020. Without their hard work, dedication, commitment and expertise, KAIB Online 2020 would not have been possible. Thank you.

KAIB 2020

**"Konferensi
Antarabangsa Islam
Borneo" Soars to Greater
Heights**

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Dr Ellen Chung



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