



# RMU 4U

**Volume 4 (2025)**

**Research Management Unit**  
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kedah

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# Table of → Contents

05

Editorial Note

07

Business, Accounting  
& Financial

41

Law & Policy

58

IR 5.0

75

Literature & Culture

99

Designer's Thoughts



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## RECTOR'S NOTE



**Prof. Dr Roshima Said**  
Acting Rector

***"Together we advance knowledge with integrity, creativity, and purpose—many voices united to shape a brighter, sustainable future."***

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Alhamdulillah, with gratitude to Allah SWT, I am pleased to welcome you to the fourth volume of RMU4U e-Bulletin. This publication continues to serve as a reflection of our vibrant intellectual community at UiTM Kedah, bringing together voices from diverse disciplines and perspectives. In this issue, with 42 insightful contributions, we witness not only the richness of research topics but also the strength of our shared purpose. While the papers range from sustainability in fashion and design, digital literacy, and artificial intelligence to law, economics, and cultural heritage, they are united by a common aspiration: to advance knowledge that is meaningful, ethical, and impactful for society.

Our academic journey is significant because of this harmony amid diversity. Whether addressing contemporary challenges in technology and governance or celebrating the timeless values of culture and tradition, our scholars demonstrate that knowledge is most powerful when it is connected, when different fields meet at the crossroads of innovation, integrity, and service to the community.

As Rector, I am profoundly inspired by the dedication, innovation, and scholarly excellence demonstrated by our academics and researchers. You are not only advancing knowledge within our university but are also fulfilling UiTM's noble mission, creating impactful ideas that serve the nation and uplift the ummah.

Your work reflects a deep commitment to relevance, integrity, and service. Let us continue to nurture a culture of collaboration, creativity, and excellence, ensuring that our contributions remain forward-looking, transformative, and rooted in the needs of society. Together, we are shaping a brighter, more sustainable future through education, research, and innovation.

Congratulations to all the dedicated contributors whose passion and perseverance have brought this volume to life. My heartfelt appreciation goes to the Research Management Unit for their steadfast leadership and solid commitment in making this achievement possible. May RMU4U continue to shine as a beacon of knowledge, uniting diverse voices in a shared mission of discovery and excellence. Together, may we be inspired to reach even greater heights in the pursuit of impactful research and innovation.

One purpose. One vision. Many voices, one future.

Sincerely,  
Prof. Dr Roshima Said  
Acting Rector,  
Universiti Teknologi MARA Keda

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR



**Dr Azyyati Anuar**  
Chief Editor,  
RMU4U E-Bulletin

***"RMU4U Volume 4 celebrates diverse scholarship, uniting research, innovation, and culture to inspire collaboration, sustainability, and inclusive growth."***

We are pleased to present Volume 4 of RMU4U, a platform dedicated to showcasing research, innovation, and thought leadership across diverse academic disciplines. This issue reflects the dynamic intellectual ecosystem we strive to cultivate, highlighting contributions that bridge theory and practice while addressing pressing contemporary challenges. In the Business, Accounting, and Finance section, we feature 15 insightful papers that explore the evolving landscape of global markets, financial resilience, sustainable accounting practices, and digital transformation in business operations.

These works not only provide empirical findings but also propose actionable frameworks for industry adoption, underscoring the vital role of research in shaping competitive and ethical enterprises. The Designer Thoughts segment presents 6 stimulating papers that merge creativity with problem-solving. From design thinking methodologies to innovation in product aesthetics and usability, these contributions remind us that design is not merely about form but about crafting meaningful user experiences.

This section will be of particular interest to those who value the intersection of artistry, functionality, and human-centered solutions. Our IR 5.0 category brings together 6 pioneering papers examining the fusion of automation, artificial intelligence, and human capital development in the context of the Fifth Industrial Revolution. The authors challenge readers to consider how technology can be harmonized with ethical and inclusive practices, ensuring that digital progress translates into equitable societal benefits. In the Law and Policy section, 7 comprehensive papers analyze legal reforms, governance frameworks, and policy innovations that respond to shifting socio-economic realities.

The breadth of topics from regulatory compliance in emerging industries to community rights in a globalized economy reflects the critical role of law as both a safeguard and an enabler of change. The Literature and Culture segment enriches this volume with 8 thought-provoking papers that delve into narratives, identities, and cultural dialogues shaping societies today.

Whether revisiting classic literature through modern lenses or exploring contemporary cultural phenomena, these works invite readers to appreciate the role of the humanities in fostering empathy, critical thinking, and cultural continuity. Collectively, these 42 scholarly contributions affirm the breadth and depth of academic engagement within our community. They underscore our commitment to advancing knowledge that is relevant, impactful, and forward-looking. This volume is not only a testament to our contributors' dedication but also a resource for policymakers, practitioners, educators, and learners who seek informed perspectives and innovative solutions. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all authors, reviewers, and editorial team members whose collective efforts have made this publication possible. We hope that RMU4U Vol. 4 will spark dialogue, inspire collaboration, and contribute to the enrichment of both academic scholarship and practical application.

Let us continue to explore, innovate, and contribute, together shaping a future where knowledge serves as the foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Warm regards,  
Dr Azyyati Anuar  
Chief Editor,  
RMU4U E-Bulletin



# ADOPTION IN MALAYSIA: STATUTORY PROVISIONS AND LEGAL PROCEDURES

**\*Irma Kamarudin, Sarirah Che Rose & Siti Khadijah Abdullah Sanek**

Faculty of Law, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Kedah, Kampus Sungai Petani, Kedah, Malaysia

\*[irma@uitm.edu.my](mailto:irma@uitm.edu.my), [sarirah@uitm.edu.my](mailto:sarirah@uitm.edu.my), [Khadijah016@uitm.edu.my](mailto:Khadijah016@uitm.edu.my)

(\*corresponding author)

## Introduction

Legally valid adoptions in Malaysia must comply with either the Adoption Act 1952 or the Child Act 2001. However, these Acts do not govern the adoption of non-Malaysians. The law relating to the adoption of non-Malaysians is derived from the common law principle of *jus sanguinis*. These principles, however, do not establish biological ties but only recognize adopted individuals as legal children under the adoptive parents' national laws. The Child Act 2001 supplements the Adoption Act 1952, which is rooted in early English adoption laws. Notably, the Child Act 2001 does not repeal the provisions of the Adoption Act 1952.

## Eligibility Criteria for Adoption

The eligibility requirements for prospective adoptive parents are governed by law. The Welfare Act prohibits the adoption of Malaysian children unless stringent conditions are fulfilled. In particular, adoptive parents must be Malaysian citizens or permanent residents, at least 25 years old, and at least 18 years older than the child to be adopted. The Welfare Department supervises the adoption process and may apply to the Court for an adoption order on behalf of a Malaysian child, although the child must reside with the applicants for a minimum of six months prior to this. A non-Malaysian may adopt a Malaysian child only if married to a Malaysian citizen. Furthermore, the adoption must be in accordance with the child's religion and must have the written authorization of the Director-General of the Welfare Department.


For adoptees, the Adoption Act 1952 allows any child under eighteen who is not the legitimate child of the adopter to be adopted. Once a child reaches the age of eighteen, they are no longer eligible. The law prioritizes both the child's welfare and the interests of their biological family, if any. Striking a balance is essential: the law seeks to support the child's family during challenging times while ensuring the child's right to stability. Where adoption is regulated by statute, it must be aligned with legislative provisions, and the child's welfare must remain the paramount concern in securing a permanent home.



## Adoption Process in Malaysia


The adoption process in Malaysia, mainly governed by the Child Act 2001, involves several stages. An application must first be submitted to the Court with jurisdiction for the adoption order. The presiding judge may appoint a child welfare officer or a family member to conduct a home study assessment on the prospective adoptive parents. If the report is favourable, it will be tendered as evidence in court. The judge will evaluate the report and, if convinced that adoption serves the best interests of the child, will grant the adoption order.

### Application Procedure

An icon showing a document with a blue header, a photo placeholder, and a pencil pointing to the bottom right corner.

Malaysians need to make their application in the High Court at the place of their residence. If all the parties involved are from any state within Peninsular Malaysia, the application can only be filed at the High Court of Kuala Lumpur. An application can be made at the High Court of the place of residence of any party involved if the child is a non-Malaysian and neither is the spouse of the applicant. Although the applications filed are interlocutory in nature, as they are only made before the issuance of the adoption order, the Judge will normally conduct the hearing in chambers instead of open Court. Once the adoption order is made, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the child to be adopted by the adoptive parents whilst the process itself will also provide permanency to the relationship between the adoptive parents and the child.

### Home Study Assessment

An icon showing a yellow house with a blue door and a white window, next to a clipboard with a magnifying glass over a checklist.

In Malaysia, home study assessments are largely conducted by social workers assigned to handle the respective adoption case by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. However, as some applied before the adoption of the Child Act 2001, the Ministry had issued a white paper which provided that the home study assessment would also be carried out by registered non-governmental organisations providing welfare services in relation to children. It should be noted that in order to serve as a home study assessor, the appointed assessors must possess the requisite qualifications as prescribed by the Ministry.

## Conclusion

Adoption in Malaysia involves an emotional and social relationship between parent and child, extending beyond legal processes. It's essential for prospective adoptive parents and their supporters to grasp the legal and practical issues involved. Many tend to focus too heavily on the technical aspects of adoption, often due to a lack of understanding or fear of inquiring further. For a child lacking parental care, adopters embody more than legal parents; their love, care, and nurturing establish them as parents psychologically.

### Biodata of authors

Irma Kamarudin is currently a senior lecturer at the Law Department, UiTM Kedah Branch. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B Hons) from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in 2004, and completed her Master of Comparative Laws (MCL) at the same university in 2006. Her areas of expertise include Business & Commercial Law and Administrative Law, with research interests in child law, business law, and administrative law.

Sarirah Che Rose is a senior law lecturer at UiTM Cawangan Kedah. She received her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B Hons) from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in 1995, and her Master of Comparative Laws (MCL) from IIUM in 1996. She was admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya. Her interests include child & women's law and commercial law.

Siti Khadijah Binti Abdullah Sanek is a senior lecturer at the Department of Law, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Kedah Branch. She earned her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B Hons) from IIUM in 2003, followed by her Master of Comparative Laws (MCL) in 2004. She has served as an Advocate and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya. Her academic interests are in land law, property law, and probate and succession law.



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