



PERSATUAN SAINS SOSIAL MALAYSIA
(Malaysian Social Science Association)

THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE (MSC6)

5-7 August 2008
(Tuesday-Thursday)

Theme:

Engaging Malaysian Modernity: 50 Years and Beyond

Venue:

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

MSC6 CONVENORS

Persatuan Sains Sosial Malaysia (in English: Malaysian Social Science Association – PSSM) will be convening the 6th International Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC6) on 5-7 August 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak. The Faculty of Social Science, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), Sarawak, is our co-convenor and host.

OBJECTIVES

Since its inception, the primary objective of the biennial Malaysian Studies Conference (MSC) is to bring together scholars, both Malaysians and Malaysianists, for the purpose of scholarly exchange and interaction based on their research findings and reflections on Malaysia. The MSC also aims to analyse issues and problems relating to contemporary Malaysia, and to compare the Malaysian experience with that of various countries in the world, especially that of Malaysia's neighbours. Another objective of the MSC is to examine the state of Malaysian studies and to suggest ways for its advancement. For MSC6 in particular, taking advantage of it being held in Sarawak, it is hoped that special attention is given to Borneo studies as part of Malaysian studies.

THEME

The theme of MSC6 is “**Engaging Malaysian Modernity: 50 Years and Beyond**”. As is generally acknowledged, development and modernisation often go together. In the context of Malaysia, modernisation as a new historical phase in the transformation of this country began well before 1957, beginning perhaps with the intrusion of Western influence, particularly the imposition of British colonial rule. Malaysia, or what was then known as ‘Tanah Melayu’ or Malaya, as well as Sabah and Sarawak, had since then adopted a modern form of government, public administration, education system, new modes of economic production, and certain new ways of social life. Such structural changes in Malaysian society have also been accompanied by cultural changes.

With the establishment of an independent national government and various development policies since Merdeka, the processes of modernisation continued with greater vigour. During the last 50 years, Malaysia has been under five different administrations from the time of Tunku Abdul Rahman to the present Dato’ Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. Each administration brought its own style of governance and steered the course of Malaysian modernisation further.

However, the evolution of Malaysian modernity in the last five decades is a complex process especially under the impact of accelerated globalisation. It is characterised by both convergences and contestations, similarities and contrasts, as well as adaptation, accommodation, hybridisation and dislocations. This story indeed cannot be told enough. We have witnessed the emergence of an impressive array of modern physical landscapes, especially in bustling cities and towns, while rural areas too have been equipped with modern infrastructure. Nevertheless, there are important questions to be addressed. These include the political, economic, educational, social, cultural, and religious, dimensions of modernisation. Modernisation and modernity too can be viewed at many levels -- national, regional and local. While modern urban living may be seen at the national level, at the regional and local levels, some regions and states still operate very much within the ambit of traditional settings. At the local level, many indigenous communities such as the Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia, and the indigenous communities of Sarawak and Sabah still continue with their traditional ways of life, including practising age-old methods of cultivation and beliefs.

Given these complex, at times bewildering and contradictory processes, it is important to critically discuss Malaysian modernisation and modernity after 50 years of Independence and also to anticipate its future in the twenty first century. Some important questions pertinent for discussion include: What has gone into the making of Malaysian modernisation and modernity, and are the forces in its formation stable and enduring? What is the nature of the Malaysian modernisation process especially between Peninsular Malaysia and the Eastern States of Sarawak and Sabah, as well as between urban and rural areas, among ethnic groups and across the gender divide? What are the implications of this process? What are the driving forces of change and possible trajectories into the future? What alternative futures are being imagined?

Some of the key issues that can be discussed include, but are not necessarily limited to the following sub-themes:

- Interrogating modernisation and modernity
- Late capitalism, post-modernity and culture
- Globalisation, indigenous communities and indigenous knowledge
- Economic development and social inequality
- Good governance, human security and environment
- Gender and modernity
- International relations and trade
- Social and cultural change
- Religion, ethnicity and identity
- Globalisation and the nation-state
- Urbanisation, education and health
- Youth and modernity
- Media, IT and communication
- Literature and history
- Imagining alternative futures

While the focus will be on the above sub-themes, in the tradition of the past five MSCs, we also welcome papers that will be presented on the broad subject of “Malaysian Studies” conceived in the fashion of area studies but related to the Conference’s theme. With these issues and questions in mind, it is hoped that the 6th International Malaysian Studies Conference will serve as an important platform for the exchange of research findings and ideas on this important theme of **‘Engaging Malaysian Modernity: 50 Years and Beyond’**.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The Conference programme will consist of panels of papers, organised as much as possible under a common theme. Each panel will consist of 3-4 paper presenters and a chair who also serves as discussant. Participants are encouraged to form their own panels for this Conference based on the subthemes outlined above or on other dimensions of Malaysian Studies.

PANEL PROPOSALS

As has been the practice of past MSCs, there are three different channels of paper presentation, as follows:

- Institutional panels – These are panels organised by institutions such as research institutes and faculties.
- Thematic panels – These are panels organised by convenors on selected themes. The convenor is responsible for deciding on the theme and organising the presenters.
- Individual panels – These are panels consisting of individual paper presenters. Individual paper presenters are welcome to contribute. The Organising Committee will try to group such papers accordingly, either into a thematic panel if they fall

under a common theme, or otherwise into omnibus panels, that is, panels that need not necessarily address a common theme.

Note: As has been the practice of past MSCs, institutional panels will bear the institution's name as a means to raise the profile of the institution. In return, the institution has to pay an institutional registration fee of RM500. This does not include the registration fee for each individual paper presenter (see below). The participating institution may organise more than one institutional panel at no extra cost.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Those intending to present papers at MSC6 must submit an abstract of about 150 words to the MSC6 Secretariat latest by **15 March 2008**. Soft copies of the full written papers must be submitted latest by **1 July 2008**.

Those who plan to organise institutional or thematic panels should also submit their panel abstracts by the same date. Individual paper abstracts must be submitted together with panel abstracts.

The Organising Committee will vet all panel and paper proposals and inform the proposer in due time of the outcome. To ensure the smooth running of the Conference, the Organising Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any panel or paper proposal. It is also the right of the Organising Committee to proceed with or call off any panel due to unforeseen circumstances.

As has been the past practice of MSCs, only those with full papers will be allowed to make presentations at the Conference. PowerPoint notes are not considered as papers.

Roundtables or forums on selected topics that need not necessarily have written papers can only be organised by the MSC6 Organising Committee.

REGISTRATION FEE

Participants who register early will enjoy the benefit of pre-registration. The closing date for early or pre-registration is **15 June 2008**. All registration after that date will be charged as per normal. The registration fees are as follows:

Participants from & in Malaysia

PSSM members

Pre-registration	RM300
After 15 June 2008	RM350

Non-members

Pre-registration	RM400
After 15 June 2008	RM500

PSSM student members

Pre-registration	RM130
After 15 June 2008	RM180

Students (non-members)

Pre-registration	RM180
After 15 June 2008	RM230

Participants from abroad**PSSM members**

Pre-registration	USD130
After 15 June 2008	USD150

Non-members

Pre-registration	USD150
After 15 June 2008	USD170

All Conference participants, including paper presenters, have to pay their registration fees.

MODES OF PAYMENT

Those in Malaysia who want to pay their registration fees can transmit their payment in Malaysian Ringgit by bank draft, money order or postal order, payable to **Persatuan Sains Sosial Malaysia** at the address below. **Alternatively they can deposit the sum directly into the Association's bank account (see below), fax the receipt to the Association with their name and MSC6 printed on it, and bring the original receipt to the Conference as proof of payment.**

Please note that the practice of payment by cheque is discontinued for MSC6 to avoid unnecessary technical problems.

Participants who reside overseas can transmit their payment in US dollars directly into the Association's bank account and fax a copy of the receipt to the Association with their name and MSC6 printed on it. **The payer, however, must bear any bank charges incurred in the transaction and must bring the original receipt to the Conference as proof of payment.**

Those who want to pay at the time of registration on the day of the Conference may do so only in Malaysian Ringgit by cash.

The Association's bank account is as follows:

Name of payee	: Persatuan Sains Sosial Malaysia
Name of bank	: Commerce International Malaysia Berhad (CIMB) Universiti Malaya Branch Jalan Pantai Baru, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Account Number	: 1440-0005156-05-6
Swift code	: CIBBMMYKL14400005156056

ACCOMMODATION

The Secretariat, is not responsible for hotel booking or any other accommodation arrangements. Participants are required to arrange their own accommodation. However, the Secretariat is making arrangements for a special rate for MSC6 participants at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, our conference venue, in Kuching. There are also a number of budget hotels within walking distance from the venue. The Secretariat will also make arrangements for a special rate with these hotels. Please visit the hotel websites for further information. (Detail information will follow).

ENQUIRIES

All abstracts, full papers and enquiries regarding MSC6 should be sent to MSC6 Secretariat, Ms. Azlina Abdullah,

Email : pssmalaysia@yahoo.com or alin052@yahoo.com
and cc to Ms Sharifah Zarina Syed Zakaria
szarina@pkriscc.ukm.my

Telephone : 6-03-8921 4175 / 4235 / 5161

Address : (Att: Ms. Azlina Abdullah)
c/o Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS)
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Please visit organisation's homepage at <http://pssmalaysia.tripod.com> for further information regarding the Association as well as other information.