



Journal of Ethnic and Diversity Studies (JOEDS) Volume 1 Issue 1, 2023

Editorial

Introduction to JOEDS and KITA

The Journal of Ethnic and Diversity Studies (JOEDS) is launched as KITA's flagship journal, to include and celebrate the works from our homegrown scholars which focus on a variety of topics related to diversity. This not only includes ethnic diversity, which is an outstanding Malaysian trait, but also other forms of diversity, including but not limited to gender, social class, age, federalism, spatial (urban-rural) and others.

The Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) was officially established on the 8th of October 2007, on the date when Prof. Datuk Dr. Shamsul Amri Baharuddin, was appointed by the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) as the Director of KITA. KITA is the only full-fledged research institute in Malaysia focusing specifically on 'ethnic studies.' Although academically, KITA has a 'thematic studies' orientation, it, however, draws its strength from both 'disciplinary studies' as well as 'area studies,' thus encouraging cross-disciplinary activities, involving three major sectors of the society, namely, the public, the private, and the community sectors. Thus, KITA adopts an inclusivist approach in conducting its activities.

KITA'S vision is "Towards sustaining, comparatively and relatively, an inclusive-oriented, stable and harmonious intra- and inter-ethnic relations among Malaysians and beyond". Its mission is "To foster and build inclusive, multi-strategic approaches in addressing the complex ethnic-based related challenges." Hence, KITA focuses on academic work as well as public advocacy.

In addition, KITA possesses a wealth of research specialisations among its academic faculty and PhD and Masters by research students. KITA is part of international and national research networks as well as academic and industry networks that harness these talents.

To these ends, JOEDS aims to receive article submissions in the form of full research articles, short communications or research notes, as well as book or multimedia reviews, that address the vision and mission of KITA, as well as those that cover the breadth and depth of the study of human diversity in general.

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