



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation

In partnership with Notre Dame of Maryland University

Malaysia: Islam in Asian Context

May 27 – June 5, 2013



Petronas Twin Towers in KL



Malaysian Culture Festival



Wilayah Mosque in Kuala Lumpur

Overview:

You are invited to participate in the study abroad program to Malaysia that aims to provide participants with an increased understanding of Islamic faith and practice, as well as cultural traditions that exist within predominately Muslim societies. Malaysia is a country that is well-known for its religious and cultural diversity and is one of the few countries in Asia that enjoys a strong economy and a unique Federal parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarch. It is leading the Muslim world today in two areas: First, the field of “Islamic Banking & Finance”, which has become of great interest after the economic meltdown in 2008. The second is the “Global Movement of Moderates”, which is an initiative started by its Prime Minister Mohd Najib Abdul Razak.

Participants will gain first-hand experiences of the culture, faith and daily activities of Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Buddhists. They will visit rich historic sites and interact with professors, students, politicians and religious leaders, while enjoying the beauty, food and warm hospitality. The program abroad will be conducted in collaboration with CECF.

Program Goals/Objectives:

To gain a deeper understanding of:

- Islam in the Asian context
- Religion and its relationship to the daily lives of Muslims
- Cultural traditions in this ancient society
- The importance of building relationships with one another in our ever shrinking world
- Shedding more light on the importance of American –Asian Pacific relations

Tentative Itinerary: New York, Kuala Lumpur, Kelantan, New York

Mon: May 27 Depart JFK to Kuala Lumpur (KL)

Tue: May 28 Arrive to Malaysia

Wed: May 29 KL Visits and Orientation (Exploring & Evening Cultural Program)

Thu: May 30 One Day Conference with the International Institute of Islamic Thought & Civilizations (ISTAC): **Islam in the Asian Context**, interact with students from various academic institutions, and engage in discussions during free-time in the evening

This CECF conference is being locally co-sponsored by ISTAC <http://www.iium.edu.my/istac>. See the description of the conference at the bottom of the flier.

- Fri: May 31 Visits to:
- the renowned museums of the Muslim world, Islamic Art Museum in KL
<http://www.iamm.org.my/>
 - Wilayah Mosque, one of the most important Mosques in Malaysia
http://www.dkdomes.com/p3_wilayah%20main.htm
 - Enjoy an Evening Reception with U.S. Embassy Officials
<http://malaysia.usembassy.gov>. Learn about:
 - Challenges for the American Foreign Policy in Southeast Asia
 - What kind of challenges diplomats face in Southeast Asia
 - How Muslims in Malaysia view America?
 - What kinds of outreach programs are there with local Muslims in Malaysia?
- Sat: Jun 1 Travel to **Kota Baro / Kelantan** – Meet with the Kelantan Community
- Sun: Jun 2 Travel to **Perhentian Islands** (one hour from Kota Baro) http://wikitravel.org/en/Perhentian_Islands
Diving and Relaxation
- Mon: Jun 3 Reflection while at Perhentian Islands - night travel back to KL
- Tue: Jun 4 ½ Day Seminar at Nilai University: **Learn about Islamic Finance & the Islamic Banking System**
and interact with students from Nilai University
- Wed: Jun 5 Return to JFK from Kuala Lumpur

Course Requirements:

- Two pre-trip meetings, with lecture component
- Reading: *TBD*
- Full participation in lectures and travel within Malaysia
- A typed experiential journal to be submitted after the study tour
- One post-trip follow-up session

RST 427/527 MALAYSIA: Islam in the Asian Context, 3 credits

Accommodations and Meals:

- Double occupancies at 3 or 4 star hotels (*single occupancy is available*)
- Daily breakfast and a second meal of either lunch or dinner

Health and Safety:

Malaysia is a clean country; however precautions should be taken along with good planning. Additionally, Malaysia takes a hard stance on crimes against tourists and visitors are generally safe. Unfortunate incidents do occur involving theft and scams, so vigilance is required. If you have any concerns about your health, please contact your doctor.

Program Fee: \$3,395.00

Price includes:

- Round-trip Airfare JFK - KUL - JFK
- Domestic Flight between Kuala Lumpur and Kelantan
- Lodging in 3 or 4 star hotels (double occupancy)
- 2 meals daily, breakfast and dinner or lunch
- All sites admission fees related to the course
- Ground and air transportation between countries/cities
- Value added tax and service charges
- Airport – Hotel Transfers

Not Included:

- Expenses of a personal nature, foods not on the standard tour table menu, phone calls made from your room and incidentals.
- One meal a day (lunch or dinner)

Personnel:

Program Leaders

- **Sister Eileen Eppig, SSND, PhD**, Notre Dame of Maryland University
EEppig@ndm.edu - 410-532-5307

Sister Eileen Eppig holds a PhD in religious studies from the Catholic University of America and currently serves as associate professor at Notre Dame of Maryland University in the department of religious studies. She specializes in courses related to religion and culture. Sister Eileen has led study tours to El Salvador, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Spain and Israel and has participated in a study tour of Turkey. She designed and teaches a course in the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and is a member of a Jewish-Muslim-Christian dialogue.

- **Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, PhD** Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation
mohamadba@aol.com, Marafat@cecf-net.org - 410-944-6077

Born and raised in Syria, graduate of Islamic Law “Shari’ah” from Damascus University and Islamic Studies & Arabic Language from the Islamic Call University in Damascus. He served as an Imam in Damascus, Syria from 1981 to 1989. He was invited to the U.S. to serve as Imam of the Islamic Society of Baltimore from 1989 to 1993. He has taught Islamic Studies and Culture at several colleges and universities in Maryland, including the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary and University, University of Maryland in Baltimore County (UMBC), Johns Hopkins University and Goucher College. He served as the Campus Imam at Johns Hopkins University from 1993 to 2003, Adjunct Chaplain at Johns Hopkins Hospital from 2000 to 2003 and the Muslim Chaplain for the Baltimore Police Department from 1998 to 2006. He is President of the Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland and the Founder & President of Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF) www.cecf-net.org.

Since 2005, Imam Arafat has visited more than 25 countries through the “International Speaker Program” at the U.S. Department of State to lecture on the subject, “Islam & Muslims in America.” In Southeast Asia, he conducted several programs with the American Embassies in Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and the Maldives. In 2011, he laid the foundation with faculty of **International Institute of Islamic Thought & Civilizations (ISTAC)** <http://www.iium.edu.my/istac>, **Nilai University** <http://nilai.edu.my> and **University of Malaysia - Kelantan** for the upcoming program with the **Notre Dame of Maryland University** <http://ndm.edu> and other universities. Imam Arafat previously led delegations to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Spain and Morocco.

CECF Conference Co-Sponsored by ISTAC Islam in the Asian Context May 30, 2013

- ✦ When Islam is mentioned in America, Arabs and the Middle East come to mind, but not South & Southeast Asia.
- ✦ Characteristics of Islam in Southeast Asian Context (some facts and statistics)
- ✦ Contributions of South & Southeast Asia (India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand) to the Economical and Technical Development of the Muslim World
- ✦ America’s Opportunity by Constant Outreach
- ✦ Causes of “Misunderstanding” between America & the Muslim World
- ✦ Factors Contributing to the “Shortcomings” among Muslims in Delivering the “Global Message of Mercy” to Mankind
- ✦ The Young Generation: A Bright Future Ahead

For more information, please contact:

NDMU: Sr. Eileen Eppig at eeppig@ndm.edu, or 410-532-5307

CECF: Kimberly King at kking@cecf-net.org, cecf1@aol.com or 410-944-6077