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INSTITUT KAJIAN MALAYSIA  
& ANTARABANGSA (IKMAS)  
UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

# *Majlis Pengiktirafan Penyelia dan Pemakaian Jubah Graduan IKMAS*

**APPRECIATION OF SUPERVISORS AND ROBINING CEREMONY  
FOR IKMAS GRADUANDS**



Jumaat, 1 November

Bilik Majlis, Aras 5 Bangunan Canselori  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

# 2019



**FOREWORD BY  
DIRECTOR OF IKMAS**

Assalamualaikum, Greetings from IKMAS

The Robing Ceremony for IKMAS Graduands 2019 is a very meaningful program for IKMAS because we will be celebrating the success of our students and their supervisors, in a combined effort to reach a certain goal, i.e. receiving the scroll for a Master or a Doctoral degree.

The journey requires tremendous motivation, patience, perseverance, and effort. This is because both students and supervisors are continuously interacting in the information of logical thinking through data extraction and arrangement of ideas and analysis to achieve high quality academic writing in the form of thesis.

May I therefore, I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands of IKMAS, their supervisors, and family members of graduands. I hope this achievement, which is an important milestone in the life of a student will be the basis for greater achievement in the future. I wish you all the best for your future.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUANDS AND SUPERVISORS OF IKMAS!**

Prof. Dr. Sufian Jusoh  
Director  
Institute of Malaysia and International Studies (IKMAS)  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

1 November 2019



## **KATA PENGANTAR OLEH PENGARAH IKMAS**

Assalamualaikum, Salam Sejahtera dari IKMAS

Majlis Pengiktirafan Penyelia dan Pemakaian Jubah Graduan IKMAS 2019 adalah satu majlis yang amat bermakna bagi IKMAS kerana kita akan meraikan kejayaan pelajar dan penyelia yang bersama-sama bertungkus lumus bekerja dalam satu jangka yang lama bagi mencapai matlamat, iaitu menggenggam segulung ijazah di peringkat Sarjana ataupun Kedoktoran.

Perjalanan ini memerlukan motivasi, ketekunan, kesabaran dan kekentalan. Ini kerana kedua-dua belah pihak berinteraksi kearah pembentukan pemikiran yang sistematik melalui penggalan data dan maklumat, seterusnya penyusunan idea dan analisis dalam satu bentuk penulisan akademik yang berkualiti tinggi.

Oleh itu, izinkan saya mengambil peluang ini untuk mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada para graduan, para penyelia dan keluarga graduan sekalian. Semoga kejayaan ini akan menghasilkan kejayaan seterusnya dan kecemerlangan di masa hadapan.

**TAHNNIAH KEPADA PARA GRADUAN DAN PENYELIA IKMAS!**

Prof. Dr. Sufian Jusoh  
Pengarah  
Institut Kajian Malaysia dan Antarabangsa (IKMAS)  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

1 November 2019

# APPRECIATION OF SUPERVISORS AND ROBING CEREMONY FOR IKMAS GRADUANDS

NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2019  
BILIK MAJLIS, BANGUNAN CANSELORI, UKM

TIME	PROGRAMME
8.00 am	Registration of Graduands and Supervisors Arrival of Invited Guests
8.30 am	Arrival of IKMAS Director
8.45 am	Academic Procession Enters the Hall National Anthem and Varsiti Kita Recitation of Al-Fatihah Announcing the Purpose of Ceremony Welcome Remarks <b>PROF. DR. SUFIAN JUSOH</b> Director of IKMAS Robing Ceremony Valedictory by IKMAS Graduand
11.30 am	Photography Session Refreshment End of Ceremony

# MAJLIS PENGIKTIRAFAN PENYELIA DAN PEMAKAIAN JUBAH GRADUAN IKMAS 2019

1 NOVEMBER 2019  
BILIK MAJLIS, BANGUNAN CANSELORI, UKM

MASA	PROGRAM
8.00 am	Pendaftaran Graduan dan Penyelia Ketibaan Tetamu Jemputan
8.30 am	Ketibaan Pengarah IKMAS
8.45 am	Perarakan Akademik masuk ke dewan Lagu Negaraku dan Varsiti kita Bacaan Al-Fatihah Pengumuman Tujuan Majlis Ucapan oleh Pengarah IKMAS <b>PROF. DR. SUFIAN JUSOH</b> Upacara Pemakaian Jubah Ucapan Wakil Graduan
11.30 am	Sesi Bergambar Jamuan Minum Pagi Majlis Bersurai

# **INNOVATION, KNOWLEDGE SPILLOVERS AND ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY: THE ROLES OF ICT AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

NUR'JILA BINTI MOHAMMAD (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tamat Sarmidi, Prof. Dr. Abu Hassan Shaari Bin Md Noor

Knowledge absorptive capacity from foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow played an important role in determining knowledge spillovers and knowledge creation (innovation) nexus. The differences in absorptive capacity have led the knowledge creation gap between countries. This is because of lower absorptive capacity hampered development and dissemination of innovation. Knowledge spillovers term refers to the ideas or knowledge transferring while absorptive capacity is the ability of firms or countries to identify, assimilate and exploit knowledge. Therefore, this study focuses on new evidence that acts as a catalyst in the innovation process through FDI inflow. Generally, the purpose of this study is to examine the dynamic relationship between FDI inflows and knowledge creation at different level of absorptive capacity. This study hypothesized that it is possible that countries with high FDI inflows but lack of development in information and communications technology (ICT) and English language proficiency are less affected by FDI knowledge spillover. The main source of the data in this study is from World Development Indicator of which 96 countries are estimated using the Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) and threshold regression. There are three important findings in this study. Firstly, the result has shown that there is a rising trend between innovation, FDI inflow and ICT development for the year from 1995 to 2014. In addition, there is a similar trend when the country sample is divided into English proficiency countries. Secondly, using the GMM estimation method to analyze panel data from the year 1980 to 2014, the findings supported the hypothesis that FDI knowledge spillover have a positive impact on knowledge creation. This dynamic relationship and positive spillover effects were strengthened by ICT development and English language proficiency. Third, by applying threshold regression techniques for cross-sectional data covering the period from 1995 to 2014, the results show that there exist non-monotonic effects of absorptive capacity to knowledge creation. It is found that when the absorptive capacity exceeds the threshold levels, FDI inflow has a positive impact on knowledge creation. The results of this study provide two policy implications. Firstly, to strengthen the knowledge spillover, a parallel policy setting between ICT investment and English language proficiency should be emphasized by policy makers. Furthermore, to optimize the benefits from knowledge spillover, policy makers need to ensure that the absorptive capacity successfully surpassed a minimum threshold value.

# **THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ROLE OF THE BOAT SKIPPER TO BECOME SKIPPER-ENTREPRENEUR IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY: CASE STUDY OF THE EAST COAST ECONOMIC REGION (ECER), PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

NORFATIHA BINTI OTHMAN (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Prof. Dato' Dr. Rashila Ramli, Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong, Dr. Norhayati Sa'at

Vessel skippers play an important role in the fishing industry to navigate a fishing vessel and determine catchment areas in the deep sea. However, the research problem is: who is actually the entrepreneur in the fishing industry – a question to be solved by this study, to address the gap in the fields of knowledge and policies. Based on the research problem, this thesis argues that there is a social group in the fishing industry that has not been acknowledged as entrepreneurs. The group in question consists of skippers who have over the long-term transformed themselves from being mere skippers into entrepreneurs. The study has three objectives: (1) to analyze the transformation of the fishing industry from the time of independence (1957) to the present (2107); (2) to identify new strategic groups (i.e., the skipper-entrepreneurs) in the fishing industry; and (3) to analyze the patterns of relationships of the new strategic groups with the fishing community, and the relation between entrepreneurship and the new strategic groups. Based on the perspective of economic sociology, and using the eclectic approach, this study combined three theories –structuration, socioeconomic networking theory and entrepreneurship theory. In terms of research design, this thesis adopted a case-study approach on 17 key informants (all of them skippers) at four locations in the East Coast Economic Region (ECER) which comprised Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, and East Johor. Primary data was obtained via qualitative methods namely historical approach, in-depth interviews, and observations of the informants. The findings of the study showed that some skippers have already graduated to become entrepreneurs (in Malay: 'juragan-pengusaha'). The difference between juragan-pengusaha and other skippers are the entrepreneurial characteristics they have besides characteristics of being a skipper. With the samples, it is found that a new strategic group – i.e., skipper-entrepreneurs – has emerged in the fishing industry in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. They exhibit certain entrepreneurial characteristics, and could be distinguished into three types: 'most successful', 'successful', and 'moderately successful'. This affirms the fact that due the transformation the fishing industry today is not only involved in upstream but also downstream activities. More than six decades ago, especially after the Second World War, the fishing industry was merely a source of sustenance or livelihood. However, today the industry is a profitable business venture, contributing significantly to the food security of Malaysia.

# **DETERMINANTS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' PERCEIVED VALUE AND THE EFFECT OF SATISFACTION AT PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN MALAYSIA**

CHONG PUI YEE (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrew Kam Jia Yi, Prof. Dr. Tham Siew Year

Despite having international students for decades, there has been little study to assess the level of satisfaction of international students at private universities in Malaysia. Past studies have neglected the construct of perceived value, its determinants and effect of satisfaction when examining international student satisfaction in a single model. To bridge this gap, the objectives of this study are to: (1) identify the level of satisfaction of international students at private universities (PrUs) in the Klang Valley; (2) identify determinants of perceived value and the strongest determinant; (3) examine the relationship between perceived value and satisfaction and (4) effects of satisfaction and its relationship with WoM and loyalty. Based on a review of literature on international students, interviews with 20 international students as well as anchoring on theories of customer satisfaction, equity theory and satisfaction model, seven hypotheses were developed to answer the research questions. Twelve private universities in the Klang Valley participated in the survey and 502 responses were used for data analysis using PLS structural equation modeling to test the hypotheses. The results show that 94 percent of international students are satisfied with their study and living environment at these 12 private universities located in the Klang Valley. All the seven hypothesized relationships are positive and significant. The strongest determinant to perceive value is external environment construct followed by image, academic services and finally non-academic services. The results also indicate that international students who are satisfied show positive post behaviour; word-of-mouth recommendations and loyalty to their universities and Malaysia as their future study destination. From the theoretical perspective, the application of theories of customer satisfaction, equity theory and satisfaction model offered a significant contribution to understanding the cause-and-effect relationship of international students' perceived value and satisfaction. Based on these results, it is recommended that PrUs continue their efforts in image and capacity building, concentrating on the provision of essential services, improving pastoral care, building an international outlook and improving community engagement to enhance the quality of their provision. Key policy implications include promoting Malaysia's image as a study destination that provides quality education with a good living environment, strengthening government-to-government collaborations, providing a friendly student and post-graduation employment policy as well as merging smaller universities.

# **GLOBALIZATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT- A CASE STUDY OF ISKANDAR MALAYSIA**

ZAMALI BIN MIDUN (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong, Prof. Dr. Tham Siew Year

This research in the field of developmental studies is focussed on the complex contradiction in development i.e. competitiveness and economic growth on the one hand, and equity as well as inclusiveness on the other. The study is based on field survey data and information gathered through interviews and group discussions with representatives from the local population and knowledgeable informants in Iskandar Malaysia, and supplemented by secondary data from published reports and publications. Driven by Khazanah Nasional Bhd (Khazanah), a Malaysian government-owned sovereign wealth fund operating within an open neoliberal economic environment, there is resemblance between Iskandar Malaysia's economic development model to that of China's economic reform. The metrics used to assess the contribution of Iskandar Malaysia to the State of Johor and Malaysia's competitiveness and economic growth include gross domestic product (GDP), population growth, per capita GDP, the number of jobs created and total investments received. Equity was measured by indicators such as occupations, income levels and housing. Qualitative aspects were also looked at, which included economic security, living environment, and future prospects. Inclusiveness is measured by considering public participation in various aspects.

Despite Iskandar Malaysia's contribution to Johor's and Malaysia's economic development, the study had found some issues have risen relating to investments, population growth and manpower. Additionally, the study also found that economic growth generated by Iskandar Malaysia is primarily due to Chinese investments in the property sector, not due to an increase in competitiveness. The development of Iskandar Malaysia had also failed to generate quality growth and exacerbated income inequality among the population. Granted, the majority are better off with Iskandar Malaysia, however the research had also identified certain segments of the population that are now worse off with diminishing economic security, displacement, marginalization, and bleaker future prospects. The planned programmes to enhance the capacity and capability of the target groups were ineffective and would require revamp. The "hands-off" approach to the economy of neoliberalism, thereby withholding government intervention is ineffective and will likely cause more inequality in society.

# **THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC SPENDING ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN LIBYA ECONOMETRIC ANALYTICAL STUDY FROM 1970 TO 2014**

ABDELMENEIM.M.ADIM.SALHOB (Ph.D)

Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Sabri Haron, Dr. Abdullah Moh'd Ahmed Ayedh

This study addresses the effect of public expenditure on economic growth in Libya during the period from 1970 to 2014. The researcher studied the relationship between public expenditure and economic growth, as the public expenditure is considered one of the most important economic tools and procedures used by the state in achieving its goals. The most important one of these tools and procedures is the sustainable economic growth, noting that any change in public spending entails changing and determining the course of economic growth. Therefore, the problem of the study focuses on the effect of public expenditure on economic growth through the study's variables (capital, labor, total public expenditure, facilitated public expenditure, development public expenditure, oil revenues, political instability), which represents the quantitative aspect of the study. The study also illustrates the relationship between public expenditure and economic growth from an Islamic perspective, through the concept of adherence to Sharia principles and their role in achieving economic growth, which represents the qualitative aspect. Similarly, this study aims to measure the nature of the long-term (effect) and short-term (causal) between public expenditure and sustainable economic growth in Libya, determine the effect of both development expenses and the administrative expenses on stimulating sustainable economic growth in Libya and identify the effect of the commitment to Sharia and legal controls in public expenditure and its role in achieving economic growth. The researcher used the mixed approach (quantitative and qualitative) to investigate the possibility of long-term relationships and the causal relations between public expenditure and economic growth, and then presented an analytical framework that shows how to examine with this problem. For this purpose, the Autoregressive Distributed Disagreement Lag Bounds Test (ARDL) and the Error Correcting Model (ECM) model were applied in the quantitative approach. and the ideal size of the public expenses was determined by the Armeq equation, 1995, and to determine the causal relationship between public expenditure and economic growth, the Granger Causality test was used. To achieve the qualitative objective, the study used the in-depth individual interview with five experts and specialists in Islamic finance in Libya, then they were analyzed using Content Analysis. The results of the study showed that economic growth (RGDP) is negatively affected by development expenditure and political instability, while positively affected with other variables. The results of the qualitative analysis showed the importance of the role of adherence to Sharia controls and their role in achieving economic growth. As a final point, the study concluded with a set of recommendations, namely: ensuring the economic character rather than the social character of economic policy, the government reconsiders its current policies and careful about the unjustified expansion of public expenditure and the need to adhere to the sharia controls in public spending to achieve economic growth.

**FOREIGN WORKER RECRUITMENT MECHANISM IN MALAYSIA:  
A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY OF THE RECRUITMENT AGENCY MECHANISM  
AND GOVERNMENT-TO- GOVERNMENT MECHANISM (G2G)**

MOHAMED RAFIZAL B MOHAMED EUSOFF (MPhil)  
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Helen Ting Mu Hung

Malaysia has implemented the G2G mechanism since November 2012 after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Bangladesh to bring in Bangladesh workers for the plantation sector until February 2017, when it was replaced with G2G Plus mechanism. The policy was proposed when the existing mechanism using the recruitment agency was subject to numerous complaints such as fraudulent manipulation of information and exorbitant fees incurred for both the migrants and employers. Malaysia's initiative in implementing the G2G mechanism has gained a positive feedback from the International Labour Organization (ILO). ILO has suggested that Malaysia extends its implementation to other sectors. This study compares the G2G mechanism and recruitment agency mechanism in terms of managing the recruitment of Bangladesh workers in the plantation sector. It identifies weaknesses and strength of both mechanisms and suggests measures to improve the management of foreign worker recruitment system. Data used in this study are collected through a survey among Bangladesh foreign workers, focus group discussions, interviews with various stakeholders, desk review of relevant documents, minutes of meetings, related reports and first-hand knowledge gained while the author worked in the Ministry of Human Resources (KSM). This study is also referring to the Employment Permit System (EPS) of Korea as a benchmark for the improvement of the Malaysia's G2G mechanism. In migration theory, social networks play an important role in facilitating the migration process. The advantage of the recruitment agency mechanism is its ability to supply potential foreign workers on a large scale, thanks to the social network the agencies have established in the source countries. However, agencies charge expensive fees and this mechanism is also subject to abuse. G2G mechanism incurs a much lower fee which benefits the foreign workers. However, the weakness of the G2G mechanism is its limited accessibility in the source country and this issue needs to be addressed. An effective management system of foreign workers should also adopt a holistic approach by facilitating the resettlement of the foreign workers back to their country of origin at the end of their service to ensure that they would not become illegal immigrants (PATI). Further amelioration of the migration management mechanism would benefit both the source country and Malaysia as a country of labour destination.

Keywords: foreign workers; social network; recruitment agency; G2G mechanism; and Employment Permit System (EPS)



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