

Title	Muslim Connections and Religious Inclusivity: Islamic NGOs and Preachers in Malaysia and Indonesia
Project Code	FRGS/1/2019/SS04/UKM/02/1
Date	01/09/2019 - 30/11/2022
Head of Project	Hew Wai Weng
E-mail	hewwaiweng@ukm.edu.my

Introduction

There are increasingly intensified interactions between various Muslim individuals and groups in ASEAN countries, especially between Malaysia and Indonesia today. This research examines translocal connections between Muslims in this region and their mobility, without discrediting the role of transnational flows and local dynamics. It also examines the politics of inclusion and exclusion amidst these flows of people, ideas and media, as well as the resemblances, discrepancies, and contradictions of these connections. This research will begin with a brief historical overview of Muslim connections and mobility in the region. It will be followed by a detailed exploration of the contemporary network of Muslim organizations and preachers in this region, especially in Malaysia and Indonesia. In more details, based on ethnographic research, this research proposes to explore (a) the popularity of Muslim preachers, for example, Riau-based Ustaz Abdul Somad in Indonesia and Malaysia; and (b) the linkages between Islamic NGOs, for example, interactions between Indonesia's Prosperous Justice Party (Partai Keadilan Sejahtera, PKS) and Malaysian IKRAM Association (IKRAM) (both being influenced by the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood). As both Malaysian and Indonesian governments are promoting inclusive Islam through discourses 'compassionate Islam' (Islam Rahmatan Lil'Alamin) and 'Islam of the Archipelago' (Islam Nusantara), this research is important to explore how various Islamic NGOs, preachers, and their connections promote (or sometimes, reject) such initiatives. Outputs of this research include two journal articles, two book chapters, and a guideline. This guideline (mapping of Muslim connections, as well as examining religious inclusivity of Islamic NGOs and preachers in Malaysia and Indonesia) will be submitted to the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Malaysia and Indonesia for their policy consideration. It will provide insights and suggestions for policymakers, religious leaders and social activists in building a more harmonious society and a more inclusive Malaysia.

Publication: