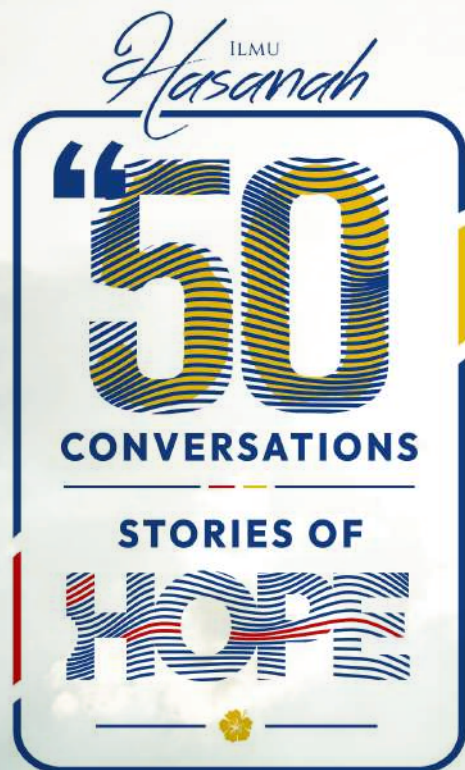




ILMU Hasanah

Celebrating our shared journey of knowledge

YAYASAN
HASANAH
 A foundation of Khazanah Nasional



ADVANCING
MALAYSIA

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Foreword by the Chairman

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Tan Sri
Md Nor Yusof

Chairman
Yayasan Hasanah



On behalf of Yayasan Hasanah, I am honoured to witness the remarkable journey of *ILMU* over the past nine years – a space where those working across Malaysia’s social sector could come together to learn, share, and reflect. It has been a vital part of our vision to catalyse social impact at scale, helping us advance toward a more inclusive and progressive Malaysia.

Each *ILMU* has reaffirmed this: that knowledge is most meaningful when it moves freely across subject matters and is informed by the lived realities of the communities we serve.

At the heart of our programmes is accountability – to each community member, and to the partners who make this work possible. *ILMU* has been one of the ways we remain grounded, ensuring that our programmes are reaffirmed by those closest to the ground.

As we mark this milestone alongside *Hari Merdeka*, we are reminded that national progress means no one is left behind – it requires curiosity to ask pertinent questions and to truly listen to community voices, as well as purposeful collaboration across institutions, communities and the *rakyat* we serve. This is the future Yayasan Hasanah has been working toward since day one – advancing the nation one conversation at a time.

Message from the Managing Director

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When I think about what *ILMU* has grown into since its inception, I think about a room full of students, frontline workers, and social workers – leaning in out of genuine curiosity because they know that someone else’s experience might hold the key to their own challenges.

At the 50th *ILMU*, we celebrate the everyday heroes who make this possible – those carrying out the groundwork, the programme coordinators turning mission statements into real-world impact, and every single participant who chooses to show up, listen, and act, everyday.

Puan Siti Kamariah
Ahmad Subki

Trustee & Managing Director
Yayasan Hasanah

This is what *ILMU* does. It creates spaces where expertise meets experience, where theory meets the ground, and where we learn not just from the speakers but from each other.

We have hosted 49 *ILMU* over the past nine years. Each one has been an act of collective faith – faith that continuous learning is not a luxury but a necessity, and there should be no barriers to it.

As we approach *Merdeka*, we are reminded that the spirit of independence is not just about the past – it is about the future we build together. A future where every child has access to education, every community has a voice, and every Malaysian has the opportunity to contribute. *ILMU* is our small but meaningful contribution to that vision – because an independent Malaysia is one that learns, grows, and lifts each other up.

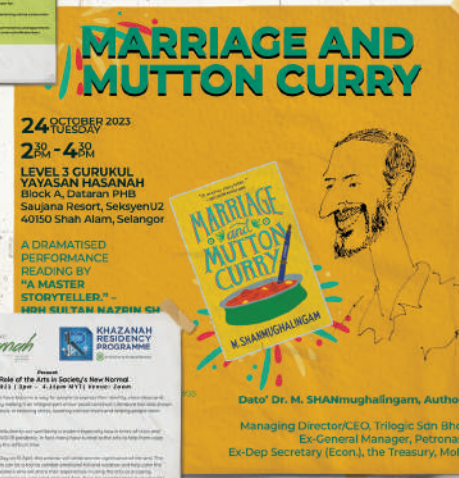
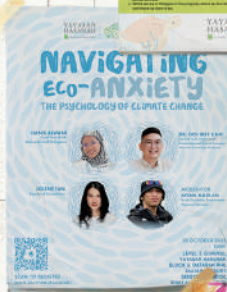
This event is a tribute to all of them. It is also an invitation: to keep learning, to keep showing up, and to remember that the harvest of knowledge, when shared generously, will outlast us all.





A Celebration of ILMU

Past, Present, and Future



50 sessions | 9 years | 1 purpose

To create space for learning, exchange, and growth across Malaysia's social sector.



ILMU Through the Years

2017-2025

49 **134** **3,472**
ILMU sessions Speakers and moderators Attendees

Looking back at the sessions chronologically, *three broad movements* emerge:



1 Understand What is happening around us?

Early conversations explored the landscape at the time: Across education, culture, conservation, leadership, community development, and social purpose. Conversation by conversation, *ILMU*s mapped the territories and building our shared understanding of key issues across the sector, which impact the daily lives of ordinary Malaysians.



2 Respond How do we respond when the world changes?

The pandemic became a major inflection point. *ILMU* began grappling more explicitly with humanitarian response, livelihoods, data, digitalisation, mental health, and community resilience.



3 Rethink How should we work differently to create lasting change?

More recent sessions increasingly ask about sustainability, participation, accountability, leadership, collaboration, and systems. The focus is no longer just on doing—but on how we do, and whether it endures.

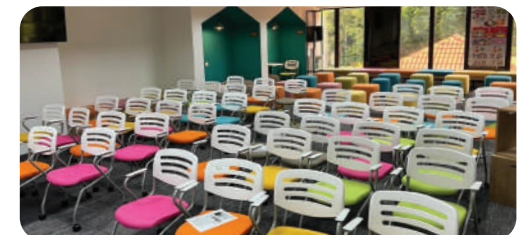
This is a reflection on the conversations and ideas that have shaped *ILMU* - and the better questions we continue to ask.



From the very first *ILMU* in 2017, something quietly took root at Yayasan Hasanah. A simple idea: what if we created a space - not just for meetings, but for conversation. That space became Gurukul, named after the Sanskrit word meaning “the home or family of the guru” - a place where learning is not just taught, but lived.

Since then, *ILMU* Hasanah has grown into a space where community champions and policymakers sit side by side. Where environmentalists and educators find common ground. Where stories are told, assumptions challenged, and learning becomes something you can feel.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced us apart, *ILMU* adapted - moving online, finding new ways to connect digitally, and ensuring that learning did not take a back seat. Today, Gurukul welcomes participants both in person and virtually- staying true to *ILMU*'s inclusive spirit.





Knowledge in Motion: Staying Grounded through Learning

As we reflect on 50 sessions and nine years of *ILMU Hasanah*, we are reminded that knowledge is never static. It evolves, adapts, and grows with every voice that joins the conversation. By remaining open to new ideas and grounded in the lived realities of communities, we ensure that our work continues to respond to what matters most.

This is, in many ways, the spirit of *Merdeka* - not simply the freedom to speak, but the freedom to learn, to question and to imagine new possibilities. Across every conversation, *ILMU* has reaffirmed our belief that meaningful progress begins with listening, and that together we can build a Malaysia where no one is left behind.

People & Possibility 🌸



For nearly a decade, *ILMU Hasanah* has explored what it truly means for people to thrive – not only by meeting immediate needs, but by creating the conditions for every individual to live with dignity, opportunity and hope.

As Malaysia moves towards becoming an aged nation by 2040, conversations have examined what it means to age well, from palliative care and mobility to companionship that reduces isolation. In May 2025, *Caring for Our Elders: A Shared Responsibility* reframed ageing not simply as a healthcare issue, but as a collective responsibility. Earlier conversations such as *Household Well-being: Linking Income, Work and Health*

(December 2020) and *Cash and Voucher Assistance 101* (February 2021) challenged us to rethink how support can be delivered in ways that preserve dignity and strengthen human potentials.

Across these discussions, we have come to see that possibility is rarely built on grand gestures - it grows through thoughtful policies, compassionate systems, and everyday acts that enable people to age gracefully, live fully, and face uncertainty with dignity.

🌸 Learning, Wellbeing & Belonging

Education today is no longer about preparing children for a static future - it is about equipping them with curiosity, confidence and adaptability to navigate an ever-changing world.

From *Education in the 21st Century* (2017), which challenged us to rethink how young minds learn by drawing from the Finnish experience, to *Learning Against the Odds* (September 2025) which highlighted the barriers faced by refugee and undocumented children, at risk of severe learning disruptions, *ILMU* has consistently asked what it takes to give every young person the right to education.



Beyond access, conversations explored the conditions that allow young people to flourish. Sessions of mental wellbeing and recovery reminded us that learning cannot be separated from emotional health. *Mental Health for Vulnerable Youths* (May 2023) delved into stressors faced by B40 young offenders - poverty, discrimination, trauma, and isolation - and the need for a more compassionate approach to care. *Breakthrough: Stories of Hope, Resilience and Recovery* (June 2024) highlighted storytelling and the arts as powerful tools for humanising mental health struggles, showing that healing goes beyond clinical aspects - it can also take shape in creative and communal ways.

Whether through compassionate care, creative expression, or supportive communities, *ILMU* has reminded us that at the heart of our work in creating equitable learning opportunities, is the belief that every child deserves the right to belong.



Resilience & Regeneration 🌸

Resilience is often measured by how well we recover from crises. Over the years, *ILMU Hasanah* has encouraged us to ask some hard questions, such as, with the climate crisis, how do we prepare communities and ecosystems before disruptions occur? How can we protect nature and support people, in recognition of the planetary boundaries within which human societies and economies operate, in our work of building towards socio-ecological sustainability?

Dialogues such as *Before the Storm: Disaster Preparedness in Community* (July 2025) challenged norms by emphasising preparedness over response, especially as dealing with the devastation of flash floods remains a reality for many in Malaysia – with over 274,000 people affected between 2024 and 2025 alone. As unpredictable weather patterns threaten even historically low-risk areas, losses are on the rise, bringing an even greater need for awareness and long-term planning, as every 1 ringgit spent on preparedness could contribute to 15 ringgit of savings in emergency response.

Other discussions, including *Envisioning Malaysia: For People and Nature* (October 2022) took a look at the broader relationship between people and nature, exploring how environmental stewardship, community wellbeing and cultural identity are deeply interconnected. Questions asked include how we may design a future that respects ecological limits while embracing our unique cultures and values – to bring about an integrated state of balance, in which natural ecosystems continue to thrive and support life in all its fullness.

Together, these conversations have reinforced a simple but powerful truth: resilient communities and healthy ecosystems are inseparable. To thrive and flourish, we must plan for development with nature at the center. This in turn safeguards livelihoods and the identities of the people who exist within these spaces.



🌸 Culture, Creativity & Identity

Malaysian identity has never been a single story. It is woven from many threads: the motifs on a *songket*, the rhythm of a *pantun*, the taste of a *kuih*, and the voices and lived experiences of our communities. Over the years, *ILMU* has traced these threads – exploring how our traditions survive, adapt, and find new life in a changing world, while celebrating the many ways culture evolves without losing sight of its origins.



The Evolution of Malaysian Literature held in November 2024 encouraged us to reimagine traditional folklore such as the legends of Hang Tuah for the younger and more contemporary generations who connect through new digital platforms. *Merentasi Dimensi Seni, Warisan dan Budaya* (November 2023) showed that tradition and modernity can coexist beautifully – blending traditional drums with contemporary dance, while *Motifs with Motives* (August 2022) revealed how nature, folklore, and identity are woven into every thread of our intricate textile patterns.

Together, these *ILMUs* remind us that culture is not merely a reflection of who we are – it also shapes who we aspire to become. Malaysian identity continues to evolve, written each day through the stories we choose to tell and the traditions we sustain in our communities. It is a story still being written – by all of us.





A Dive into Featured *ILMU* Sessions

Each featured session represents a moment in our shared journey – a snapshot of the questions we asked, the challenges we navigated, and the insights we gained from experts working closest to the ground.

From remote forests to urban classrooms, from communities to boardrooms, and across a wide spectrum of social justice issues, *ILMU* continues to hold space for the hard conversations. We hope these stories inspire more voices to join this community of shared learning, because Advancing Malaysia begins with learning together.

What Happens After You Leave?

Community Leadership for Sustainable Interventions



37th ILMU Session
March 2024
65 Attendees

“Community development is about return of value, not return on investment,” the session reminded us. And value comes from investing in people - not projects. This ILMU session brought together NGOs, academics, government agencies, and community representatives - to address true sustainability when external funding ends and organisations pack up.

What made this session rare was the presence of two grassroots leaders on the panel. Yahina and Nurul Farhana were not there to represent their communities - they were their communities. Yahina shared her journey leading a women’s support group in Tambunan, while Nurul Farhana, a community spokesperson from Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan, spoke of the challenges and resilience of her people. The panel emphasised that community leadership is not a box to tick - it is the backbone of lasting change. Local leaders understand the social fabric, hold the trust of their neighbours, and mobilise resources in ways outsiders cannot. Therefore, community leadership requires investment, training, and continuous learning.

The Panel

James Ryan Raj

Director, Constituency Coordination
Department, APPGM-SDG

Nagarajan Rengasamy

Manager, Forest and Coastal Programme,
Global Environment Centre

Yahina @ Sabrina Inggit

Chair, Women Support Group Enterprise

Nurul Farhana Tajuddin

Secretary, Sahabat Gambut Asli Temuan

Moderated by:

Hasbe Zuraiha Abu Bakar

Senior Manager, Community Development
and Humanitarian Disaster Relief,
Yayasan Hasanah

Learning Against the Odds

Education Access for Refugee & Undocumented Children in Malaysia



45th ILMU Session
September 2025
102 Attendees

“We need to provide meaningful education that goes beyond the basics and allow them to share spaces with us so that we can learn from each other” - Felicia Yoon

For refugee and undocumented children in Malaysia, the question “What do you want to be when you grow up?” is a luxury. With over 40,000 refugee children and 290,000 undocumented children of schooling age, the majority face severe learning disruptions - denied access to formal education, social protection, and pathways to citizenship.

What emerged was a clear call for integration - not charity. A resource bank for alternative learning centres, tax-incentivised funding models like Thailand’s Equitable Education Fund, and a regional approach to refugee labour were among the practical pathways discussed. Every time a child misses out on education, the country loses. The session was a reminder that inclusion is essential for a shared, sustainable future.

The Panel

Fairuz Alia Jamaluddin

Head of Education, UNHCR Malaysia

Deborah Henry

Co-Founder, Fugee School

Felicia Yoon

Co-founder, Arus Academy

Moderated by:

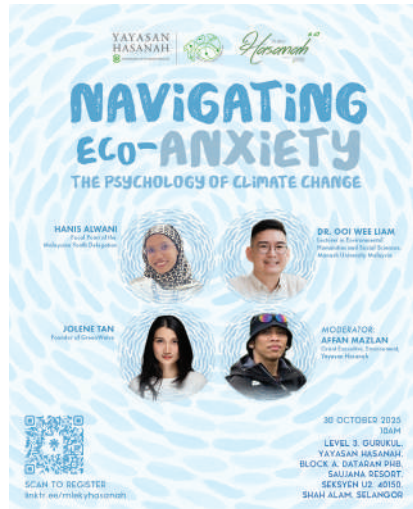
Davina Anne Rajah

Programme Associate,
Architects of Diversity Malaysia



Navigating Eco-Anxiety

The Psychology of Climate Change



47th *ILMU* Session
October 2025
60 Attendees

“All ancient traditions and religions preach one profound truth: we are the custodians of the natural environment. Our purpose is not to dominate, but to protect and preserve - a duty we must now fulfill.” - Prof. Datuk Dr. Andrew Mohanraj (keynote speaker)

This *ILMU* session explored eco-anxiety as a legitimate psychological response to environmental degradation - one that is especially prevalent among young people. The panel emphasised that this anxiety is not a mental illness or personal failing, but a testament to our capacity for care.

The discussion offered practical pathways forward. Collective action, however small, can create meaningful change far greater than waiting for perfection. The weight of witnessing environmental decline firsthand can feel overwhelming, which itself is proof of care. The goal is not to eliminate that care, but to channel it into sustainable action.

Reclaiming agency through community was a central theme. The tradition of *gotong royong* emerged as a powerful model for collective action - acting together before tragedy hits.

The Panel

Jolene Tan

Founder of Green Weive

Hanis Alwani

Focal Point of the Malaysian youth Delegation

Dr. Ooi Wee Liam

Lecturer in Environmental Humanities and Social Sciences, Monash University Malaysia

Moderated by:

Affan Mazlan

Grant Executive, Environment,
Yayasan Hasanah



Crafting Continuity

Keeping Heritage Alive Through Responsible Collaboration



48th *ILMU* Session
December 2025
111 Attendees

“We don’t want to commodify heritage, which shouldn’t even be possible because it is made of deep experiences, personal journeys, and diverse artistic expression.” - Shafiqah Othman

This *ILMU* brought together artisans, creatives, and commercial brands to explore how heritage can stay alive, respected, and connected through responsible collaboration. The panel tackled a critical tension: while demand for cultural art is high, it is not always met with respect for the generations of creativity behind each craft.

The conversation centred on what authentic collaboration looks like - where brands become responsible agents of heritage, working alongside artists to showcase living traditions, rather than using their talents to serve temporary trends without due respect. In Malaysia, heritage is carried with pride across all communities, and its diversity has become the very identity of this nation.

The Panel

Adlina Borhan

CEO & Co-Founder, Ah & Artho

Shafiqah Othman

Regional Creative Director, ZUS Coffee

Haris Rashid

Multidisciplinary Artist

Moderated by:

Nini Marini

Head of Arts and Public Spaces,
Yayasan Hasanah



After every *ILMU* we ask attendees to share how they felt – what landed and what could be done better. Their answers continuously help us improve.

“Enjoyed the depth of knowledge of the panelists, especially the idea of psychological distance and discounting, as well as the steps we can take to mitigate eco-anxiety. It is my first learning session about this topic and I feel more empowered to help those around us with climate anxiety. I am also inspired to include it in my research and programs to expand the efforts of empowering youth.”

Participant of Navigating Eco-Anxiety: The Psychology of Climate Change (October 2025)

“The insight on what is actually needed to support the ageing population. The erection of more centres is unfeasible and wasteful - embedding caregiving into community life is an creative and unconventional to address the needs of the ageing community and their caregivers, as well as providing sustainable job opportunities for the young. Great session!”

Participant of Caring for Our elders: A Shared Responsibility (May 2025)

“Sharing from experienced panelists was very useful in giving us guidance in planning our work. It was a good opportunity to learn about how these organizations operate innovatively. Truly inspired to see the kind of partnerships MyKasih have built their services on.”

Participant of Understanding Cash and Voucher Assistance initiatives in Malaysia (February 2021)

“Today’s sharing demonstrated how we can all play a role in conserving our planet and environment. This is our responsibility and duty as human beings living on this earth we share with the animals, flora, and fauna that sustains us.”

Participant of Moonlighting for Conservation (June 2021)

“The topic that had been discussed really related with current situation and help me to learn more on how to cope with mental health issues.”

Participant of Breakthrough: Stories of Hope, Resilience and Recovery (June 2024)

Yayasan Hasanah catalyses action by uniting policymakers, civil society, corporations, and communities around Malaysia’s pressing social and environmental challenges - shaped by five impact areas:



Community Development

Enabling social and economic upliftment for vulnerable communities



Education

Maximising individual potential for empowered, future-ready talents



Environment

Catalysing innovative solutions for sustainability



Arts and Public Spaces

Strengthening national identity through arts, heritage, and culture



Knowledge

Advancing thought leadership and evidence-based research for the social sector





At Yayasan Hasanah, we believe that knowledge is not an end in itself. *ILMU Hasanah* began as a series of conversations. Over nine years it has grown into a living ecosystem of exchange. A space where knowledge is not just shared, but shaped, tested, and refined by those who use it.



This booklet has traced that journey - from the early days of understanding the world around us, to responding to disruption, to rethinking how we create change. Through themes of people and possibility, resilience, culture, partnership, and learning, *ILMU Hasanah* has evolved alongside the communities it serves.

But the story does not end here. The work continues in advancing the nation - in classrooms, clinics, villages, and boardrooms where *ILMU Hasanah* participants carry what they have learned into action. And it continues in the conversations yet to come, the questions still to be asked, and the partnerships still to be built.



Content Credit

Jillian Louis with inputs from Aditi Malhotra, Anna Teoh, Natasya Nadzmi, Soniyah Nehru, Monitoring, Learning & Evaluation and Knowledge Team, Yayasan Hasanah

Layout and Design Credit

Zulhezan and Jasmine Sim, INKA Creative

About Yayasan Hasanah

Yayasan Hasanah (“Hasanah”) is the impact-based foundation of Khazanah Nasional Berhad (“Khazanah”), Malaysia’s sovereign wealth fund. Since 2015, Hasanah complements Khazanah’s “Advancing Malaysia” mandate by investing in the people, partnerships and ideas that create lasting social and environmental impact. Working across Education, Community Development, Environment, Arts and Public Spaces, and Knowledge, Hasanah catalyses action, convenes partners and collaborates across sectors to address Malaysia’s most pressing challenges.

Through strategic grants and capacity building, Hasanah strengthens local capabilities, supports practical solutions and enables successful initiatives to reach more communities across the country. Together with government, civil society, businesses and communities, Hasanah is helping build a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable Malaysia.



Pak Shafie bin Jusoh
Adiguru Kraf Wau Tradisional

Featuring the late Encik Shafie bin Jusoh, whose mastery of the traditional wau reflects the enduring spirit of Malaysia's cultural heritage.



Let's continue learning together!

Scan the QR code to catch up on previous *ILMU Hasanah*, and stay in the know of future sessions via the channels below.

YAYASAN HASANAH

 A foundation of Khazanah Nasional

connect@hasanah.org.my

T +603 5870 4333

F +603 5870 4355

Yayasan Hasanah (1075550-P)

Level 2, Block A, Dataran PHB Saujana Resort,
Seksyen U2, 40150 Shah Alam,
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

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