not only *objective* knowledge but also *subjective* knowledge essential for training men and women with good manners and spiritual values. Mohamad Raimi bin Ab Rahim discussed the post-Independence model of an eminently successful moderate Muslim youth organisation, Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM), which promotes “Islam as a Way of Life”.

In his closing remarks Professor Osman Bakar identified 28 broad issues raised by the speakers. Closer interaction is needed between scholars and the wider public to resolve youth problems within the *Ummah* which demonstrates both diversity and unity. The root causes should be identified and solutions sought from the Qur’an and Sunnah through a group approach applied in local communities using the strategy of *al-amr bi-l-maʿrūf wa nahy ʿan al-munkar*. Professor Bakar emphasised that more needs to be done in Muslim societies to prevent *munkar* (the reprehensible).


*Karim Douglas Crow, IAIS Malaysia*

University of Malaya inaugurated a new academic focus on ‘African and West Asian Nations’ (AFWAN), led by its dynamic International Institute of Public Policy and Management (INPUMA), with support from the government’s Prime Minister’s Department. This one-day symposium joined leading thinkers and officials in Malaysia with international scholars, policy makers and INGOs. They offered rich insights into unfolding dynamics of that region’s socio-political changes, with which Malaysia is increasingly building linkages. The internationally syndicated American columnist Eric S. Margolis delivered a perceptive address on how the AFWAN region is covered in Western media. Speakers from Japan, South Africa, Australia, Iran, Lebanon and Egypt took part, treating sociological, financial, and ideological dimensions. The success of this meeting was largely due to its careful conception by Professor Dr Mohd. Hazim Shah Abdul Murad (University Malaya), and the professionalism of the INPUMA staff. Among the more notable presentations were a penetrating overview of market financialisation by Dr Ali Kadri (now at NUS, Singapore), detailed statistical analysis of “Arab Spring” discourse in Arabic academic journals and books by Professor Sari Hanafi (AUB, Beirut), and assessing the degradation in Muslim identity induced by Sunni–Shi’ah discord by Dr Karim Crow.