

by the organiser, and take benefit from the impressive line of speakers and panellists that will be featured today and tomorrow.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

18. With the invocation of Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, I now officially launch IAIS Malaysia's tenth-anniversary seminar. Thank you. Wassalam wbt.

**Seminar on “The Role of Religion in the Quest for Peaceful
Coexistence”
(IAIS Malaysia, 15 January 2019)**

Wan Naim Wan Mansor

This seminar highlighted the urgent need for religious communities to build towards peaceful coexistence by increasing mutual understanding and cooperation. The seminar was jointly organised by IAIS Malaysia, the Asia West-East Centre (Asia WE), the University of Tehran, and the Cultural Centre of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malaysia. Three questions guided the sessions: What are the views of major religions regarding peaceful coexistence? Are there shared principles? and, if present, how can these shared principles become a platform to promote peace between religious groups?

Featured speakers included Prof Mohammad Hashim Kamali (Founding CEO of IAIS), Dr Chandra Muzaffar (President of JUST), Dr Mahmoud Vaezi (University of Tehran, Iran), Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid (president of MAPIM), Rev. Dr Sivin Kit (Seminar Teoloji Malaysia), Dr Imtiyaz Yusuf (ISTAC), Assoc Prof Dr Sarjit S. Gill (UPM), and Uthaya Sankar SB (Malaysian author). Some of the recommendations offered by the speakers included: the need for nucleus institutions such as mosques and *musollas* to be an educational platform for religious toleration; the importance of dialogue (*al-hiwar*) as a mechanism for self-introspection and inter-community engagements; the need to offer new Islamic insights from a Southeast Asian perspective; to be aware of the fact that ethnic and religious conflicts have specific contexts that goes beyond religious motives; and the importance of reciprocity in inter-religious relations. The seminar witnessed around 100 participants and many actively engaged in a healthy discussion during the Q&A sessions.