

Founding CEO, Mohammad Hashim Kamali. The book featured contributions from prominent scholars and figures in Malaysian law, writing on topics as diverse as the jurisdictional conflict between the civil and shariah courts, issues in interfaith marriages, apostasy, as well as Islamic finance. The publication has received accolades from the recently retired Chief Justice of Malaysia, Richard Malanjum.

The book discussion began with a brief presentation by IAIS Deputy CEO Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil on the general themes of the book. Featured guest discussants were renowned law professor and constitutional expert, Shad Saleem Faruqi; law professor of IIUM, Zaleha Kamaruddin; and shariah and law professor of UM, Ahmad Hidayat Buang. Shad Saleem Faruqi recalled the peaceful transition of the 1980s Islamisation movement and encouraged law practitioners to revisit the concepts of *taqlid* and *ijtihad* when facing contemporary challenges in law. He also criticised the common misinterpretation of Article 3 (1) by certain quarters, which would undermine other aspects of the constitution. Zaleha Kamaruddin navigated her discussion towards family law, with a special emphasis on the conversion of minors in an interfaith marriage, as well as the complexities surrounding jurisdictional conflicts. Lastly, Hidayat Buang highlighted the role of *maqasid al-shari'ah* in expanding the Islamic law discourse beyond the letter of the law. The event brought together around 100 participants and ended with an engaging question and answer session.

**‘Forum Kebangsaan’ in Conjunction with the Independence of  
Malaysia and Indonesia  
(IAIS Malaysia, 26 August 2019)**

*Mohammad Mahbubi Ali*

Malaysia and Indonesia have established a long history of diplomatic relations. On top of their close geographical proximity in the Archipelago, the two countries share many similarities in terms of language, culture, customs and civilisation. The two countries even celebrate their independence in the same month, on 31 August (1957) and 17 August (1945), respectively.

Recognising this fact, the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia, in collaboration with Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), the Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Legacy (LEGASI), the Islamic University of Malang (UNISMA) and the INTAN Regional Center (INTENGAH), organised the 2019 Forum on the Independence of Malaysia and Indonesia.

The event was held to highlight the historical development of both countries and the contribution of Islamic scholars and religious leaders in the independence movements of the two countries — prominently the struggle of Sheikh Hasyim Asy'ari of Indonesia and Sheikh Abdullah Fahim of Malaysia.

The forum featured four leading panelists, namely Dato Dr. Mohd. Yusof Othman, Senior Fellow of the Islamic Institute of Hadhari UKM and Tun Abdullah Badawi's Legacy (LEGASI); Fahmi Amrullah Hadzik, grandson of Sheikh Hasyam Asy'ari (founder of Nahdhatul Ulama); Datuk Dr. Ahmad Murad Merican, Professor at the Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization Studies (ISTAC), IIUM; and Dr. Muhammad Hasan, the Deputy Rector of the State Islamic Religious Institute (IAIN) Madura, East Java, Indonesia.

The forum also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia and the Faculty of Law, Islamic University of Malang (UNISMA) Indonesia. The event was attended by a representative of Indonesia's Ambassador, Mr. Agus Badrul Jamal (Political Counselor), and Mrs. Nurriha Ahmad (Chief Assistant Secretary, Southeast Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia), representing YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah.

**The Palestine - Kashmir Forum:  
“The Struggle for Freedom and Self Determination”  
Keynote Address by HE Madame Amna Baloch,  
High Commissioner of Pakistan, Malaysia  
(IAIS Malaysia, 14 October 2019)**

*Wan Naim Wan Mansor*

The recent revocation of Article 370 that safeguards the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and the resurgence of right-wing Zionist factions in the Israeli parliament, are causing grave concern for the future of Kashmiris and Palestinians. Against this backdrop, an international forum was organised by IAIS Malaysia in collaboration with local and international organisations: the High Commission of Pakistan, Malaysian Consultative Council for Islamic Organisation (MAPIM), Secretariat for the Assembly of Ulama in Asia (SHURA), Alliance of World Mosques in Defence of Al-Aqsa, and Palestine Cultural Organization of Malaysia.

The event commenced with welcoming remark by Prof. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, IAIS Founding CEO, followed by a keynote speech by Her Excellency, Madame Amna Baloch, the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Malaysia. For the