

Foreword

Welcome to the **Third Issue 2013** of the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (JSSH)!

JSSH is an open-access journal for the Social Sciences and Humanities that is published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the world-wide social science community.

In this issue, there are **26 articles** published, of which **19** are regular articles and **seven** are from an international conference. There are **seven articles** arising from the International Conference on English Language Teaching, “Teaching English as Performing Art” ICELT 2011. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, Iran, Taiwan, India** and the **Philippines**.

The regular articles cover a wide range of topics: workplace safety based on the behavioural and cultural change (*Faridah Ismail, Norizan Ahmad, Ahmad Ezanee Hashim and Razidah Ismail*); Islamic Work Ethics (IWE) practices among employees of banking institutions in Malaysia with specific focus given to the possible relationship between IWE variables and organisational commitment (OC) (*Manan, S. K., Kamaluddin, N. and Puteh Salin, A. S. A.*); factors influencing preferences of garden iconographies (*Mina Kaboudarahangi, Osman Mohd Tahir, Mustafa Kamal M. S. and Suhardi Maulan*); Thermal Comfort Investigation in Traditional and Modern Urban Canyons in Bandar Abbas, Iran (*Masoud Dalman, Elias Salleh, Abdul Razak Sapian and Omidreza Saadatian*); social capital and its relation with economic empowerment of *Orang Kuala* in Johor (*W. A. Amir Zal, Ma’Rof Redzuan, Asnarukhadi Abu Samah and Hanina H. Hamsan*); use of developmental psychology to determine the relationship between parenting behaviour of mothers and social emotional adjustments of adolescents in intact and non-intact Malay families in Kuala Lumpur (*Chiah, W. Y. and Baharudin, R.*).

The research studies, on topics related to linguistics, literature, education and sociology, include a study of linguistic politeness in 10 viva voce sessions occurring in two universities in Iran (*Izadi, A.*), a study of the developmental patterns observed in the comprehension of Malay shape-based numeral classifiers (*Khazriyati Salehuddin, Heather Winskel and Imran Ho Abdullah*); research into a mother’s perception about the efficacy of Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and issues related to PECS intervention (*Phoon Hooi San and Anna Christina Abdullah*); a study on the implication and tenets of realism and its progress and changes in selected works of post-war British fiction (*Nahid Shahbazi Moghadam and Arbaayah Ali Termizi*); a study on cultural conflict in Ian McEwan’s on Chesil Beach through semiotics (*Mina Abbasiyannejad and Rosli Talif*); a study on analysing Hardy’s portrayal of Tess based on Christian feminism (*Faezeh Sivandipour*), a study of pre-service science teachers’ mental images of science teaching (*Lay, Y.F. and Khoo, C.H.*); research to examine productive work as a pedagogical tool in school education (*Asfa M. Yasin*); a study conducted to explore the attitude of teachers towards adolescent education (*Gyanendra Kumar Rout*); a study related to the portfolio as an assessment tool and its implementation by English as Second Language (ESL) teachers in

two secondary schools (*Charanjit Kaur Swaran Singh and Arshad Abdul Samad*); a study on the exploration of the sustainable development needs of the public and governors to provide greater understanding of the discrepancies between both parties' needs and to propose a mechanism to define important sustainable development needs in Sepang, Selangor, Malaysia (*Zurina Mahadi and Hukil Sino*); a study of the relationship between the number of best friends and feelings of loneliness and social dissatisfaction among children in preschool (*Suresh Kumar N. Vellymalay*); and a paper on how the basic components of social character traits were transformed into a measuring instrument through grounded theory research (*Normahdiah S. Said, Hashim, M., Rozita, C. R. and Siti Sarah, A. K.*).

This issue concludes with seven articles arising from the ICELT 2011 conference: a comparison study of free-writing and word-matching activities as EFL pre-reading tasks (*Mohammad Reza Masrour and Mehdi Hoseini*); a paper demonstrating different yet useful information about a specialised language that can be discerned from the analysis of three types of wordlist, namely, frequency wordlist, keyword list and key-keyword list (*Noorli Khamis and Imran Ho Abdullah*); a study testing the hypothesis postulating that Malaysian undergraduate students with low proficiency would make the most rapid progress in English if all guided learning time (tutorials and lectures) in the first semester was used entirely for speaking tasks (*Andrew N. Williams and Yah Awg Nik*); a qualitative research work exploring the common patterns of three learner characteristics (i.e. motivation, learning styles and learning strategies) shown by more proficient Taiwanese EFL learners based on their language learning experiences (*Maosheng Hung and Ying Shing Hung*); a descriptive study of the current state of affairs in how evaluation takes places in EFL teacher education programmes in Iran (*Natasha Pourdana and Sayyed Mohammad Karimi Behbahani*); a paper demonstrating how the notion of 'performance as kinesis' or 'activist performance' (Navera 2007) can be applied to the teaching of argumentative writing (*Gene Segarra Navera*); and a study on the effect of the type of cooperative learning grouping on ESL learners' reading comprehension performance of polytechnic students (*Nooreiny Maarof and Tan Shir Ley*).

I anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought provoking, and useful in reaching new milestones. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the contributors who have made this issue possible, the authors, reviewers and editors for their professional contribution. Last but not least, the editorial assistance of the journal division staff is also fully appreciated.

JSSH is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation..

Chief Executive Editor

Nayan Deep S. KANWAL, [FRSA](#), [ABIM](#), [AMIS](#), Ph.D.
nayan@upm.my