

Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of 2023 for the *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (PJSSH)*!

PJSSH is an open-access journal for studies in Social Sciences and Humanities published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 24 articles: one review article; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and Ukraine.

A regular article titled “Social Interaction of Japanese Elderly in Chiang Mai, Thailand” sought to investigate the social interactions of Japanese elderly staying long-term in Chiang Mai, using purposive sampling. This study shows that the Japanese elderly regularly interacted with people in the community via daily life and social activities in daily face-to-face conversation in micro-system, mesosystem and exo-system surrounding. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 81.

Siti Balqis Md Nor and colleagues provide a critical revision to explore the counselling profession in terms of their method of perceiving the profession, the work emotions when dealing with clients, and the main job demands and resources of the counsellors, in their article entitled “Counsellors’ Emotions at Work: What Can We Learn from Their Experiences?”. The study’s first finding shows that counsellors perceived their profession as challenging. As for the second finding, positive and negative emotions are the themes associated with the counsellors’ emotions at work. Further details of the study can be found on page 139.

A selected article from the scope of population studies, titled “Vaxx-Confident and Vaxx-Hesitant Agents: Factors Affecting COVID-19 Vaccination Willingness among Young Adults in Klang Valley, Malaysia” examines the willingness of Malaysian young adults to get vaccinated, the contributing factors, and hindrance factors towards vaccination among young adults. The findings revealed that more than half of the respondents were willing to get vaccinated, emphasizing the salient role of reliable and trusted information in shaping their inclinations. Details of this study are available on page 339.

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

All the papers published in this edition underwent *Pertanika*'s stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

A special thanks to the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Dr. Gazi Mahabubul Alam for serving *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanity* for the past year, in ensuring *Pertanika* plays a vital role in shaping the minds of researchers, enriching their lives, and encouraging them to continue their quest for new knowledge. We welcome the new Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Dr. Roziah Mohd Rasdi on board. We hope that her involvement and contributions towards *Pertanika* would not only improve its quality but also support the development efforts in making it an international journal of good standing.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers, and Editorial Board Members of *PJSSH*, who have made this issue possible.

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

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