

USIM'S INTERNATIONAL SYARIAH & LAW LECTURE SERIES



The Chancellory



UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA
جامعة العلوم الإسلامية الماليزية
ISLAMIC SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA

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TUANKU NAJIHAH THIRD SYARIAH AND LAW LECTURE TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND HARMONISATION

Named after the Chancellor of the Islamic Science University of Malaysia, Tunku Ampuan Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus, Her Royal Highness Tuanku Najihah binti Almarhum Tuanku Besar Burhanuddin, the Faculty of Syariah and Law continues to augment efforts to brand the Faculty's dual area of study and research, namely syariah and law.



Y.A.A Tun Dato' Seri Ahmad Fairuz bin Dato'
Sheikh Abdul Halim - First Lecture



Mr. Justice Ifikhar Muhammad Chaudhry
- Second Lecture



Judge Christopher Gregory Weeramantry
- Third Lecture

Aimed at introducing the Faculty of Syariah and Law to the members of the public, the focal point of the lecture is to highlight and analyse contemporary syariah and law issues by providing academic insight into the concepts, principles and legal practice of syariah and law by selected renowned figures. The lecture was graced by the royal attendance of Her Royal Highness Chancellor, whose significant support has been unremiring.

The recently organised lecture, the third in its series, was held in Kuala Lumpur, on August 16, 2007 and featured former Vice President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Christopher Gregory Weeramantry who served as a Supreme Court Judge in Sri Lanka from 1965 to 1972. Selected for his exceptional expertise and knowledge of International and Islamic Law, he deliberated on a topic of universal interest, - "International Law and Human Rights from the Islamic and Western Perspectives," in front of an audience of scholars, practitioners and students.

According to Judge Weeramantry, international law and human rights are essential to the future of humanity and survival of civilisation. Accordingly, they need insights from all the world's cultures and civilisations. In his view, Islamic law has made a particularly valuable contribution to international law. In Islamic law, he observed, law and religion interact with each other at every point, with the high principles of religion constantly fertilising the

legal system in the absence of a barrier between them. In the West however, there has been a long-standing division between law and religion despite various attempts to fuse them. He is of the view that since international law governs states of all cultural and religious backgrounds, it cannot be based solely on the principles taught by just one culture or civilisation, for example the dominant European ideology. Judge Weeramantry also highlighted that almost every branch of the Western intellectual tradition at some some stage felt the impact of Islamic scholarship. Even the works of Aristotle entered the domain of Western philosophy through the study of Greek thinkers, in the original Greek, as well as in Syrian and Arabic translations.

Islamic Science University of Malaysia is committed to promoting knowledge in the area of Syariah and Law and will continue to organise this prestigious event annually to enrich higher learning for the benefit of the nation. The two previous lectures were organized consecutively in 2005 and 2006, and were delivered by two prominent figures in the field of law viz. Chief Justice of Malaysia, Y.A.A Tun Dato' Seri Ahmad Fairuz bin Dato' Sheikh Abdul Halim and Mr. Justice Ifikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, the Chief Justice of Pakistan, respectively.