Foreword

Welcome to the First Issue 2014 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.

This issue contains **26 articles**. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, Iran, Vietnam, Nigeria** and **Slovakia**.

The regular articles cover a wide range of topics, from a case study to examine the determinants of consumers’ willingness-to-pay for monorail transportation in Penang, Malaysia (*Lee Lian Yee* and *Cheah Yong Kang*), the U.S. geopolitical code and the role of the Persian Gulf oil in the U.S. military intervention in 2003 (*Saeid Naji* and *Jayum A. Jawan*), a study on individual degree of collectivism/individualism and shyness of the Malaysian people and the kinds of conflict resolution practice that they prefer (*Mohamad Taufik bin Mohamad* and *Azlinda Azman*), to a study on the challenges and potentials of and experts’ opinions on developing a Malaysian garden identity (*Osman Mohd Tahir* and *Mina Kaboudarahangi*).

The research studies, on topics related to linguistics, education, management studies, anthropology and psychology, include a study of assessing students’ oral achievement in an urban school in Malaysia (*Kanthimathi Letchumanan, Karthiyaini Devarajoo* and *Paramasivam Muthusamy*), the rural learning environment and pupils’ learning of the English language (*Yazan Abdel Aziz Semreen Al-Wreikat, Muhamad Kamarul Kabilan Bin Abdullah* and *Anna Christina Abdullah*), a study of political cartoons in the first decade of the millennium (*Iro Sani, Mardziah Hayati Abdullah, Afida Muhammad Ali* and *Faiz S. Abdullah*), a study of the effect of exposure to cartoons on language proficiency (*Taheer Bahrani* and *Tam Shu Sim*), the acquisition of the verb movement parameter in English by adult Arabic speakers (*Muneera Yahya Ali Muftah* and *Wong Bee Eng*), the impact of a multilingual environment on the personal identity among German mother-tongue speakers living in Malaysia (*Miroslava Majtanova* and *Mohd. Azidan Abdul Jabar*), a case study on diversifying the input and the outcome in the classroom activities (*Phuong thi Anh Le*), the experiences of Malaysian school teachers in lifelong learning (*Kok Jin Kuan*), job satisfaction among school counsellors in secondary schools in Mid-Western Nigeria (*Eduwen, F. I., Okoza, J., Aluede, O. and Ojugo, A. I*), a review of definitions and identifications of specific learning disabilities in Malaysia (*Dzalani H.* and *Shamsuddin K.*), the teaching styles adopted by science teachers and their students’ intrinsic motivation in order to be persistent in learning the subject (*Sharifah Sariah Syed Hassan* and *Mohamed Rajab*), a case study of the relationship between problem-solving and informal systems-
thinking skills in a Malaysia university (Liew, C.Y., Lee, E.A.L., Goh, K.T.H. and Foo, K. K.), exploring lecturers’ perception on learning organization dimensions and demographic variables in technical and vocational colleges (Khosrow Nazari, Zaidatol Akmaliah Bte Lope Pihie, Khairuddin Bin Idris and Ramli Bin Basri), a study on the level of satisfaction towards the flood management system in Kelantan, Malaysia (Tuan Pah Rokiah Syed Hussain, Abd Rahim Md Nor and Hamidi Ismail), a study on improving engineering performance through leadership, CE and teamwork in a Malaysian semiconductor firm (Ng Poh Kiat and Jee Kian Siong), a case study of turnover intention from the perspective of job demand, job control and social support private higher learning education in the Klang Valley (Afzal Aizat Ramli, Shahrul Nizam Salahudin, Zaifudin Zainol and Turiman Suandi), a study identifying factors influencing mathematical problem solving among matriculation students in Penang (Ong Hong Choon and Lim Joo Sim), a qualitative study on stigma as part of identity development of gay men in Penang (Mark Stephen Felix), a study on Chinese Malaysians’ worship of Datuk Gong in Malaysia (Chin Yee Mun and Lee Yok Fee), socioeconomic status (SES), physical activity (PA), physical fitness and sedentary activity in Iranian children aged 7-11 years (Samad Esmaeilzadeh), psychometric evaluation of the Australian Inventory of Family Strengths (AIFS) on rural Malay families in Malaysia (Zarinah Arshat and Rozumah Baharudin) and a study of psychometric properties of the Malay version of the job satisfaction survey among Malaysian military personnel (Ang Chin Siang, Mansor Abu Talib, Rumaya Juhari and Zainal Madon).

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, as well as 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**
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