

## Foreword

Welcome to the **Second 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 **22 articles**. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, Iran, India, Oman, Australia, the United Kingdom and Bangladesh**.

The regular articles cover a wide range of topics, from a case study to examine urban expansion and its impact on local communities in Penang, Malaysia (*Narimah Samat, Yasin Abdalla Eltayeb El Hadary, Rosmiyati Hasni and Suriati Ghazali*), to the use of orality, or the deliberate suspension of it, as a tool to resist oppression and objectification in *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and *Dessa Rose* (*Shahila Zafar and Shahbistan Sandhu*) to a study on Julia Kristeva's melancholic subject that is applied to Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* (*Rosli Talif and Kamelia Talebian Sedehi*).

The research studies, on topics related to education, linguistics, management studies, sociology and psychology, include a study of the ESL teachers' computer self-efficacy, attitudes towards computer and classroom computer use (*Hong, K.S., Chai, M.L., Tan, K.W., Hasbee Hj Usop, and Ting, L.N.*); a study of paternal support as a driver for educational success among Arab-Canadian Muslim women (*Amani Hamdan*); a study on the relationship between the use of language learning strategy and English proficiency of below-average Indian ESL students (*Madhumathi. P, Ramani. N and Prema. M*); the research culture of private universities in Malaysia (*Thuraisingam, T., Hukam Parvinder, K., David, M.K. and Nair, V.*); a study on the effectiveness of Form Four English language textbooks in preparing students for tertiary reading in English (*Harison Mohd Sidek*); PhD supervision as an emotional process – critical situations and emotional boundary work (*Thomas Johansson, Ola Strandler, Silwa Claesson, Elisabeth Saalman and Gina Wisker*); the concept of "Excellence" as used to describe the performance of Malaysian Universities (*Steele, G.S. and Khalid Ali, K.*); a study on English communication skills and employability in the Arabian Gulf focusing on Oman (*Al-Mahrooqi, R. I.*); the discursive representation of companies in Malaysian business magazines (*Kumaran Rajandran*); a study on how teaching practices affect autonomous learning behaviour in vocabulary development (*Naginder Kaur*); the study of the grammatical presentation of phrasal verbs in ESL textbooks (*Zarifi, A. and Mukundan, J.*); the motivating factors in the implementation of ISO 14001 in the packaging industry in the northern region of Peninsular Malaysian (*Chai Tew Ang and Norhashimah Morad*); a review of the challenges and possible drivers

of LCA implementation in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Malaysia (*Chai Tew Ang, Norhashimah Morad and Norli Ismail*); the conceptualisation of transactional and transformational leadership in the Sri Lankan context (*K.A.S. Dhammika, Fais Bin Ahmad, and Thi Lip Sam*); a study on the gender differences in mental health status among children aged three to six years (*Shin-Ling Wu, Rohani Abdullah and Sakineh Mofrad*); the conceptual framework of leadership-based organisational effectiveness model (*Saritha Alfrida Rodrigues and Jyoti S. Madgaonkar*); the discipline strategies of Vietnamese and Australian mothers in regulating children's behaviour (*Winskel, H., Walsh, L., and Ha, T.*); a study on the topological socio-cultural evolution as a predictor of ethnic conflicts in multi-ethnic societies (*Paramasivam Muthusamy, Wickramasinghe, C.N. and Thilagavathi Shanmuganathan*) and the critical evaluation of microfinance in women's political affairs i.e. how microfinance has contributed to any measurable changes in women being more involved at Local Government level (*Faraha Nawaz*).

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 to 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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