

Foreword from Academician Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin bin Syed Salim♦, Reflections on the ASAIHL Special Issue

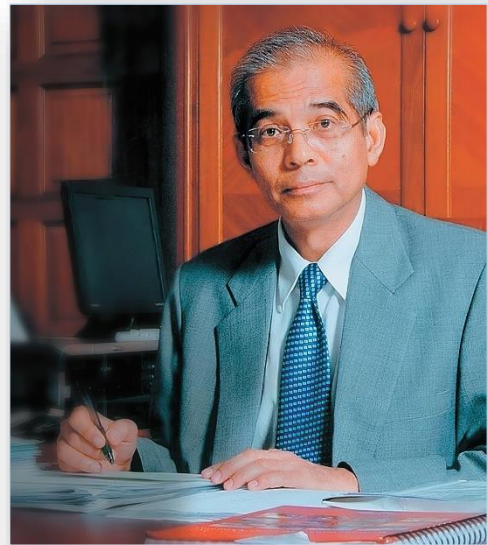
Harnessing Academic Excellence for Planetary Well-being

In an era increasingly defined by planetary challenges, the 2024 ASAIHL Conference convened at Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, has demonstrated the profound potential of academic institutions to serve not only as centers of knowledge but also as catalysts of global transformation. With the theme “*University’s Role in Advancing Climate Crises Reduction*,” the conference reinforced a fundamental truth: that higher education institutions bear a moral and intellectual responsibility to lead the response to climate change.

This special issue of the *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (JHSSR)* is both a scholarly milestone and a clarion call. It captures the vibrant dialogues, critical reflections, and pioneering ideas presented during the ASAIHL 2024 gathering. More importantly, it embodies the shared commitment of Southeast Asian institutions of higher learning to contribute solutions grounded in science, ethics, and sustainable development.

As Chairman of the ASAIHL Executive Committee, I am deeply encouraged by the collective resolve of our member universities. Academic excellence must now be measured not only by scholarly output, but by its relevance to the most pressing crises of our time. Climate change is not just an environmental issue—it is a human, social, and educational concern.

Let this volume inspire continued interdisciplinary collaboration, forward-looking research, and actionable outcomes. Let it serve as a beacon for how education, when rooted in integrity and guided by shared values, can become a force for planetary well-being.



**Academician Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed
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I congratulate Professor Dr. Nayan Kanwal and the editorial board of *JHSSR* for curating this timely special issue and express my gratitude to all contributors for advancing the mission of ASAIHL.

With sincere appreciation,



Academician Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin bin Syed Salim, FASc

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Chairman, ASAIHL Executive Committee

August, 2025

♦ Academician Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin bin Syed Salim graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Punjab, Pakistan in 1967, followed by a Master of Philosophy and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of London, United Kingdom, in 1969 and 1977, respectively. He was also conferred eight (8) honorary degrees, namely Doctor of Science from the University of Hull in 1999, Doctor Honorary Causa from Soka University in 2000, Doctor of Agriculture Technology from Thaksin University in 2005, Doctor of Science from Open University Malaysia in 2007, Doctor of Engineering from University Malaysia Perlis in 2008, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from University of Malaysia Kelantan in 2015, Doctor of Arts from Eastern Asia University in 2020, and Doctor of Food Security from University Putra Malaysia in 2024.

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin began his career as an assistant lecturer in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Malaya in 1969. He later joined University Putra Malaysia (UPM) as a lecturer in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science in 1975 before retiring as Vice Chancellor of UPM in 2001. He was later appointed as Pro Chancellor of UPM from October 2018 until October 2024. During his academic career, he was bestowed with the National Science Laureate in 1993 and the National Academic Laureate in 2008. He is also a founder and senior fellow (which carries the title of Academician) of the **Academy of Science Malaysia**. Academician Syed Jalaludin has also been conferred emeritus professorship by University Malaysia Terengganu and UPM. He is still active in the academic sector as a chancellor of Taylor's University, chairman of Asia e University (AeU), and chairman of the board of governors of University College Fairview. He was a member of the Executive Committee and Governing Board of the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF).

Academician Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin was decorated for his contribution towards national and private sector developments as follows: Darjah Kebesaran Dato' Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (D.S.S.A.) and Darjah Paduka Mahkota Perlis (D.P.M.P.), which carries the title of Dato' by both the Sultan of Selangor and the Raja of Perlis. He was also conferred Johan Setia Mahkota (J.S.M.) and Panglima Setia Mahkota (P.S.M) which carry the title of Tan Sri, by His Majesty, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.

CITE THIS ARTICLE

Syed Jalaludin bin Syed Salim. Foreword from Academician Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin bin Syed Salim— Reflections on the ASAIHL Special Issue. *Horizon J. Hum. Soc. Sci. Res.* **7 (S)**, xxi–xxii (2025). <https://doi.org/10.37534/bp.jhssr.2025.v7.nS.id2.pxxi-xxii>