

**Introductory Speech**  
**Professor. Dr. Wan Mohd Nor Wan Daud**  
**26<sup>th</sup> June 2013, Dewan Utama, Menara Razak KL**

**By**

**Prof. Dr Rose Alinda Alias**  
**Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic & International)**  
**UTM**

**Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues,**  
**Students,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you a scholar, and thinker among our midst from whom we eagerly wait to listen to his inaugural professorial address.

Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Nor Wan Daud is a scholar, educational administrator, intellectual activist and motivator, and poet. He is well known nationally and internationally through his academic writing and activities on various aspects of Islamic education and epistemology. From Feb 2011 he has been founder and director of the Center for Advanced Studies on Islam, Science and Civilization (CASIS), a post graduate center of excellence at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Kuala Lumpur.

He was born in Tanah Merah, Kelantan, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1955. His early education was at National Type English School in his home town and secondary education at Sultan Ismail College in Kota Bharu, Kelantan. In 1978, he obtained his B.Sc (Hons) Life Sciences and in 1979, his M.Sc.Ed. (Curriculum and Instruction), both from Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois. He then proceeded to pursue his Ph.D in Islamic Thought from the University of Chicago under the tutelage of the renowned Professor Fazlur Rahman and defended his thesis in 1986. The thesis was later published as a book, **The Concept of Knowledge in Islam --Its Implications for Education in a Developing Country in Islam**, published in London became quite popular and was translated into Malay, Indonesian and Turkish.

During his studies in the US, he was active in Islamic student affairs. He was elected as the President of the National Malaysian Islamic Study Group (MISG), and also the President of the Muslim Students Association (MSA) of USA and Canada. After returning from the United States he lectured at the Islamic Studies Faculty, National University of Malaysia (UKM), prior to his move to the Educational Planning and Research Division, Ministry of Education Planning and Research Department, where he served as assistant director.

In 1988, Tan Sri Prof. Syed Muahmmad Naquib al-Attas, Founder-Director of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, (ISTAC), International Islamic University Malaysia, one of the most creative scholars in the contemporary Muslim world invited Dr Wan Mohd Nor to the newly established institute. There he assisted Prof al-Attas in all aspects of curricular planning and instruction,

student development and supervision, library acquisition, publication, seminars, public relation and significantly contributed towards making ISTAC a research and post graduate centre of highest international repute.

From 2008-2010 he was a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of the Malay World and Civilization (ATMA), the National University of Malaysia (UKM), where he headed the Theory Construction and Epistemology Group.

Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Nor has written more 16 books and monographs as well as more than 40 academic articles in local and international journals, of which the major ones are:

1. *The Concept of Knowledge in Islam: Its Implications for Education in a Developing Country* (New York and London, 1989);
2. *The Beacon on the Crest of a Hill* (ISTAC, 1991);
3. *Penjelasan Budaya Ilmu* (A Commentary on the Culture of Knowledge) (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 1990); [the second edition published by Pustaka Nasional, Singapore 2003];
4. *The Educational Philosophy and Practice of Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas : An Exposition of the Original Concept of Islamization* (ISTAC, 1998);
5. *Pembangunan di Malaysia: Ke Arah Satu Kefahaman Baru yang Lebih Sempurna* (Development in Malaysia: Towards a Holistic Understanding (ISTAC, 2000);
6. *Mutiara Taman Adabi: Sebuah Puisi Mengenai Agama, Filsafat dan Masyarakat* (Pearls from the Garden of Adab: A Philosophical and Historical Poem on Religion and Society) ( Kota Bharu, Dian Darulnaim, 2003);

7. *Dalam Terang : Sebuah Puisi Mentafsirkan Amanah Insan* (Under the Light: An Interpretation of Human Destiny) (Petaling Jaya:Tradisi Ilmu, 2004);

He also co-authored a book with Tan Sri Prof. Dr. Syed M. Naquib al-Attas, *The ICLIF Leadership Competency Model: An Islamic Alternative*, and it was published by the International Centre for Leadership in Finance (ICLIF), KL, in 2007. He co-edited with Muhammad Zainiy Uthman, *Language, Thought and Knowledge and the Civilization of Islam: Essays in Honour of Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas*, published by University of Technology Malaysia (UTM), in 2010.

Among his recent works are *Rihlah Ilmiah Wan Mohd Nor Wan Daud: Dari Neo-Modernisme to Islamization* (An Intellectual Journey: From Neo-modernism to Islamization (Kuala Lumpur/Jakarta: CASIS/INSIST, 2012); and *Knowledge Culture and Concept of Malaysia* (Kuala Lumpur: Prime Minister's Department/CASIS, 2012).

Several of his books, articles and monographs have been translated into Malay, Indonesian, Turkish, Japanese, Persian, Russia, Bosnian, Arabic, Mandarin and Macedonian.

Prof Dr Wan was International Advisor of the Graduate Programme for Islamic Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia; and currently he is member of the Advisory Council for the Center for Strategic Middle Eastern Studies (CSMES), Zirve University, Gaziantep, Turkey.

He is also the Consulting Editor for the ISTAC Journal al-Shajarah, AFKAR (Akademi Islam, Universiti Malaya); Editorial Board of the International Journal of Pesantren Studies (Jakarta); Editorial Board of Tsaqafah: Journal for Islamic Sciences and Culture, Jakarta); consulting editor of Beytulhikme (Adiyaman University), Turkey;

Member of the Advisory Council of TODA INSTITUTE for Global Peace and Policy Research, Hawaii. He is also involved as the drafter of Islamic Vision of Development which is an important part of Islamic Development Bank (Jeddah) 1440Hijrah Vision Document, and served as a scholar-consultant to the International Center of Leadership in Finance (ICLIF), Kuala Lumpur.

Prof Dr Wan Mohd Nor has lectured on various topics on Islamic thought, educational philosophy, comparative ethics, development issues, and dialogues between civilizations. He has participated in various national and international conferences and seminars in countries such as USA, United Kingdom, Russia, Iran, Turkey, South Africa, Pakistan, Sudan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Japan, Indonesia, Bosnia and Singapore, etc.

Since 1990 Prof Dr Wan Mohd Nor has been actively involved in special lectures for, and training of senior secondary school teachers and administrators, state directors of education and their deputies, as well as directors of Community Colleges organized by various agencies under the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Higher Education.

Since 1994, Professor Wan Mohd Nor has been lecturing to very senior government officers on Ethics and Values in Public Administration,

mostly at its the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) in Kuala Lumpur as well as at its various regional branches.

Since the inception of CASIS there has been an increase in participation in intellectual discourses held at UTM Kuala Lumpur and the Saturday Night Lecture Series by Tan Sri Prof. Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas has been one that is most remarkable.

Prof. Wan's educational vision and ideas have a wide following. They have been studied not only by students and peers alike in Malaysia, but also in such countries as South Africa, Bosnia and other Balkan states, Turkey and closer to home Singapore. His impact among younger generations of Muslim intellectuals in this region, especially Indonesia is very considerable. . Some of the key aspects of UTM intangible KAIs are his and his insights are often cited by our previous Vice Chancellor Dato Seri Dr. Ir. Zaini Ujang in many of his writings. The latest *Revitalizing the Soul of Higher Learning* is one such example.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure I present to you: Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Nor Wan Daud.