



EXPANDING HORIZONS,

**EVOLVING THROUGH TIME:
FSSH 2018 - 2023**

Editors:
Regina Garai & Kiky Kirina Abdillah



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Contents

Foreword by the Vice Chancellor	4
Message from the Dean	5
Editors' Preface	6
FSSH History	7
Vision, Mission and Core Values	8
Deans of FSSH	9
FSSH Management Team	10
Teaching Excellence	13
Research Excellence	29
Student Affairs and Alumni	42
Industry and Community Engagement	56
FSSH Strategies	64
FSSH Administration	68
Centre for Spatially Integrated Digital Humanities (CSIDH)	71
Postgraduate Community	72
FSSH During the COVID-19 Pandemic	77
Staff Achievements and Recognitions	80
Engagement with UNIMAS Top Management	82
Moving Forward: Laying the Foundation	85
FSSH Community (2018-2023)	88
FSSH in the Media	93
Convocation	95
Retirement	96
What They Say About FSSH	98



Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim bin Suaidi
Vice Chancellor, UNIMAS

It is with great pleasure that I compose these words for this remarkable work encapsulated in FSSH's publication, "Expanding Horizons, Evolving Through Time: FSSH 2018-2023." As the Vice Chancellor, I am constantly amazed by the unwavering dedication and passion exhibited by our academic community. This coffee table book is indeed another compelling testament of the spirit of inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge that forms the very essence of FSSH's mission.

This book delves into the Faculty's activities and achievements in the past few years. The activities carried out by FSSH members over the years demonstrate a profound understanding of the complexities within the field of Social Sciences and Humanities. I am glad to know that the Faculty has laid the foundation for a more extensive research by collaborating with other institutions in Borneo in order to carry out more research activities in Borneo.

The University is proud to support scholars who push the boundaries of knowledge and contribute to our collective understanding of the world. This coffee table book does not only enrich the academic community but also provide a valuable resource for students, researchers, and practitioners alike.

I extend my gratitude to the writers for their exemplary work and commend their dedication to academic excellence. I also want to congratulate the Faculty, staff, and students who have been actively involved in activities organised by the Faculty throughout their academic journey. One of the University's agendas is to create a positive and supportive work environment for faculty, leading to higher job satisfaction, increased productivity, and better outcome for both faculty members and students.

I hope that this coffee table book serves as a reminder of the importance of scholarship and its impact on society. Being a community driven university, we hope that FSSH will continue to make their presence felt by the various communities, especially in Sarawak.

Teguh Bersama.



Professor Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat
Dean, FSSH UNIMAS

I take great pleasure in introducing to you our coffee table book entitled *Expanding Horizons, Evolving Through Time: FSSH 2018-2023*. This book serves as a platform to proudly showcase our achievements in carrying out our core activities as a centre for knowledge production. The documentation of such activities and achievements also showcase and celebrate the vibrant spirit of our Faculty members in teaching, learning, research and publications. *Expanding Horizons, Evolving Through Time: FSSH 2018-2023* is more than just a collection of photographs as it is a platform for connection and reflection too. It stands as a testament to the diverse interests and accomplishments of our Faculty members over the years.

Documenting the Faculty's extensive activities over the years is important. It serves as a mean of communication and enables effective information sharing. Being one of the pioneering faculties that was established in UNIMAS in 1993, there are a lot of activities being carried out by FSSH that need to be documented for the record and as invaluable resource for future reference and guidance.

FSSH has also laid the foundation to move forward beyond the shore of Sarawak. Through strategic collaborations with international universities and institutions, we embarked on a journey to amplify our global presence and making resounding impacts on the international stage. This is significant especially in the VUCA world that we are living in today. The environment is very volatile (V), full of uncertainties (U), getting more complex (C) by the day and very ambiguous (A) in nature. Despite these challenges, it is always our primary aim to produce "Future-ready graduates" who possess the skills, knowledge, and adaptability to thrive in an ever-evolving and dynamic world. One thing for sure, the landscape of work and society continues to evolve and we, at FSSH, train and equip our future-ready graduates with the necessary skills to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

As part of the community-driven university, FSSH places a strong emphasis on engaging and collaborating with local communities as well as tailoring our programmes and initiatives to address community needs and aspirations. FSSH is moving beyond the traditional role of a university as an isolated academic institution but strives to be an integral part of the community it serves.

I extend my gratitude to the editorial team and everyone involved in bringing this book to life. Their commitment and hard work have made this publication possible. Their relentless pursuit of knowledge shines through every page, and I wholeheartedly commend them for their exceptional work. It is my hope that this book serves as a source of inspiration and pride for our entire FSSH community. May it ignite curiosity and foster unity and encourage us all to strive for excellence in all that we do.

Segulai Sejalai and Agi Idup Agi Ngelaban.



Dr Regina Garai & Dr Kiky Kirina Abdillah
Editors

As the editors of this coffee table book, it is our privilege to invite you on a visual journey of life at FSSH. This book is more than just a collection of beautiful photographs, but it also showcases our shared journey in our pursuit of excellence. It is a tribute to the tireless dedication of our students, faculty, staff and alumni who have made FSSH and UNIMAS a beacon of knowledge. This book, *Expanding Horizons, Evolving Through Time: FSSH 2018-2023*, continues from the last FSSH coffee table book: *Pride, Perseverance & Progress (1992-2017)*.

As you turn on these pages, you will witness the vibrant fabric of life at FSSH – the pursuit of academic excellence, the various research and knowledge sharing sessions conducted, the achievements and milestones by our Faculty members and students, and the indomitable spirit of learning, discovery and community that defines FSSH and UNIMAS.

The book also captures the essence of community and belonging, beyond scholarly endeavours. It highlights our community and industry engagement. In FSSH, we believe effective partnership with the industry and the community is imperative to address the needs and aspirations of our stakeholders. It also plays a pivotal role in ensuring that universities transcend the image of isolated ivory towers and actively engage as significant contributors to society's well-being and progress. Various community projects have been conducted, on different platforms, over the years as we acknowledge the significance of community enrichment and social responsibility. These can be seen from the pages of this book – our Faculty members have been very active in carrying out community projects, in line with UNIMAS' tagline: a community driven university for a sustainable world.

The editorial team wishes to extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who have contributed to this book. Thank you for graciously accommodating our requests for photographs and information, whether through email correspondence, phone calls and messages or when we knocked on your doors. Without the inclusion of your photographs, this book would not come to fruition. Your images and information play a pivotal role in bringing this book to life. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We hope that the coffee table book: *Expanding Horizons, Evolving Through Time: FSSH 2018-2023* will serve as a reminder of our shared journey and shared commitment to excellence and as an invitation to be part of our remarkable journey.

FSSH HISTORY: *Our Journey*



26 January 2018:
During the Vice Chancellor's Annual Address (*Amanat Naib Canselor*) 2018, the Vice Chancellor announced the University's move to rebrand the Faculty of Social Sciences.

"Bagi memastikan Fakulti Sains Sosial terus dinamik serta kekal relevan terutamanya dalam penajajaran kepada Revolusi Industri 4.0, dicadangkan penjenamaan semula FSS kepada Fakulti Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan (FSSK). Ini adalah sejajar dengan perubahan landskap semasa dunia pendidikan tinggi tempatan dan antarabangsa..."
(Text Ucapan, Amanat Naib Canselor 2018)





Vision

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities aspires to be a renowned centre of social sciences and humanities studies both nationally and internationally.



Mission

- To attain an outstanding level of teaching, learning and researching in the field of social sciences and humanities.
- To instill the spirit of striving towards excellence and integrity in pursuing social sciences and humanities knowledge and research.
- To contribute to societal and national development in an intellectual context.



Core Values

• Exemplary

We continuously strive to become role models to others through outstanding conducts in both professional and personal contexts.

• Collegiality

We value unity. We collaborate and cooperate towards achieving collective goals for the betterment of the University.

• Integrity

We uphold accountability and fully commit to exceptional work ethic.

• Tenacity

We do not give in to hardships. We practice persistence and resilience in managing and solving challenges.

• Equity

We embrace differences and work towards a safe environment that values, respects, and offers fair opportunities to everyone in our community.

01

02

03



Handing over of duty (January 2022)

PROFESSOR DR NEILSON ILAN MERSAT
2022 - PRESENT



**PROFESSOR DATUK DR
ABDUL RASHID ABDULLAH**

1993-2000



**PROFESSOR DR DIMBAB
NGIDANG**

2000-2003



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR
ABDUL MUTALIP ABDULLAH**

2003-2008



**PROFESSOR DR SPENCER
EMPADING SANGGIN**

2008-2013



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DR NEILSON ILAN MERSAT**

2014-2019



**DR MOHAMMAD SUHAIDI
BIN SALLEH**

2020-2021



PROFESSOR DR NEILSON ILAN MERSAT

Dean



DR KAMSIAH ALI

Deputy Dean
(Undergraduate)



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DR ARNOLD PUYOK**

Deputy Dean
(Research &
Commercialization)



DR ZAMRI HASSAN

Deputy Dean
(Student Affairs &
Alumni)



DR REGINA GARAI

Deputy Dean
(Industry &
Community
Engagement)



DR FARAH ZAINI

Head of Strategy



MASLE TERHIM

Deputy Registrar



SITI AZIZAH ABDUL LATIF

Assistant Registrar







Dr Kamsiah Ali
Deputy Dean
(Undergraduate)

The role of the Deputy Dean (Undergraduate) is integral to the management of academic programmes within the Faculty. Typically collaborating closely with the Dean, this position is tasked with overseeing and managing diverse facet of academic affairs. Specifically, the Deputy Dean (Undergraduate) bears the responsibility of coordinating and administering academic programmes at the Faculty level. This includes the supervision of curriculum development, assessment and curriculum review of academic programmes, and ensuring programme standards are aligned with both university standards and national higher education goals, especially to ensure that academic programmes meet the quality standards and accreditation requirements under the Malaysian Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation. The Deputy Dean (Undergraduate) is directly involved in conducting workshops related to major Curriculum Review and Continuous Quality Improvement at the Faculty level.

The Deputy Dean (Undergraduate) also actively engages in the development and execution of academic policies, regulations and procedures. They ensure that these policies align with UNIMAS' vision and adhere to pertinent educational regulations. The Undergraduate (Deputy Dean) assumes a pivotal role in overseeing the Faculty Examination

Technical Committee, and upholding the utmost confidentiality of examination processes within the Faculty. It is incumbent upon the Deputy Dean (Undergraduate) to ensure all examinations conducted within the Faculty strictly adhere to the academic regulations stipulated by the University.

Beyond the role in the student selection process for admission to the Faculty, the Deputy Dean (Undergraduate) also plays a role in safeguarding the academic well-being of the students. This responsibility includes student academic management, the provision of academic guidance, the implementation of initiatives aimed at student retention, and handling student academic grievances or appeals. The Deputy Dean (Undergraduate) contributes to academic-related strategic planning in the Faculty, especially working with the Dean, faculty strategic leaders, program coordinators and other academic leaders to develop a long-term strategic plan for the academic division, which is aligned with the overall mission and goals of the institution.

Overall, the Deputy Dean (Undergraduate) plays an important role in maintaining, managing and improving academic quality and reputation which contributes to the institution's success in fulfilling the national educational mission.

Hari Bersama Fakulti 2023 Intake 2023/2024



Pre-pandemic Hari Bersama Fakulti 2018



Hari Bersama Fakulti was held online in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Hari Bersama Fakulti 2022, Intake 2022/2023
- the first physical (face-to-face) welcoming session after the pandemic.

Unleashing the Potential:

Strategies for Fostering Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age

The imperative of quality checks in higher education and our commitment to excellence is evident in our practice. This is done via Curriculum Review Major (CRM), Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) as well as numerous workshops and seminars to equip our staff with the latest techniques, tools and best practices in higher education. This is to ensure that we are in line with the evolving landscape of education and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.



FSSH CRM
(12 March 2022)





**FSSH Strategic Workshop
(13 September 2023)**



**FSSH Strategic Workshop
(4 December 2021)**



FSSH Curriculum Review
(24 February 2019)



Student Handbooks



MQA Visit 2018



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