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## PRESS RELEASE

### **METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MIGRATION IN A DIGITAL AGE**

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA — November 14-17, 2024 — The **Metropolis International Conference 2024**, will be held from November 14 to 17, 2024 at the Swiss Garden Hotel, Bukit Bintang. Organized by the **Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA)**, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), in collaboration with **Metropolis International**, **Selangor State Government**, and **UKMShape**, this conference is themed “Migration Futures: Evolving Challenges in a Digital Age.” The event’s theme reflects the need for sustainable, inclusive migration policies in an increasingly digital world. It also marks the first time the Metropolis Conference will take place in the Southeast Asia, underscoring the importance of the region in global migration discourse.

This year’s conference will bring together more than a hundred participants among global migration experts, policymakers, and researchers from over 15 countries. Opening addresses will be delivered by Chief Minister of Selangor Yang Amat Berhormat Dato’ Seri Amirudin Shari and UKM Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato’ Gs. Ts. Dr. Mohd Ekhwan Hj. Toriman.

#### **Conference Highlights**

The four-day conference will feature an array of keynote speeches, sessions, and discussions focused on the complex intersections of migration, technology, inclusivity, and sustainability. Highlights include:

#### **1. Keynote Addresses by Leading Experts:**

- **Professor Dr. Antje Missbach** (University of Bielefeld) will present “Taking Refugee Studies to Sea: What Can We Learn from the Maritime Trajectories of Vietnamese and Rohingya ‘Boat People’?” exploring under-theorized aspects of maritime migration.





- **Professor Dr. Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid** (Universiti Sains Malaysia) will speak on “Islam and Migration”, examining historical and contemporary Muslim migration patterns.
  - **Professor Dr. Felicitas Hillmann** (Technische Universität Berlin) will discuss urban challenges in her talk, “Cities, Migration and the SDGs: An Ongoing David and Goliath Relationship,” with a focus on sustainable urban migration policies.
  - **Professor Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria** (Institute of Ethnic Studies, UKM) will address policy challenges for stateless individuals in Malaysia in his talk, “Ground Realities and Public Policy Advocacy on Stateless People in Malaysia.”
  - **Eva A. Millona** (U.S. Department of Homeland Security) will deliver a talk, “Upholding America’s Promise in a Digital Age,” highlighting the critical role of empowering migration towards a stronger and more inclusive nation.
2. **Graduate Workshop:** The conference opens with a Graduate Workshop on November 14, 2024, where 21 local and international emerging scholars will present their research under the guidance of respected professors, including **Professors Jan Rath** and **Paul Spoonley**. This session offers networking and mentorship opportunities for the next generation of migration researchers.
3. **Concurrent Sessions on Key Themes:** Over three days, participants will engage in five thematic concurrent sessions:
- Refugees: Challenges and Future Options
  - Managing Migration Systems
  - Host and Settler Community Relations
  - Inclusivity and Sustainability
  - Urban Politics and Shared Spaces

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These sessions provide a collaborative platform for sharing empirical findings, case studies, and policy solutions.

**4. Roundtable Discussion:** The conference will conclude with a Roundtable Discussion on November 17, 2024, featuring 13 participants from NGOs, academia, UNCHR, IOM and leaders from refugee communities. Moderated by **Dr. Andika Ab. Wahab** of the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), UKM, the session will focus on practical strategies for addressing contemporary migration challenges. Participants will share their lived experiences and expertise, contributing insights and recommendations for future initiatives.

### **A Platform for Global Dialogue**

This year's conference offers a unique opportunity for collaborative dialogue and solutions, especially for stakeholders from the Global South, whose perspectives on migration are vital in shaping international migration policies.

### **Registration and Contact Information**

The Metropolis International Conference 2024 is open to academics, government officials, NGOs, and those interested in migration studies. For further information, please contact:

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*Join us in Kuala Lumpur to explore the future of migration and foster impactful international dialogue.*

