



AMEC

Asia Middle East Center
For Research & Dialogue



REPORT

**One-day International Conference
on Palestine:**

Exploring Asian Perspectives

Date: 4 November 2024 (Monday)

Venue: Theatre Room, Level 2,
Azman Hashim Building, Faculty
of Business and Economics, Uni-
versity of Malaya

Organized by:

Asia Middle East Center for Research
and Dialogue (AMEC),

Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine
Studies, University of Malaya,



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www.amecrd.com

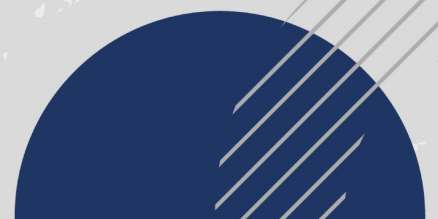




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Executive Summary

The One-day International Conference on Palestine: Exploring Asian Perspectives, held on 4 November 2024 at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was a collaborative initiative organized by the Asia Middle East Center for Research and Dialogue (AMEC), University of Malaya, and the Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine Studies. The conference aimed to provide a platform for experts, academics, policymakers, and activists to engage in discussions on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with a specific focus on the role and responses of Malaysia and the broader Asian community.

Key Themes and Objectives

The conference addressed the ongoing challenges faced by the Palestinian people and explored strategies for a united Asian response. It had four primary objectives:



1. To analyze the historical and political context of the Palestinian struggle, particularly the Gaza crisis.
2. To explore Malaysia's and Asia's humanitarian and diplomatic responses to the conflict.
3. To foster solidarity and regional collaboration in addressing Palestinian issues.
4. To discuss actionable strategies for public diplomacy, media narratives, and policy

recommendations.



Introduction

The One-day International Conference on Palestine: Exploring Asian Perspectives brought together thought leaders, academics, policymakers, and activists to explore and discuss the Asian response to the ongoing situation in Gaza. With a strong focus on the humanitarian crisis and the role of Asian nations and organizations, the conference sought to foster dialogue, solidarity, and action for Palestine within the Asian context.

Conference Highlights



Opening and Welcoming Remarks:

The conference commenced with an inspiring Welcoming Speech by Dr. Nur Al Deen, Senior Research Fellow at AMEC and Conference Director. Dr. Nur Al Deen highlighted the importance of the event in creating a collective voice for Palestine across Asia and expressed gratitude to all attendees and partners.

Following the welcoming speech, Puan Sri Norma Hashim, Founder of the Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine Studies, delivered Opening Remarks that emphasized the importance of solidarity in times of crisis and the role of educational institutions and organizations in promoting the Palestinian cause.



Keynote Addresses:

Keynote Speech 1: YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Honorary Advisor of AMEC, spoke on Malaysia's long-standing support for Palestine and the need for diplomatic initiatives that address the root causes of the conflict.

Keynote Speech 2: YB Tuan Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh, Head of the Malaysian Parliament Caucus for Palestine, provided insights on policy developments within Malaysia aimed at supporting Palestine and urged greater involvement from Asian nations to bring about change.

Panel Discussions:





Session 1 explored the Malaysian Response to the Gaza Genocide, moderated by Dr. Ferooze Ali, lecturer of UniSZA and Senior Research Fellow, AMEC. Panelists discussed Malaysia's active role in humanitarian aid, policy advocacy, and public mobilization.

Mr. Chua Tian Chang: Discussed the role of Malaysian civil society and NGOs in raising awareness and mobilizing aid.

Mrs. Nurul Izzah Anwar (video): Shared insights on Malaysia's humanitarian efforts and the need for legislative support.

Dr. Noraishah Hanifa: Presented research on Malaysian media portrayals of Palestine.

Mr. Jismi Johari: Spoke about the initiatives of Malaysian Humanitarian Aid Relief (MAHAR) in Gaza.





Session 2 addressed Asian Responses to the Gaza Genocide, moderated by Mr. Khalid Jimat, with speakers from Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, and other Asian regions sharing perspectives on policy challenges, civil society involvement, and media narratives supporting Palestine.

Prof. Dr. Mohd Nazari Ismail: Analyzed the economic and political dynamics affecting Palestine.

Mr. Saul Takahashi (video): Provided a perspective on Japan's response and its foreign policy challenges.

Dr. Aina Thaipratan: Focused on Thailand's stance and public opinion on Palestine.

Ms. Nabila Osman: Discussed the Indonesian perspective and NGO collaboration.

Bapak Tengku Zulkifli Usman: Highlighted Indonesian political dynamics related to Palestine.

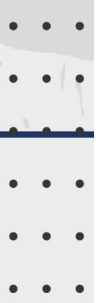


Closing Remarks and Book Launch

In his **Closing Remarks**, **Dr. Muslim Imran**,



Director of AMEC, expressed gratitude to all partners, speakers, and participants, emphasizing AMEC's commitment to advocacy and collaboration for Palestine. The event concluded with a **book launch** by **Dr. Noraishah Hanifa** from Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM), marking an academic contribution to the literature on Palestine.



Media Coverage and Impact

The conference received extensive media coverage from major outlets including NST, Bernama, Malaysiakini, and Harian Metro, amplifying the conference's message of solidarity and drawing attention to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This widespread coverage underscored the importance of a unified Asian narrative in advocating for Palestine.

1. <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/11/1129572/activists-demand-action-gaza-casualties-climb-they-are-not-just-numbers>
2. <https://www.bernama.com/en/world/news.php?id=2359545>
3. <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2024/11/1129539/ops-ihsan-aims-unite-asian-ngos-palestine-aid-efforts>
4. <https://m.malaysiakini.com/news/724869>
5. <https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2024/11/1151388/ops-ihsan-kerajaan-cadang-wujud-jaringan-operasi-kemanusiaan-antarabangsa>
6. <https://algalile.com/%D8%A2%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AF-%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%85-%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%A4%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%83%D9%88%D8%A7/>

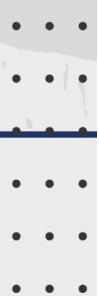
Report published in AMEC's website: <https://amecrd.com/one-day-international-conference-on-palestine-exploring-asian-perspectives/>

Key Outcomes

The conference resulted in several important resolutions, including:

1. A call for a strengthened Asian alliance in support of Palestine.
2. Proposals for coordinated public diplomacy and media strategies to enhance awareness of the Palestinian cause.
3. The establishment of a network among Asian NGOs focused on Palestinian aid and advocacy.
4. Policy recommendations for further diplomatic initiatives by Asian countries.





Participant Feedback and Engagement

Attendees provided positive feedback on the conference's organization, content, and speakers. Many expressed interest in future AMEC conferences and workshops on similar topics, underlining the importance of sustained dialogue and action for Palestine.

Conclusion and Acknowledgments

The One-day International Conference on Palestine: Exploring Asian Perspectives was a landmark event that highlighted Asia's role in supporting Palestine through diplomatic, humanitarian, and media efforts. AMEC expresses sincere gratitude to all partners, speakers, and participants for their contributions. The outcomes of this conference set the stage for ongoing collaborations, with AMEC and its partners committed to fostering sustained dialogue and action in support of Palestine across Asia.

Appendices

Appendix A: Conference Program Agenda

Appendix B: Speaker Biographies

Appendix C: Media Highlights



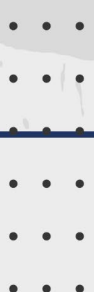


Appendix A: Conference Program Agenda

| Program: One-day International Conference on Palestine: Exploring Asian Perspectives | | |
|--|---|---|
| Date | : | 4 November 2024 (Monday) |
| Venue | : | Theatre Room, Level 2, Azman Hashim Building, Faculty of Business and Economics, Universiti Malaya. |
| Organized by: | : | Asia Middle East Center for Research and Dialogue (AMEC), University of Malaya & Hashim Sani Center for Palestine Studies |
| | | |
| 08:30 AM - 09:00 AM | : | Registration and Coffee |
| 09:00 AM - 09:15 AM | : | Opening by MC, Montage |
| 09:15 AM - 09:25 AM | : | Welcoming Speech |
| | | Dr. Nur Al Deen, Senior Research Fellow, AMEC and Conference Director |
| | | |
| 09:25 AM - 09:35 AM | : | Opening Remarks |
| | | Puan Sri Norma Hashim, Founder, Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine Studies |
| | | |
| 09:35 AM - 09:50 AM | | <i>Video Presentation by Dr. Peter Slezak (video)</i> |
| | : | Honorary Associate Professor in Philosophy, School of Humanities & Languages, University of New South Wales |
| | | |
| 9:50 AM - 10:00 AM | : | Keynote Speech |
| | | YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Honorary Advisor of AMEC |
| | | |
| 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM | : | Conference Gimmick |
| | | article competition |
| | | , AMECs and 2nd anniversary |
| | | insert launching of conference , conference gimmick |



| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 10:20 AM - 10:35 AM | : | Coffee Break |
| 10:35 AM - 12:00 PM | : | Session 1 - Malaysian Response to the Gaza Genocide |
| | | <i>Panel Discussion (Moderated by Dr. Ferooze Ali, Senior Research Fellow, AMEC)</i> |
| | | Mr. Chua Tian Chang |
| | | Mrs. Nurul Izzah Anwar (video) |
| | | Dr. Noraishah Hanifa |
| | | Mr. Jismi Johari |
| 12 PM - 2 PM | : | Lunch |
| 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM | : | Session 2 - Asian Responses to the Gaza Genocide |
| | | <i>Panel Discussion (Moderated by Mr. Khalid Jimat, HSC)</i> |
| | | Prof. Dr. Mohd Nazari Ismail |
| | | Mr. Saul Takahashi (video) |
| | | Dr Aina Thaipratan |
| | | Ms. Nabila Osman |
| | | Bapak Tengku Zulkifli Usman |
| 04:00 PM – 04:15 PM | : | Keynote Speech |
| | | YB Tuan Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh , Head of Malaysian Parliament Caucus for Palestine |
| | | Book launch - Dr Nor Aishah Hanifa, UPNM |
| 4:15 PM - 4:45 PM | : | Closing Remarks |
| | | Dr. Muslim Imran, Director of AMEC |



Appendix B:

Speaker & Moderator's Biographies (in order of appearance)

| | |
|---|---|
| DR. NUR ALDEEN AL KAWAMLEH | <p>DR. NUR ALDEEN AL KAWAMLEH</p> <p>Dr. Nur Al Deen is a Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Middle East Center for Research and Dialogue (AMEC) and serves as the Conference Director. With extensive expertise in Middle Eastern affairs and global geopolitics, he plays a pivotal role in shaping AMEC's research agenda and international engagements.</p> |
| PUAN SRI NORMA HASHIM | <p>PUAN SRI NORMA HASHIM</p> <p>Norma Hashim has been involved in advocacy and relief work for Palestine since 2009 and is treasurer of Viva Palestina Malaysia . She has edited three books on Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons - "The Prisoners' Diaries"(2013) , "Dreaming of Freedom: Palestinian child prisoners speak"(2016) which has been published in the US in support of a legislative bill for human rights for Palestinian children, and " A Shared Struggle: Stories of Palestinian and Irish Hunger Strikers"(2021) . In 2022 she founded the Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine Studies at the University of Malaya in order to expand the boundaries of knowledge in the field of Palestine studies, and to advocate for Palestine in the region.</p> |
| YBHG TAN SRI DATO' SERI DR. SYED HAMID ALBAR | <p>YBHG TAN SRI DATO' SERI DR. SYED HAMID ALBAR</p> <p>Tan Sri Dr. Syed Hamid Albar is a prominent Malaysian politician, diplomat, and legal expert, and currently serves as the Honorary Advisor of the Asia Middle East Center for Research and Dialogue (AMEC). He has held key roles such as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, and was Chairman of the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD). A Barrister-at-Law and PhD holder, Syed Hamid is Chancellor of Asia e University and an Adjunct Professor at University of Malaya. He is also the founder of HUMANITI Malaysia, and in 2019, was honored with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by Japan</p> |
| DR. PETER SLEZAK | <p>DR. PETER SLEZAK</p> <p>Dr Peter Slezak is Honorary Associate Professor of philosophy at the University of New South Wales and a regular public commentator on science, philosophy, religion and politics. He is the son of Holocaust survivors and co-founder of the advocacy group Independent Australian Jewish Voices (IAJV). He was a founding Executive member of Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) and also Executive member of BDS-Australia. He publishes regularly on Palestine in the mainstream media, and he has spent considerable time in Palestine, including Gaza and the West Bank. Most recently he was involved in making the documentary 'Palestine Under Siege' filmed in the West Bank.</p> |





| | |
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| DR. FEROOZE ALI | <p>DR. FEROOZE ALI</p> <p>Dialogue and a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law and International Relations, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) in Terengganu. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Ferooze served as the Assistant Secretary at the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Putrajaya, where he focused on the Palestine-Israel region. Following his tenure with the Ministry, he worked as a Government Liaison Officer at the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur from 2012 to 2015. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang.</p> |
| PUAN NURUL IZZAH ANWAR | <p>PUAN NURUL IZZAH ANWAR</p> <p>Puan Nurul Izzah Anwar is a political activist and former legislator, having served as a Member of Parliament for three terms. Currently, she chairs the Social and Economic Research Initiative (SERI), a think tank focused on driving socioeconomic change, and serves as an Advisor to Malaysian Humanitarian Aid (MAHAR). She holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from UNITEN Malaysia and a Master's in International Relations in Southeast Asia Studies from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Nurul Izzah is also an advocate for Palestinian rights and broader humanitarian causes.</p> |
| TUAN CHUA TIAN CHANG | <p>TUAN CHUA TIAN CHANG</p> <p>Tuan Chua Tian Chang is the spokesperson for Sekretariat Solidariti Palestin (SSP). A long-time political activist and former Member of Parliament, he is known for his strong stance on human rights and solidarity with the Palestinian cause.</p> |
| TUAN JISMI JOHARI | <p>TUAN JISMI JOHARI</p> <p>Tuan Jismi Johari is the President of the Malaysian Humanitarian Aid Relief (MAHAR), based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Under his leadership, MAHAR is involved in various humanitarian initiatives, including leading OpsIhsan as the Chairperson, focusing on providing relief and assistance to vulnerable communities both locally and internationally. His commitment to humanitarian causes has made MAHAR a key player in Malaysia's humanitarian efforts.</p> |
| DR NORAISHAH HANIFA | <p>DR NORAISHAH HANIFA</p> <p>Dr Noraiishah Hanifa is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of IR, Law, and Security at the Faculty of Defence Studies and Management, National Defence University of Malaysia.</p> |
| PROFESSOR DR. MOHD NAZARI ISMAIL | <p>PROFESSOR DR. MOHD NAZARI ISMAIL</p> <p>Professor Dr. Mohd Nazari Ismail is a distinguished scholar at the Hashim Sani Centre for Palestine Studies, University of Malaya. His expertise lies in strategic management, and on boycott efforts to help the struggles of the Palestinian people against injustice. Dr. Nazari has contributed extensively to research on economic policies, geopolitical dynamics, and global Muslim affairs, making him a prominent figure in academic and policy-making circles.</p> |



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| <p>MR. SAUL TAKAHASHI</p> | <p>MR. SAUL TAKAHASHI</p> <p>Saul Takahashi is a recognized human rights advocate and expert with extensive experience in international human rights law. He has worked with various human rights organizations and has contributed to discussions on issues such as human rights in conflict zones and civil liberties. His expertise is often sought in areas related to peacebuilding, justice, and global human rights policies.</p> |
| <p>MR. KHALID JIMAT</p> | <p>MR. KHALID JIMAT</p> <p>Khalid Jimat is a professional known for his involvement in humanitarian and advocacy work, particularly focused on the Middle East. He has contributed to various initiatives aimed at supporting marginalized communities and promoting human rights. His experience spans across several organizations, where he has worked to address global challenges and foster international cooperation in conflict resolution and development projects.</p> |
| <p>DR. AINA THAIPRATAN</p> | <p>DR AINA THAIPRATAN</p> <p>Dr Aina Thaipratan is a lecturer at the School of Political Science and Public Administration, Walailak University, Thailand. She recently completed her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India with a PhD thesis entitled "Israel's Policy towards East Jerusalem, 1967-2017: A Study of Settler Colonialism." She also serves as a foreign affairs committee of the Council for Humanitarian Networking of Sheikhul Islam Office (CHNS), Thailand.</p> |
| <p>MS. NABILA OSMAN</p> | <p>MS. NABILA OSMAN</p> <p>Nabila Osman holds a Bachelor of Human Sciences in Political Science (Honors) from the International Islamic University Malaysia. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Strategic and Defence Studies at the University of Malaya. Her research interests focus on Singapore and Iran's bilateral and multilateral relations, exploring the dynamics of their foreign policy and strategic partnerships.</p> |
| <p>BAPAK TENGKU ZULKIFLI USMAN</p> | <p>BAPAK TENGKU ZULKIFLI USMAN</p> <p>Bapak Tengku Zulkifli Usman is an Indonesian activist and politician with a Master's in Political Communication from Sahid University, Jakarta. He currently serves in the Narrative and Ideological Department, as well as the GeoPolitical and Foreign Affairs Board of the Gelora Indonesia Party. He is also part of the expert team for the Prabowo Subianto-Gibran Rakabuming Raka presidential campaign and a Fellow of the Asia Middle East Center for Research and Dialogue (AMEC). His past roles include serving as Expert Staff for the Foreign Affairs and Economic Commissions in Indonesia's House of Representatives (2010-2012).</p> |



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| YB TUAN SYED IBRAHIM BIN SYED NOH | YB TUAN SYED IBRAHIM BIN SYED NOH YB Tuan Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh is a Malaysian politician and the Head of the Malaysian Parliament Caucus for Palestine. A dedicated advocate for human rights, he has played a crucial role in championing the Palestinian cause on both national and international platforms. As a Member of Parliament, Syed Ibrahim has consistently called for stronger diplomatic actions and greater humanitarian support for Palestine. His efforts focus on raising awareness about the Palestinian struggle, supporting initiatives for peace, and fostering solidarity within Southeast Asia to address the ongoing issue and its humanitarian impacts. |
| DR. MUSLIM BIN IMRAN | DR. MUSLIM BIN IMRAN Muslim Imran is the Director of the Asia Middle East Center for Research and Dialogue (AMEC) and a non-resident scholar at the Hashim Sani Center for Palestine Studies, University of Malaya. He is a prominent academic and activist, recognized for his work on Malaysian foreign policies and international diplomacy. |



Appendix C: Media Highlights

Activists demand action as Gaza casualties climb: 'They are not just numbers'

By **Shahrul Shahabudin, Amisha Syahira** - November 4, 2024 @ 8:28pm



Palestine Solidarity Secretariat (SSP) spokesperson Tian Chua said there was a need for a new governmental strategy to continue countering Israeli actions. . NSTP/AZIAH AZMEE

KUALA LUMPUR: Academics, politicians, pro-Palestinian activists, and non-governmental organisations are urging the government and public to maintain support for Palestinian freedom amid the ongoing violence in Gaza.



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WORLD > NEWS

Tian Chua, Experts Call For Stronger Economic Actions Against Israel At Palestine Conference

🕒 04/11/2024 09:20 PM



By Wan Muhammad Aslah Wan Razali

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Former Batu Member of Parliament (MP) Chua Tian Chang, commonly known as Tian Chua, called for a significant shift in strategy to address the ongoing crisis in Gaza, advocating for stronger economic measures and sanctions against the Zionist regime.

He said the situation in Gaza is tantamount to a true definition of genocide.

Ops Ihsan aims to unite Asian NGOs for Palestine aid efforts

By **Shahrul Shahabudin, Amisha Syahira** - November 4, 2024 @ 7:21pm



Ops Ihsan chairman, Jismi Johari (left), said the initiative is expected to launch next year, aiming to coordinate plans and responses to facilitate aid efforts for victims of Israeli oppression in Gaza. Pic for illustration purpose only. STR/SADIQ SANI

KUALA LUMPUR: Ops Ihsan Secretariat, in collaboration with the government, is planning to establish a global humanitarian operation network for Palestine.

The network will bring together international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), particularly from Asian countries.

Its chairman, Jismi Johari, said the initiative is expected to launch next year, aiming to coordinate plans and responses to facilitate aid efforts for victims of Israeli oppression in Gaza.

Jismi, who is also the Malaysian Humanitarian Aid and Relief president, said that the plan aligns with Malaysia's upcoming chairmanship of Asean in 2025.



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malaysiakini
terkini untuk anda



Tian Chua, pakar seru tindakan ekonomi lebih tegas terhadap Israel

Ops Ihsan, kerajaan cadang wujud jaringan operasi kemanusiaan antarabangsa

Muhammad Yusri Muzamir
yusri.muzamir@bh.com.my



PENASIHAT Kehormat Pusat Asia Timur Tengah (AMEC), Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar (empat dari kanan) bersama tetamu kehormat dan peserta bergambar pada Sesi Forum Mengenai Palestin : Meneroka Perspektif Asia di Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. FOTO Aizuddin Saad

Kuala Lumpur: Sekretariat Ops Ihsan bercadang mewujudkan jaringan operasi kemanusiaan di seluruh dunia, termasuk di Palestin dengan menggabungkan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) antarabangsa, terutama dalam kalangan negara anggota ASEAN.

Pengerusinya, Jismi Johari, berkata usaha berkenaan dijangka dimulakan tahun hadapan, seiring peranan Malaysia sebagai Pengerusi ASEAN bagi 2025.

Katanya, ia bertujuan mengkoordinasi pelan dan tindak balas, sekali gus memudahkan urusan bagi sebarang usaha menyalurkan bantuan kepada rakyat Palestin yang tertindas.

Beliau yang juga Presiden Malaysian Humanitarian Aid and Relief (Mahar) berkata, cadangan mewujudkan jaringan NGO kemanusiaan itu dibuat selepas mengambil kira cabaran dan risiko dihadapi untuk menyalurkan bantuan.



حول العالم

آسيا تتحد لدعم فلسطين: مؤتمر دولي في كوالالمبور يناقش سبل المناصرة الإقليمية

2024-11-05

نظم مركز آسيا والشرق الأوسط للبحوث والحوار بالتعاون مع مركز هاشم ساني للدراسات الفلسطينية في جامعة مالايا بكوالالمبور مؤتمرًا دوليًا تحت عنوان "استكشاف وجهات النظر الآسيوية حول فلسطين". استقطب المؤتمر نخبة من الخبراء والأكاديميين والناشطين لبحث استجابة الدول الآسيوية للأزمة المستمرة في غزة، وتسليط الضوء على الدور المتنامي للمنطقة في دعم القضية الفلسطينية.

افتتح المؤتمر الدكتور نور الدين الكواملة، زميل الأبحاث الأول ومدير المؤتمر، بكلمة ترحيبية تبعها كلمة من بوان سري نورما هاشم، مؤسسة مركز هاشم ساني للدراسات الفلسطينية. ثم ألقى المشرف الفخري لمركز آسيا والشرق الأوسط ووزير الخارجية الماليزي الأسبق، تان سري داتوك سيري سيد حامد بن سيد جعفر الكلمة الرئيسية التي أكدت على الإمكانيات الكبيرة لدول آسيا في تعزيز العدالة للفلسطينيين.