

# Conference

Note on the 7th Decolonisation Conference of Multiversity

Venue: University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus

Jalan Broga, Semenyih, 43500 Selangor DE

Malaysia

Dates of the conference: 24th-27th January 2015

The conference is being held in collaboration with Nottingham University Malaysia Campus (NUMC) and USIM. It is proposed for funding by the Ministry of Education, Malaysia which has funded earlier "decolonisation" conferences.

Over the past decade, Multiversity has organised 6 international conferences on its Decolonisation Project. The 4th Conference was held in association with USIM, Penang; the 5th and 6th Conferences were held at AIU, Alor Setar, Kedah.

## Basic focus of the 7th conference:

The conference will focus on generating positive outcomes, in the form of proposing outlines of curricula that would pass the test of being non-Eurocentric and which would become available for sharing through various university departments not just in Malaysia, but other parts of the world. The form of these could be proposed by individual paper-writers selected in advance. Paper writers in fact should be encouraged to present new versions of curricula that could be used to substitute for conventional curricula in conventional disciplines (mathematics, science, history and philosophy of science, sociology, political science, psychology, environmental sciences, etc.) in use today.

Invitations will be primarily sent to those people who have gone beyond the critique of Eurocentrism and who are actually working on original non-Eurocentric curricula for use in their universities. These could be at the level of frameworks and may include a detailed curriculum of studies.

(Multiversity is working towards setting up an internet based site which will be offering these de-colonised courses to students and citizens internationally.)

We are looking at three classes of speakers:

a) Those who are actively involved in preparation of non-Eurocentric academic curricula and teaching. Prof. C.K. Raju is a good example. He has prepared non-Eurocentric course work for the teaching of history and philosophy of science, and math. Similar, Claude Alvares has prepared a non-Eurocentric course for an Indian philosophy graduate degree. I think Mathijs Cornelissen has prepared similar courses on non-Eurocentric psychology. But there may be others we have to identify.

b) The second class of speakers would include those who are involved in substantially different visions of what a university in the 21st century may look like. Prof. Babuuzibwa Luutu is a good example, so is Swaraj University and PRATEC.

c) As an interesting point of departure, for the third category, we would identify a number of people in the 25-30 group who have created interesting careers out of their obsessions with the outdoors: oceans, wildlife, etc. These would be young, inspirational speakers, would appeal to the young people on campus and also provide a good challenge to conventional ideas of university certification and employment.

1. **About conference papers:** Each Multiversity conference eventually ends up with the book carrying the most interesting papers delivered during the conference. However, participants need to remember the following as far as possible:

Talks given at this conference must be inspirational, eloquent and passionate. Power Point presentations are a severe liability in such circumstances and therefore Multiversity conferences generally try to dissuade people from depending on such presentations. Eventually, as the ppt writers never find the time, the ppt never gets expanded into a paper worth publishing.

Additionally, it has become a dreary habit for most paper presenters to simply redo existing PPTs and read them out during their slots. This is unacceptable in Multiversity conferences.

Generally, all papers for Multiversity conferences are delivered to the conference organisers before the conference starts. We have achieved this phenomenal record for all earlier conferences.

2. **Travel/food/accommodation:** Since the travel grants are not yet assured, please try and look for travel grants. Check out rates to Kuala Lumpur. See if you can contribute to your ticket and make things easier for us. Disembarkation is at Kuala Lumpur airport. In the meanwhile, please note that local accommodation and food is being made available by Nottingham University for the period of the conference.

If you are one of those persons who is an independent researcher or activist and is unable to raise resources and requires travel support, you must make this known to the organizers. Your request must be accompanied with a one paragraph abstract of what you propose to say, written in plain English and not academic jargon. It is based on your abstract, that a travel grant, if available, will be considered.

3. Visa to Malaysia is not a problem and is easily given. However you will be sent an official invite, if required.

4. Contact persons: For purposes of the conference the following persons are important:

- a) Prof. Dr. Zulkfli Razak – dzulrazak51@gmail.com
- b) Sean Matthews – drseanmatthews@gmail.com
- c) Christine Ennew – Christine.Ennew@nottingham.edu.my
- d) Claude Alvares – multiversityindia@gmail.com

Multiversity conference secretary is Ms Uma Ramaswamy – idrismdcap@gmail.com

Once the Nottingham University sets up a cell for the conference, all further information about travel and departure, etc., will be available from there.

All abstracts and papers for the conference should be sent to Claude Alvares so that it can be circulated within the group set up for approving them.

All details of the conference will shortly be available on the website of Nottingham University Malaysia and [www.multiworldindia.org](http://www.multiworldindia.org).