



INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Globalisation, Education, and Reform in Brunei Darussalam

Edited by

Phan Le Ha · Asiyah Kumpoh · Keith Wood
Rosmawijah Jawawi · Hardimah Said

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Phan Le Ha
Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute
of Education
Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Honolulu, HI, USA

Keith Wood
Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute
of Education
Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Hardimah Said
Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute
of Education
Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Asiyah Kumpoh
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Rosmawijah Jawawi
Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute
of Education
Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Moving to Brunei from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the second half of 2018 to take up an appointment as Senior Professor in the *Sultan Hassanal Bolkiab Institute of Education* (SHBIE) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), I found myself excited, energised as well as challenged by so many things I know so little about in this country, in its education system and the workplace. As a scholar researching, writing and teaching in international and global education more broadly, I would not allow myself to remain uninformed and indifferent to the very place that just became my new home and my new base.

While I proactively looked for readings, websites and newspapers that could help me gain some knowledge about Brunei, I soon realised that the best teachers would be my own colleagues, students, educational institutions and schools in Brunei. I attended as many seminars on campus as possible to learn about various research projects colleagues here were conducting. I sat in classes delivered by other colleagues to educate myself about different programmes and modules. I also helped other colleagues in giving advice and feedback to their students' projects. I walked to different units on campus to learn about different offices, their functions and the ways in which they normally operate. I am thankful to every colleague and every student who had their arms and hearts open to me in my first days, weeks and months in Brunei, and until today.

I eagerly attended the convocation at UBD on 16 August 2018, less than a month after my arrival. I saw with my own eyes so many young graduates appreciating their education. I was moved by the joy and happy

tears from those graduates' parents and family members. I was again reminded of the fact that the first university in Brunei was only established in 1985, and this means that many of those graduates were among the first generation in their families that went to college. I was curious about the traditional costumes worn by most Bruneians that day. And I was speechless with surprise when His Majesty the Sultan graced the convocation with his presence. It was so impressive to see that the Sultan, the head of state, not only attended the convocation, but that he also gave an inspirational speech and hand delivered the degrees to each and every graduate that morning. This would not happen in most other countries and societies. I found myself filled with gratitude, appreciation, blessings and humility. I could see that education held an extremely special position in Bruneian society and among its communities. And during the convocation the special place of education unfolded naturally, generously and genuinely through smiles, laughter, tears, hugs, photos and quiet moments of reflections. I am grateful for this experience.

As I became a little more knowledgeable about Brunei and its education system and practice, and about my university UBD and my own faculty SHBIE, in October 2018 I initiated a series of workshops and seminars with my colleagues in SHBIE on research writing and project development. Through these seminars, I then learnt more about my colleagues' educational journeys, their research interests and their aspirations as scholars and teacher educators. They were all interested in doing research and writing on different aspects of the education system and teacher education in Brunei. And I found myself conceiving ideas for an edited book on Brunei's education so as to introduce and showcase a wide range of research work from my colleagues in SHBIE. I was thrilled to receive so much enthusiasm from my SHBIE colleagues as I shared with them the book ideas I had in mind. The starting point of this book was as simple and honest as this. As the ideas for the book were consolidated, I invited Prof Keith Wood and Dr. Hardimah Said in SHBIE to join me as co-editors. Prof Wood and Dr. Said specifically provided assistance to the chapters included in Part 2 of the book, which focuses on teacher education, curriculum and classroom practice. I thank Prof Wood and Dr. Said for their collegiality and continuous support throughout the book project.

And to my genuine surprise, the scope of the book kept expanding as I got to know more colleagues in other units within the university, and as I interacted more with students through my teaching of both undergraduate and graduate courses. In particular, the expansion and enrichment of

the scope and contents of the book also resulted from the establishment of the *International and Comparative Education Research Group* (ICE) which I initiated in early 2019 at UBD. Through this research initiative, colleagues and graduate students from across the university and other institutions nationally and internationally have come together to build a mutual intellectual home in international and comparative education in its broadest sense. As I was exposed and introduced to more research areas and expertise from other colleagues and graduate students, I was able to see a larger picture for the book project. The book was no longer confined to teacher education, classroom pedagogy and curriculum development as initially conceptualised. Instead, I saw it spanning across disciplines and featuring interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary dialogues among scholars and researchers in education, languages and linguistics, sociology, anthropology, history, Islamic studies, creative industries and policy studies, as everyone would have something to say about education and its relations with globalisation and policy reforms. I saw these dialogues firmly anchored in the very dynamic and unique conditions of Brunei, which I strongly felt the need to explore, examine, understand and communicate with the world.

And to enable this aspiration to fruition, I invited Dr. Azmi Mohamad, an inspiring scholar of Contemporary Islamic Thought, who was then a lecturer at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), to join the book project as another co-editor. Dr. Azmi Mohamad played a key role in co-developing the project and made significant contributions to the diversification of authors and contents of the ten chapters in Part 1 and Part 3 of the book, which pay particular attention to the multiple roles that *Melayu Islam Beraja* (MIB) or *Malay Islamic Monarchy*—Brunei's national philosophy—play in the Bruneian society and across its education system. As the book was progressing well in every way, Dr. Azmi Mohamad was recruited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and his new appointment and departure from the University in August 2020 meant that he would no longer be able to continue with the book as co-editor, author and co-author. While he had to formally withdraw from the book, he still kindly helped several contributing authors with their respective chapters as much as he could before he officially commenced his new appointment. I am forever indebted to Dr. Azmi Mohamad for his generosity, intellectual depth and sophistication, and his dedication to the whole book project. This book is not possible without his contribution and co-leading role, at least for all the time he was part of it.

When Dr. Azmi Mohamad left, I felt strongly that the book project would need another co-editor who would be able to continue Dr. Azmi Mohamad's role. And Dr. Asiyah Kumpoh in the *Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences* was very kind to accept my invitation to step up, and together with me she took charge of the chapters in Part 1 and Part 3. Dr. Kumpoh demonstrated the highest sense of commitment and worked extremely diligently with me and the authors to ensure all their chapters were completed and delivered in good shape. Dr. Kumpoh never said no, was always very modest and always strived her best to contribute and share the editorial responsibilities. I cannot thank Dr. Asiyah Kumpoh enough for the role she has played in this book project. Alongside Dr. Asiyah Kumpoh was Dr. Rosmawijah Jawawi who joined the editor team a little later. Despite her extremely busy schedules as Dean of *Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education* at UBD, who also works closely with the Ministry of Education, Dr. Jawawi was able to contribute to the book project via her extensive knowledge about, and her established expertise and experience in the education system, teacher education and educational policy reforms in Brunei for the past decades, and via her first-hand capacities in various leadership roles.

I would also like to highlight the steady and strong contributions from the *International and Comparative Education Research Group* (ICE) at UBD for its whole seminar series on 'COVID-19, Society and Education' that later formed the final part of the book with four chapters (Part 4). The contributing authors of these chapters had to work on their writing under a much tighter timeline and with much less available resources because of the novelty of the topic. Nonetheless, they showed an admirable commitment and were able to deliver their chapters with high flying colours.

This book, all in all, has been the result of collective efforts and hard work from all the co-editors and all the contributing authors. I would also like to thank Dr. Nur Raihan Mohamad, lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UBD, and Dr. Najib Noorashid, research assistant in the International and Comparative Education Research Group, for their help with copy editing. Their thoroughness and attention to detail helped tremendously in giving all the chapters a clean and smart look. Going through a huge list of references and checking religious terms for accuracy and consistency throughout the chapters was in and of itself a demanding job. I am greatly appreciative of their work and their willingness to work under a tight timeline and across two languages, English and Malay.

The project has also received continuous support and encouragement from the university, particularly UBD Vice Chancellor Datin Dr. Anita Abdul Aziz, UBD Special Academic Advisor Chair Professor Dr. Tong Chee Kiong, and UBD Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Research) Dr. Abby Tan. Many other colleagues at UBD have expressed much enthusiasm about the book and conveyed their congratulations to the book editors and contributing authors. I feel very honoured and humbled by everyone's good wishes and eagerness about the publication of the book. It does feel special that this collection is truly the first book in English on Brunei's education system and its dynamic relations with globalisation and policy reform.

Seeing the entire manuscript coming together in this solid form has moved me to tears. The two-year journey has come to fruition. Through this journey, I have made many friends, been enriched and nourished by the kindness, humility and care given to me by so many individuals. I am most grateful for the trust that all of us have built among one another as we have progressed with this book. I believe we all hold it dear in our hearts. Thank you to Brunei, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, and colleagues and students for all what you have done for me and my being here for the past over two years!

Bandar Seri Begawan
Brunei Darussalam
3 January 2021

Phan Le Ha

Praise for *Globalization, Education, and Reform in Brunei Darussalam*

“This book is a thoughtful and timely contribution to scholarly literature showcasing the transformative agenda of current day education in Brunei. The relatively new Bruneian higher education system has come a long way since the mid-80s and is undergoing a sustained period of massive reform. In reflecting this, the studies showcased in the book provide examples of Bruneian’s strong commitment to quality education.

The carefully selected chapters of the book encompass a wide scope of multidisciplinary studies, from teacher education and curricular reform—including its internationalisation—to pedagogical practices that promote truly inclusive education and cater for the needs of ethnic minorities in the mainstream formal education, and from the role of state actors and policy makers in education to contemporary themes that explore the complexities inherent in education during the current global pandemic. Of particular note is an entire section dedicated to *Melayu Islam Beraja*, the quintessential philosophy behind Brunei’s education that makes it unique and exemplary at the same time.

All these chapters are sensitively written and consider the historical situatedness of the changing ideologies and policy priorities in contemporary Brunei, and the role of education in nation building in the backdrop of globalisation and the internationalisation of education.

The book has a robust international outlook, thanks to the editors’ inclusive, culturally and ideologically sensitive approach to diversity. Together the carefully selected chapters open new avenues and possibilities for future scholarship and offer opportunities for scholars to bring Brunei into the forefront of international debates on education.”

—Raqib Chowdhury, *Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education,
Monash University, Australia*

“This is a welcomed edition that provides a comprehensive investigation into the Brunei education system in a critical and evidence-rich manner. The editors and authors not only marshal in-depth insights into the intricate workings of education reforms, teacher education and pedagogical approaches in general, but also furnish timely accounts of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Brunei education landscape and the actions that educators have put in place. The issues discussed are not only relevant to Brunei and Southeast Asia, but also speak to

broader issues of education inequalities brought along by globalisation. As such, this edited volume provides an invaluable resource for scholars of international and comparative education studies, teacher education, migration and sociology of education research fields to develop a deep understanding of education in Southeast Asia and beyond.”

—Cora Lingling Xu, *Assistant Professor, Education, Durham University, UK*

“This book provides a fascinating account of the dynamics of globalisation, nation-building, education and reform in Brunei Darussalam. The book responds to the need for a comprehensive account of Brunei’s remarkable success in reforming its education system along the lines of its national philosophy, Malayu Islam Beraja (MIB), first officially proclaimed when the country achieved independence from Great Britain in 1984. The twenty chapters in the book, written by specialists on different aspects of Brunei’s education system, are organised around the four overlapping themes of history and culture, curriculum and pedagogy, teacher training, and education and society.

There has been no previous scholarly publication on the scale of this book about the education system in Brunei Darussalam. As well as throwing light on the system, the book provides a case study of how an education system built on Islamic thought can successfully negotiate contemporary social issues and the need to prepare students for global engagement.”

—Martin Hayden, *Emeritus Professor, Higher Education, Southern Cross University, Australia*

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Nazirul Mubin Ahad Ph.D., is a religious and motivational speaker in Brunei, weekly speaker for ‘*Klinik Minda*’ in Radio Televisyen Brunei. During his six years of more than 400 places of preaching, He saw the opportunity of *da’wah* towards the society through the media by any means of writing or lecture. He holds a PhD in Islamic Studies from Universiti Brunei Darussalam. He was also awarded a Master’s Degree from Jordan University and the top student in Islamic University of Sultan Sharif Ali, and a Bachelor degree from the International Islamic University Malaysia. He is actively involved in presenting in seminars and writing articles, and he is currently an academic staff and the Assistant Director of Publication Centre in Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB), a member of PPPQ MABIMS (The Unofficial Meetings of Religious Ministers in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore), as well as Brunei Youth Leaders for the Commonwealth Meetings.

Meredian Alam Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He was formerly involved in Australian Research Council Discovery Project ‘Fostering pro-environment consciousness and practice: environmentalism, environmentality and environmental education in Indonesia’ from 2014 to 2019. His key interest in the area of international comparative education specifically situates in the current trend of global environmental education that has become a space for contemporary youth cultures and cultural capital modalities. He received a Research Higher Degree Award (Distinction) from the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia.

Yabit Alas Ph.D., was the Head of the Malay Language and Linguistics (2006–2008), Director of the Language Centre (2009–2010), Director of the Continuing Education Centre (2011), Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (2012–2013), Director of the Continuing Education Centre (2013–2016) and Director of the Language Centre since 2016. His expertise is on Comparative Linguistics, specifically on the Austronesian Languages. His area of research is mostly on the Dusunic Languages spoken in the north Borneo. He is actively researching on Malay languages, especially Standard Malay and its relevance to globalisation. He set up and became the first director of the Borneo Studies Network (BSN) (2014–2016), whose interest is to enhance research on Borneo.

Mohammad Hilmy Baihaqy Ph.D., is a lecturer at Faculty of Islamic Development Management, Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA), Brunei Darussalam. Previously he worked at Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) for five years and served as a Deputy Dean at the Faculty of Education, KUPU SB. He specialises in the philosophy of Islam and science education. At the age of 28, he had successfully obtained his PhD from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). In 2019, he was a research visiting fellow at Temple University, Philadelphia, and George Washington University, DC.

Aurelia Escoto-Kemp is a Registered Educational Psychologist at Special Education Unit, Ministry of Education in Brunei Darussalam. She completed her training as an Educational Psychologist at the University of Otago, New Zealand. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Psychology, a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Psychology, a Master of Education (MEd) degree in Educational Psychology and a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Psychology. She is a member of the New Zealand Psychologist Board (NZPB), the New Zealand Psychological Society (NZPS), NZPS' Institute of Educational and Developmental Psychology and the Allied Health Professions Council of Brunei Darussalam. She is currently undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Education at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Chang-Yau Hoon Ph.D., is the Director of Centre for Advance Research (CARE) and Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. He is also an Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia, Chair of Academic Advisory Board of Brunei Research Centre, College of ASEAN Studies, Guanxi

University for Nationalities (China), and fellow at the King Abdullah International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (Austria). Prior to this, he was Assistant Professor of Asian Studies and Sing Lun Fellow at Singapore Management University (SMU), where he was awarded the SMU Teaching Excellence Award in 2012 and SMU Research Excellence Award in 2014. He is an active researcher specialising on the Chinese diaspora, identity politics, multiculturalism, and religious and cultural diversity in contemporary Southeast Asia.

Muhammad Adil Iqbal is a PhD Candidate in Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He is a recipient of UBD Graduate Scholarship and is pursuing PhD in Islamic Civilisation and Contemporary Issues. He has earned Master's Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Quaid-i-Azam University (Islamabad), Political Science from University of the Punjab (Lahore) and Master of Philosophy in International Relations from Preston University (Islamabad). He has previously served at the Senate of Pakistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and British Council. He is an avid reader and occasionally writes for various national dailies of Pakistan. He is one of the associate editors for the *Journal of Islamic Governance*, Institute of Policy Studies, UBD. He is also the President of the UBD International Students Club (UBDISC), UBD, since 2019.

Noradinah Jaidi is Lecturer in Malay Language Education and Literacy at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. She earned her Master's Degree in Education from University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, UK, and a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education from UBD. She has researched and published journals on Malay language pedagogies and values in education.

Rosmawijah Jawawi Ph.D., is a senior assistant professor and the current Dean at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She received a Bachelor of Education from UBD, a Master of Education from the University of Leeds and a Doctor of Philosophy from the Institute of Education, University of London. Her research interests are teacher education, innovative pedagogies, assessment for learning, citizenship education, humanities and social sciences education. Her research collaboration projects include the Twenty-First Century Learning Design with Stanford Research Institute International

(SRI International), Comparative Study on ASEANNESS and Citizenship Education in Ten Countries with Oita University, Japan, and Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) with the World Bank. She was involved with Virtual University for Small States Countries (VUSSC), Commonwealth of Learning for the curriculum design of Master of Educational Leadership in Singapore and Postgraduate Diploma in Education in Samoa. In 2018, she was appointed as the Acting Director for UBD-FPT Global Centre in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Marlizayati Johari Ph.D., is a lecturer at the Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She has been a member of the faculty since 2008. She joined SHBIE in 2008 as a Tutor, where she worked alongside Senior Lecturers teaching physics content modules and method of teaching in science education. Her research interests are in the areas of teaching and learning in science education, representation in science education and teacher education specifically in physics education.

Chester Keasberry Ph.D., is a lecturer in the Design and Creative Industries programme at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). His academic pursuits have included learning design and technology, linguistics, communication and comparative education, and these journeys have brought him far afield, from the UK, to Australia, and even to Honolulu, Hawaii in the United States. His research interests include communication and media studies, the usage of social media in education, and the design of technology and learning.

Asiyah Kumpoh Ph.D., is an assistant professor at Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She received BA in History from UBD and MA in Asian Studies from Australian National University. In 2012, she was awarded her PhD from University of Leicester. She teaches Brunei history, research methodology, and philosophy and theories in historical studies. Her current research and publications focus on conversion narratives, the Brunei Dusuns, and the historical evolution of religion, culture and ethnic identity in Brunei Darussalam and Southeast Asia. She has served as the Vice-President (Brunei Darussalam) and the council member for the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society since 2017.

Siti Norhedayah Abdul Latif Ph.D., is a lecturer at the Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Education, University Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

She obtained her PhD (Education) from Edinburgh University. Her other qualifications are in Master of Education (Psychology), University of Manchester, and BA in Education (UBD). Her areas of specialisation are in educational psychology, developmental psychology and assessment. She currently teaches at UBD and supervises PhD, Master of Education (by coursework and research) and Master of Teaching for Initial Teacher Training Programme. Her research areas are in the fields of teaching and learning, educational and developmental psychology, well-being of adolescents, mental health and assessment. She recently participated in a number of national research grants from the Ministry of Health such as a project for World Health Organization for Adolescents Friendly Health Services and Ministry of Education on Students' Wellbeing project. She is also invited to review manuscript for international journals such as *Journal of Personality and Individual Differences*.

Phan Le Ha Ph.D, is a senior professor at Sultan Hassanah Bolckiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and head of the [International and Comparative Education Research Group](#) (ICE) at UBD. Prior to this, she was tenured full professor in the Department of Educational Foundations, College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), where she maintains her affiliation, and senior lecturer at the Faculty of Education, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. She has taught and written extensively on English language education, identity-language-culture-pedagogy, global/international/transnational higher education, international development, and education, educational mobilities, and sociology of knowledge. Her research work has covered many contexts in Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Asia-Pacific and the Gulf regions.

Shaikh Abdul Mabud Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Islamic Spirituality, Ethics and Education at the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He is also the honorary Director General of the Islamic Academy in Cambridge, UK, where he has been based since 1983. Previously he taught at the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh, and the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, United States. His main academic interests are in the area of education, religion and Islamic philosophy. He is the editor of Cambridge-based educational journal, *Muslim Education Quarterly*, which deals with the problems of Muslim education in various countries of the world.

Abu Bakar Madin (Abu Bakar Hj Madin), Ph.D., is Lecturer in Humanities and Social Sciences Education at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He obtained his PhD from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), a Master's Degree in Curriculum Studies from The University of Hull, UK, and a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education from UBD. He has researched and published book chapters and journals on Pedagogy of Teaching Malay Islamic Monarchy Education, Malay Language, Values Education and History Education.

Rozaiman Makmun (Hj Rozaiman Makmun), Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Malay Language and Literature at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He holds a PhD in Malay Literature Education from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), a Master's Degree in Malay Language Education from Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, and a First Class Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education from UBD. He has researched and published books and journals on Malay Islamic Monarchy, Malay Language, Values Education and Malay Literature Education.

Muzhafar Marsidi (Ahmad Muzhafar Haji Marsidi), Ph.D., is a graduate researcher in the field of youth governance and Islamic ethics from the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Islamic Theology from the University of Jordan. Additionally, as a member of an Ash-Shaliheen Mosque youth committee, Brunei Darussalam, he actively participates in youth development programmes for the whole nation.

Rohani Matzin Ph.D., is a senior assistant professor at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She obtained her PhD (Psychology) from Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia. Her other qualifications are in BA Primary Education (UBD) and Master of Education (Educational Psychology), University of Sheffield, England. Her areas of specialisation are in Educational Psychology, Curriculum Design and Development, History Education, Sociology Education and Secondary Social Studies Education. She currently teaches at UBD and supervises a number of PhD, Master by Education by Coursework and by Research, and Master of Teaching students. She participated in research project activities involving research grants from the Ministry of Education and UBD. She has published in

Scopus-indexed journals and peer-reviewed journals. She also reviewed entries in local journals such *Brunei Darussalam Journal of Special Education* and *Journal of Applied Research in Education*, and in international journals such as *Journal of Education and Training* and *Journal of Global Research in Education and Social Science*.

Norhazlin Muhammad Ph.D., is an assistant professor at Sultan Hassanali Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She obtained her B Ed. Islamic Studies honours degree from UBD. In 2000, she joined UBD as an academic staff. She then pursued her study and obtained her M Ed in Islamic Education from International Islamic University Malaysia and PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Birmingham, UK, in 2009. She was affiliated to the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies, UBD, from 2012 to 2020 and held administrative posts as Deputy Director and Director of the centre. She was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, University of Oxford, UK; and Visiting Researcher at the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington DC, United States.

Juraidah Musa Ph.D., is a lecturer at Sultan Hassanali Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), since 2007. She obtained her degree in education from SHBIE, UBD, and Master of education Technology at University of Leeds, UK. She completed her PhD at Kings College London with a title of ‘Enhancing Digital Literacy Skills While Playing Casual Games: Young People in Brunei as a Case Study’. She teaches technology in education modules such as Teacher, Pedagogy and Content Knowledge (TPACK), Digital Innovation and Learning. Her interests lie in the area of digital technologies in education.

Najib Noorashid Ph.D., graduated with Bachelor’s Degree (Hons.) in Secondary Education (2011) and Masters in Sociolinguistics (2012) from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and University of Essex, UK, respectively, and completed his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics (UBD) in 2019. He previously worked as news journalist for Local News (2007) and news editor/director (2014–2015) for both Malay and English (World News) national broadcasting at Radio Televisyen Brunei. His research interests include multidisciplinary research of sociolinguistics, media studies, literary studies and education, and have since published in Palgrave Macmillan, Springer, Elsevier and *IJAL*, and will be published in Cambridge University Press, among others. He had worked as Adjunct Professor of English

Language at Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College and has been working as a research assistant for several research projects in UBD and is currently an external reviewer and editor for manuscripts at Brunei's Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

Mohamad Iskandar Petra Ph.D., obtained his BEng Honours degree and Master in Control Engineering from the University of Glasgow. In 2000, he joined Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) as an academic staff. He then pursued his study and obtained his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Aston University, Birmingham, UK. Since then, he has been actively researching on multi-disciplinary areas including smart sensors to Internet of Things (IOT) and advanced materials to energy. To date he has published over 50 technical papers, and most are Scopus-indexed. He has six patents granted and one is filed.

Sri Kartika A. Rahman is Lecturer in Malay Language and *Jawi* Education at the Sultan Hassanali Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She earned her Master's Degree in Language Learning and Education from University of York, UK, and Bachelor's Degree in Primary education from UBD. She has researched and published books and journals on Malay language pedagogies, *Jawi* education and Values in education.

Mohammad Moninoor Roshid Ph.D., is Associate Professor of English Language Education and the Head of the Department of Language Education in the Institute of Education and Research (IER), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He completed his PhD at Monash University, Australia. He has several publications on English as a business lingua franca, materials development, discourse analysis, and graduates' employment published by Sage, Sense, Springer, Routledge, Multilingual Matters and Cambridge Scholars. His recent co-edited volumes are: *Engaging in educational research: Revisiting policy and practice in Bangladesh* (2018) by Springer, Singapore, and *The Routledge Handbook of English Language Education in Bangladesh* (2021).

Noraisikin Sabani Ph.D., is a lecturer and research coordinator for the Faculty of Humanities in Curtin Malaysia. Her research interest revolves around interdisciplinary areas of educational technology, Islamic pedagogy and comparative education, particularly concerning youths and their varying socio-cultural backgrounds. In her free time, she loves spending time with her nephews and nieces, and enjoys reading tremendously.

Hardimah Said Ph.D., is Lecturer in Physics and Science Education at Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) over the last 14 years. She graduated from UBD with a degree in Bachelor of Science Education, major in Physics and minor in Mathematics. She was awarded her Master's Degree of Art in Science Education at the University of Leeds, UK. Her thesis on students' and teachers' understanding of physics concepts particularly focusing on the topic Newton's third law has been published as a chapter in the book *Successful Science Education Practices* edited by her PhD supervisor at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Her current interest is in the exploration of science and physics teachers' development in the dynamics of their personal and professional identity formation processes.

Sallimah Mohd. Salleh Ph.D., is a senior assistant professor at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She has 30 years of experience in teacher education. She pursued her graduate study and obtained her PhD in Education from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia, in 2005. She wrote her PhD dissertation on Factors influencing Bruneian Secondary Teachers' Use of ICT in education. Currently, her research interests are on teachers' professional development for twenty-first-century teaching and learning, innovative teaching and learning, and teachers' pedagogical beliefs.

Masitah Shahrill Ph.D., is a senior assistant professor and teacher educator at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She was appointed as a lecturer in UBD in August 2001 and pursued her graduate studies in Mathematics Education at the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia. Her previous administrative appointments included the Programme Leader in Initial Teacher Preparation at SHBIE and the Director of Studies for the Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UBD. Her research interests lie in teacher education, mathematics education, higher education, teaching and learning, assessment and classroom research.

Salbrina Sharbawi Ph.D., is Senior Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). In addition to investigating the pronunciation of the English variety spoken in Brunei, her research also includes investigations on the evolving status of English in the country and the effects the development has on Brunei's language landscape and socio-cultural practices.

Suraya Tarasat Ph.D., is Senior Assistant Professor of Malay Language and Literacy Education at Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). She received her D.Phil in Education from University of Southern Queensland, Australia. She holds a B.Ed (Hons.) from UBD and an MA from Malaysia National University. Her research interest includes classroom interaction and talk, assessment, teacher education, curriculum design, development and pedagogy, history education, values in education as well as students' learning strategies.

Keith Wood Ph.D., is Professor of Education at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal for Lesson and Learning Studies* and an Executive Committee Member of the World Association of Lesson Studies. His recent publication: Wood, K. and Sithamparam, S. (2020) *Changing Teaching, Changing Teachers: Twenty-First Century Teaching and Learning Through Lesson and Learning Study*, London and New York: Routledge.

Varissa Yabit received her BHSc in Biomedical Sciences from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) (2018) and MSc in Clinical Pharmacology from University of Aberdeen (2019). During her time in UBD, she conducted an anti-bacterial and pharmacological research on a traditional plant (*Melastoma malabathricum*) that was commonly found in Brunei. She also had the opportunity to do her internship in the Department of Pharmacology at Kagawa University (2016) and the Department of Parasitology at Universiti Putra Malaysia (2017). Whilst her research interests are in the medicinal and herbal actions of various traditional plants in Brunei Darussalam, she has also developed an interest in the study on comparative education focusing on internationalisation, social mobility and higher education in Brunei Darussalam and beyond. She researched on the effects of COVID-19 on education during her term as a research assistant at the International and Comparative Education (ICE), UBD.

Norazmie Yusof joined the Language Centre, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in 2014. He currently teaches Brunei Ethnic Language (Dusun Language), Malay for Beginners and Basic Practical Malay. Apart from teaching, he was selected as the Co-Investigator for Community Engagement in Education (CEiE) Project 1 for Early Childhood Education

in Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Education, UBD (completed in 2017). He was an assistant researcher in UBD for numerous projects in 2013 and 2014. Since 2014, he has been active in writing, presenting and publishing research papers locally and internationally. His research interest is in pedagogy, Brunei ethnic languages and drama in education. He graduated with BA in Education (2010) from UBD and MA in Education (2012) from University of Warwick, UK. He recently completed his PhD in Linguistics at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (2020).

ABBREVIATIONS

21CTL	21st Century Teaching and Learning
ACCIE	ASEAN Co-operative Conference on Inclusive Education
AMIC	Active Mathematics in the Classroom project
APB	Academy of Brunei Studies
APTJSO	ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey
ASEBA	Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BDQF	Brunei Darussalam Qualification Framework
BMTC	Brunei Malay Teachers College
BRC	Brunei Research Council
BTTTC	Brunei Teachers Training Center
CARe	UBD's Centre for Advanced Research
CDD	Curriculum Development Department
CEFR	The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
CK	Content Knowledge
CoE	Centre of Excellence
CoRT	Cognitive Research Trust
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPD	Continuous Development Programme
CSPS	Centre of Strategic and Policy Studies
CUP	Conceptual Understanding Procedure
DBPB	Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Brunei or Brunei's National Language and Literature Bureau
DICE	Drama Improves Key Competences in Education
digidemic	digital pandemic
DPL	Designated Priority Levels
DY	Discovery Year

ECE	Early Childhood Education
EFA	Education for All
ESSA	Educational Stress Scale of Adolescents
GenNEXT	Generation Next (University Curriculum)
GHID	Global Halal Industry Development Division
GITC	Global IT Challenge Competitions
HBL	Home-Based Learning
HE	Higher Education
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HLP	Home-Learning Packs
IaH	Internationalisation at Home
IAU	International Association of Universities
IBTE	Institute of Brunei Technical Education
ICE	International and Comparative Education Research Group
ICT	Info-Communication Technology
IEP	Individual Education Programme
IHE	internationalisation of higher education
IRK	Islamic Religious Knowledge
ISE	Inclusive Special Education
ISPM	Inter-agency Student Progress Meeting
ITB	Institut Teknologi Brunei or Institute of Technology Brunei
ITP	Initial Teacher Preparation
IVF	In vitro fertilisation
JAPEM	Jabatan Pembangunan Masyarakat or Department of Community Development
KAFA	Counselling and Religious Understanding Unit
<i>KUPU SB</i>	<i>Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan</i>
LAD	Language Acquisition Device
LATs	Learning Assistant Teachers
LC	Language Centre
LEAPS	Learning Programme Styles
LS	Lesson Study
MIB	<i>Melayu Islam Beraja</i> or Malay Islamic Monarchy
MMI	Multiple-Mini-Interviews
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoRA	The Ministry of Religious Affairs
NGO	non-governmental organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAI	<i>Pelajaran Al-Quran dan Pengetahuan Agama Islam</i> or Learning Al-Quran and Islamic Revealed Knowledge
PCK	Pedagogical Content Knowledge
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment

PK	Pedagogical Knowledge
PMB	<i>Peperiksaan Menengah Bawah</i> or Lower Secondary Examination
PRB	<i>Partai Rakyat Brunei</i> or Brunei People's Party
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency
RE	Religious Education
RELA	Reading and Language Acquisition project
RTB	Radio Televisyen Brunei or Radio Television Brunei
S2S	Steps to Success
SAS	Studying At School
SBA	School-Based Assessment
SBT	School-Based Team
SBTC	The Seri Begawan Teachers College
SENA	Special Education Needs Assistant Teachers
SEU	Special Education Unit
SHBIE	Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education
SMJA	Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam
SMS	Short Message Service
SOASCIS	Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPA	Student Progress Assessment
SPCO	Syariah Penal Code Order
SPE	Student Progress Examination
SPN21	<i>Sistem Pendidikan Negara Abad ke-21</i> or National Education System for the 21st Century
TC	teacher candidate
TCK	Technological Content Knowledge
TK	Technological Knowledge
TPACK	Technology, Pedagogy and Content Knowledge
TPK	Technological Pedagogical Knowledge
TTE	Teacher Training Education
UBD	Universiti Brunei Darussalam
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNISSA	Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali
UTB	Universiti Teknologi Brunei or University of Technology Brunei
Vtech	Primary Education, Secondary Education, and Vocational and Technology Education
WALS	World Association of Lesson Studies
WSID	Whole School ICT Development
YSR	Youth Self Report