

Islamic Solidarity in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC): A Case Study on Malaysia

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Place of fieldwork: Malaysia

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- Research background

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an international organization composed of the countries in which Muslims live. The Organization was established on a decision at a summit that took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on September 25, 1969. The OIC is composed of not only the countries of the Middle East, but also those of Southeast Asia such as Indonesia and Malaysia. Thus, in order to research the OIC, there is a need to study pertinent Southeast Asian countries. Malaysia is a founding member of the OIC, and Malaysia's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, was its first secretary-general since 1970. Thus, it is obvious that Malaysia is playing an important role in OIC politics.



↑A photo of Masjid Putra in Putrajaya, a planned city for the ministries. "Putra" is a namesake of Malaysia's first prime minister, Abdul Rahman.



↑A station in Malaysia. These are Malay Muslims wearing hijabs.

- Research purpose and aim

The purpose of my research is to place the OIC in the tide of Islamic Revival, and to define the meaning of the OIC as constructing the Umma, the Islamic Community. Focusing on Malaysia as an Islamic Country and the role of Malaysia in OIC politics, I try to grasp the meaning of the OIC in the Modern Islamic World.

Results and achievements of my field work

During my stay in Malaysia, I participated in the "6th International Symposium on Islam, Civilization and Science", held at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and I gathered information about the OIC from the researchers in Malaysia. I also visited bookstores in Kuala Lumpur, and I collected books about the OIC and Malaysia's first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman. I obtained information in Malaysia that I was not able to get in Japan.



↑The Symposium was held at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). I networked with many researchers in Malaysia.



↑A famous dish in Malaysia is Nasi Lemak. Usually, Malaysian people eat it with their right hand.

- Implications and impacts on future research

My specialty is Islamic Political Thought in the modern Middle East, and I plan to research Political Thought in the OIC. As I said, the countries in the Middle East and Southeast Asia together compose the OIC. This fieldwork in Malaysia gave me not only new insight on the OIC, but also valuable experience regarding the unique Islamic cultural climate in Southeast Asia for the first time. Based on this fieldwork, I will deepen my insights on the OIC.