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Editorial

In this volume of KATHA there are several interesting issues that invite us to think and reflect about the differences and similarities related to humanity. Those four interesting issues are 1) The Wisdom and Concept of Man: Confucianism and Islam, 2) Women as a Great Peacemaker, 3) Ethnic Relations Syllabus at The University of Malaya, 4) The Relevance of the Earth Charter in Promoting Dialogue across Values and Cultures. In the first article, written by Osman Abdullah, "The Wisdom and Concept of Man: A Comparative Analysis of the Concept of Man Confucianism and Islam from the classical text of four books and words of holy book of Quran and Hadith", it addresses how the Confucian and Islamic ways of a man develops his personality. Osman developed a very detailed explanation of Confucianism and Islam with the guidance by four classical books and al-Quran and Hadith. According to him, Confucianism determines how a person should properly act within a community but Islam believes God created everything including men. Every man is the *Khalifatullah* on this earth and responsible for all his deeds. Osman believes both Islam and Confucianism do teach human being to develop the good personality, the harmonious society, and the peaceful nation and the universe.

The second article, "Women as A Great Peacemaker", Maya Khemlani believes that women are being generally more collaborative than men and more inclined towards consensus and compromise. This paper discusses the discourse styles of women in relation to their conflict avoidance and conflict resolution postures. The discourse norms or speech styles of women are discussed to demonstrate how through their talk, conflict situations are avoided.

In addition to her linguistic research, the discourse strategies encompassing a distinct group of features – lexical, syntactic and pragmatic that women use help in keeping conflicts at bay and also help in the resolution of existing conflicts.

The third article, “Ethnic Relations Syllabus at the University of Malaya” by Rosila, emphasizes on the various justifications within the issues of ethnic relations in Malaysia. The syllabus is an additional effort put forward in supporting the ongoing efforts by governments and various parties to uphold the national unity. Among the topics that will be concentrated on will essentially be on the introduction of the various ethnic groups in Malaysia, the background (theoretical) of various ethnic groups including the economics factors, social-cultural factors and political factors. Once the caption is clear, they will be introduced to the various terms and situations that came mutually in the process of ethnic relations, such as the idea of assimilation, acculturation, polarization, segregation, prejudice etc.

The fourth article written by Lee Kok Kheng entitles “The Relevance of the Earth Charter on Promoting Dialogue across Values and Cultures” highlights the role of NGOs in disseminating the values and vision of the Earth Charter to people around the world. According to Lee, to date, the Earth Charter has been formally endorsed by 2,446 organizations, and local governments and NGOs had conducted numerous dialogues sessions, seminars and conferences with the aim to promote Earth Charter via dialogue. He concludes his article by emphasizing the important role of youth in ensuring sustainable and greater success of the Earth Charter.