

THE MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Malaysian Journal of International Relations (MJIR) is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal published annually by the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya. The MJIR welcomes original contributions related to international relations, foreign policy, diplomacy, political science, international political economy, strategic and security studies, and related fields, to be considered for publication. In particular, the journal welcomes manuscripts with a focus on international relations in the Asia-Pacific.

Objectives

The world of international politics in the 21st century is a dynamic one, with challenges as well as opportunities. Contemporary news highlights the threat of nuclear proliferation, of terrorism in various parts of the world, climate change, and of the continuing side effects of the financial meltdown. Equally, there are opportunities to advance such causes as nuclear disarmament and crisis resolution. Hence, there is a need for scholars to address the challenges and arising issues in contemporary world affairs. Along these lines, the objectives of the MJIR are to promote scholarly research on international relations and strategic studies, to provide a channel for the publication of articles based on research, original thoughts, and commentaries on these topics, and to stimulate further debates and interests in the study of international relations.

Malaysian Journal of International Relations (MJIR), Vol. 14 Issue 1, June 2026

Published by the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya.

ISSN: 2289-5043

eISSN: 2600-8181

© Department of International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya.

COPYRIGHT. All rights reserved. No part of this journal may be reproduced, copied or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, and recording or otherwise without proper written permission from the publisher. Any opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect that of the Department of International and Strategic Studies, Universiti Malaya.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Khoo Ying Hooi

Deputy Editor

Najimdeen Bakare

Sheila Devi Michael

Scott Edwards

Board Members

Roy Anthony Rogers

Helena Muhamad Varkkey

Lam Choong Wah

International Advisory Board

Jörn Dosch

University of Rostock, Germany

Richard Jackson

University of Otago, New Zealand

R. Gerald Hughes

Aberystwyth University, United Kingdom

Mustafa Izzuddin

*National University of Singapore,
Singapore*

Tim Huxley

*International Institute for Strategic
Studies (IISS) – Asia, Singapore*

Abdul Rashid Moten

*International Islamic University
Malaysia, Malaysia (IIUM)*

James E. Hoare

*School of Oriental and African Studies
(SOAS), University of London*

Euston Quah

*Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
Singapore*

G. John Ikenberry

Princeton University, United States

Susan Park

University of Sydney, Australia

Editorial Assistant

Colin Mianqing Xie

CONTENTS

Articles	Page
Institutional Actors and Legislative Decision-Making in the Securitisation of Cyber Threats in Malaysia <i>Hanis Shaheera Ahmad Hisham, Sheila Devi Michael, Azah Anir Norman</i>	1-19
China’s Policies and Strategic Relations in South Asia: From Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping <i>Mohammad Shakil Bhuiyan, A.G.M. Niaz Uddin, Rahmat Ullah</i>	20-39
Rethinking Victimhood in the Context of Human Trafficking and Terrorism <i>Haezreena Begum binti Abdul Hamid</i>	40-54
Enforcement Gaps and Sanctions Resilience: North Korea’s Adaptation under U.S.-led Pressure <i>Tan Soo Kee, Wan Nur Qamarina Binti Wan Mahad, Geetha Govindasamy</i>	55-73
What Fueled Bangladesh’s Civil War and Break-up of Pakistan: Explanations from the Dichotomy of Greed-grievance Theory <i>Tareq Hossain Khan</i>	74-95
Algorithmic Economic Diplomacy as a Paradigm Shift: Theory-building for the AI Age <i>Gorazd Justinek</i>	96-113
Commentary	
Youth Quakes or Democratic Tremors? A Critical Commentary on Nepal’s Gen Z Protests <i>Bijetri Pathak</i>	114-117
Locating “Northeast” in India’s “Act East Policy” <i>Anmol Mukhia</i>	118-121
Book Review	
Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, 2023. Migration and International Relations. Springer Nature, 105pp. <i>Jeconiah Dreisbach</i>	122-124

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Hanis Shaheera binti Ahmad Hisham is a PhD Candidate in the Department of International and Strategic Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya. Her PhD research focused on cybersecurity strategy in securitising Malaysia's National Critical Information Infrastructure (NCII). Email: hanis2924@yahoo.com

Haezreena Begum Abdul Hamid is a criminologist and Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya. With over two decades of legal and academic experience, her work focuses on terrorism, human trafficking, victimisation, and criminal justice reform. She integrates doctrinal and criminological perspectives to examine forced criminality, rehabilitation, and victim protection, and is actively engaged in policy dialogue, research, and international collaborations. Email: haezreena@um.edu.my

Azah Anir Norman is an associate professor in the Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya (UM), Malaysia. Her area of research interest is in Information Systems, focusing on Information Systems Security. She is also a member of the Association of Information Systems (AIS) and won a prestigious award from the Royal Academy of Engineering of UK (RAENG). Email: azahnorman@um.edu.my

Bijetri Pathak is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Distance and Online Education, Sikkim Manipal University. She has recently submitted her doctoral thesis examining police attitudes toward trafficking survivors in West Bengal. Her research focuses on South Asian politics, gender and law, trafficking studies, and democratic movements. She is actively engaged in publishing scholarly work in human rights and international relations, contributing to debates on vulnerability, justice, and policy reform. Email: bijetri2014@gmail.com

Mohammad Shakil Bhuiyan is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Studies, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet-3114, Bangladesh. He has published several research articles in national and internationally reputed journals on local governance, international relations, and geopolitics. His recent article on China-Bangladesh relations was published in the Chinese Journal of International Review. E-mail: shakil027-pss@sust.edu

Jeconiah Dreisbach is an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of the BA Communication programme of San Pablo Colleges in Laguna, The Philippines. He is a PhD candidate in migration studies at Maastricht University, The Netherlands. Email: jl.dreisbach@sanpablocolleges.edu.ph

Geetha Govindasamy is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of East Asian Studies, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia.

Tareq Hossain Khan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He holds an MA in International Relations from the University of Bremen, Germany, where he graduated with high distinction. His research focuses on ethnic conflict, peacebuilding, and small state agency. His work has been published in several academic outlets, and he has prior professional experience as a senior journalist in national newspapers. Email: tareqmontaj@gmail.com

Wan Nur Qamarina Binti Wan Mahadi is a Master student in the Department of East Asian Studies, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia.

Sheila Devi Michael is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of International and Strategic Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya. Her primary research interests encompass migration, irregular migration, non-traditional security issues, human rights, and human governance. Email: sheilamike@um.edu.my

Anmol Mukhia is an Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi. Email: anmol.mukhia@gmail.com

A. G. M. Niaz Uddin is currently serving as an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Chittagong, Chittagong-4331, Bangladesh. His areas of interest include Governance, environmental politics, Sino-South Asian relations, refugee crisis and geopolitics. His recent publication titled Hydropower Dams, environment, and Politics, published in the Journal of International Affairs. E-mail: agmniazuddin@yahoo.com

Rahmat Ullah is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Istanbul Gelisim University, Istanbul, Türkiye. His specialisations are foreign policy, Middle East politics, and refugee crises. The International Journal of Social, Political, and Economic Research published his latest article on the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on China—Bangladesh economic relations. Email: rullah@gelisim.edu.tr

Tan Soo Kee is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of East Asian Studies, Universiti Malaya. Email: chensk@um.edu.my

Gorazd Justinek is the Dean of DOBA University of Applied Sciences (Maribor, Slovenia) and Professor of International Relations. A former diplomat, he is also a researcher at the Faculty of Government and European Studies, New University (Slovenia). His research interests include international business, economic and commercial diplomacy, and economic competitiveness. He is the Founder and Editor of the International Journal of Diplomacy and Economy. Email: gorazd.justinek@gmail.com