

Assoc Prof. Dr. Siti Alida John Abdullah, who is carrying out the duty of Assistant Vice Chancellor of COLGIS UUM represented the UUM Vice-chancellor. Other invited guests who graced the occasion were the Honorable Datin Marziah Hashim, wife of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, the Honourable Dato Wira Mohd Johari Baharum, the Honorable Dato Khalida Adibah Ayob, the Head of UMNO Women's Movement of Kubang Pasu and several senior officers of the University and representatives from each department in UUM.

Right after the opening ceremony, three papers were presented from invited speakers: 1) Prof. Dr. Ruswati Suryasaputra (UUM) presented her paper entitled *Towards the Development and Management of Women Centre*, 2) Prof. Datin Dr. Rashidah Shuib, Director of Research and Development Centre for Women (KANITA) Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) discussed her paper on *Women in the ASEAN and Historical Development of Women Studies in Malaysia*, and 3) Prof. Dr. Rashila Ramli, Director of the Institute of Occidental Studies (IKON), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) shared her experience on *Structure of the Institute - "Best proposed structure"*. All of the speakers agreed on the need to establish another institute for women, an instate for ASEAN, which should be aligned with the vision of the country.

The participants in the seminar comprised of the academic and support staffs from UUM, representatives from Kedah State Development Corporation, Yayasan Sultanah Bahiyah, Women Development Office of the State of Kelantan, and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).

In summary, all the speakers believed in the vision that the ASEAN Women Studies Institute (AWSI) as proposed by SIGAWS will become an important institute, (UUM, Malaysia and Asia), that will not only generate income for ASEAN women studies but also will be instrumental in the development and empowerment of women in the ASEAN region.

Best Regard,

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