

KOREA PROMISES EXTRAORDINARY INCENTIVE TRAVEL

MOTIVATING EXPERIENCE THAT COMES FROM INCENTIVE TRAVEL.
EXPERIENCING THE LATEST TRENDS AND ANCIENT CULTURES
UNWINDING AND RELAXING ON THE LAP OF LUXURY



KOREA, BEYOND MEETINGS
WWW.KOREA-CONVENTION.ORG

Imagine
your
Korea

Only @



nstore.net
Online Shop By Nation

TIME

60% Off Subscription

GET ALL ACCESS
iPad Edition & Time.com



Free! **TIME**
Super Backpack



Subscribe Now!

[\(https://nstore.net/store/#!/details/\)](https://nstore.net/store/#!/details/)



- [\(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/isnap/en/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/isnap/en/)
- [HOME \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/index.php\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/index.php)
- [NATIONAL \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/)
- [POLITICS \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/politics/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/politics/)
- [BUSINESS \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/)
- [MY MONEY \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/my-money/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/my-money/)
- [OPINION \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/)
- [LIFE \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/life/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/life/)
- [TECHNOLOGY \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/technology/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/technology/)
- [TRAVEL \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/travel/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/travel/)
- [SPORTS \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/sports/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/sports/)
- [SUNDAY \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/sunday/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/sunday/)
- [AEC \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/aec/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/aec/)
- [NATION BROADCAST \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/nationbroadcast/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/nationbroadcast/)
- [PHOTO \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/specials/nationphoto/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/specials/nationphoto/)
- [ANN \(http://www.asianewsnet.net\)](http://www.asianewsnet.net)
- [MYANMAR \(http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/\)](http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/)
- [TOP40 \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/top40/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/top40/)
- [JOBS \(http://www.nationejobs.com/index_eng.php\)](http://www.nationejobs.com/index_eng.php)
- [CAT & NAT \(http://www.catandnat.com/\)](http://www.catandnat.com/)
- [PHUKET \(http://www.phuketgazette.net/\)](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)
- [PROPERTY \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/property\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/property)
- [NSTORE \(https://nstore.net\)](https://nstore.net)
- [GAMES \(http://game.nationgroup.com/\)](http://game.nationgroup.com/)
- [MORE ▾ \(#\)](#)

GO



October 6, 2014, 10:57 am

- [CAREER \(http://www.nationejobs.com/search/search.php?keywords=nation%20multimedia\)](http://www.nationejobs.com/search/search.php?keywords=nation%20multimedia)
- [| \(#\)](#)
- [PRINT SUBSCRIPTION \(http://subscription.nationgroup.com\)](http://subscription.nationgroup.com)
- [| \(#\)](#)
- [Hotel Directory \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/hotels/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/hotels/)
- [| \(#\)](#)
- [Log In \(https://signin.nationmultimedia.com/service/login.php\)](https://signin.nationmultimedia.com/service/login.php)
- [| \(#\)](#)



BOOK EARLY, SAVE MONEY

Rates at S\$333/night* on select dates
Book your January, February holiday early with us and save!

DETAILS

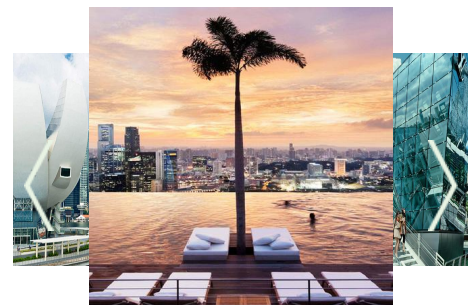
Close

SKYPARK

MUSEUM

SHOPPES

BOOK ONLINE



Find out more at
marinabaysands.com


[opinion \(#\)](#)

 (javascript:void(0);)

 (javascript:void(0);)

[Home \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/) » [opinion \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/) » Can Islam and Buddhism coexist peacefully in SE Asia? what others say

Can Islam and Buddhism coexist peacefully in SE Asia?

AdChoices  [The Islam](#) [Islam Today](#) [Buddhism](#) [Islam Love](#)
 Imtiyaz Yusuf July 13, 2014 1:00 am

Postcolonial states from Turkey to China are witnessing a contest for power between political liberals and religious nationalists.

In India new Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a religious ceremony before taking office; in Indonesia Islamist parties supported presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto, a general with tainted human rights record; in Ukraine Jews are fleeing resurgent anti-Semitism; in Britain Prime Minister David Cameron has asserted that the UK is a Christian country; in Brunei Sharia law is being imposed; Nigeria is witnessing the rise of Islamist Boko Haram; and Syria and Iraq are home to the newly established ISIL Caliphate. All are evidence that religion is increasingly being employed in the public sphere.

In many countries, the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion is being challenged by religious nationalists promoting religious "majoritarianism". Such challenges are coming from the Buddhist majority in Myanmar and Sri Lanka, while in Malaysia Muslims are demanding the exclusive right to use the word "Allah". The resurgence of religion is global and it's not limited merely to Islam. Politicians are using religions for political objectives, rather than merely balancing politics with religious ethics - the fundamental rule of political philosophies.

The current critical state of Muslim-Buddhist relations calls for the development of civil relations between the two religious communities. Positive communication would help Buddhists and Muslims discover their rich shared resources and embark on a dialogical journey to build peace and overcome religious nationalism and fundamentalism. Aside from Hindu India, most of Asia is Buddhist. Thailand has the largest Buddhist population in the world. Southeast Asian Muslims should recognise that while they may call the region "Serambi Mekkah" - the veranda of Mecca, for Buddhists it is the "Mecca", or centre, itself. Myanmar, Sri Lanka, China and Japan are the "al-Azhar" and "Medina" - the intellectual centres - of Buddhism. Hence the importance of Muslim-Buddhist understanding and dialogue for the future of Islam in Asia.

The liberal Catholic theologian Hans Kung once remarked, "There will be no peace among the nations without peace among religions." The ongoing Buddhist-Muslim conflicts in Asia have to be approached with a method of historical critique at the religious and socio-political levels and addressed with pedagogical strategies and strong political will on both sides - otherwise their will be no end to obstructions for constructive Buddhist-Muslim relations.

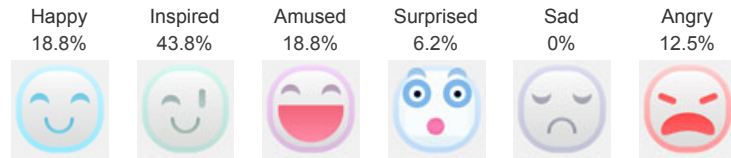
In my view, the majority-minority model of citizenship - a colonial construct - has run its course. There is a need to address the issue of conflicts from the perspective of multicultural citizenship, not multiculturalism only, for globalisation has brought with it the challenge of acceptance of diversities. Building a positive future requires transcending the past through the development of relations between Buddhism and Islam as civilisations, not as provincialisms. Whether in Myanmar with the Rohingya, in Sri Lanka, Thailand, or wherever, this will help transcend local, regional and international tensions between the two largest religious communities in the [Asean \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/?keyword=+Asean+\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/?keyword=+Asean+) region. To realise this, Southeast Asia's Muslims need to take this initiative on their own. They cannot wait for the lead from their Middle Eastern co-religionists, for they live alongside Buddhists in Asia and not the Muslims of the Middle East. [Asean \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/?keyword=+Asean+\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/?keyword=+Asean+) Muslims and Buddhists also need to transcend attitudes that equate ethnicity with religion, for the former is local while the latter is universal and diverse.

The history of Muslim-Buddhist interaction is old as Islam and has its positive and negatives aspects. In the case of their 900 years of coexistence in Southeast Asia, though their early relations were syncretic, identities later became "ethnified". As far as I know, today there is no Southeast Asian Muslim scholar of Buddhism and no Buddhist counterpart who is versed in their respective communities' religious-cultural and lingual exchange, leave alone enjoying an understanding of shared words such as agama/sasana - religion; puasa - fast; hari raya - day of celebration, and even shared personal names, etc. In the face of rising religious nationalism and fundamentalism in both the faiths, there is need to build Muslim-Buddhist understanding through pedagogical and socio-cultural projects that are more than mere tourist symbols.

Otherwise, [Asean \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/?keyword=+Asean+\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/?keyword=+Asean+) Muslims from Yangon to Tokyo will soon be faced with the rise of Asian Islamophobia (in fact, it could be here already). Real efforts to build interfaith understanding will also help in the construction of the [Asean \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/?keyword=+Asean+\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/?keyword=+Asean+) Socio-Cultural Community, which is an integral part of the region's coming Economic Community. The building blocks are all around us, in the messages of compassion, mercy and love at the heart of all religions.

Asst Professor Imtiyaz Yusuf is a lecturer and director of the Centre for Buddhist-Muslim Understanding, College of Religious Studies, Mahidol University.

How does this story make you feel?



MACMILLAN
DICTIONARY
ENABLED

Double click on any word for a
Macmillan Dictionary definition.
Click here for details.

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/>



Latest stories in this category



<http://opinion/Beijing-fears-HK-becoming-beacon-of-Chinese-democr-30244798.html>

- [Beijing fears HK becoming beacon of Chinese democracy](http://opinion/Beijing-fears-HK-becoming-beacon-of-Chinese-democr-30244798.html) (<http://opinion/Beijing-fears-HK-becoming-beacon-of-Chinese-democr-30244798.html>)
- Less than a week after tens of thousands of..
- [Is the drop in M'sia's bank deposit growth..](http://opinion/Is-the-drop-in-Msias-bank-deposit-growth-worrying-30244799.html) (<http://opinion/Is-the-drop-in-Msias-bank-deposit-growth-worrying-30244799.html>)
- [Prayut's media skills need some honing](http://opinion/Prayuts-media-skills-need-some-honing-30244802.html) (<http://opinion/Prayuts-media-skills-need-some-honing-30244802.html>)

We Recommend



- [Migrant 'confesses to Koh Tao murders' \(/national/Migrant-confesses-to-Koh-Tao-murders-30244676.html\)](/national/Migrant-confesses-to-Koh-Tao-murders-30244676.html)
- Myanmar waiters at island restaurant, plus pub..
- [Rights group arranges lawyers for Myanmar men \(/national/Rights-group-arranges-lawyers-for-Myanmar-men-30244775.html\)](/national/Rights-group-arranges-lawyers-for-Myanmar-men-30244775.html)
- [Rape suspects charged \(/national/Rape-suspects-charged-30244751.html\)](/national/Rape-suspects-charged-30244751.html)

Users are solely responsible for their comments. We reserve the right to remove any comment and revoke posting rights for any reason without prior notice.



Comment

Facebook social plugin

TOP (#) STORIES (#)

- [A host country's sporting bias is fool's.. \(/opinion/A-host-countrys-sporting-bias-is-fools-gold-30244556.html\)](/opinion/A-host-countrys-sporting-bias-is-fools-gold-30244556.html)
- [Time for Thailand to develop smart power \(/opinion/Time-for-Thailand-to-develop-smart-power-30244320.html\)](/opinion/Time-for-Thailand-to-develop-smart-power-30244320.html)
- [Children of a revolution? \(/opinion/Children-of-a-revolution-30244433.html\)](/opinion/Children-of-a-revolution-30244433.html)
- [Alibaba crowned king of online retail.. \(/opinion/Alibaba-crowned-king-of-online-retail-world-30244321.html\)](/opinion/Alibaba-crowned-king-of-online-retail-world-30244321.html)
- [Building Asean infrastructure could ruin.. \(/opinion/Building-Asean-infrastructure-could-ruin-Thailand-30244544.html\)](/opinion/Building-Asean-infrastructure-could-ruin-Thailand-30244544.html)
- [Is the Umbrella Revolution in Hong Kong.. \(/opinion/Is-the-Umbrella-Revolution-in-Hong-Kong-for-real-30244653.html\)](/opinion/Is-the-Umbrella-Revolution-in-Hong-Kong-for-real-30244653.html)
- [Welcome to nominees' paradise \(/opinion/Welcome-to-nominees-paradise-30244461.html\)](/opinion/Welcome-to-nominees-paradise-30244461.html)
- [Trans-Pacific trade in a troubled world \(/opinion/Trans-Pacific-trade-in-a-troubled-world-30244432.html\)](/opinion/Trans-Pacific-trade-in-a-troubled-world-30244432.html)
- [Amount of sport at Thai schools seems.. \(/opinion/Amount-of-sport-at-Thai-schools-seems-badly-lackin-30244317.html\)](/opinion/Amount-of-sport-at-Thai-schools-seems-badly-lackin-30244317.html)
- [Obama needs to do a deal with Iran \(/opinion/Obama-needs-to-do-a-deal-with-Iran-30244322.html\)](/opinion/Obama-needs-to-do-a-deal-with-Iran-30244322.html)

MORE > [\(#\)](#)

Subscribe to The Economist Today.

40% Off

GET Print 51 issues p.a. & ALL Digital Access

Central Gift Voucher

Free 500B. HOT PROMOTION

Click Now

[VIDEO \(#\)](#) [NEWS \(#\)](#)



<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7969>

[IMF Approves \\$130 Million for Countries Worst Hit..](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7969) (<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7969>)

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde says that the IMF has approved..



<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7968>

[Fuji Japanese Restaurant](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7968) (<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7968>)

Japanese restaurant chain Fuji adds impressive 50 new creations to its..



<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7967>

[Imhathai Suwatthanasilp : Rebirth](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7967) (<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7967>)

For nearly a decade, Imhathai Suwatthanasilp has been crocheting strands of..



<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7966>

[Hob Shop](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7966) (<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7966>)

Hob at Terminal 21 is offering a wide range of garish leather clutches and..



<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7965>

[Mahasamut Seafood](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7965) (<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/7965>)

Mahasamut Seafood, a popular restaurant in southern Surat Thani province,..

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/>


Friends of The Nation
 Like

29,449 people like Friends of The Nation.



Facebook social plugin



- [HOME \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/)
- |
- [NATIONAL \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/)
- |
- [POLITICS \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/politics/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/politics/)
- |
- [BUSINESS \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/)
- |
- [MY MONEY \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/my-money/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/my-money/)
- |
- [OPINION \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/)
- |
- [LIFE \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/life/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/life/)
- |
- [TRAVEL \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/travel/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/travel/)
- |
- [TECHNOLOGY \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/technology/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/technology/)
- |
- [SPORTS \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/sports/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/sports/)
- |
- [CLASSIFIEDS \(#\)](#)
- |
- [ANN \(http://www.asianewsnet.net/\)](http://www.asianewsnet.net/)
- |
- [AEC \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/aec/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/aec/)
- |
- [NATION BROADCAST \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/nationbroadcast/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/nationbroadcast/)
- [PHOTO \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/specials/nationphoto/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/specials/nationphoto/)
- [ANN \(http://www.asianewsnet.net\)](http://www.asianewsnet.net/)
- [MYANMAR \(http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/\)](http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/)

- [TOP40 \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/top40/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/top40/)
- [JOBS \(http://www.nationejobs.com/index_eng.php\)](http://www.nationejobs.com/index_eng.php)
- [CAT & NAT \(http://www.catandnat.com/\)](http://www.catandnat.com/)
- [PHUKET \(http://www.phuketgazette.net/\)](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)
- [PROPERTY \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/property\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/property)
- [NSTORE \(https://nstore.net\)](https://nstore.net)
- [GAMES \(http://game.nationgroup.com/\)](http://game.nationgroup.com/)
- [MORE ▼ \(#\)](#)
 - [ASIA DRIVING THE WORLD \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/specials/asiadriving/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/specials/asiadriving/)
 - [STATE OF THE NATION \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/sec/63/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/video/sec/63/)
 - [E-Newspaper \(http://thenation.newspaperdirect.com\)](http://thenation.newspaperdirect.com)
 - [Elegant Time \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/elegant_time/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/elegant_time/)
 - [Horoscope \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/home/nt-widget/horoscope.html\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/home/nt-widget/horoscope.html)
 - [E-Card \(http://ecard.nationmultimedia.com/\)](http://ecard.nationmultimedia.com/)
 - [Facebook \(http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-The-Nation/147232991936?ref=mf\)](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-The-Nation/147232991936?ref=mf)
 - [Twitter \(http://twitter.com/nationnews\)](http://twitter.com/nationnews)
 - [Youtube \(http://www.youtube.com/user/TheNationDigital\)](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheNationDigital)
 - [SMS \(http://www.nationchannel.com/nationmobile/eng/sms.html\)](http://www.nationchannel.com/nationmobile/eng/sms.html)
 - [RSS \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/rss/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/rss/)
 - [Sitemap \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/new/sitemap/\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/new/sitemap/)

October 6, 2014, 10:57 am

[Back to Top](#) 

(javascript:void(0))

Search...

GO



[Horoscope](#)

(<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/home/nt-widget/horoscope.html>)



[E-Card](#)

(<http://ecard.nationmultimedia.com>)



[Newsletter](#)

(<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/enewsletter>)



[SMS](#)

(<http://www.nationchannel.com/nationmobile/eng/sms.html>)



[Digital Service](#)

(<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/digital>)



[Facebook](#)

(<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-The-Nation/147232991936?ref=mf>)



[Twitter](#)

(<http://twitter.com/nationnews>)



[Youtube](#)

(#)



[RSS](#)

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/rss>

- [Krungthep turakij \(http://www.bangkokbiznews.com\)](http://www.bangkokbiznews.com)
- |
- [Kom Chad Luek \(http://www.komchadluek.net\)](http://www.komchadluek.net)
- |
- [Nation Weekend \(http://www.nationweekend.com\)](http://www.nationweekend.com)
- |
- [247 Friend \(http://www.247friend.net\)](http://www.247friend.net)
- |
- [Nation Book \(http://www.nationbook.com\)](http://www.nationbook.com)
- |
- [Nation Channel \(http://www.nationchannel.com\)](http://www.nationchannel.com)
- |
- [Nation Radio \(http://www.nationradioonline.com\)](http://www.nationradioonline.com)
- |
- [NStore \(https://nstore.net\)](https://nstore.net)
- [Jobs \(http://www.nationjobs.com/index_eng.php\)](http://www.nationjobs.com/index_eng.php)
- |
- [Phuket Gazette \(http://www.phuketgazette.net\)](http://www.phuketgazette.net)
- |
- [OK Nation \(http://www.oknation.net\)](http://www.oknation.net)
- |
- [E-newspaper \(http://thenation.newspaperdirect.com\)](http://thenation.newspaperdirect.com)
- |
- [E-commerce \(http://ecommerce.nationgroup.com\)](http://ecommerce.nationgroup.com)
- |
- [Contact us \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/contactus\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/contactus)
- |
- [Print Advertisement \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/bannerprice/newspec.html\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/bannerprice/newspec.html)
- |
- [Online Advertisement \(http://www.nationchannel.com/adrates/Website/Nationmultimedia/Homepage.php\)](http://www.nationchannel.com/adrates/Website/Nationmultimedia/Homepage.php)
- |
- [Terms & Conditions \(http://www.nationmultimedia.com/privacy/privacy.html\)](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/privacy/privacy.html)
- Privacy Policy (c) 2007 www.nationmultimedia.com Thailand
- 1858/129 Floor 32 Bangna-Trad Road, Bangna, Bangkok 10260 Thailand.
- Tel 66-2-338-3000(Call Center), 66-2-338-3333, Fax 66-2-338-3334 ,E-mail: customer@nationgroup.com (<mailto:customer@nationgroup.com>)
- Operation Hours : Monday to Saturday at 8.00 am. to 5.00 pm and Sunday at 8.00 am. to 12.00 am.