

# Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of 2025 for the *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (PJSSH)*!

PJSSH is an open-access journal for studies in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 21 articles; three review articles; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Thailand and Vietnam.

Han Nu Ngoc Ton and colleagues investigate the dynamics of neighbourhood governance in Vietnam during the COVID-19 response. The study focuses on social workers in residential quarters, sub-quarters, and community COVID groups in two Vietnamese megacities (e.g., Hanoi capital, Ho Chi Minh City). The results indicate that neighbourhood social capital and governmental hierarchical steering emerge as two dynamics of effective neighbourhood governance. The study's findings present valuable insights for the body of knowledge, specifically on collaborative governance theory. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 73.

A regular article titled "Teacher Preparedness, Availability of Teaching Materials, and the Implementation of Competence-based Curriculum" examined the influence of teacher preparedness and the availability of teaching materials on implementing a competence-based curriculum. The results reveal that teacher preparedness had a greater influence on competence-based curriculum than the availability of teaching materials. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 181.

An article entitled "I don't want to do that anymore: Motivation and Strategies to Desistance Among Juvenile Offenders in Indonesia" explores the motivations for desistance among juvenile offenders in Indonesia and the strategies that juvenile offenders in Indonesia plan to use to desist from crime. The findings contribute to the narrative-based theory of desistance by showing how identity transformation is driven by personal motivations and influenced by deeply rooted cultural values.

They also undertake a pioneer examination of the motivation to avoid crime and the strategies among Indonesian juvenile offenders. Further details of the study can be found on page 229.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika's stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers and Editorial Board Members of PJSSH, who have made this issue possible.

PJSSH is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

**Editor-in-Chief**

Puvaneswaran Kunasekaran