

Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of 2026 of 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 25 regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

A regular article titled “Techno-Invasion and Contextual Performance Among Malaysian Telecommuters: Moderating and Mediating Effects” explores the impact of technology-induced stress on employee performance in remote work settings. Grounded in the Job Demands–Resources (JD-R) Theory and Contextual Performance Theory, the study investigates the mediating role of work exhaustion and the moderating effect of emotional intelligence. Based on empirical data from Malaysian telecommuters, the findings reveal that while techno-invasion does not directly affect contextual performance, it contributes to work exhaustion, highlighting the importance of organisational support and coping mechanisms. This study offers valuable insights into managing technostress in evolving digital work environments. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 645.

An article entitled “Psychometric Properties of the Malay Child Adjustment and Parent Efficacy Scale (CAPES)” evaluates the reliability and validity of a culturally adapted psychological assessment tool within the Malaysian context. Employing a quantitative cross-sectional design and confirmatory factor analysis, the study validates the Malay version of CAPES among parents of early adolescents. The findings reveal strong psychometric properties and highlight significant relationships between parental self-efficacy and adolescent emotional and behavioural outcomes. By providing a linguistically and culturally appropriate measurement instrument, the study contributes to advancing mental health assessment and intervention strategies in Malaysia, particularly in addressing the growing concerns surrounding adolescent well-being. Further details of the study can be found on page 781.

Another significant contribution titled “Integrating Bugis Local Wisdom with Social Pillars of Sustainable Development: A Model for Aligning Cultural Practices” examines the alignment between indigenous cultural values and global sustainable development frameworks. Drawing on qualitative analysis of the *Pangngajak Tomatoa* and insights from community stakeholders, the study highlights how Bugis local wisdom—rooted in leadership integrity, social responsibility, and collective resilience—supports the social dimensions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1–5). By integrating sociological theories such as Structuration Theory and Habitus Theory, the study proposes a culturally grounded model that bridges traditional practices with modern sustainability agendas. The findings underscore the relevance of indigenous knowledge systems in promoting inclusive, community-driven development. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 971.

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