Improvement of 3Rs Practices in Malaysia: An Islamic Approach
by
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ABSTRACT
Over the past 10 years, generation of municipal solid waste in Malaysia has increased more than 91% due to the rapid development of urban areas, rural–urban migration, increase in per-capita income, and the change in consumption patterns brought about by development. Regardless of official recycling campaign that was launched since 19 years ago, the recycling rate in the country remains low of a mere 5.5%. This condition has triggered scores of responses from the stakeholders to intensify framework and action plan for improving the 3Rs awareness programme among Malaysian community. In this paper, we seek to bring in Islamic conception of wasatiyyah (moderate and balance) and Maqasid al-Shariah(Objectives of Islamic principle) that have vital values for protecting the religion, life, mind, progeny and property. These principles together with 3Rs practices (reduce, reuse & recycle) shall help Muslim community play their role towards having a balance, healthy and sustainable living.
Keyword: waste management, wasatiyyah, Maqasid al-Shariah, environmental ethics, 3Rs practices, Sustainable Development.

Introduction
Malaysia is one of the richest nations in the world in terms of biodiversity per unit area, second only to Indonesia in South East Asia. It has thirteen states with three Federal Territories, i.e., Kuala Lumpur (The capital), Putrajaya and Labuan. The Malaysian federation that comprises of Peninsular Malaysia (or west Malaysia) and East Malaysia (the states of Sabah and Sarawak) is stretched out from the land area of 329,758 km2 and is occupied by 30,073,355 million people (as in 2014). Majority of its people are made up of Malays, Chinese and Indian and Islam is the official religion of the country. Nevertheless, the Malaysian constitution gives freedom of worship to the state members who practice other religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity.

Since Malaysia gained independence in 1957, it has evolved from a producer of raw materials into an emerging multi-sector economy. Malaysia is attempting to achieve high-income status by 2020 and to move further up the value-added production chain by attracting investments in Islamic finance, high technology industries, biotechnology, and services. Exports - particularly of electronics, oil and gas, palm oil and rubber - remain a significant driver of the economy. In 2014, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in Malaysia was at 7304.14 US dollars. As of any other nations that undergo rapid economic development and population growth, Malaysia too has faced serious challenges in handling pollution and waste management issues. Traditionally, waste is

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