



**THE INSTITUTE OF MALAYSIAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (IKMAS)
UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA**

Cordially invites to

SIRI SEMINAR IKMAS

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
IN MALAYSIA:
Citizen Participation in
Decision-Making**

By:

Azmi Sharom

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Date/Venue:

21 September 2006 (Thursday), 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

IKMAS Seminar Room, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi

Abstract

Environmental justice in the context of this paper refers to the ability of citizens to participate in official decision-making processes that effect the environment and thereby their lives as well. It also means the availability of avenues, administrative and judicial, to seek redress in the event that poor or harmful decisions are made. It would be unfair and wrong to say that Malaysia does not have the mechanisms for citizens to seek environmental justice. It is just that the mechanisms are perhaps somewhat corroded, sotospeak, and prone to breaking down.

The paper discusses the legislative options and their practice that allow for public participation in decision-making, namely the Environmental Quality Act and the Town and Country Planning Act; the barriers to bringing an action in the courts; and the concept of a right to a clean environment that is the foundation for environmental justice. Finally, some suggestions will be considered about how to ensure that environmental justice is realised

Biographical Sketch

Dr. Azmi Sharom is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Malaya, where he has taught for the past sixteen years. His main teaching and research area is environmental law. His recent publications include "A Critical Study of the Laws Relating to the Indigenous Peoples of Malaysia in the Context of Article 8(j) of the Biodiversity Convention," *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights* (2006), "Private International Law in the Malaysia Courts," *Singapore Year Book of International Law* (2005) and "Appreciating Compliance with International Environmental Law Treaties: Lessons From a Developing Country - Malaysia," *Asian Yearbook of International Law* (2005).

ALL ARE INVITED

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