

# NEW STRAITS TIMES

Our deepest condolences to the families of passengers and crew of flight MH370

HOME NATION STREETS WORLD BUSINESS TIMES SPORTS LIFE & TIMES OPINION GALLERIES 7 DAY NEWS CHANNELS RED

## COLUMNIST



13 September 2013 | last updated at 12:15AM

Email Print

### Quest for balance in development



By Datuk Dr Ibrahim Ahmad Bajunid | iabaiw@yahoo.com

Writer is a deputy vice-chancellor, INTI Laureate International University

comments  0

**STUDY FULL-TIME, PART-TIME**  
 or **ONLINE at LSBF**

London School of Business & Finance

APPLY for ACCA, CIMA, CFA®

IN all domains and levels, the process of "becoming" is always a process of the quest for balance. Greek civilisation's greatness reflected the balance of the love of mind and the love of body.

Islamic civilisation reflected passion for this world and the longing for the Hereafter, the demand for mandatory religious rituals by all and the mandatory duties by the significant few.

Christian civilisation's focus on love and caring has the passion of living the balanced cardinal virtues.

The microscopic mind sees "the world in a grain of sand" while the telescopic mind has the perspective of celestial vision. Understanding local history without understanding world history is to lose sight of the human odyssey. Understanding world history without understanding local history is to be fictionalising the great transformations with no local souls. Understanding local geography and world geography are about understanding the map and the terrain.

Understanding the nature and quest for balance is more than understanding the popular call for work-life balance. From the religious perspective balance, evidence is about the divine equilibrium of the heavens and the earth, skies, sun and moon, day and night, celestial objects and orbital motion in balance. Balance is really about weighted measures, about criteria and consideration, evenness, orderliness, symphony and justice. The opposite of balance is asymmetry, discordance, disproportion, imbalance, incoherence, and disunity.

Leaders and shapers of societies must ensure that vision and mission, policies and actions are not lopsided. The true measure of a just society,

#### OPINION

Editorial

Columnist

Letters to the Editor

Comment

#### STREETS



Duo shine for Kelantan



Guardian promotes brand awareness in awards contest

#### MOST READ

#### MOST COMMENTED

- MH370 Tragedy: Chronology on missing plane
- MH370 Tragedy: More ships rush to probe signals in plane search
- MH370 Tragedy: Hunt homes in on ping signals
- Badminton: Chong Wei wins India Open again
- Xbox One makes hot debut as console war revs up
- Man held over offensive posting
- 'Too early to confirm pulses'
- Superbike rider crashes into car, dies on the spot
- 'Paintball markers not illegal'
- MH370 Tragedy: Angus Houston's statement
- Facebook account holder nabbed over Rosmah's doctored picture
- 'No US, Russia war over Crimea crisis'
- PM: Malaysia-Singapore to build Friendship Bridge
- MH370 Tragedy: Possible signals from black boxes heard
- MH370 Tragedy: China ship detects 'pulse signal' in Indian Ocean

MORE



National Press Club Malaysia

when examined in history, philosophy, culture or policy would be a society which replicates the balance in Nature.

Within the society, there are just means of deciding and judging, counterbalancing power, weight, force or influence. Among the firmaments of a fine-tuned society would be the quest for balance of understanding and of action in several constants and firmaments such as the following:

THE balance of focus on the here or the Hereafter, the secular and the spiritual;

BALANCE between focus on ethnicity and focus on humanity and the human species;

BALANCE of the elitist and the democratic traditions in education;

BALANCED focus on the gifted, those with learning difficulties and other handicap;

BALANCED focus on mother tongue, national and international languages;

BALANCED focus on soul, mind and body;

BALANCE in knowledge disciple domains, the arts and the sciences;

THE balance between the honing of general intelligence, and specific intelligence;

THE balance between control and liberation;

THE short-term perspective of policies and the long term strategic perspectives;

THE pursuit of material assets and the pursuit of intangible assets; and

THE balanced pursuits of national interests, and regional and global interests.

Among those who can influence the Weltanschauung or world views of all levels and all members of society, are politicians, media people and teachers, particularly university teachers who teach core subjects of "civilisation studies or of religion".

These influencers have the sacred responsibility to delve deep into the nature of balance and engage the society to seek balance. The philosophy of quest for balance nurtures the belief, passion and conviction for the quest for unity.

If the culture is a reading culture or a culture appreciative of the arts, then literary leaders and artists can exercise influence in fostering the construction of a philosophy of balance. And so, as shapers of education systems and nations decided on their righteousness, they could reflect on what those earlier than them had observed.

Instead of being presented by stereotypes by age, sex, colour, class or religion, children must have the opportunity to learn that within each range, some people are loathsome, and some are delightful.

... (Margaret Mead)

---

#### NSTP FAMILY SITES

<a href="#">Harian Metro</a>	<a href="#">Berita Harian</a>
<a href="#">Business Times</a>	<a href="#">My Gadget Planet</a>
<a href="#">Travelific</a>	<a href="#">Harum</a>
<a href="#">Eats</a>	<a href="#">Properties</a>

[News Image Bank \(NIB\)](#)

---

#### HIGHLIGHTS

<a href="#">New Economic Model</a>	<a href="#">NST Reviews</a>
<a href="#">NiEXUS</a>	<a href="#">Friends of Travel Times</a>
<a href="#">Property News</a>	<a href="#">NSTLIVE Archive</a>
<a href="#">Spell-It-Right</a>	

---

#### COFFEE BREAK

[Sudoku](#)

---



Man maintains his balance, poise, and sense of security only as he is moving forward.

... (Maxwell Maltz)

Governments, as well as individuals, must be in pursuit of balance. Not to be on the eternal quest for balance is to nurture eternal anarchy. Philosophers, theologians, creationists and intelligent design proponents all search for balance.

Albert Einstein observed the balance that "everything is determined, the beginning as well as the end, by forces over which we have no control. It is determined for insects as well as for the stars, human beings, vegetables, or cosmic dust. We all dance to a mysterious tune intoned in the distance".

As we understand the Laws of God, the laws of Nature, and the laws of men, and understand the principle of balance, and the responsibilities of the government, the sacred rights and dignity of the people, community and individuals must be honoured.



In the process of a nation's development, the sacred rights and dignity of the people, community and individuals must be honoured.

< 1 / 1 >

Writer is a deputy vice-chancellor, INTI Laureate International University

Google +

#### RECOMMENDED

[MAS CEO resignation a personal decision](#) (New Straits Times)

[MAS cabin crew flying the flag](#) (New Straits Times)

[MISSING MH370: Pilot's niece concerned over his safety](#) (New Straits Times)

[Videos show bin Laden relative warning of 'storm' of airplane attacks](#) (New Straits Times)

[MH370: Some Malaysians twisting the truth](#) (New Straits Times)

[MH370: Another theory on fate of the plane](#) (New Straits Times)

#### FROM AROUND THE WEB

[Exclusive: Indigenous people of Borneo speak out on their hopes for a...](#) (SEB Newsroom)

[Best Ayam Goreng in KL](#) (HungryGoWhere Malaysia)

[Lexus debuts its brand new Crossover concept car.](#) (Lexus)

[Founder of Bitcoin Tracked Down, Possibly Residing in California...](#) (HardwareZone)

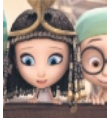
[Cybercriminals Exploit Flight MH370 News, Online Threats Circulating](#) (HardwareZone)

[Canon Unveils Its Latest Ultra-Compact Camera IXUS 155](#) (Canon)

Recommended by



#### RELATED ARTICLES



Cinema: Creative blend of action and sci-fi



MANAGING TIME: Are we too busy or just being plain lazy?



Hippocampus lights the pathways



GOOD VALUES: Raise children rich in values



MAHATMA GANDHI: Gandhi's values needed now

#### Leave Your Comment

Login With Facebook

HOME	NATION	STREETS	WORLD	BUSINESS	SPORTS	LIFE & TIMES	OPINION	GALLERIES	7 DAY NEWS	CHANNELS	RED
Top News	General	Central		TIMES	Soccer	Tech	Editorial	Image	Monday	Gadget	
Latest	Politics	Northern			Badminton	Health	Columnist	Video	Tuesday	Eats	
RSS Page	Extras	Johor			Cricket	Style	Letters To The Editor	Infographics	Wednesday	Travelific	
Didik Malaysia					Racing	Travel	Comment		Thursday	Harum	
					Other	Showbiz			Friday	Learning Curve	
						Live			Saturday	You	
						Sunday Life & Times			Sunday	Niexter	