

TUNKU ABDULLAH DEBATE CHALLENGE (2018)

BRIEF PROFILE OF JUDGES

Y.M. Tunku Halim Bin Tunku Abdullah

Y.M. Tunku Halim qualified as a Barrister in the United Kingdom after having obtained his Law degree. He has been called to the Bar in the High Court of Malaya and as a solicitor in New South Wales. He holds a Master of Science degree in Shipping, Trade and Finance (Distinction) from the City University Business School in London.

Tunku Halim practised law at Shearn Delamore in Kuala Lumpur before moving to Sydney taking up a position as Legal Counsel to Oracle Corporation Australia. After a decade in Sydney, he relocated to Hobart, Tasmania because of the vibrant writing culture there.

Tunku Halim is famed for his passion in fiction writing. His fiction primarily falls within the dark fantasy and horror genre with his debut novel *Dark Demon Rising*. His novel *Vermillion Eye* was a study text at the National University of Singapore. By delving into Malay myth, legends and folklore his writing is regarded as "World Gothic". His collection of short stories entitled *Horror Stories* became "the best-selling Malaysian English fiction books of all times".

Besides very actively engaged in fiction writing, Tunku Halim also involved in non-fiction writing. His recent works focus on Malaysian history for children. This includes *History of Malaysia, A Children's Encyclopedia* and *A Children's History of Malaysia*. He has also written two books on real estate in Malaysia including *Condominiums – Purchase, Investment and Habitat*

Y.Bhg. Dato' Steve Day

Dato' Steve Day is a media entrepreneur and former helicopter pilot who began his career life as an officer in the British Royal Air Force at the age of 18.

Before becoming a successful media entrepreneur, Dato' Steve Day was a career officer and navigator in the British Royal Air Force flying transport aircraft all over the world. Following this he left to become a civilian helicopter pilot flying massive choppers in the North Sea off Scotland and the South China Sea out of Kuala Terengganu. His next stop was Sumatra where he flew oil-rigs piece by piece into jungle clearings alternating home between a riverboat when flying, and an apartment in Singapore during his time off.

After making connections in the film industry, he made a radical career switch to start the Vision Four network, a cable television service exclusively for hotels. He also started Vision KL, one of the nation's leading lifestyle, and tourism magazines and 15 years ago he pioneered the Malaysia International Gastronomy Festival establishing Malaysia as a truly ideal foodie's destination.

He is a Trustee of The Budimas Charitable Foundation.

Prof. Dr. Ganakumaran Subramaniam

Prof. Dr. Ganakumaran Subramaniam is the Head of School and Professor at the School of Education, University of Nottingham, Malaysia campus. He is the President of the Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (since 2007) and Vice President of Asia TEFL (since 2014).

He holds a Bachelor of Education in TESL from Universiti Putra Malaysia and he read for his Master's and Ph.D. at the University of Nottingham, UK. Prior to joining University of Nottingham, he served as Deputy Director and Acting Director of International Relations at the National University of Malaysia.

He has consulted on the Malaysian Ministry of Education advisory panels for curriculum, textbook selection and examinations. He was also a consultant for the national Trust School programme and the national literacy development programme (LINUS).

Prof Dr Ganakumaran was a member of the Malaysian Council for English Language Quality and Standards. He is also a Fulbright Scholar with attachments in New York, Washington and New Mexico, USA.

Y.A.M. Tunku Zain Al Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz

Y.A.M. Tunku Zain Al Abidin was educated at Marlborough College in the UK and the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he obtained his M.Sc. in Comparative Politics. He worked in the UK Houses of Parliament, the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, KRA Group and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy before permanently returning to Malaysia.

In 2006 he co-founded the Malaysia Think Tank which evolved into the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs - IDEAS. Since 2008 he has maintained a newspaper column: firstly *Abiding Times* in the Sun, then *Roaming Beyond the Fence* in the Star and Sin Chew, and now *Conservatively Speaking Freely* in the Malay Mail, Borneo Post and Oriental Daily. From these articles three books have been compiled, the latest being nominated for the Popular Readers' Choice Awards.

An Eisenhower Fellow, he has been selected for various leadership programmes by the governments of Australia, France and the European Union and has received awards for integrity and impact among young leaders.

Tunku Zain is often invited to speak on subjects ranging from nation building, public policy, history, culture, law, business ethics and youth development, and enjoys playing squash, tennis and piano.

He is a Trustee of Yayasan Chow Kit, Yayasan Munarah, the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation and a Royal Fellow of the National University of Malaysia.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cordelia Mason

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cordelia's career path spans almost 30 years of experience in the fields of education and management. In the field of education, she has assumed full-time academic positions in Universiti

Kebangsaan Malaysia, Akademi Infotech MARA, Universiti Kuala Lumpur and Universiti Tun Abdul Razak.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from University of Pacific, California, USA and she read for her Master's in English as a Second Language and Doctor of Business Administration at University of Malaya and Multimedia University Malaysia respectively.

Dr Cordelia is now the Director of Corporate Planning at Universiti Kuala Lumpur. She also serves as the Director for We4Asia, an entity established at Universiti Kuala Lumpur to spur the university to become a world-class university through the attainment of superior performance in various identified areas such as dynamic talent management, strong funding, effective autonomy, robust governance and prolific leading-edge research teams.

Dr Cordelia is a Visiting Fellow of Asian Institute of Finance, Associate Fellow of Malaysian Institute of Management and a member of the Board of Examiners of Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers.

Tony Collingridge, OBE

Having joined the UK Civil Service in 1978, Tony's career largely followed the Conservative Government's privatisation agenda up to 1995. In early 1995, Tony moved into commercial work as London Head of the Australasia Desk of what is now the UK Department of International Trade, helping UK companies access business in those markets (including the Sydney Olympics).

In 1999 Tony was appointed Head of the Asia Pacific & Africa Regional Team for the Invest in Britain Bureau, leading the teams working to attract inward investment into the UK from key markets in the region. Tony moved to Hong Kong in largely the same role in 2006, adding specific responsibility for directly managing relationships with key clients in that market.

After an extended posting in Hong Kong, Tony was appointed UK Director of Trade & Investment to Malaysia in 2011, leading all aspects of the business relationship between Malaysia and the UK, including the delivery of the landmark Battersea Power Station Project from 2012.

In early 2017, after another extended posting, Tony and his family decided to remain in Malaysia. Tony established his own company providing international business development services. As such, Tony has been appointed as Capital Investment Specialist to the UK Department for International Trade covering both Malaysia and Singapore; Senior Adviser to the Boards of UK company OCS in Malaysia and Singapore; and as Director Malaysia for the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council. Tony has also been appointed a Non-Executive Director of Prudential Assurance Malaysia Bhd; a member of the Asia Advisory Board of Nottingham University and a member of the Board of the British Malaysia Chamber of Commerce.