Foreword

Welcome to the fifth 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 Humianities 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 articles: one case study; five review articles; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Burkina Faso, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Korea, Thailand, UAE (United Arab Emirates) dan Uzbekistan.

One contribution, "Actor Logics and Urban Informality in the Context of Subdivision Operations in Koudougou (Burkina Faso)," examines the interests and actions of different actors involved in the emergence of informal settlements during subdivision operations. Drawing on primary and secondary data, the study finds that the illicit allocation of land plots at the expense of rightful owners can generate public indignation and planning conflicts. Such conflicts interrupt subdivision operations and contribute to urban informality, both in the physical form of the city and in the practices of local planning actors. The article highlights the importance of understanding the relationships among land allocation, competing interests and urban planning processes. Further details of this study can be found on page 2441.

Another significant contribution is "Nationalist Narratives in Sports Event Reporting: A Systematic Literature Review." Synthesising 14 peer-reviewed articles published between January 2021 and April 2025, the review examines how sports media represent nationalism and national identity. The findings show that sporting achievements, athletes and international competitions are connected with national meaning through heroic narratives, binary opposition and emotional mobilisation. The review also highlights how race, gender, immigration, citizenship, disability and geopolitical context shape the boundaries of national belonging. It identifies gaps in audience reception, digital-platform communication, cross-cultural comparison and geographical coverage, providing directions for future research. Further information on this study is presented on page 2569.

The article "Tajweed Learning With Web-Based Recitation Programme: Its Effectivity, Perception, and Effect for Online Learning During and After COVID-19" This article examines a web-based recitation programme for learning Tajweed and compares its effectiveness with traditional instruction. The study involved 88 first-year students enrolled in an Islamic Religious Education course at an Indonesian university, divided into a control group and two experimental groups. Students' conceptual understanding was assessed through pre- and post-tests, while questionnaires measured their perceptions of the programme. The findings indicate that the group using the programme independently showed improvement, whereas the control group and the experimental group with facilitator support did not show significant improvement. The study offers insight into the potential of web-based feedback tools for Qur'anic recitation learning. Further details of this study can be found on page 2629.

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