



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Monday, 8 July 2019

Event Name: The 6th Asian Academy of Family Therapy (AAFT) Conference 2019

Singapore, Monday, 8 July 2019. In collaboration with the Asian Academy of Family Therapy (AAFT), PPIS Family Therapy Institute (FTI) opened the 6th AAFT Conference on “**Shades of Spirituality and Beyond: Family Therapy Practice in the 21st Century Asia**” today.

The AAFT Conference aims to promote family therapy research, training and practice in Asia and is held in different Asian countries each year. This is the first time PPIS FTI is hosting the AAFT conference which saw more than 150 social service practitioners gathered in Batam Island, Indonesia to hear from renowned international speakers in family therapy.

In its fourth year working with families, PPIS FTI have seen 757 cases with various relational issues such as religious beliefs or spirituality, which in turn affect family life and the way families interact. Looking at how spirituality is being adopted by individuals in this current time and age, as well as the changing family structures, PPIS FTI recognises the need to address and explore spirituality in family therapy practice.

Through this conference, PPIS hopes to nurture and enhance the competencies of family therapists and other practitioners by making them view spirituality beyond religious discourse and experience spirituality differently, especially in familial living. This is so that they are able to engage families in conversations surrounding the theme of spirituality.

The event also reflected PPIS FTI’s commitment to provide opportunities and platforms for fellow practitioners to explore and deep dive into conversations on relationships, as well as how spirituality, families and family living are interconnected.



Highlights from the conference included keynote addresses by well-respected figures in the global family therapy field such as **Dr Wai-Yung Lee**; the Founding President and Clinical Director of AAFT, **Ms Justine Van Lawick**; Co-Founder of the Lorentzhuis Centre for Systemic Therapy, Training and Consultation, **Dr Rabia Malik**; Consultant Psychotherapist and Co-Organising Tutor of the Systemic Doctorate, Tavistock Centre, **Mrs Juliana Toh**; Systemic Psychotherapist and one of the pioneers of family therapy training, as well as **Dr Mohammad Hannan Hassan**; Deputy Director, Capacity Building and Interfaith Engagement & Vice Dean of Muis Academy, who shared on pluralism ideas with family therapy modalities of transcontextual and intersectionality during a special dialogue session.

Dr Mohammad Hannan said, “Spirituality is about making relations, within a complex and mysterious web of connections and realities. It is the ability to connect to higher meanings and relationships.”

This year’s AAFT programme started with two pre-conference activities – the International Case Conference and the Introduction to Family Work (A Systemic Perspective) with Dr Rabia Malik and **Ms Nora Bateson**; Systemic Thinker and the Founder & President of the International Bateson Institute.

There will also be a post-conference workshop with **Dr Gail Simon**; Principal Lecturer in Systemic Practice from the University of Bedfordshire in Singapore on 11 and 12 July 2019. Specially for practitioner-researchers, the workshop aims to introduce practice research as an emerging approach in the social service and family therapy field. Participants will be able to learn various research methodologies to consider in their work and explore various practice research interests.

“Learning is a culture that PPIS firmly believes in. As the President of PPIS, I am putting forth this open invitation to any practitioners and organisations, be it in Asia or the West, to collaborate with us in research projects.

FTI is embarking on practice research initiatives and is looking for partners to explore, learn and unravel more differences, that can make a difference to families and the larger community, as well as the wider ecology.” Mdm Rahayu Mohamad, President of PPIS said in her opening address.

**Event Details:**

Date: Monday - Tuesday, 8 - 9 July 2019

Venue: The Travelodge, Batam Island, Indonesia

Event will be held in English.

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About PPIS

Founded in 1952, PPIS (Persatuan Pemudi Islam Singapura or Singapore Muslim Women's Association) is non-profit organisation focused on community services. We are dedicated to working with women of all ages in carrying out their multiple roles in society. PPIS runs three core community services namely Family Services, Student Care and Early Childhood Education (ECE). With 16 centres island wide, the services work together to provide a quality and holistic support as well as developmental programmes for women and their families.

About PPIS Family Therapy Institute (FTI)

PPIS Family Therapy Institute (FTI) aims to be the leading family therapy, training and consultancy institute for families in Singapore. At PPIS FTI, we believe that every individual matters. The Person & The Professional. Guided by systemic ideas, the institute hopes to nurture individuals, couples, families and professionals in negotiating positions through bridging relationships and bettering interaction across an array of contexts through therapy, training and consultancy.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ppis.sg>.