



FOUNDED IN 1877

YANG DI-PERTUA : PRESIDENT
Tengku Mohamed Fauzi Bin Tengku Abdul Hamid

PERSATUAN ASIA DIRAJA BAHAGIAN MALAYSIA
THE MALAYSIAN BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

PENAUNG : PATRONS

Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah
Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj, Sultan Selangor
Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana
Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah
Chan Sek Keong, Esq.

3rd MBRAS Lecture 2019

**'In the Public Interest':
Messages from Urban Civil Society in the Federated Malay States, 1900–1940**

by Dr Lynn Hollen Lees

Badan Warisan Malaysia,
2 Jalan Stonor, Kuala Lumpur
Saturday 26 October 2019, 17.00

Well before 1940, both large and small towns in the Federated Malay States served as training grounds for participation in a cosmopolitan colonial society. Town clubs, committees, and associations drew educated men of several ethnicities into an active civil society that crossed cultural boundaries and carried mixed political messages. Asian men, often allied with their British counterparts, challenged British colonial assumptions in the name of equality and the “public interest,” while proclaiming loyalty to king and empire.

About the Speaker:

Dr Lynn Hollen Lees is Professor of History Emerita at the University of Pennsylvania, where she has also been Co-Director of the Joseph Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies and Chair of the History Department. She currently serves as the University's Ombuds. She is the author of *Planting Empire, Cultivating Subjects: British Malaya, 1786-1941* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). A Past President of the Urban History Association, she has written extensively on cities and social history in Europe. Among her publications are *The Making of Urban Europe, 1000-1994* (1995), *Cities and the Making of Modern Europe* (2007), and *Global Society: The World since 1900* (2013). She has taught also at the University of Depongoro in Semarang, University College London, and the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.



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