

2nd International Conference on Islam and Higher Education (2nd ICIHE)

Theme: *The Empowerment of Muslim Communities in Private Higher Education*

Dates and Days:

14-16 November 2011 (Monday-Wednesday)

Venue:

**The Pahang State Foundation Complex (Kompleks Yayasan Pahang)
Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia**

Co-Organizers:

International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS Malaysia)

The Pahang State Foundation

IKIP International College

Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) East Asia

Opening and Keynote Address by:

HIS EXCELLENCY TAN SRI PROFESSOR DR EKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU

Secretary-General

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

&

The Launching of His Excellency Professor Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu's Book
THE TRANSFER OF MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE MUSLIM WORLD

Closing by:

YAB DATO' SRI DIRAJA (DR) HAJI ADNAN BIN HAJI YAAKOB

Chief Minister of Pahang

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION MALAYSIA

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate IAIS Malaysia together with Pahang State Foundation and IKIP International College, Pahang for hosting this landmark conference for the second time this year. Without doubt, after successfully collaborating in organizing the International Conference on Islam and Higher Education at IAIS, Kuala Lumpur, in October last year, it is therefore most appropriate to conduct it in Kuantan, Pahang this time around. The number of countries and participants, as well as speakers from the Muslim world represented here today clearly demonstrates that there is a real need for more institutions of higher learning in Muslim countries especially of the world-class quality. In tackling the issue of Muslim higher education needs, particularly the needs for world-class universities and other institutions of higher learning, it is important to pay due attention not only to the necessity of wisely used material, financial, and human resources, but also to the desirability of accessing and utilizing Islam's cultural, intellectual, and traditional knowledge resources.

This year's conference theme, *"The Empowerment of Muslim Communities in Private Higher Education"* is indeed appropriate because not only will it touch on the general state of private higher education in Muslim-majority countries and Muslim minority communities, but also on issues and challenges confronting Muslim ownership and management of private universities and colleges. Equally important is the role of Islamic religious, economic and financial institutions in promoting the growth and advancement of private higher education, apart from complementing each other as competitors and collaborators in the pursuit of educational and societal progress.

The Ministry of Higher Education feels that it would serve a good purpose if an international conference such as this is continued to be held and seek to address all the important issues now confronting the Muslims in the field of private education of higher learning - in light of Islamic ideals of knowledge-society and social justice, which will eventually seek ways and means of empowering the Muslim communities in the various parts of the world. To assess the state of Muslim ownership, control, and management of private colleges and universities both in Muslim-majority and Muslim-minority countries, all relevant parties have to work together to help promote the growth and advancement of Muslim private colleges and universities. This will create a better network of Muslim private higher education institutions in the pursuit of common interests and goals.

I believe that this annual conference will bear fruitful results and provide the groundwork for future enhancement, collaboration and development of private higher education in the Muslim world. I wish all participants a successful deliberation and a pleasant meeting of minds.

With best regards,

YB DATUK SERI MOHAMED KHALED NORDIN

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER OF PAHANG

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

I wish to congratulate the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS Malaysia) for its initiative in organizing this 2nd International Conference on Islam and Higher Education (2nd ICIHE).

IAIS Malaysia is not alone in organizing this event. It has managed to rope in the Pahang State Foundation, IKIP International College, International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) East Asia and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), to assist in translating ICIHE from its planning stage, into reality.

The Pahang State Government welcomes this joint effort and the Government places hope that this effective and cost-saving attempt can be emulated by other organizations in the future.

As on the 2nd ICIHE itself, I do desire that it can achieve the various goals set, one of which is to help promote globally, the growth and advancement of Muslim private colleges and universities.

May this 2nd ICIHE run smoothly and end with a thumping success, insha Allah.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

YAB DATO' SRI DIRAJA (DR) HAJI ADNAN BIN HAJI YAAKOB

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN/CEO, IAIS MALAYSIA

The ever increasing awareness we see among people of the crucial importance of education, especially of good education, has motivated the convening of this International conference. An additional motivating factor was the success of the first international conference on the same theme that the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia jointly held with the Pahang State Foundation (PSF), and four other organisations, namely:

- IKIP International College
- International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)
- Faculty of Education, University Malaya
- Al Mustafa International University, Iran

The initiative for this came from YAB Dato' Sri Diraja (Dr) Haji Adnan Bin Haji Yaakob, Chief Minister of Pahang, who suggested in his conference closing speech last November that the next event should be held in Pahang and he generously offered his full support. I take this opportunity to record my appreciation to the Menteri Besar and our colleagues at the PSF, the IIIT East Asia, and IKIP International College for their cooperation and support. We have closely worked together with our PSF colleagues, and judging by the impressive number of prominent international speakers we fortunately have with us here in Pahang, the results look very promising.

Islam's focus on the importance of learning is yet a third factor that underlines our choice of the special theme of this conference: the role of the private sector, especially the Muslim communities, in higher education. No subject other than belief in the essentials of Islam ('aqidah) acquires as high a profile in the Holy Qur'an as that of 'ilm, its acquisition and dissemination. Islamic history also provides an impressive example of a case where the private sector dominated education at all stages from the mosque schools to madrasa, to scholastic guilds, to dar al-'ulum, and to jami'ah. The early schools of fiqh that emerged in the Hijaz (Makkah and Madinah) and Iraq (Kufah and Basrah) and later developed into leading madhhabs that survive to this day were all civil society institutions. This is testified by the fact that they still bear the names of their founding fathers, the Imams Abu Hanifah and his contemporary, Ja'far al-Sadiq, Malik, Shafi'i and Ibn Hanbal. They were all private individuals who devoted themselves to the cause of learning as an act of piety and service to society. This was done through the use mainly of charitable endowments (awqaf) and community support that funded the educational sector throughout the long history of Islam.

I am pleased to mention that our joint efforts have borne fruit, testified not only by this follow-up event, but in one other small way: since we visualised a second conference, we decided to publish the proceedings of the first conference, which will be launched here at the end of this conference. We hope to be able to also publish the proceedings of this conference. This I believe is all the more advisable due to the originality of the topic selected for this year.

The increased role and participation of the private sector is indicative, on one hand, of the strong interest it is taking in education. Higher education is no longer the concern solely of the state in many Muslim countries. This is a welcome development, yet it also has a downside, which is increasing at a rapidly alarming rate. This is the commercialisation of higher education and the profit motive that drives it.

The challenge of balancing values with strong commercial interests in private higher education is even greater in pluralist societies such as Malaysia. Even if the profit element were to remain, it should by no means be allowed to dominate. Education is the greatest investment a society can make in its own future and that of its next generation; it is far too important to become a playing field of the free market economy. Balancing values must also mean a proportionate participation by all strata of society, which is far from being the case here in Malaysia, and it is only a question of degrees in many other Muslim societies. Muslims must play a proportional role, failing which an imbalanced scenario is likely to bring more of the same and become unmanageable in course of time. Yet there is much to be explored and there is scope for concerted efforts to develop more balanced perspectives over issues to address the various aspects of our concern for the future developments of private higher education in Malaysia and elsewhere in the Muslim world.

I welcome and thank all our esteemed speakers and participants, and also make a special request of them, which is to combine, in their learned deliberations, actionable policy-relevant recommendations that can be presented to government authorities and main actors in the private sector.

Wa bi-Allah al-Tawfiq wa'l-Hidayah

PROFESSOR DR MOHAMMAD HASHIM KAMALI

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF IKIP EDUCATION SDN BHD

My gratitude to Allah SWT for the blessing, guidance and mercy that guide our effort in the realization of this 2nd International Conference on Islam and Higher Education (ICIHE) 2011. The achievement in organizing this conference is indeed a sigh of proud relief to the Organizing Committee.

The realization of this International Conference is possible thanks to the strong collaboration between the Pahang State Foundation, International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), IKIP International College, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) East Asia. The collaboration has proven the fact that there are endless efforts in the pursuit of Muslim common interests and goals for a better and intellectual umma.

The 2nd International Conference on Islam and Higher Education serves as an essential platform for educational and intellectual Islamic world discussions. This opportunity is meant to highlight all the important issues confronting the Muslims in the field of private education. The outcomes of this conference are hoped to be fruitful to address issues related to the growth and advancement of Muslim private colleges and universities. In addition to that, inputs from this conference are also expected to elevate the quality of higher education provided by Muslim colleges and universities.

Let me conclude this message with the hope and prayer that, as one of the leading private colleges in Pahang, may IKIP International College be inspired by the 2nd International Conference on Islam and Higher Education to become a prominent institution with significant contributions to Muslim intellectual development. The pursuit of the best Islamic quality policy in education will definitely nurture the umma with towering thoughts, skills and personalities.

PROFESSOR DATO' DR ABDUL MONIR HJ YAAKOB

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN,
2nd ICIHE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE & DEPUTY CEO, IAIS MALAYSIA**

By the Will of Allah, the Second International Conference on Islam and Higher Education is now a reality. It now looks like we are having a strong reason to believe that a longer series of international conferences on the general theme of Islam and Higher Education is in store for us. In the course of planning this second conference we are much heartened by the enthusiastic responses we receive from many individuals and institutions concerned in one way or another with issues of higher education currently confronting Muslim societies. We also receive promises of support for future conferences on the same general theme from both within and beyond Malaysia. On the basis of this wide support we can expect to have more conferences in the series in question in the coming years.

We now wish to refer to this new series of conferences as the ICIHE series, taking ICIHE as the acronym for International Conferences on Islam and Higher Education. Like the 1st ICIHE last year the 2nd ICIHE this year is organized with the generous financial support of The Pahang State Foundation (Yayasan Pahang). We at IAIS Malaysia esteem it an honour to be given the trust by The Foundation to be the main organizer of these conferences. We also value greatly the opportunity to be able to work together with several other organizations and institutions in organizing these conferences. We look forward to again collaborating with The Pahang State Foundation, IKIP International College, and the other co-organizers in future conferences and other knowledge-oriented events in pursuit of the advancement of Muslim higher education worldwide.

The special theme of 2nd ICIHE is “The Empowerment of Muslim Societies in Private Higher Education.” It is more specific in nature compared to the theme of 1st ICIHE, “Contemporary Higher Education Needs in Muslim Countries.” While the issues discussed in 1st ICIHE were quite varied covering the subjects of institutional, epistemological, and ethical-moral values in higher education, the 2nd ICIHE focuses on the institutional dimension of higher education. In fact, the focus is further narrowed down to the issue of Muslim private higher education. The choice of this specific theme is motivated by the particular concern that, in Malaysia which is gradually transforming itself into a hub of higher education in the Islamic world, the Muslim share of private higher education is disappointingly very low despite the fact that the Muslim umma in the country has abundant wealth and resources for the institutional development of private Muslim higher education.

In many other parts of the global umma the condition of private Muslim higher education is such that it is also a cause for concern that needs to be addressed particularly as an integral part of the global ummatic agenda in higher education. In other words, the task before us all is how to empower the Muslim communities in private higher education. In this connection I am happy to note that among the distinguished speakers present at this Conference are Professor Dr Suliman Abdullah Aba-ALKhail (Saudi Arabia), Chairman of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) and Professor Dr Sultan Abu-Orabi (Jordan), the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities. I have specifically mentioned their names because the

organizations which they represent can play an instrumental role in the institutional development of higher education in the Islamic world in general and of private higher education in particular. We are also happy to note that the OIC Secretary-General, His Excellency Tan Sri Professor Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu (Turkey) has been kind enough to accept our invitation to be the keynote speaker and to officiate the opening of the Conference despite his extremely busy schedule.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 2nd ICIHE, I would like to warmly welcome all speakers and participants to the Conference. I also wish to thank everyone who has contributed in one way or another to the realization of this Conference, especially the co-organizers, the moderators, and members of the Organizing Committee. Our special appreciation goes to YAB Dato' Sri Diraja (Dr) Haji Adnan Bin Haji Yaakob, the Chief Minister of Pahang and Dato' Saariah Saad, the General Manager of The Pahang State Foundation for their generous support and contribution to the Conference. Last but not least I would like to thank all the staff of IAIS Malaysia and IKIP International College who have worked so hard to make the 2nd ICIHE a success. Happy Conferencing!

Wa bi'Llah al-tawfiq wa'l-hidayah, wa bihi nasta'in.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR DATO' DR OSMAN BAKAR

BACKGROUND OF THE SECOND ICIHE

In many Muslim-majority countries today higher education is rapidly expanding not only in response to the needs of their own respective students but also to accommodate the needs of foreign students. As a result the higher education landscapes in many Muslim countries are fast changing. Nowhere is the change more visible and more noteworthy than in the field of private higher education. In the majority of Muslim countries public universities and colleges still dominate the higher education scene both numerically and qualitatively. But the number of private institutions of higher learning is steadily increasing in these countries. In the more developed Muslim countries the increase is even more remarkable due largely to the globalization impact that dictates liberalization in education policies. Malaysia is a good example of a developed Muslim country that has liberalized its traditional education policies and consequently has emerged as a leading educational hub in the Muslim world.

The new phenomenon of private higher education has generated debates and heated discussions among educationists, policy makers, and members of the general public on its implications for society. There are concerns that without higher motives to serve Islamic ideals of knowledge-society and social justice private higher institutions of higher learning will leave undesirable future cultural, political, and economic impacts on society. A popular concern among Muslims is about the relatively low percentage of Muslim ownership of private universities and colleges and about profit-making as the primary motive of private higher education. Given the cloudy future scenario of private higher education and its societal impact and given the many reservations Muslims have about their future role and contributions in this sector of education, IAIS Malaysia feels it would serve a good purpose if an international conference could be held that will seek to address all the important issues now confronting the Muslims in the field of private education. With this belief IAIS Malaysia together with the Pahang State Foundation and IKIP International College, Pahang with whom it collaborated successfully last year (8-9 November 2010) in organizing the International Conference on Islam and Higher Education at IAIS, Kuala Lumpur, decide to work together again this year to organize the Second International Conference on Islam and Higher Education in Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

CONFERENCE THEME

“The Empowerment of Muslim Communities in Private Higher Education”

Sub-themes:

- The general state of private higher education in Muslim-majority countries and Muslim minority communities
- Issues and challenges confronting Muslim ownership and management of private universities and colleges
- Private institutions of higher learning in light of Islamic ideals of knowledge-society and social justice
- The role of Islamic religious, economic and financial institutions in promoting the growth and advancement of private higher education
- Private universities and colleges as both competitors and collaborators in the pursuit of educational and societal progress

Objectives of the Second ICIHE:

1. To seek ways and means of empowering the Muslim communities in various parts of the world in private higher education.
2. To assess the state of Muslim ownership, control, and management of private colleges and universities both in Muslim-majority and Muslim-minority countries.
3. To help promote the growth and advancement of Muslim private colleges and universities.
4. To help elevate the quality of higher education provided by Muslim colleges and universities.
5. To create a better network of Muslim private higher education institutions in the pursuit of common interests and goals.
6. To propose actionable policy recommendations to decision-makers in the industry and government.
7. To publish the conference proceedings for wider dissemination to the public.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

IAIS Malaysia will undertake to publish the conference proceedings for wider distributions. Speakers and paper writers are therefore requested to submit their full papers to IAIS Malaysia (for the attention of Mr Mohd Nuruddin Abd Manap at mohdnuruddin@iais.org.my) at your earliest convenience but no later than 30 December 2011.

LIST OF SPEAKERS

1. Professor Dr Sultan Abu-Orabi (Secretary-General, Association of Arab Universities, Amman, Jordan)
2. Professor Dr Anis Ahmad (Vice Chancellor, Riphah International University, Islamabad, Pakistan)
3. Dr Ismail Mohd Rashid (Head, Unit of Private University, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia) representing Professor Dato' Dr Rujhan Mustapha (Director General, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia)
4. Professor Dr Suliman Abdullah Aba-ALKhail (Rector of Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia & Chairman of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World [FUIW] Executive Council)
5. Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar (Deputy CEO, IAIS Malaysia)
6. Professor Dato' Dr Ansary Ahmed (President/CEO, Asia e-University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
7. Professor Dr Camar A. Umpa (Rector, Al-Khwarizmi College, Marawi City, Philippines and Former Rector, Mindanao State University, Philippines)
8. Associate Professor Abhoud Syed M.Lingga (Bangsa Moro Institute of Research, Manila, Philippines)
9. Professor Dr Totok Amin Soefijanto (Deputy Rector of Paramadina University, Jakarta, Indonesia)
10. Professor Dato' Dr Aziuddin Ahmad (Rector, Kolej Universiti Islam Selangor [KUIS], Malaysia)
11. Mr Salahuddin Kasem Khan (Executive Chairman, SEACO Foundation, Bangladesh)
12. Professor Dr Serif Ali Tekalan (President of Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey)
13. Associate Professor Dr Mesut Idriz (Head, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Gazikent University, Gaziantep, Turkey)
14. Professor Dr Sofyan S. Harahap (Dean, Faculty of Economics, Trisakti University, Jakarta, Indonesia)

15. Associate Professor Dr Mesut Yilmaz (Vice Rector, Suleyman Demirel University, Almaty, Kazakhstan)
16. Dr Sukree Langputeh (Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Yala Islamic University, Thailand) representing Dr Ismail Lutfi (Rector, Yala Islamic University, Thailand)
17. Professor Dr Rosnani Hashim (Institute of Education, International Islamic University, Malaysia)
18. Mr Omar Mansoor Ansari (Director-General, Education and Technology, Peace Humanitarian Organization, Afghanistan)
19. Professor Dato' Dr Monir Yaakob (Chairman, Board of Directors, IKIP International College, Malaysia)
20. Dr Eric Winkel (Principal Research Fellow, IAIS Malaysia)
21. Dr Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohod (Provost, Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences, Malaysia)
22. Professor Dato' Wira Dr Jamil Osman (Rector, University College INSANIAH, Kedah, Malaysia)

LIST OF MODERATORS

1. Dr Karim Douglas Crow (Principal Research Fellow, IAIS Malaysia)
2. Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Haji Zainuddin (Member, Board of Directors, IKIP International College, Malaysia)
3. Mr Abdul Karim Abdullah (Assistant Research Fellow, IAIS Malaysia)
4. Dr Christoph Marcinkowski (Principal Research Fellow, IAIS Malaysia)
5. Dr Eric Winkel (Principal Research Fellow, IAIS Malaysia)
6. Associate Professor Dr Zaid Ahmad (Dean, Faculty of Human Ecology, *Universiti Putra Malaysia*, Malaysia)
7. Professor Dato' Dr Aziuddin Ahmad (Rector, *Kolej Universiti Islam Selangor [KUIS]*, Malaysia).
8. Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar (Deputy CEO, IAIS Malaysia)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1 – 14th November 2011 (Monday)

08.30 – 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 10.00 Official Opening of 2nd ICIHE

Quranic Recitation

Welcoming Speech

Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar, Chairman, 2nd ICIHE Organising Committee

Professor Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Chairman/CEO, IAIS Malaysia

Professor Dato' Dr Abdul Monir Hj Yaakob, Chairman, Board of Directors, IKIP

International College, Malaysia

Keynote and Opening Address

His Excellency Tan Sri Professor Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General,

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Photo Session

10.00 – 10.30 Refreshments and Press Conference

10.30 – 12.30 **Session 1**

Theme: *Private Higher Education in the Muslim Communities: A Global Overview*

Moderator: Dr Karim Douglas Crow (Malaysia)

Presenters: (1) Professor Dr Sultan Abu-Orabi (Jordan)

Topic: *Private Higher Education in a Changing Arab World: Past, Present and Future*

(2) Professor Dr Anis Ahmad (Pakistan)

Topic: *Private Higher Education in the Muslim Indian Sub-Continent: An Overview*

(3) Professor Dato' Dr Rujhan Mustapha and Dr Ismail Mohd Rashid (Malaysia)

Topic: *Muslim Ownership, Control, and Management of Private Colleges And Universities: The Malaysian Case*

(4) Professor Dr Suliman Abdullah Aba-ALKhail (Saudi Arabia)

Topic: *The Role of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW) in Muslim Higher Education*

Discussion

12.30 – 13.45 Lunch & Prayer

13.45 – 15.15 **Session 2**

Theme: *Islamic Ideals of Knowledge-Society and Social Justice as a Key Motivating Factor for the Empowerment of Muslim Private Higher Education*

Moderator: Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Haji Zainuddin (Malaysia)

Presenters: (1) Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar (Malaysia)

Topic: *The Empowerment of Muslim Communities in Private Higher Education: An Ummatic Agenda*

(2) Professor Dato' Dr Ansary Ahmed (Malaysia)

Topic: *Islam and the Pursuit of a Knowledge-Society: Muslim Cyber Space-Based Higher Education as a New Strategic Factor*

(3) Professor Dr Camar A. Umpa and Associate Professor Abhoud Syed M. Lingga (Philippines)

Topic: *Empowering Muslim Higher Education in the Philippines in Pursuit of Societal Peace and Justice*

Discussion

15.15 – 16.45 **Session 3**

Theme: *Public vs. Private Muslim Universities and Colleges: Who Can Provide Better Quality Education?*

Moderator: Mr Abdul Karim Abdullah (Malaysia)

Presenters: (1) Professor Dr Totok Amin Soefijanto (Indonesia)

Topic: *How do Indonesian Private Muslim Universities Fare in Comparison with Their Public Counterparts?*

(2) Professor Dato' Dr Aziuddin Ahmad (Malaysia)

Topic: *Can Private Muslim Universities Perform Better than the Public Ones?: A Malaysian Perspective*

(3) Mr Salahuddin Kasem Khan (Bangladesh)

Topic: *The SEACO University: A New Non-Governmental Regional Muslim Initiative*

Discussion

16.45 Refreshments & Prayer

END OF DAY 1

DAY 2 – 15th November 2011 (Tuesday)

08.30 – 10.15 **Session 4**

Theme: *Advancing the Cause of Muslim Private Higher Education: The Role of Islamic Religious, Economic and Financial Institutions*

Moderator: Dr Christoph Marcinkowski (Malaysia)

Presenters: (1) Professor Dr Serif Ali Tekalan (Turkey)

Topic: *Islamic Perspective of Internationalization of Higher Education*

(2) Associate Professor Dr Mesut Idriz (Macedonia)

Topic: *The Role of Endowment Foundation in Private Higher Education in the Balkans: The Case of the Minority Muslim Communities*

(3) Professor Dr Sofyan S. Harahap (Indonesia)

Topic: *Sustaining the Growth of Private Universities in Muslim-majority Indonesia: the Role of Non-Governmental Sector*

Discussion

10.15 – 10.45 Refreshments

10.45 – 12.30 **Session 5**

Theme: *Issues and Challenges Confronting Muslim Private Higher Educational Institutions*

Moderator: Dr Eric Winkel (Malaysia)

Presenters: (1) Associate Professor Dr Mesut Yilmaz (Kazakhstan)

Topic: *The Need for Higher Education to Provide High Ethics and Social Coherence in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan: The Case of Suleyman Demirel University (SDU)*

(2) Dr Ismail Lutfi and Dr Sukree Langputeh (Thailand)

Topic: *The Experience of Thai Muslim Community with Specific Reference to Yala Islamic University*

(3) Professor Dr Rosnani Hashim (Malaysia)

Topic: *Some Issues and Challenges Confronting Muslim Private Higher Educational Institutions in Malaysia*

Discussion

12.30 – 13.45 Lunch & Prayer

13.45 – 15.15 **Session 6**

Theme: *New Institutional Initiatives in Muslim Private Higher Education*

Moderator: Associate Professor Dr Zaid Ahmad (Malaysia)

Presenters: (1) Mr Omar Mansoor Ansari (Afghanistan)

Topic: *Private Higher Education in Afghanistan*

(2) Professor Dato' Dr Monir Yaakob (Malaysia)

Topic: *The Royal Islamic University of Malaysia: A New Addition to Malaysia's List of Islamic Universities and Colleges*

(3) Dr Eric Winkel (Malaysia)

Topic: *Islamic Civilization and the New Sciences: Promising Developments for Muslim Higher Education*

Discussion

15.15 – 16.45 **Session 7**

Theme: *Specific Challenges to Muslim Private Higher Education in Malaysia*

Moderator: Professor Dato' Dr Aziuddin Ahmad (Malaysia)

Presenters: (1) Dr Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohod (Malaysia)

(2) Professor Dato' Wira Dr Jamil Osman (Malaysia)

16.45 Refreshments & Prayer

END OF DAY 2

DAY 3 – 16 November 2011 (Wednesday)

08.30 – 10.30 Session 8

FORUM: The Future of Muslim Private Higher Education in 21st Century

Moderator: Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar

Panelists: (1) Professor Dato' Wira Dr Jamil Osman (Malaysia)
(2) Professor Dr Totok Amin Soefijanto (Indonesia)
(3) Professor Dr Sultan Abu-Orabi (Jordan)
(4) Professor Dr Anis Ahmad (Pakistan)
(5) Mr Omar Mansoor Ansari (Afghanistan)

10.30 – 11.00 Refreshments

11.00 – 12.00 CLOSING CEREMONY

Presentation of Conference Report by Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar,
Chairman, 2nd ICIHE Organising Committee

Closing Remarks by Professor Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Chairman/CEO,
IAIS Malaysia

Official Closing Address by YAB Dato' Sri Diraja (Dr) Haji Adnan Bin Haji Yaakob, Chief
Minister of Pahang

Launching of:

- 1) Proceedings of 1st ICIHE titled *Contemporary Higher Education Needs in Muslim Countries: Defining the Role of Islam in the 21st Century Higher Education*
- 2) A new Malaysian edition of His Excellency Tan Sri Professor Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu's edited book titled *The Transfer of Modern Science and Technology to the Muslim World*

Photo Session and Press Conference

END OF CONFERENCE

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Professor Dr Sultan T. Abu-Orabi

Higher Education in the Arab World started before other regions of the world because it is considered as the edifier of civilization. Education in general started with religious concepts whereby Al-Azhar Al-Sharif (Egypt, 970 AD), Al-Qaraweyeen (Morocco, 859 AD) and Al-Mustansiriyah Universities (Iraq, 625 AD) were religious based Universities. In fact, most of the ancient universities in the Arab World and in Europe or United States were established by the religious Missions and Colonization. Higher education in Arab and Islamic Countries is undergoing several problems some of which are the quantitative expansion of higher education and the huge enrollment numbers of students; low quality and quantity of scientific research; insufficient funding and expenditure on higher education and research; low awareness of the importance and impact of good scientific research, inadequate networking opportunities and databases, limited international collaborative efforts, and of course, the brain-drain. Today, the number of universities increased dramatically, and funding of higher education institutions which mainly relied on the public sector has become insufficient. The need towards privatization of higher education became inevitable as public university expansion will slow down. Today 30% of global higher education enrolment is private. New trends and forms of collaboration within Muslim countries are needed especially in the exchange of students and scholars. In order to cope with the changing contexts resulting from globalization, it has become necessary to take actions of reform for educational systems in order to meet global standards. Quality assurance and accreditation procedures are a must for Muslim countries in order to raise quality of human capital. It is clear that understanding the role of higher education from a global point of view is one of the steps that should be taken to deal with all such challenges.

PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE MUSLIM INDO-PAK SUBCONTINENT: AN OVERVIEW

Professor Dr Anis Ahmad

Higher education is the key to sustainable development and social progress. Private sector high education, during the past twenty years has become an important phenomenon. The overall trend in higher education is market centered. Those disciplines which show prospects of marketability are encouraged in institutes of higher learning. In the case of Pakistan, out of over one hundred twenty universities nearly half are in private sector. Most of the universities are using curriculum scheme recommended by the regulatory bodies such as HEC or UGC in respective countries. This paper makes an effort to understand background of higher education in the sub-continent during colonial and post colonialist periods. It also makes an effort to define goals and objectives of higher education and future challenges. The paper looks critically on the achievable targets of present higher education and recommends integration of values in higher education. It also looks critically at the very concept of Muslims as a minority and

Muslims as a majority. The paper also tries to look into classification of knowledge into secular and religious, and suggest a paradigm shift. The paper proposes that graduates of institutes of higher learning should be *civilizational leaders*. They should represent the value system of Islam and at the same time share global Islamic values with the rest of the humanity. The paper refers to primary Islamic values as the basis of higher education in Muslim countries.

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF MUSLIM PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN MALAYSIA

Dr Ismail bin Hj Mohd Rashid and Professor Dato' Dr Rujhan Mustapha

Higher education is highly appreciated by the citizens in Islamic countries. More importantly, its primary function is to produce advanced scientific knowledge that strongly represents the Islamic communities' aspiration towards progress and building a better future. Private Higher education is essential to national social, economic development and considered the next 'engine of growth' for Malaysia. The importance of the private higher education institutions (PHEIs) has become more crucial as the demand by international students has increased annually. Hence, the number of PHEIs grew rapidly with a variety of business models or ownership with varying enrolment of students and quality of higher education services. As the role of PHEIs became necessary and relevant in providing higher education services to meet increasing demand by both local and international students, the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) adopted a strategy to facilitate the growth of PHEIs. Being a private higher education institution, there was a risk that private institutions would not initiate or develop strategies or activities to meet towards the national goals. The government was made aware of this development, and hence the necessity to intervene became a priority to guide PHEIs to provide quality higher education services. In order to realize this objective, MOHE applies the Private Higher Education Institution Act 1996 (Act 555) and Regulations to manage the PHEIs. This effort is undertaken in order to be competitive with the rest of the world in providing quality services, with the intention of realizing the government's objective of achieving world-class educational standards and transforming Malaysia into an education hub by 2015.

THE ROLE OF THE FEDERATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD (FUIW) IN MUSLIM HIGHER EDUCATION

Professor Dr Suliman Abdullah Aba-AIKhail

My presentation at the conference reviews the overall objectives for the establishment of the Federation of Universities of the Islamic World, represented in a number of substantial goals for the development of the Islamic World and its universities, particularly the academic institutions. The Federation establishes for an Islamic World and motivates academicians to make use of the cumulative experience of a number of universities in the Islamic World to pass it over to the other universities. It also builds on the emerging experiences and the existing human and financial resources in the Muslim World to achieve a number of objectives that may include:

- Enhancing the level of scientific researches in all fields, exchanging their findings, and linking them with the developmental and civilizational requirements of the Islamic Umma
- Upgrading and developing higher education to address the needs of Muslim societies and benefit by the scientific and technological new developments in line with the Islamic Umma's civilizational constants
- Furthering cooperation in such a way as to enhance the exchange of experiences, studies, programmes and visits in the fields of education, science, culture and technology;
- Encouraging the teaching of the language of the Holy Qur'an and the Islamic culture in Member Universities
- Stepping up the efforts of higher education institutions to address the current issues and entrench the values of understanding, coexistence and peace among the peoples of the Islamic Umma and the world as a whole
- Upgrading Member Universities' knowledge and human capacities
- Caring for the Islamic heritage by publicizing, translating and authenticating it, and shedding light on the contribution of its scholars to the human civilization

THE EMPOWERMENT OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION: AN UMMATIC AGENDA

Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Osman Bakar

For many Muslim majority countries it is now more or less half a century ago that they gained independence from colonial rule. When we speak of changes in civilizational terms, fifty years would be counted as a very short period of time. In this sense, therefore, we may regard these countries as still being in a period of transition from formal independence to real independence especially as seen through Islamic eyes. Some Muslim countries have been more successful than others in managing independence. The more successful ones have become what they are today because of their singularly large investment in education at all levels, the primary, the secondary and the tertiary. The transition period to full and real independence could be shortened and made more meaningful through investment in education that will bring good returns in terms of developed human resources and human capital for societal progress. But the world of education is changing, more so at the level of higher education. Until as recent as a decade ago, for various ideological reasons most Muslim majority countries have been adopting the policy of state ownership of higher education. Education at all levels is generally seen as the most effective means of attaining the goals of national development and national unity. But mainly for economic reasons, many Muslim countries have liberalized their higher education policy to allow for the establishment of private universities and colleges. Educational nationalism has both positive and negative consequences. One of the negative consequences was either the abandonment or the destruction of the traditional resources for the development of higher education, especially private higher education. The *awqaf* (endowments) is an excellent example of these traditional resources. Islam is known to have a centuries-long tradition of private and public higher education healthily competing with and complementing each other in the pursuit of societal goals. The contemporary situation in higher

education is such that it calls for an ummatic approach to the many problems and challenges it poses to the umma. This paper seeks to address some of the major issues now confronting the umma in the field of private higher education.

**ISLAM AND THE PURSUIT OF A KNOWLEDGE-SOCIETY: MUSLIM CYBER
SPACE-BASED HIGHER EDUCATION AS A NEW STRATEGIC FACTOR**

Professor Dato' Dr Ansary Ahmed

This paper will take a look at the global trends in e-learning and discuss the profile of the students who are seeking higher education. It will also provide the landscape Universities who are already using ICT to enhance the teaching and learning. Examples of transnational initiatives will be discussed and in concluding the author will highlight issues and challenges in implementation strategies.

**EMPOWERING MUSLIM HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES IN
PURSUIT OF SOCIETAL PEACE AND JUSTICE**

Professor Dr Camar A. Umpa and Associate Professor Abhoud Syed M. Lingga

This paper deals on the state of Muslim private institution of higher education in the Philippines. Part I explore government policies towards private higher education, and the issues and challenges in ownership and management of Muslim private colleges and universities. Part II of the paper is a case study on RC Al Khwarizmi International College Foundation Incorporated (AKIC) a Muslim owned and managed institution of higher education. To serve the needs of disadvantaged Muslim students, the AKIC adopts the following:

1. A trimester offering that allows students to finish college degrees in short time;
2. A flexible curriculum which avoids pre-requisite subjects;
3. A placement, rather than entrance, examination to ensure that no student is rejected provided that he starts at his proper level;
4. Acceleration by examination which allows bright students to earn credits and proceed to higher subjects, shortening time for completing a degree;
5. Credit *cum* audit grading system that allows dropping subjects and conversion of enrollment from credit (for grade) to audit (no grade) before final examinations so that no failing grade appears on record;
6. Honors program by choice consciously encourages students to seek honor standing every trimester;
7. Pre-board review subjects are required for all majors with national board examinations;
8. Rigid on the job training; and
9. Community immersion that requires students to experience real-life exposure to the lives of poor Muslim communities to inculcate civic consciousness.

The AKIC experience shows that even under adverse conditions in Mindanao and limited resources it is possible for Muslim minority in the Philippines to establish excellent tertiary education to cater to the educational needs of the Muslim youth though of limited extent.

ISLAMIC PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES: A CONSOLIDATION IN PROGRESS

Professor Dr Totok Amin Soefijanto

Many indicators suggest that private Islamic universities must adapt and improve. In the case of Indonesian Islamic universities, change is inevitable. The stagnant student enrollment, mediocre quality of faculty, limited research activities, and unsound financial management are some of the issues that the university leadership must be solved. It is time for a comprehensive consolidation process. Islamic schools or *pesantren* would never reach the higher education level until after the independence of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945. Struggling with political stigma, Islamic universities were unable to grow significantly until the reform movement in 1998. Since then, the quantity of Islamic universities has quadrupled within 13 years, from only several campuses into more than 600 today – 90% of them are private Islamic universities. Subsequently, some quality-related problems emerged, such as the troubles in fulfilling the national accreditation standards and the lack of strategic plan for sustainable development. They must work hard to fulfill community expectations. In an optimistic point of view, Islamic private universities have the luxury of being focused and good practice: accountable of its conducts. Furthermore, the penny-pinched culture of private universities has enabled its management to implement prudent academic and non-academic programs. The credible and morally correct academic policies have been the university core ingredients for maintaining public trust. In addition, a sound management policy provides a strong foundation for Islamic private universities to deal with the ever-changing higher education landscapes in upcoming years. Indeed, consolidation programs can only be endured if there is a comprehensive support from the “*ummat*” – the faculty, staff, students, and the community, the donors, the board of trustees, and the government. *Insha Allah*, the consolidated universities will be rewarded with abundant opportunities, and the privilege to disseminate virtuous Islamic values to the world.

CAN PRIVATE MUSLIM UNIVERSITIES PERFORM BETTER THAN THE PUBLIC ONES? A MALAYSIAN PERSPECTIVE

Professor Dato’ Dr Aziuddin Ahmad and Professor Dr Arfah Salleh

This paper presents our view on the role of private Muslim Universities in offering an education system deemed of quality. In arriving at our stance, we express our reservation with the tendency to compare the performance between public and private institutions as encapsulated in the title. We deliberate the appropriateness of using quality as a benchmark comparison between private and public universities when the philosophical construct underpinning the two modalities is not the same. In this paper too, we discuss the objective & purpose of education in Islam as opposed to the development of education today from the mould of Eurocentrism – how the original concept of teaching and learning has been hijacked by commercialism and

education commodified. The present day education sees students as customers with focus solely on performance as measured by students' cognitive ability without regard to their moral and ethical nurturing. In arguing our case for the need to bring back the spirit of education truly based on Islam and that it is possible for Muslim communities to achieve such vision, we share the strategies of a private institution of higher learning in Malaysia in its transformation journey (from idealization to actualization, models to modules) to bring back education that is founded upon the essence of Islam, and that lives the true essence of Islam.

THE SEACO UNIVERSITY: A NEW NON-GOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL MUSLIM INITIATIVE

Mr Salahuddin Kasem Khan

Against the global backdrop of the World's financial crisis and recession , the breakdown in WTO Talks, Climate Change; proposed EU-style East-Asian Economic Community, the OIC countries in South and Southeast Asia need to take step to enhance regional and sub regional trade, investment, cultural, educational and overall co-operation. The Plan of Action and the Dakar Declaration of the Sixth Islamic Summit (OIC) had also resolved to strengthen measure in this regard. Concurrently, a number of OIC member states have developed various structured regional co-operation arrangements such as ACM, AMU, ECOWAS, CEAO, GCC, ACC, and ECO. However, no framework for similar institutional or socio-economic co-operation exists among OIC countries in this region. It has, therefore, been proposed that the creation of the South East Asian Co-operation Organization (SEACO) (comprising Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Maldives, and Malaysia) will bring about the desired integration among the participating states with the private sector associated closely. SEACO Task Force and SEACO Foundation Bangladesh, SEACO Task Force Malaysia and others organizations has been working towards this purpose. SEACO Foundation Bangladesh with the Co-operation of SEACO Task Force Malaysia has recently taken an initiative to establish the SEACO University in Bangladesh, to promote educational, cultural and job market opportunities and facilities for students, faculties and institutions to create a knowledge grid in this region. This initiative would be an effective example and model of SEACO's main goal for regional co-operation by the private sectors of the five OIC countries in South and South East Asia. The paper will focus mainly on the necessity, urgency and importance of a new framework for structured regional integration the South East Asian Co-operation (SEACO) and try to establish a first private sector's initiative SEACO UNIVERSITY with strong regional links as a centre of excellence.

ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE OF INTERNATIONALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Professor Dr Serif Ali Tekalan

In this paper, firstly we will go through the definition of the differences between globalization and internationalization. Secondly we are trying to answer following questions; what are the requirements of internationalization of higher education institutions, what kind of internationalization we should look for, how we should increase the awareness of internationalization in our institutions as well as what are the tools for providing global perspectives to our students, faculties, and communities. Aforementioned issues are discussed on the light of Qur'an, Sunna, and Islamic scholars' perspectives.

THE ROLE OF ENDOWMENT FOUNDATIONS IN THE PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE BALKANS

Associate Professor Dr Mesut Idriz

Geo-ontologically the Balkans falls at the crossroads between the heartlands of Turkey's Anatolia and Europe. Normally Greece, Slovenia and to some extent Romania try to avoid being placed within the socio-conceptual and contextual expression referred to as the Balkans. Nevertheless, all the countries within the historic peninsula are undoubtedly considered the Balkans. After the collapse of communism in former Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania during the early 1990s, number of non-state controlled higher educational institutions under the various endowment foundations began to be established. Some were funded by the Western foundation and some others Turkish foundations. Among the Western supported and financed institutions are Southeast European University, FON University, and American University of Prishtina. Turkish universities, on the other hand, among others, are Epoka University, International Balkan University, International University of Sarajevo, and International Burch University. In our presentation we will focus on those higher learning institutions that are run, financed and supported by Muslims and Turkey in particular. We will study the rise of these universities, curriculum, educational standards, etc. In addition, whenever necessary, we will contrast and compare with those universities backed up by the Western foundations.

THE ROLE OF MUSLIM UNIVERSITY IN CREATING SOCIAL WELLBEING: ABSENT OF TAWHIDIC PARADIGM TEACHING IN MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

Professor Dr Sofyan S Harahap

After getting independent the Muslim countries may have more freedom to establish universities owned, designed and based on the Muslim view. However the design and the teaching method mostly are similar to colonial or secular based universities. Judging especially the scientific paradigm, we may conclude that the used paradigm is from secular view and not the Tawhidic view. This situation may have impact on how Muslim societies control the production of knowledge and how Muslims merely become followers or adopt the “me too approach” and it also affects the quality of social welfare and wellbeing of the Muslim community. This situation is sustained until now; even some of the Muslim universities themselves acknowledge the main differences between the secular paradigm and the Tawhidic paradigm and that Muslims must use adopt the latter for Tawhidic its uniqueness. This paradigm has been a source of progress for Muslim communities in the past especially during the times of the Prophet and his Companians. It enabled the Muslims to be the power torch bearer of human civilisation and to create a society known for its good social welfare and the social wellbeing or “al-falah” of its people. The paper argues that if a Muslim university still follows the secular paradigm in producing and teaching scientific methodology the situation of the Muslims in this world will be always be as followers and not leaders. They will not be able to become “khalifatul fi’l ardhi” as expected by Allah SWT and the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

THE NEED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE HIGH ETHICS AND SOCIAL COHERENCE IN POST-SOVIET KAZAKHSTAN: THE CASE OF SÜLEYMAN DEMIREL UNIVERSITY (SDU)

Associate Professor Dr Mesut Yilmaz

Kazakhstan is different from other Post-Soviet union members called CIS by its being in possession of gigantic natural resources, economic and political power and huge support for education. After 1991, Kazakhstan had launched many educational programmes known as bolashak (3000 students abroad) and etc. The government sets aside huge provisions for the nation’s future in the field of education. Kazakhstan also has an increasingly well regarded private university sector with well-developed links to the European and Turkish universities. In the last decade Kazakhstan has seen the growth of its private higher education sector with an expansion of existing institutions and increased number of newly established private universities. On the other side, the soul of this education should be fed by ethical values. At present there are too many harmful practices inherited from the Soviet era such as bribery, corruption, individualism and etc. Turkey has an excellent historical relation with Kazakhstan. This historic linkage can provide more opportunities for cooperation in the field of higher education between two countries. A proof of this fruitful cooperation is Süleyman Demirel University called SDU in Almaty. SDU is privately owned by the ‘KATEV’ – Kazakh- Turkish Educational Foundation. It is a university committed to provide world quality education. The role and importance of SDU in the sector of Higher education in Kazakhstan can be summarized as follows:

1) One of the distinguishing features of SDU in educational landscape of Kazakhstan is the SDU's commitment to provide 'ethical education'. The KATEV and administration of SDU firmly believe that human's life must be accompanied by both knowledge and ethical education. Therefore the academic staffs are chosen so as to provide students with professional knowledge as well the high ethical values. As a result in the SDU there is no problem of bribery and corruption, which is however not rare in many post-Soviet universities.

2) Secondly SDU being a branch of a non-profit oriented educational foundation presents different models of charity to both students and Kazakhstan's society. E.g. in SDU the practice of organizing charity fairs is a well-established tradition with several students' clubs functioning in this direction, receiving direct support from the SDU's administration and academic staff. SDU plays a highly valuable and positive role in the strengthening of 'social coherence', 'interreligious and interethnic' tolerance among different ethnic and religious groups and communities in Kazakhstan. SDU's administration and academic staff pay great importance to the creation of a 'sincere, warm and friendly atmosphere' in the university. The relationship between academic staff and students is characterized by sincerity and warmth in comparison with the situation in other post-Soviet universities, both state and private.

SOME ISSUES AND CHALLENGES CONFRONTING MUSLIM PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN MALAYSIA

Professor Dr Rosnani Hashim

Privatization of higher education is a global trend. There is an increasing demand for higher education due to the nature of work and economy today and public universities and colleges could not meet the demand with its limited financial resources from the government. Private higher education institutions (PHEI) seem to be the most attractive alternative to public universities and colleges in opening greater access to higher education. Malaysia is no exception, having about 20 public universities, 25 private universities, 22 private university colleges and 410 private colleges and institutes. About a fourth of these PHEIs are Islamic institutions going by the name of the institutions or its ownership. However, private higher education institutions have their own issues and challenges. The most serious of them are preserving the philosophical goal of a balanced and integrated education despite market demands and sustaining its operation financially amidst a competitive environment. Yet, there are several opportunities from having Islamic PHEIs especially in terms of international collaboration and exchanges. This paper is an attempt to examine these issues and opportunities.

PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr Omar Mansoor Ansari

In Afghanistan we have two types of education, *Madrasah* system, the traditional Islamic education, and *Maktab* system, the modern Western education. Consequently, we have two types of “private education”, the non-governmental education under the control of the government, and the traditional Islamic education outside of the governmental control. In 1978, Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education (renamed as Ministry of Higher Education in 1994) was established so that it became in charge of higher education. Now the number of students of higher education is about 40,000 of which 25% are women, and 13 universities and 4 institutions of higher education are operated by this ministry and these are categorized as the institutions of the governmental higher education. Until 2004 there was neither university nor higher education institution except those which are established and operated by Ministry of Higher Education. But situation is drastically changing; now we have 58 private universities and higher education institutions. Of these private universities and institutions of higher education, the most popular faculty is one of law and political science, then economics and business administration, computer science, but there are few faculty of *Sharī'ah*. Afghan government is trying to integrate *Madrasah* System into *Maktab* system but still a quite a lot of *Madāris* are out of its control. And those *Madāris* which have higher Islamic education are called “*Jāmi'ah*”. Sunnite *Jāmi'ah* al-Ashrafiyah and Shiite *Jāmi'ah* al-Mustofā are of this category. We are now in urgent need of containing this private Islamic higher education into national socio-educational structure for sake of national security and integration as well as in need of international Islamic higher education because Afghanistan is now so involved in the complicated international politics that we need human resources who has deep understanding of Islam, Western sciences, global cultures and the international relations.

THE [ROYAL] ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA

Professor Dato' Dr Abdul Monir Hj Yaakob

Muslim College Malaya was the first Islamic Higher learning institution ever established in Malaysia, in 1950. The College provided general courses in Islamic studies and was recognized by Al-Azhar University and few Universities the in United Kingdom. Graduates from this College pursued postgraduate studies in four disciplines –Shariah, Usuluddin, Arabic Language and Law. The College ceased in operation in 1970, due to the decision of the Government to establish Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. This paper attempts to describe the effort and move taken by a group of Muslim College Malaya Alumni to reactivate the operation of the Muslim College Malaya. A positive opinion has been given by the Council of Rulers towards reactivating the Muslim College Malaya: the decision of the Council of Rulers to establish a [Royal] Islamic University of Malaysia and the appointment of the University's Council members and Chairman of the University. This paper also identifies the challenges and step taken by the Council as well as the Chairman in materializing the Council of Rulers' decision, explains the uniqueness of the University and the recent position and status of the University.

**ISLAMIC CIVILISATION AND THE NEW SCIENCES:
PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS FOR MUSLIM HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dr Eric Winkel

Starting from Ibrahim Kalin's "Three Views of Science in the Islamic World," this presentation provides some reasons for the prominence of the first view ("science is technology is neutral"), a critique using the second view, and a way to engage the third view (perennial philosophy, sacred science) with the new sciences. The "suprahuman organism" described by the Human Microbiome Project is juxtaposed with Ibn `Arabi's [1165-1240] description of micro (*latif*) spirits discharging their trust (*amanah*) in the gut. Ibn `Arabi's descriptions of the number one are evaluated with respect to the Real number line, and his 1 is found to be off that line. Further, other descriptions of his geometries and topologies, and aperiodicities, suggest that he is seeing a non-commutative geometry. Some implications of his non-commutative geometry and number system off the Real number line are explored. The seduction of the "first view" of science means that anything connected to "sufism" is dismissed or ignored, and as a result, Muslim societies seem unable to connect their heritage to the most interesting and promising endeavors of the new sciences. This presentation suggests *points d'appui* where the new sciences may be fruitfully engaged by Muslim higher education institutions.

**SPECIFIC CHALLENGES TO MUSLIM PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA:
THE JOURNEY OF CYBERJAYA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**

Dr Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohod

The global higher education industry is now facing multi-faceted challenges regardless of their public or private ownership status. The need to provide higher education access to the growing number of youth finishing secondary education, relevancy of educational programs, job marketability and the ongoing concern of "competencies ' among the working population, i.e. provision of lifelong learning pathways are some of the challenges. Hence, the accepted "axiom" that public universities will ensure "quality and higher standard of education "can be challenged if the issues of ensuring "marketability and functionality" of graduates are not being addressed. On the other hand, private higher education institutions are still being closely "scrutinised and monitored" through a public institution "perception" of quality and standards. Specifically in Malaysia, we have more private universities/ uni-colleges and colleges than the public higher institutions. The current state of "influx" is due to the introduction of PHIE act (555) that was enacted in 1996. It is important to be reminded that the act was introduced to regulate the mushrooming of international twinning programs (especially among non-muslim private institutions) as well as complimenting the role of public sector in providing higher accessibility to the younger generation. In Malaysia the anomaly is; currently almost 60-70% of Muslim students are studying in non-Muslim owned institutions. This is due to probably the superior perception of standards, infrastructure and facilities and also teaching resources as well as better marketability and employment opportunities. Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences (CUCMS) was established in 2005 to address initially the unavailability of medical and pharmacy seats at the local public institutions. CUCMS formed partnership with

Ministry of Defence's and also the Ministry of Health to optimise and utilise the clinical facilities in both ministries. Moving on, the limitation of quotas for medical and pharmacy as well as another "influx" of medical colleges locally and globally, forces CUCMS to re-assess our position. CUCMS is now looking at Wellness and Alternative Medicine training to tap the bigger market of "preventive, health-conscious and non-sick" communities. The introduction of more allied health programs, traditional and complementary medicine as well as continuing health education (CHE) will be the future growth in providing "niche' training and education. The strategy is towards ensuring sustainability and building a well focused "center of excellence (COE)". The new delivery platform will include on-line and blended systems besides the traditional onsite teaching and clinical training.

BIODATA OF SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

Professor Dr Sultan T. Abu-Orabi is an Organic Chemist who obtained his PhD from the University of Michigan, USA. He is the secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities which has its headquarters in Amman, Jordan. Prof. Abu-Orabi previously served as President of Yarmouk University, Jordan's second largest public university, President of Irbid National University and Tafila Technical University in Jordan. He is also President of the Jordanian Chemical Society and President of the Arab Union of Chemists. He was Visiting Professor at Bahrain University and the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia. Professor Sultan T. Abu-Orabi is Editor-in-Chief of two international chemistry journals, and is member of the Editorial Board of four. He has organized, served on Advisory Boards, and presented lectures at numerous international conferences. He has also received several research fellowships and awards and published over fifty papers throughout his career spanning twenty-six years. He can be reached at secgen@aaru.edu.jo and abuorabi@excite.com.

Professor Dr Anis Ahmad is Meritorious Professor and Vice Chancellor Riphah International University Islamabad. He is Chief Editor of *The West and Islam*, a quarterly journal published from Islamabad. Prof. Anis writes on contemporary socio-political, cross-cultural and gender issues with special reference to Islam and Muslims. Some of his writings are translated into Arabic, Turkish, and Chinese. He has taught at Universities in the US, Malaysia, China and Pakistan. He has also delivered extension lectures in Europe, Australia, Africa, China, Canada, USA, Central Asia and South East Asia and South America. He can be reached at anis.ahmed@riphah.edu.pk, anis@riphah.edu.pk or anis@anisahmad.com.

Professor Dato' Dr Rujhan Mustafa has 17 years of experience as an academician and administrator in the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia. He started his career as a lecturer in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), before he was seconded to the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia as the Director of Academic Division, which is responsible on the direction of academic programmes at public higher education institutions. He was later served as the Deputy Director-General, in charge of public universities at the Department of Higher Education Malaysia. Prior to his appointment as the Director-General, he has involved in many government to government (G-to-G) meetings such as the General Conference UNESCO, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, Asian University Network, Director-General/Secretary-General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region and The World Bank. He currently holds several positions in various international organizations such as Advisory Board Member for Global University Research Benchmarking System, Governing Board Member for the SEAMEO's (Southeast Asia Minister's of Education) Regional Open Learning Centre based in Jakarta, Focal Point for the Commonwealth of Learning based in Canada and Executive Committee for Islamic World Science Citation Centre based in Iran. Throughout his career as an academician, he has produced numerous publications related to international economics

specifically in East Asian economy, economic development of regionalism and the role of multinational companies like “Multinational Companies and Foreign Direct Investment” and “East Asia Economic Integration”. He is also recognized for his involvement in negotiation and consultation for several consultation projects for the central government, government agencies and state government of Sarawak like “Financial Crisis and Malaysia’s Economic Development”, “The Political Economy of East Asian Economic Integration” and “Macroeconomics Framework for Development of Border Town in Sarawak”. His works in academic and research has been duly recognized by foreign bodies through the conferment to The Japan Foundation Fellowship; The Tokyo Foundation Fellowship; Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) Foreign Research Fellowship; Keio University’s Visiting Research Fellowship; and Kyoto University’s Foreign Guest Scholar. He can be reached at mrujhan@mohe.gov.my.

Dr Ismail Hj Mohd Rashid awarded a BEd. in Teaching of Bahasa Melayu (Education Faculty, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 1987), MEd. in Microprocessors in Education (Faculty of Education, The Victoria University of Manchester, England, UK, 1994) and a PhD. in Education Management (Faculty of Education, Universiti Putra Malaysia, 2005). Served the Ministry of Education for more than 12 years on teaching and learning of Secondary Schools students in Selangor (1979-1991); Computer Assisted Learning at Computer Technology Lab., Kuala Lumpur (1991-1993) and Education Management at Institute of Aminuddin Baki, Genting Highlands, Pahang (1995-1997); education exhibitions in Arab Saudi; establishment, enforcement, research and development of Private Education at The Department of Private Education, Kuala Lumpur (1997-2003). Currently, he is Principal Assistant Director of Higher Education Department, Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia, Putrajaya (beginning from 2004). In MOHE, his working experiences are Malaysia higher education exhibitions delegates in UAE, Arab Saudi, China, Bahrain, Libya, Indonesia, Iran, Africa, Yemen, Jordan, Oman, Maldives, Kazakhtan, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka and India (verification visits); head of private higher education governance unit, establishment and registration of private colleges, university colleges and universities units. Author of 5 education-focused books and 3 books on Development Challenges in Malaysia (1st, 2nd and 3rd. Edition) published by Penerbit UPM. He has been a speaker in public and private colleges conferences and trainings, has given talks to Chicago Business Members, USA; Vietnam and Kenya delegates on Malaysia Higher Education Marketing Strategies; Process Model in Education Management at Universiti Trengganu, Trengganu and Kuala Lumpur Infrastructure University Colleges, Kajang, Selangor. He can be reached at mailmr@mohe.gov.my.

Professor Dr Suliman Abdullah Aba-ALKhail, awarded a BA in Shari’ah (College of Shari’ah and Theology, Al-Qasseem, KSA 1984), an MA in Da’wah and Ihtisab (College of Shari’ah in Riyadh, Imam University, KSA 1986) and a PhD in Comparative Jurisprudence (Higher Judiciary Institute, Imam University, KSA 1991), served the Islamic Law for more than 27 years through doing specialized research and authoring more than 57 books (some are translated into English, French and Japanese) tackling a wide range of Shari’ah issues from a modern intellectual Islamic perspective. Currently, he is the rector of Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic

University, KSA, Chairman of The Federation of The Universities Of The Islamic World (FUIW) Executive Council, Member of Supreme Council of the International Islamic University in Islamabad–Pakistan, Member of Supreme Council of the University of Lahore in Islamic – Pakistan, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for the History of Arab and Islamic Science at the University of Frankfurt in Germany, and Member of a number of Saudi government committees in the field of education, advocacy and anti-extremist ideology. He has been a keynote speaker in many conferences and symposia, has given public lectures in many occasions and delivered various speeches on TV channels and radio stations. He can be reached at abdulaziz@al-jumah.com.

Emeritus Professor Dato’ Dr Osman Bakar, PhD, formerly Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of University of Malaya and Malaysia Chair of Southeast Asian Islam at the Prince Talal al-Waleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington DC is currently Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO), International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies, Malaysia (IAIS). He is also Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Science at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University of Malaya and a consultant at the University’s Center for Civilizational Dialogue of which he was the founder (1996); and Visiting Research Fellow, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Monotheism (CISMOR), Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. Dr Bakar is an author of 17 books and nearly 300 articles on various aspects of Islamic thought and civilization, particularly Islamic science and philosophy and Islam in Southeast Asia. He was a member of the Council of 100 Leaders of the West-Islamic World Initiative for Dialogue founded by the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland. In 2009 he was named among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world. In 1994 he was made a Dato’ by HH the Sultan of Pahang and in 2000 he was a Datukship by the Malaysian King. He can be reached at obbakar@yahoo.com.

Professor Dato’ Dr Ansary Ahmed, PhD graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Liverpool in 1979. He obtained his PhD in Molecular Biology in 1983 from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. He first started his academic career as a tutor for the Department of Genetics and Cellular Biology in University of Malaya (UM), and he received his full Professorship in 1998. In UM amongst others he served as Head of Department of Genetics, Deputy Dean Faculty of Science and the Founding Dean for Institute of Postgraduate Studies. Professor Dato’ Dr. Ansary was the Project Leader, Senior Vice President and cofounder of Open University of Malaysia. The University now boasts an enrollment of over 80,000 students. At the national level, he has been actively involved as Steering committee member of National Bio-technology Group, as Special Science Officer at Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) the Science Advisor Office, Prime Minister’s Department. He also served as member of Task Force National Technology at Mapping Project, National Innovation System and Headed the Pharmaceutical Secretariat at MIGHT. Prof. Dato’ Ansary has served as Chairman and member of several national level task forces and committees in Higher Education for Internationalisation, Life Long Learning and is presently National Chairman for e-Learning. Professor Dato’ Dr. Ansary is also active internationally; he is

a member of UNESCO Kornberg 21st Century Visionaries for Higher Education and currently serves as UNESCO Technical Consultant to Libya for the ICT transformation of Libyan Universities. He is also very actively involved in scientific and technical consultancies. He is often invited as speaker at both local and international levels including Education Leaders Forum, Paris. He has represented Malaysia as a member of Board of trustees Asean University Network for several years. He was Project Director for Total e learning solution Ministry of Higher Education, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and most recently been appointed Honorary Advisor for Asia by the Commonwealth of Learning. Professor Dato' Dr. Ansary is the Founding President/CEO of the Asia e University which is a collaborative effort of 31 Asian countries under the Asian Cooperative Dialogue. He has published more than 120 articles in International and local Journals in Microbiology, molecular genetics, leadership and management in Higher Education. He was awarded by Enterprise Asia the Most Promising Entrepreneur in recognition of Asia e University's great success as start up. In recognition of his contributions both nationally and internationally, he was conferred in 2005 the Darjah Johan (Champion of the State) Negeri Pulau Pinang, and in 2007 the Darjah Paduka Mahkota Perak, by the HE Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan which carries the title Dato'. He can be reached at president@aeu.edu.my.

Professor Dr Camar A. Umpa was born on November 3, 1949, in Madamba, Lanao del Sur, Mindanao, Philippines. He is the founding President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of RC Al-Khwarizmi International College (RC AKIC), Marawi City, Philippines. He was formerly President of Mindanao State University (MSU), Marawi City, (1999-2005) and Chancellor of MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology (IIT), Iligan City (1988-1999). He obtained BA in Political Science from MSU in 1968, as the first Filipino Muslim to graduate with honors, *cum laude*, the only student ever to finish a four-year course in three academic years and the youngest to finish a college degree and join MSU's faculty at 18.5 years old. He obtained both PhD and MA in Political Science from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, under an East-West Center (EWC) grant in 1972 and 1977, respectively. He went on post-graduate trainings in peace research and conflict resolution at the Uppsala University in Sweden (1994) and the University of Melbourne, Australia in 2000. Among others, he wrote a paper entitled "*Science, Technology and Philippine Economic Success in the 21st Century*," delivered at the National Centennial Congress on Higher Education, Manila, Philippines, on May 28-29, 1998, where he argued that S&T capability was the single most important factor that enabled the rich countries of the world to industrialize. His dream is to contribute even only modestly in re-awakening among Muslims worldwide an interest in the study of advance science and technologies which when coupled with the Islamic faith may allow a second flowering of a golden age of Islamic civilization. He can be reached at ca_ump@yahoo.com.

Associate Professor Abhoud Syed M. Lingga is executive director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies in Cotabato City, Philippines. He holds Master of Arts in Islamic Studies and Master of Arts in Education degrees. He participated in a number of trainings, among which are on conflict prevention and peacebuilding conducted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; human rights and people's diplomacy by the Diplomacy Training Program of the

University of New South Wales, local government and civil society by Friedrich Naumann Stiftung in Germany, and various trainings on leadership and management. He participated in various sessions of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva. For some years he had been Associate Professor at the Mindanao State University in Maguindanao and lecturer at Cotabato City State Polytechnic College, Sultan Kudarat Islamic Academy Foundation College, and Mindanao State University Buug College. His research interests are on Bangsamoro self-determination, conflict management, human rights, sustainable development, and Islamic education. As accomplished author and writer, he has published numerous articles in local and international journals and chapters of books. Prof. Lingga is an active member of various non-government organizations, and has served in management capacities in various public and private sector organizations. In recognition of his peacebuilding efforts, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front offered him in 2010 member of the MILF Peace Panel negotiating with the Philippine Government. He can be reached at aslingga@yahoo.com.

Professor Dr Totok Amin Soefijanto was born in Makassar, South Sulawesi. He holds an Ed.D (Doctor of Education) in curriculum & teaching from Boston University, an MA (Masters of Arts) in Communication Studies from Emerson College in Boston, and an Engineering degree in Agro-industrial Technology from IPB, Bogor. During his doctorate study, he worked as a research assistant at the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research in Cambridge, MA, in 2002-2005. He was a journalist for almost 11 years in three weekly news magazines in Jakarta (1986-1997), before pursuing graduate degrees in the US on Fulbright, Ford, and Kelly E. Stephens Memorial Scholarships. He is co-founder of Check & Recheck TV program. He is now the chief management consultant for Duta Masyarakat newspaper (of the Nahdlatul Ulama group), member of management committee of Knowledge Sector Development in the National Planning Board (Bappenas), and head supervisor of the Southeast Asia Peace Lab. His research are mainly on higher education, quality assurance & professional standards in teaching, ethics & moral education, political communication, integrated marketing communications, and conflict resolutions. He is married and has two daughters. He can be reached at totok.soefijanto@paramadina.ac.id.

Professor Dato' Dr Aziuddin Ahmad graduated in electrical engineering (Kings College, London, 1977), nuclear reactor science & engineering (Queen Mary College, London, 1979) and reactor neutron physics (Imperial College, London 1982), spent more than 20 years in the corporate sphere. In 1989 he enrolled at Kings College London to read Law & was awarded the Cameron Waller Prize for 1991. He is Rector of KUIS since 1st April 2010 after having served 3 years as Professor of Risk Management at Graduate School of Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia. Presently, he is Chairman of Malaysia Nuclear Power Corporation, Trustee of Zakat Selangor and Director of ValueCap Sdn. Bhd. He has been a regular invitee to seminars/conferences as speaker, chairperson and panelist including the Symposium on Muslim Education at Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford University 2002. Since co-authoring in 2008 with Professor Dr Arfah Salleh a book, a monograph and many articles on Human Governance, he has spent most

of his speaking engagements deliberating the issue of human governance including at the Inaugural Global Responsible Leadership Summit 2009 Lausanne at the invitation of IMD and the World Congress of Accountants 2010. In July 2011 he spoke at the Institute of Internal Auditors International Conference. He can be reached at aziuddin@kuis.edu.my.

Mr Salahuddin Kasem Khan is the Managing Director of A.K. Khan & Co. Ltd.; Chairman of Coats (Bangladesh) Ltd. a joint venture with Coats U.K; Chairman, A.K. Khan Jute Mills and Director of Bengal Fisheries Ltd., joint ventures with Nichiro & Maruha of Japan. Vice Chairman of AK Khan Penfabric Company Ltd., a JV with Penfabric of Malaysia, and subsidiary of Toray, Japan. Former Chairman of AKTEL, Bangladesh. He did his schooling from Aitchison College, Lahore, 1964, graduated from the University of Punjab in 1968 and did post graduate legal studies in London (1969-1972). Mr. Khan was appointed as Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey, Chittagong by the President of Turkey in 1984. Chairman of the First Bangladesh-Malaysia Business Forum, 2004, held in Dhaka, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, was key note speaker. IP President of Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BMCCI). Former Chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, BTMA. Founder-Director of the Chittagong Stock Exchange; Member, National Council for Industrial Development (NCID) headed by the President (1980-90); Member, Task Force on Industrial Policy, Ministry of Planning, GOB (1990); Former Chairman of UCEP-Bangladesh Board of Governors. Chairman, Chittagong Skills Development Centre (CSDC). Co-Chairman of the EC/National Skills Development Council (NSDC), Member NSDC headed by the Prime Minister. Mr. Khan since 1975 has been supporting the gradual realization of the IFTA and an Islamic Common Market. The formation of SEACO (South-East Asian Co-operation), under OIC Frame Work, which was endorsed by the 10th Islamic Summit ,Qatar, 2000 Executive Chairman of the SEACO Foundation. Mr Salahuddin is Member of the International Advisory Panel, World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF). He can be reached at salahuddinkasemkhan@hotmail.com.

Professor Dr Şerif Ali Tekalan, head of International Association of Universities and Secretary General of Journalists and Writers Foundation, former Head of Fatih University Board of Trustees, former member of Higher Education Council, former Secretary of Executive Committee of Health Sciences Research Group in TÜBİTAK, is Rector of Fatih University. He had worked in the Department of Otolaryngology in Erciyes University Faculty of Medicine. He graduated from Ege University, Faculty of Medicine in 1976 and he completed his specialization in Ear-Nose-Throat in 1979. He conducted studies on autoneurology and hearing potentials at Geneva University Faculty of Medicine on Swiss Government Scholarship between 1981 and 1983. He conducted studies at Boston Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in USA, 1983. He speaks French and English. He is also writing and giving conferences regarding social issues particularly bad-habits. He can be reached at satekalan@gmail.com.

Associate Professor Dr Mesut Idriz, a native of Macedonia, received his graduate and doctoral degrees from the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC). Currently he

is Associate Professor of Comparative History of Civilization, Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations and Director of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Education at Gazikent Univeristy, Gaziantep, Turkey. He has taught at the International Islamic University Malaysia and was Chief Editor (Academics) at MPH Group Publishing (Kuala Lumpur). He has published several academic books and articles concerning Muslim history, Islamic civilization, history of Islamic education (particularly the tradition of *ijazah*, diploma). Among his books is *The Ijazah of 'Abdullah Fahim: A Unique Document from Islamic Education*, analyzing and translating into English the Former Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's Grandfather's *ijazah*. He is currently working on the concept of civilization from comparative perspective. He can be reached at mesut.idriz@gazikent.edu.tr.

Professor Dr Sofyan Syafri Harahap, BA and SE (University of Sumatra Utara), MSAc (University of Illinois, Chicago) PhD (University of Adelaide, Australia), is a Professor of Accounting at the Faculty of Economics, Trisakti University Jakarta. He is Dean of Economics Faculty in Trisakti University, The Director of Islamic Economics and Finance Postgraduate Program, Chairman of Islamic Economics and Finance (IEF) Research Center, Trisakti University. Editor in Chief of The Indonesian Management and Accounting Research (IMAR) an semi-annual Journal of Trisakti University and “Ekonomi Syariah”, an Indonesian monthly Magazine. Former commissioner at the Bank Syariah BNI 46 (2010-now), Former commissioner at the Bank Syariah Mandiri (2003-2005), Chairman of Syariah Board, PT Tugu Pratama; a member of Expert Team on Development of Islamic Bank, Indonesian Central Bank (2002-2008), Chairman of AAKSI (Association of Islamic Accounting and Finance Indonesia). He is in the National Committee of Central Organization of: Shariah Economics Society (MES), Vice Chairman of IAEI (Ikatan Ahli Ekonomi Islam), ISEI (Ikatan Sarjana Ekonomi Indonesia), Advisory Board of AASI, (Asosiasi Asuransi Syariah Indoensia) dan juga Vice Chairman of Al-Ittihadiyah (A Muslim organization focus on education and social development). He was working for Bank Duta, Bank Muamalat (the first Islamic bank), and some manufacturing, plantation, and consulting firms. He has written some books on Budgeting (1997), Accounting, Management, and Control in Islamic Perspective (1991), Accounting Theory (1994, 1997, 2001, 2004, 2007), Contemporary Auditing, (1990), Contemporary Management (1996) Critical Financial Analysis, (1999), Toward the Formulation of Islamic Accounting (2001), Business and Management in Islamic Perspective, Hand Book of Islamic Accounting (2004), Accounting for Islamic Bank with Wiroso and Yusuf (2005), Framework Theory and Its Objective of Shariah Accounting (2008), Accounting Theory (2010), Business Ethic in Islamic Perspective (2010). Dr Sofyan is Editor in Chief of Trisakti Business and Economic Research Journal, Media Riset Akuntansi, Auditing and Informasi, and the Indonesian Management and Accounting Research (IMAR), an International Journal. Presenting papers, keynote speaker at international and national level. He has written a number of papers in national and international journals. Research field is Management Control System, Islamic accounting, Disclosure issues, and cultural aspect in accounting and management. He has a deep research interest in various fields such as Islamic economics, finance, banking and accounting, Management Control System, Good Corporate Governance, Socio-economic accounting, Financial Accounting, Zakat and Islamic Philanthropy. He can be reached at sofyanSyafri@yahoo.com.

Associate Professor Dr Mesut Yilmaz is the Vice-Rector, Suleyman Demirel University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. He completed his Ph.D. at the Marmara University, Turkey in the field of International Economics and his bachelor's in Economics and Textile departments from Istanbul and Uludag Universities in Turkey. Postdoctoral research was on Islamic Finance in Malaysia. He has special interest in Regional Economic Integration, Financial Crises, IPRs and strengthening Social Coherence and Tolerance in Education sector. He can be reached at mesut.yilmaz@sdu.edu.kz.

Dr Sukree Langputeh is the Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Yala Islamic University, Thailand. An intellectual activist, he's one of the leading Muslim scholars of Thailand. He has written many articles and presented many papers at both national and international seminars and conferences. He can be reached at langputeh@gmail.com.

Professor Dr Rosnani Hashim is Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, International Islamic University, Malaysia and the Associate Director of the Centre for Philosophical Inquiry in Education, at IIUM. She is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of IIUM Lower Education Sdn Bhd which operates the International Islamic and Setiabudi Primary and Secondary Schools. Her area of specialization is educational policy, curriculum and philosophy of Islamic education. She was a research scholar with the Japan Foundation (2006), a Visiting Specialist under the Fulbright Programme of Direct Access to the Muslim World where she taught at Montgomery County Community College, Pennsylvania (2007), and a Visiting Professor at Tokyo University (2006), Damascus University (March-July 2009). Recently she was invited to teach Global Education in Nagoya University, Japan (April – September 2011). Among her major works are *Educational Dualism in Malaysia: Implications for Theory and Practice* (Oxford UP 1996 2d ed., 2003); *Teaching Thinking in Malaysia* (IIUM, 2003); *Mira Series 1-4 of Thinking Stories for Muslim Children* (Saba IM 2010) and *Reclaiming the Conversation: Islamic Intellectual Tradition in the Malay Archipelago* (The Other Press 2010). She can be reached at rhashimmy@yahoo.com.

Mr Omar Mansoor Ansari is an entrepreneur in Afghanistan's Information Communication Technology (ICT). He is an innovator, planner and a leader. Mr. Ansari cofounded the country's largest ICT consortium, the National ICT Alliance of Afghanistan, which he chairs since 2007. He has built number of institutions that are taking active role in Afghanistan's reconstruction process. Omar was presented with the Language Localization Champion Award by Microsoft Corporation and Localization Award by the Afghan Ministry of Communications and IT in 2008 for successfully leading and managing the Microsoft Windows and Office Pashto/Dari localization projects. He has recently provided consultation to the World Bank and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Afghanistan on ICT Skills Development. He has been working with key national and international ICT players on various ICT related programs. Omar served as Executive Director of the Afghan Computer Science Association, and Editor-in-Chief of the Computer Science and ICT Afghanistan publications. He is currently working as

Director of Education & Technology at Peace Humanitarian Organization (PHO) and Chairman at the National ICT Alliance of Afghanistan. He can be reached at o.ansari@pho.org.af.

Professor Dato' Dr Abdul Monir Yaacob was born in Temerloh, Pahang and obtained first degree "Al-Aliyah"- B.A (Hons.) from Al-Azhar University and a Diploma in Laws and later a Master of Philosophy (Law) from University of London. He later completed his Ph.D at the International Islamic University of Malaysia in 1991. He has more than 15 years experience in teaching at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and University of Malaya. He was appointed as Deputy Director General, Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) in November 1997 and was later made Director General of IKIM from April 2002 to May 2005. He was appointed as Professor at the Department of Shariah and Law, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya. In May 2007-2009, Professor Dato' Dr Abdul Monir Yaacob was appointed as the Academic Advisor to Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University, Brunei Darussalam. His present post is a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Shariah and Law, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya. He authored a number of books and has presented more than hundred working papers in National and International Conferences. His articles published in various journals. He also visited number of Universities in Canada, United States of America, UK and few Universities in Arab Countries- e.g. Egypt, Jordan, UAE, Qatar, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait- including Iran and Turkey. At national level he was appointed to be committee members in various government and private agencies e.g. Syariah Advisory Council of Bank Negara, Syariah Advisory Council of Security Commission, Syariah Advisory of AMB-PNB, Syariah Advisory Committee of Takaful National, Board of Director (Pahang Foundation), Member of Islamic Religious Council (Pahang), Chairman IKIP Education and Penal member, Syariah Court of Appeal, Pahang. He has done an extensive research on the Administration of Islamic Law in South East Asia. He can be reached at abdul.monir@gmail.com.

Dr Eric Winkel joined IAIS as Principal Research Fellow in May 2010. After earning his Ph.D. in Government and International Studies from the University of South Carolina, he worked with IIIT in Herndon, Virginia and then at the International Islamic University Malaysia on ideas of Islamisation. He has taught at the University of New Mexico, Universidad del Valle de Mexico, at the Quaid-i-Azam University in Pakistan as a Senior Fulbright Scholar, and again recently at the National College of Arts in Lahore. His primary study for over twenty years is the *Futuḥāt* of Ibn Arabī. He has addressed the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabī Society in Berkeley, in Santa Barbara, as well as Oxford in 2008. Dr Winkel has made great efforts to understand quantum mechanics and absorbed the fascination with chaos, fractals, and complexity emanating from Los Alamos and the Santa Fe Institute. He believes the greatly expanded interest in and study of Ibn Arabī corresponds to the last four decades of interest in complexity. From 2000–2008 Dr Winkel co-founded a small public high school in rural New Mexico (USA) with grants from the US Department of Education. His school introduced students to languages and cultures, culminating in a 'global experience' for a total of thirty-five students travelling to nine countries. His current projects focus on bridging this world of the new sciences to civilisational renewal—with projects on 'Islamic Affinities with New Science', and 'Finding Islam in Math'. Dr

Winkel has also been reflecting on the process of translation portrayed by Ibn Arabī and is preparing what shall be an unusual translation of passages from the *Futuḥāt*. These ideas on translation scale up to the civilisational level, where one asks how societies “read” and “interpret” their worlds. It involves asking Muslim societies how they are demonstrating and manifesting the *maqāsid*/higher goals of Islam. He can be reached at eric@iaais.org.my.

Dr Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohod graduated with Bachelors of Science in Manufacturing and Masters of Science in Industrial Management from Western Michigan University, United States of America in 1984. Beginning his career in the education sector, where his true passion lies, Dr. Salmi was first attached to Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). Dr. Salmi held various academic positions at UUM including Lecturer in Management Studies and Senior Lecturer in Human Resource & Organisation Development. Dr. Salmi later took a break from his lecturing duties to pursue a PhD in Strategic Management programme at University of Bradford, United Kingdom. Setting a personal record, he resumed his academic duties as Associate Professor in Strategic Management & Entrepreneurship at the age of 30 upon completion of his PhD in 1992. Throughout his career with UUM which spanned between 1985 and 1996, Dr. Salmi grew beyond his academic responsibilities and progressed to management positions., Dr. Salmi was the youngest Programme Director where he was appointed as the Director of Research and Consultancy Division and subsequently as Director of Entrepreneurial Development Institute at UUM. After an eleven-year stint with UUM, Dr. Salmi recognised another mission he felt he had to undertake and that was to push the standards of Malaysian private higher education to another level. In 1997 he joined KUB Malaysia Berhad to stoutly establish and co-founded Malaysia’s very first virtual university, University Tun Abdul Razak (UNITAR) as Project Director and Deputy President. He was also appointed the Chief Executive Officer of United Multimedia Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary company of UNITAR that develops and manages the e-learning infrastructure and systems of the university. While still attached to UNITAR, Dr Salmi extended his service to E-TQM College in Dubai where he served as Professor and Associate Dean on Content Development for three years (2000 -2003). In 2003, Dr. Salmi left UNITAR/KUB to embark on another mission to reshape the local education landscape in Malaysia with a class of like-minded entrepreneurs to establish In-Fusion Solutions Sdn Bhd. Guided by the vision under the leadership of Dr. Salmi, In-Fusion has grown from a seven-person company to a successful company with 250 staff in the higher education, education technology and edutainment sectors. Over the last decade, Dr Salmi has co-founded and owned a medical university, allied health and animation colleges, and life long learning institutions under the In-Fusion Solutions group of companies. He can be reached at msalmis@in-fusion.com.my.

Professor Dato’ Wira Dr Jamil Bin Osman received his early education at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kepala Batas, Kedah for five years and followed by one year at the National School Garong Padang, Kota Baharu, Kelantan. In 1962, he has been selected as one of the best students throughout the state of Kelantan and received an offer to study at boarding school Dato’ Abdul Razak (SDAR), Tanjung Malim, Perak for six years. In 1969, he successfully entered the Institut Teknologi MARA (ITM) for statistics courses for four years and then was given Mardi scholarship

to continue his studies on the same field in England for two years. Upon his returned from England he was assigned as a Research Officer at MARDI, Serdang for one year, and subsequently assigned to be a lecturer for the seventh year at ITM. During this period, he was offered a scholarship by ITM to pursue a Masters Degree in 'Applied Statistics' at Western Michigan University, USA (1979-1981). When the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) was established in 1983 he was offered to lecture there. He founded the Economic Kulliyah IIUM, and has then been appointed as the Deputy Dean of the Economic Kulliyah, IIUM (1983-1985). He was offered a scholarship to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Management Economics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), New York (1985-1988). Upon his returned from the United States he was appointed as the first Chairman of the Economics Department. In 1989 he was appointed as the Dean of Admissions and Records Division for 10 years. He was appointed as Deputy Rector of IIUM (Academic) replacing the late Tan Sri Prof. Ahmad Ibrahim (1999-2003). In July 2006, he was once again asked to take over as Dean of Economics and Management Kulliyah, IIUM in helping the Kulliyah to be one of the world excellent centers. In 2008, he was appointed as Rector of the University College Insaniah, Kedah. He can be reached at datodjrjamil@yahoo.com.

Dr Karim Douglas Crow is a Principal Research Fellow at IAIS Malaysia, and earned his Doctorate (1996 cum Laude) from the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University, Montreal, Canada; and his B.A. (1972 Honors) from The American University of Beirut. For over fifteen years from 1981–1997 he taught Arabic Language & Literature and Islamic religious disciplines in North America at: Columbia University, New York University, Fordham University, University of Virginia, University of Maryland, and The American University; next in Malaysia (Professor of Islamic Thought, ISTAC 1999–2005); then Singapore (Rajaratnam School of International Studies 2006–2008). His research centers on psycho-spiritual functions of faith, intelligence and rationality; ethical and metaphysical topics; the Sunnī–Shī‘ah schism; and Islamic Peace studies. He has taught graduate level courses in a wide variety of Islamic religious topics, and supervised numerous Master’s theses and Doctoral dissertations. His current projects involve research into ethical issues joining Muslim with Euro-American societies, and civilisational aspects of contemporary Islamic and Asian societies in the light of globalized trends. He is completing several books: *American Evangelicals: Cultural Shifts, Militarism, and the Coming of Messiah*; *‘When God Created Wisdom’: ‘Aql Creation Narratives in Islam* (forthcoming, Leiden: Brill); and his lifetime project *Lamp of Knowledge: the Career and Teaching of Ja‘far al-Sādiq* (d. 148 /765 CE). During the past fifteen years Professor Crow serves as Advisor for non-governmental programs treating Islamic peace in the Arab world, the Caucasus, Iran, and Indonesia. He is active in international organizations including Nonviolence International, United States Institute of Peace, *SALAM– Institute of Peace and Justice, Center for Global Peace, and *Program Pendidikan Damai [Peace Education Program–Aceh]. He participates in the International Society for Islamic Philosophy, and the trans-national network Council For Research In Values & Philosophy (Washington D.C. & Lebanon). [*on Board of Directors]. He can be reached at karimc@iais.org.my.

Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Haji Zainuddin, formerly Director, Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT), Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), UiTM is currently Chairman, Malaysia Design Council, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and Dean, Faculty of Art, Computing and Creative Industry, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI). He is also a Council Member of National Innovation Council, Academic Consultant to IKIP College, Visiting Professor of Management & Science University (MSU), Visiting Professor of Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Adjunct Professor of Universiti Darul Iman (Terengganu), Visiting Professor of Universiti Industri Selangor, External PhD Supervisor for Swinburne University (Australia) and Council Member of the Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TAR COLLEGE). He received his Ph.D. in Design Management from the Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom in 1992, his Masters in Communication Design from the University of Michigan, U.S.A. in 1989 and his Bachelor's in Design (Graphic) from ITM Shah Alam in 1986. He can be reached at rahim_zainuddin@yahoo.com.

Mr Abdul Karim Abdullah @ Leslie Terebessy joined IAIS in February 2008 as an Assistant Research Fellow. Previously he worked at the University Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) for five years as lecturer, editor, writer, and coordinator of the English program. He holds dual Canadian and Slovak citizenship. He obtained his MA from the University of Toronto, Canada, in 1999 in political philosophy with a focus on problems presented to morality by moral relativism. In 1986 he earned an M.Ed. at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, with courses in moral and religious education, alternative schools, contemporary critiques of education, and literature. He took his BA (Honors) in 1976 from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, in Political Science with a minor in Economics. His current projects include a paper on 'Monopolies and Innovation' on monopoly profits ("economic" or "extraordinary" profits) as a form of profiteering, suggesting that anti-monopoly laws need to be incorporated into the *shari'ah*. He can be reached at abdulkarim@iais.org.my.

Dr Christoph Marcinkowski, award-winning German scholar of Islamic and Middle Eastern, as well as Southeast Asian and Security Studies, is Principal Research Fellow and Co-Chair (Publications) at IAIS Malaysia. He holds a MA in Iranian Studies, Islamic Studies, and Political Science from the Freie Universität Berlin and a PhD in Islamic Civilisation from ISTAC, where he served also as Professor of Islamic History. He has held numerous distinguished fellowships, such as at New York's Columbia University, Switzerland's University of Fribourg, Singapore's Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore, and the Asia-Europe Institute of Kuala Lumpur's University of Malaya. Professor Marcinkowski has published numerous books, among them *Religion and Politics in Iraq* (Singapore: PN, 2004), *The Islamic World and the West* (Berlin: LIT, 2009), *Shi'ite Identities* (Berlin: LIT, 2010), *Islam in Europe* (Kuala Lumpur: IAIS, 2011), and *Malaysia and the European Union* (Berlin: LIT, 2011), as well as more than 100 articles, commissioned book chapters, and encyclopaedia entries such as for *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*, *The Oxford History of Historical Writing*, and Columbia University's *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. He is currently working with Christian

Giordano and Khoo Salma Nasution on a new book on ethnic and religious identities in the Malaysian State of Penang (Ashgate, United Kingdom, forthcoming). He can be reached at marcinkowski@iais.org.my.

Associate Professor Dr Zaid Ahmad is the Dean, Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia. He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy and Civilization Studies from the Victoria University of Manchester in 1999, his Masters in Middle Eastern Studies in 1989 and his Bachelor's in Theology and Philosophy from UKM in 1986. He is a former Head of the Department of Government and Civilisation Studies Faculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia. He can be reached at zaid_a@putra.upm.edu.my.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. His Excellency Tan Sri Professor Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, *Secretary-General, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)*
2. YAB Dato' Sri Diraja (Dr) Haji Adnan Bin Haji Yaakob, *Chief Minister of Pahang*
3. YB Dato' Seri Mohammed Khaled Nordin, *Minister of Higher Education Malaysia*
4. International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia
5. The Pahang State Foundation
6. IKIP International College
7. International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) East Asia
8. All speakers
9. All moderators
10. All participants
11. Members of the Organising Committee
12. Members of the Conference Secretariat
13. Members of the Media
14. Everyone who has contributed to the conference

**“READ in the Name of your Lord who created (every thing); Creates man from a clot;
READ and your Lord is the Most Generous; Who taught man by the pen;
taught man what he knew not”.**
(Qur'an, chapter 96, verse 1-5)

“Whoever is given WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE is blessed with bounties in good abundance”.
(Qur'an, chapter 2, verse 272)

**"Whoever seeks a path in search of KNOWLEDGE, Allah would make easy for
him the path leading to JANNAH (paradise)".**
(Saying of Prophet Muhammad PBUH and narrated by Abu Dawud)