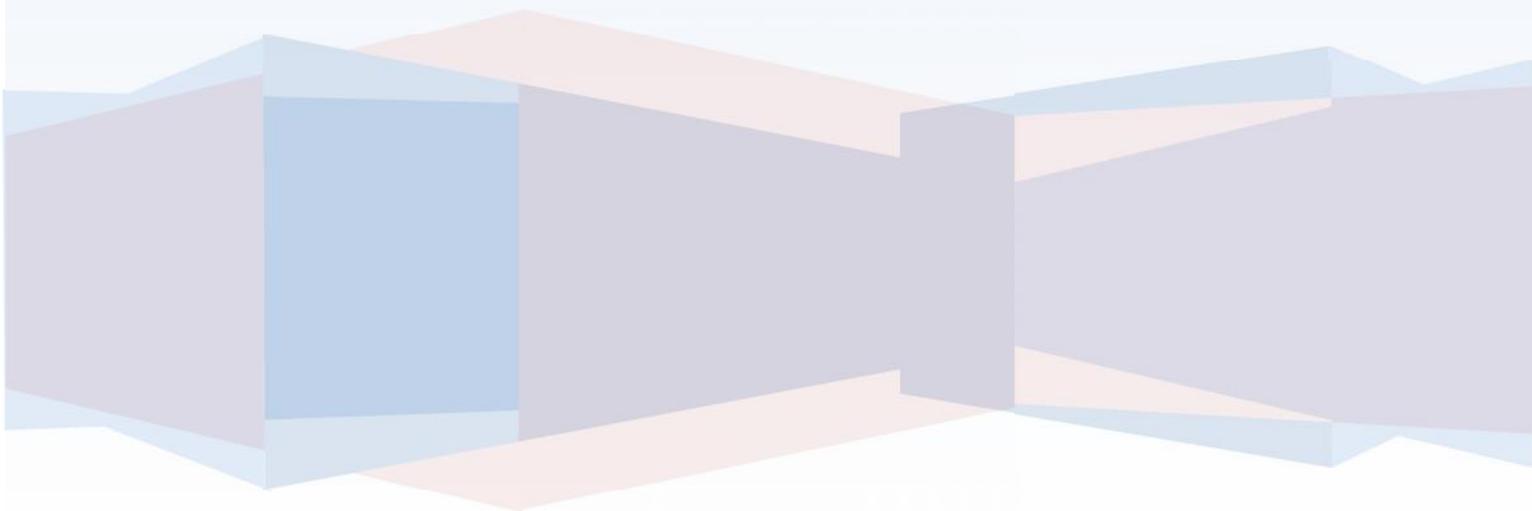


2-Day Intensive Workshop on the Islamic Gift Economy Macro-Model (IGEM)

Concept Paper

SIM Malay Cultural and Muslim Society (SIMCMS) in collaboration with Suffah Study Circle, HAKIM (Intellectual Youth Alliance, Malaysia), Curiosity Institute (CI, Malaysia) and the Mu'amalah Research Group (MRG) of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).



BRIEF INTRODUCTION

About SIMCMS and its Objectives

The *Singapore Institute of Management Malay Cultural and Muslim Society (SIMCMS)* is a student organisation with the vision to develop judicious Islamic and Cultural individuals within an enterprising community. We are students committed to bringing about a paradigm shift toward sustainability in the community and ourselves as future leaders. Our students are largely equipped with the mindset of sustainable business management, economy and finance. With the extensive exposure to various forms of economy and finance culture, and assimilating the Islamic principles as a *weltanschauung*, we have the aptitude to continue our efforts in developing the community's economic future in an equitable and sustainable manner.

SIMCMS has been involved intensively in the community's development despite still being in its infancy stages of only four years. We have worked closely with numerous Malay Muslim Organisations (MMOs) like Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (MUIS), MENDAKI and Community Leaders Forum (CLF). We have also built good rapport with other Muslim student societies in other universities under an umbrella non-profit organisation; the Tertiary Muslim Students Network (TMSN) which includes universities such as the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

About the Intellectual Youth Alliance (HAKIM) and its Objectives

The *Intellectual Youth Alliance (HAKIM)* is an intellectual and cultural organization that is managed by Himpunan Keilmuan Muda (HAKIM) based in Malaysia to promote disciplined and authoritative discourse on the Worldview of Islam. Based on the principle, "Knowledge is of the highest priority" coupled with the zest to revive the glorious tradition and culture of Islamic Knowledge, the organization has consistently held and organised academic and scientific discussions by bringing together scholars and academics to study and research several important and salient aspects of Islamic thought as well as engaging in certain current issues impacting on Muslim identity. HAKIM is a proactive initiative to address civilizational issues generated by Muslims' engagement with modernity. Though the organization began on a small informal scale about ten years ago, it is now well-placed to motivate a fresh surge of creative thought and action amongst a new generation of extremely well-networked young academics, professionals, students and business leaders which will lead to the success of reviving Islamic Civilization in the current age.

About Suffah Study Circle and its Objectives

Suffah Study Circle (SSC) is an initiative group under Andalus Corp that aims to provide a credible platform for like-minded individuals to get together to inculcate the culture of knowledge, and subsequently form a deeper appreciation and understanding of Islamic traditions. Its mission is to nurture the youths as the social catalyst of the community and spearhead the establishment of a community of educational, academic, professional and business excellence. The group aspires to work towards the assimilation of a Culture of Knowledge and its realization in practice in all spheres of life. Suffah Study Circle seeks to enlighten itself on the fundamental elements of the Worldview of Islam in relation to issues and problems of civilizational dialogue, epistemology, education and science that are impacting on the Muslim world today. The group is relentless in its efforts to enhance the self's intellectual capacity, and pursue knowledge in the framework of the Worldview of Islam, such as to develop a new class and generation of aspiring thinkers rooted in the Islamic tradition and Worldview.

About Curiosity Institute (CI) and its Objectives

Curiosity Institute is an organization established in 2007 focusing upon one of the oldest maxims of philosophy in the world, which is to ‘know thyself’ and to ‘be thy self’. Curiosity Institute began its journey when they decided to start a research program called The Malay Renaissance Project (TMRP) as a platform to try to understand the world that we are all living in which includes all the progress that has been achieved especially within the Malay Archipelago. Their goal is for each individual to understand the true nature of knowledge and to operationalize it in both the private and public domains of life.

About Mu‘amalah Research Group (MRG) of IIUM and its Objectives

Mu‘amalah Research Group (MRG) is a research cluster newly set up under the auspices of the International Islamic University Malaysia, focusing on rigorous research into the true nature of an authentically Islamic Economy (called The Islamic Gift Economy) and reviving its various aspects while remaining always in close critical engagement with the mainstream economy. It implements some strategic pilot projects in order to operationalize the Islamic Gift Economy (IGE).

The Global Financial Crisis as analysed from within the perspective of the Islamic Gift Economy (IGE)

“Credit buying is much like being drunk. The buzz happens immediately, and it gives you a lift. The hangover comes the day after.” - Dr Joyce Brothers, psychologist and advice columnist

The financial crisis, which hit the United States of America, and then the rest of the world in 2007, was considered to be the worst, according to many economists, since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Major financial institutions fell victim to the crisis, which caused losses to the industry of at least USD\$1 trillion, including firms like AIG, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, and Lehman Brothers. There were many causes, as stated by experts in the financial industry that led to the debacle, of which the ease at which credit is provided and the sub-prime lending issues was top of the list. However, the underlying factors tend to lean towards the unethical enactments in the financial system and individual greed and self-centredness, and the undisciplined approach to regulations that result in clouds of doubt and toxic debt issues. Deeper root causes include the incorporation of paper transactions (*fiat* money) and issues of redefining certain accounting principles that dwell within the intricate labyrinths of moral ethics and epistemological understanding of *murabahah* (mark-up instruments) and more.

Unlike the modern financial system where the economic and financial aspects of business activities are stressed upon, the Islamic system places emphasis on the moral, ethical and social dimensions to promote fairness and well-being for local communities and the society at large. Islamic finance is being defined as “the financial activity of an Islamic economy that mandates social equity” (Krichene and Mirakhor, 2009). Islamic finance can particularly make a difference to the poor people, who are viewed by conventional banks as high-risk borrowers due to their inability to provide collateral should they want to take on loans. Islamic finance might be the key to removing the barriers that are preventing the poor unfairly from taking a loan.

But finance is just one component of a fully functional holistic Islamic economy, which is here projected as the Islamic Gift Economy (IGE) or *al-Iqtisad al-Infaqi* in Arabic. The Islamic Gift Economy is defined as “the provisioning and sharing, by mutual giving and receiving, of natural and cultural abundance for realising material and spiritual well-being in the community.”

One major aim of the Islamic Gift Economy is to realize socio-economic justice and self-empowerment for communities and the general economy at large, by redefining the meaning and substance of money and by promoting risk sharing based on partnership and venture capital financing as a more equitable means of loan- and debt-free wealth creation and distribution, hence achieving prosperity in this life and the next.

The primary objective of this two-day Islamic Gift Economy Workshop is to raise awareness in the community, especially amongst the tertiary students of SIM and UNISIM, and other tertiary institutes about true Islamic Economy or Mu‘amalah, the differences between Islamic Economics and conventional economics and exploring and redefining the nature and management of risk in the Islamic Gift Economy as an alternative model for sustainable living.

Krichen, N., & Mirakhor, A., 2009, Resilience and Stability of the Islamic Financial System- An Overview, retrieved 20 May 2010, www.islamic-foundation.org.uk/ppts/resiliencestability_NK.ppt

Objectives

Our objective is to create awareness, introduce and develop further interest in the study of an alternative system of economics that is in accord with the conceptual and operational framework of the Worldview of Islam and to equip participants with basic understanding of the Islamic Gift Economy and to guide them toward its implementation through pilot projects. This workshop aims to establish collaborative efforts with Suffah Study Circle (SSC) under Andalus Corp led by Hasanul Arifin from NUS, HAKIM (The Assembly of Young Intellectuals) led by Mujahed from Malaysia as liaison officer, the Mu‘amalah Research Group of IIUM and Curiosity Institute.

Mentor

Dr Adi Setia,
Lecturer at the Department of General Studies,
International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM),
Coordinator, Mu‘amalah Research Group (MRG) of IIUM,
& Academic & Research Coordinator, HAKIM;
Specialized in History and Philosophy of Science and Islamic Science,
PhD & MA from International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC).

Details of Workshop

Details of the Workshop are as followed:

Venue: SIM HQ

Date: 11—12 Disember 2010

Target pax: 70

Target audience: Tertiary Students, Academics, and Working Professionals (with or without prior background in economics).

Target Institute: NUS, NTU, SMU, SIM, Pergas, Andalus, Business Community.

Organising Committee

S/N	Name	Position
1	Muhammad Hazlami Bin Zawawi	Project Director
2	Samir Syirazi Bin Mustafa Kamal	Assistant Project Director
3	Fahmy Baashim	Finance Officer
4	Hakim Amir Hamzah	Publicity/Marketing
5	Muhammad Nazmi	
7	Hasanul Arifin (NUS)	Content Material Officer
8	Aishah Abu Bakar	Logistic Officer

Modus Operandi

Our event is a 2-day intensive workshop. All participants will be issued with relevant content materials prior to the workshop. Participants will get to engage directly with Speakers and interactive learning is encouraged. Speakers will be informed to prepare an interactive learning-oriented mode of delivery. Participants are split into groups of max 5 to encourage interactive learning. Speakers/Participants are expected to engage each other, through formal Q/A sessions, informal networkings during meal breaks and other forms of intellectual interaction.

List of Possible Topics

1. Introduction to Worldview of Islam and Islamic Ethics (1hr 30min).
2. Introduction to the Concept & Practice of an Islamic Gift Economy (1hr 30min).
3. Gold and Silver Economy: Dinar economy versus paper economy. 1hr 30min.
4. The Economics of Living Sustainably (1hr 30min).
5. Rethinking Banking, An Islamic Perspective: Credit System, Debt-Free System.
6. Waqaf: A Concept and Practice of Market-Welfare Community Investment (1hr 30min).
7. Rethinking the Principles of Accounting

List of Possible Speakers

1. Dr Adi Setia (topic 2 & 4).
2. Dr. Hannan and/or Dr. Syamsudin (topic 1).
3. Syed Hoque (topic 5).
4. Captain Awaludin (topic 3).
5. Professor Murat Cizakca (topic 6).
6. Speaker? (topic 7).

Proposed Itinerary

Time/HRS	Activity
	Saturday, December 11, 2010
0800	Arrival of Participants and Lecturers (Light Snacks)
0815	Start Programme: Opening address
0830	Start of Workshop Introduction to Worldview of Islam and Ethics (1hr 15min) Break (15min)
1000	Introduction to the Concept & Practice of an Islamic Gift Economy (1hr 15min) Break (15min)
1130	Gold and Silver Economy (1hr 15min)
1245	Lunch/Prayers
1345	Continue Workshop The Economics and Art of Living Sustainably (1hr 15min) Break (15min) Rethinking Banking: An Islamic Perspective (1hr 15min) Break (15min)
1645	Waqaf: A Concept of Investment (1hr 15min)
1800	Networking Session
1815	End of Workshop/Asar Prayers

Brief Resume of our Guest Lecturers

Dr Adi Setia

Dr Adi Setia is a lecturer in the History and Philosophy of Science in the Department of General Studies, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). He was research fellow for a six years (1998—2004) at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) during the directorship of its founder, Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Naquib Al-Attas, before joining IIUM's Faculty of Science in 2004. He obtained his MA and Ph.D in the History and Philosophy of Science at ISTAC, with a focus on Islamic Science. His current focus of research includes Worldview of Islam, Islamisation of the Sciences, and the Islamic Gift Economy. In addition, he is currently Senior Fellow & Academic and Research Coordinator of HAKIM and founding Coordinator of the Mu'amalah Research Group (MRG) at IIUM.

Dr. Hannan Hassan

Mr Hannan Hassan is the Assistant Director (Education), Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS). He holds a B.Ed (Hons), First Class with Distinction from Kuwait, majoring in Arabic Language and Islamic education and a M.A. (Islamic Civilization) from International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He is currently doing his Ph.D at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Dr. Syamsudin Arif

Dr. Syamsudin is currently assistant professor at the Department of General Studies IIUM as well as a founding fellow at INSISTS, an important well-networked Indonesian association of public intellectuals. He received his MA and PhD in Islamic Thought from ISTAC.

Captain (R) Awaludin Mohal

Captain (R) Awaludin Mohal is a retired Malaysian Navy Captain. He has been active for many years in advocating for the dinar-dirham economy, and is currently active in promoting the newly launched Kelantan dinars and dirhams as an alternative means of payment and exchange to paper currency. He is also an accomplished organic farmer and permaculturist on his two-acre vegetable garden in Janda Baik, Malaysia.

Syed Hoque

Syed Hoque has over 25 years of experience in technology and consulting in companies/institutions in the US and New Zealand, ranging from NASA Ames Research Center, Hewlett-Packard, Cisco, KPMG Consulting, Grant Thornton International and Ministry of Social Development. He was one of the few financial professionals to have called the current economic depression in 2004, and advised friends, family and clients to divest out of real-estate, stocks and bonds and to invest in commodities instead. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering degree from Columbia University, New York; an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University; and an MBA in International Finance from Columbia University, New York. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Islamic Finance at INCEIF, Kuala Lumpur.

Professor Dr. Murat Cizakca

Professor Dr. Murat Cizakca is currently a Professor at INCEIF, Malaysia. He was a visiting professor at ISTAC and is an internationally recognised authority on the history of Islamic philanthropic foundations or *Waqf* (plural *Awqaf*).