

problems of the Muslims in this manner, Afghani's approach was well received and highlighted due to the fact that his concept of "Muslims lacking knowledge of philosophy" went well with the narrative of the Orientalists and the Oriental historians who similarly insisted that Muslim backwardness was due to the death of philosophy.

Farid al-Atas argued that consideration of the state of universities in Malaysia is important in a debate about academic freedom and creativity. There is an obsession with ranking and publishing research, which inadvertently impacts creativity. Plagiarism is rife, and students are exploited for purposes of research publications through unethical means, whereby they are forced to publish with supervisors who contribute little or nothing to such publications.

The response by Muslim intellectuals has been parochial instead of creative. An example is the trend of Islamising knowledge. According to Farid al-Atas, it is flawed and contrary to the Islamic tradition of knowledge, since the concept of Islamic knowledge is problematic.

Moreover, Muslim intellectualism today tends to be confined to the scientific methodology of induction and deduction. In the medieval tradition, there are additional kinds of inquiry, such as dialectics and poetics, which are largely ignored today by Muslim intellectuals, and would allow for more creativity if used.

**Training on Shar'iah Standards:
Murabahah, Tawarruq, Ijarah, Rahn, Qard & Wa'd
(IAIS, Malaysia, 22-23 May 2017)**

Mohammad Mahbubi Ali

Shari'ah compliance is the backbone of Islamic Financial Institutions (IFIs). Ensuring such compliance is imperative in order to maintain the confidence of both our stakeholders and the public. Therefore, inadequate attention to the whole process of Shari'ah compliance could have negative repercussions for IFIs, including massive withdrawal of capital, de-recognition of income and possible legal penalty upon conviction of wrong doing.

In striving towards end-to-end Shari'ah compliance in Malaysia, the Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has embarked on a number of commendable initiatives to reinforce Shari'ah compliance in IFIs and to enhance the country's Shari'ah regulatory framework. Notably, these initiatives include the issuance of Shari'ah standards and their operational requirements, featuring the relevant, applicable contracts and principles for IFIs. The main objective of Shari'ah compliance is

to facilitate IFIs in developing their products in accordance with the tenets of Shari'ah and to enhance harmonisation among IFIs in Malaysia with respect to Shari'ah related matters.

Recognising the importance of this field for Malaysia, the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia organised a two-day workshop. This training programme highlighted the latest and most insightful updates pertaining to the Shari'ah standards on *murabahah*, *tawarruq*, *ijarah*, *rahn*, *qard*, *wa'd* and *hibah* contracts. The workshop, which was held on 22-23 May 2017, exposed participants to the most recent regulatory requirements for Islamic finance in Malaysia. In this regard, participants learned about BNM's Shari'ah standards and its key operational requirements.

IAIS Research Fellows, Dr Mohammad Mahbubi Ali and Mrs Apnizan Abdullah, facilitated the training. Participants came from a range of sectors, including Islamic banking and financial institutions, higher education institutions, legal firms, commodity *murabahah* brokers and research institutes. The event received positive responses from participants, demonstrating a strong demand for similar training programmes in the future. Participants received their certificates of attendance at the end of the programme.

**Round Table Discussion:
Islam and Human Capital Development
(United Kingdom, 2 June 2017)**

Muhammad Fakhurrrazi Ahmad

On 2 June 2017, the Legacy Association and Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OCIS) co-hosted a round-table discussion, in conjunction with Tun Abdullah Badawi's visit to the Centre. The discussion was chaired by the Director of the Centre, Dr Farhan Nizami, and attended by guests from different academic fields.

The theme was *Islam and Human Capital Development*. Presenters included Prof. Dato' Dr Mohd Yusof Othman (Director, Institute of Islam Hadhari, UKM), Prof. Datuk Dr Azizah Baharuddin (Director-General, Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia), Associate Prof. Dr Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil (Deputy CEO, International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies Malaysia) and Dr Ai Kawamura (Researcher, Kyoto's University Islamic Studies Centre). The panelists from the Centre included Dr Talal Al-Azem, Dr Salman Syed Ali and Dr. Basil Mustafa.

Prof. Dato' Dr Mohd Yusof Othman explained the Islamic perspective of human resource development. Dr Talal Al-Azem in turn discussed the *maqasid*