

People of all nations and their leaders should: Aim to phase out GGEs and to commit to 100% renewable energy as soon as possible; Realise that growth must be pursued wisely and in moderation, increasing the resilience of all, especially those most vulnerable to climate change impacts – countries, indigenous people, women and children - and help them in adaptation strategies; Establish a fresh model of well-being as an alternative to the current financial model which depletes resources, degrades the environment and deepens inequality.

Corporations, finance and the business sector should: Take responsibility for their profit-making activities by reducing their carbon footprint and other environmental impacts; Commit to a 100% renewable energy target, as early as possible, by divesting from the fossil fuel driven economy; and Change from the current business model to adopt a circular sustainable economy.

All groups should: Collaborate and cooperate in friendly competition in this endeavour; and the drafters of the Declaration welcomed the similar initiatives from a number of other world religions.

These are all praiseworthy goals and the Declaration deserves support from Muslim governments and all Muslims towards protecting planet earth and achieving a better future for our present and future generations. The Declaration ended with pertinent warnings from the Noble Qur'an to those who "strut arrogantly on the earth", and a hadith where the Prophet (*Peace be upon him*) reminded us of our duties as stewards to acquit ourselves well (as we are accountable for our actions).

Round Table Discussion: 'Islamic Perspectives on Sustainable Development' (IAIS Malaysia, 25 August 2015)

Ahmad Badri Abdullah

On 25 August 2015, IAIS Malaysia organised a round table discussion with an interesting topic entitled '*Islamic Perspectives on Sustainable Development*'. The panelists were Professor Mohammad Hashim Kamali (Founding CEO of IAIS Malaysia), Dr. Daud Abdul Fattah Batchelor (IAIS Malaysia), Dr. Chandra Muzaffar (President of International Movement for a Just World), Associate Professor Dr. Azilah Sarkhawi (International Islamic University Malaysia), Professor Gamini Herath (School Business of Monash University, Malaysia), and Mr. Ahmad Shaiful Alwi (on behalf of Dr. Adi Setia Md. Dom, IIUM). The objective of the discussion is to bring— focus the attention of leaders, stakeholders

and scholars on critical issues related to sustainable development from the regulatory, industry, NGO, and educational viewpoints.

Professor Kamali in his opening remark highlighted the fact that the underpinning principles of Islam such as the oneness of God (*tauhid*), the higher objectives of Shari'ah (*maqasid al-shari'ah*), vicegerency of humankind (*khilafah*), and moderation (*wasatiyyah*) showcase Islam's commitment towards sustainable development. Adding to this, Dr. Daud Batchelor enumerated the key principles of sustainable development from the Islamic perspective and values ranging from achieving balance (*mizan*), avoiding waste, avoiding pollution, protecting communal areas, building the earth (*imarat al-'ard*) to achieving the good life (*hayat tayyibah*). He asserted that these values could underpin the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) model of sustainable development.

In explicating sustainable development as a process in which society remain salient, peaceful, and harmonious, Dr. Muzaffar proposed three dimensions of social cohesion which need to be preserved encapsulating economic, political, and cultural social cohesions. Selfishness, greed, and deviation from the right path of religion he contended, are the determining factors which disrupted social cohesion in contemporary Muslim societies.

On the functional aspects, Dr. Sarkhawi delineated the Islamic concept of urban planning whereby religion and religiosity need to be the prerequisite of city planning and the hallmark of urban life. Moreover, in Islamic urban planning, there are several other elements which need to be duly considered encapsulating Shari'ah rulings, climate constraints, local building materials, and socio-economic situation. Professor Herath maintained that since there is a forecast that in 2025, more than 3 million people will suffer from water scarcity, pre-emptive measure need to be taken at present. Mr. Alwi presented on the topic of 'gift-economy', an economic concept which is underpinned by two foundations' premises, that natural and cultural resources in the world are abundant and that human material needs should be limited. He also presented on the pilot project of 'gift-economy' which has taken place in Cambodia to reform the farming industry of the locals therein. The presentation session was then followed by a lively question and answer session.

Round Table Discussion on the Future of Muslim Youth (IAIS Malaysia, 5 May 2015)

Tengku Ahmad Hazri

On 5 May 2015, IAIS Malaysia in collaboration with the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM), Malaysian Youth Council (MBM) and the World Assembly