

Islam and Civilisational Renewal

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and policy research**

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ISLAM AND CIVILISATIONAL RENEWAL

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OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

- Islam and Civilisational Renewal (ICR) is an international peer-reviewed journal published by the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia. It carries articles, book reviews and viewpoints on civilisational renewal.
- ICR seeks to advance critical research and original scholarship on theoretical, empirical, historical, inter-disciplinary and comparative studies, with a focus on policy research.
- ICR aims at stimulating creative and original contributions within contemporary Muslim and non-Muslim scholarship to further civilisational renewal.
- ICR promotes advanced research on the civilisational progress of Muslims and critical assessments of modernity, post-modernity and globalisation.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Comments and suggestions as well as requests to contact one of the contributing authors can be emailed to the Managing Editor at: journals@iais.org.my

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EDITORIAL

This issue of *Islam and Civilisational Renewal* features **five articles**:

“The Qur’ānic Identity of the Muslim *Ummah*: Tawhidic Epistemology as Its Foundation and Sustainer” is by **Osman Bakar**, the Deputy CEO of IAIS Malaysia and Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of Science at Kuala Lumpur’s University of Malaya. His article seeks to serve as the necessary background and foundation to another article by him which is to appear in the coming issue of this journal. It is devoted to explaining the conception of identity as applied to religious communities (sing: *ummah*) generally and the Muslim *ummah* in particular. In this article, Professor Bakar recommends that

- centres of Islamic studies need to intensify research on issues of what he refers to as ‘ummatic identity’;
- Islam’s knowledge and thinking-culture needs to be better understood and cultivated by the Muslims with the view of strengthening that ‘ummatic identity’;
- there should be more teaching and research programmes on epistemology from the Islamic perspectives;

My own article, “Tourism and the *Halāl* Industry: A Global *Sharī‘ah* Perspective,” provides an overview of the origin and development of Islamic tourism and draws attention to some of its weakness, including the fact that Islamic tourism is lagging behind more conventional forms of international tourism and has yet to realise its fuller potentials. I also focus on the *sharī‘ah* concepts of *halāl* and *haram* and their manifestations in the *halāl* industry and tourism in two main parts: market developments of interest to *halāl* tourism internationally and those that have taken place in Malaysia. I recommend that

- in Malaysia, government departments, universities and institutions of research should coordinate their efforts more effectively in the development and standardisation of *sharī‘ah*-rules of concern to Islamic tourism and the *halāl* industry;
- Islamic tourism companies and operators should continue to improve and diversify their products and services and provide more attractive packages that respond to the needs of Muslims worldwide;
- governments and the general public everywhere should do their utmost to curb violence and terrorist activities, which paralyse everyday life and are especially damaging to the tourist industry.

“Muslim Private Higher Educational Institutions in Malaysia: Issues and Challenges” is by **Rosnani Hashim**, who is Professor of Education at IIUM’s Institute of Education and also Associate Director of the Centre for Philosophical Inquiry in Education (also at IIUM). Her article is an attempt to examine issues, challenges, and opportunities that are linked to an increasing demand for higher education as private higher education institutions (PHEIs) seem to be the most attractive alternative to public universities and colleges in opening greater access to higher education. She recommends, among many other things, that Muslim PHEIs should

- offer programmes that are sensitive to the changing needs and demands of the market to ensure its viability and also consistent with policies of the ministry of higher education;
- maintain its philosophy by making Islamic philosophy or worldview the core of all disciplines so as to tie the sciences as a unit;
- provide community-oriented extra-curricular activities for the development of character, leadership, practical and social skills.

“Islamic Civilisation: Awakening Parameters” is by **Saim Kayadibi**, an Associate Professor of Economics in the Kulliyah of Economics and Management Sciences at Kuala Lumpur’s International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). His contribution underlines the significance of Islamic civilisation by exploring the Muslims’ reawakening process and humanity’s ‘need’, as he has it, for a new world system, one that reflects Islamic civilisation’s understanding and practice of ontological freedom, security, and human rights. He argues that

- the Muslim civilisational reawakening may erase their long-standing inferiority complex toward the West, and
- an alternative world system is desperately needed since the one now in place does not fulfil the demands of all newly awakened people.

“Islamic Banking Practices and The Need for Ethical Concerns” has been jointly written by **Adeyemo Lateef Kayode**, a lecturer in the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria, and **Mobolaji Hakeem Ishola**, the Head of the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences of Fountain University, Osogbo, Nigeria. Although the two authors are aware of the fact that Islamic banking and finance (IBF) is becoming increasingly popular, they argue that

- there is a need to guard against all sorts of indiscipline on the part of all the stakeholders in the industry;
- IBF is based on divine injunctions that should be interpreted accordingly with an eye on ethics as well;

- further research needs to be done on how to integrate IBF into jurisdictions that are essentially multicultural.

This issue also contains **four viewpoints**:

The two main objectives of my “Exploring Facets of Islam on Security and Peace: Amnesty and Pardon in Islamic Law” are to review the Islamic law provisions on amnesty and pardon as they are expounded by its leading schools and scholars and then also to explore the prospects of needed reform of some of its relevant provisions.

“Whither ‘Arab Spring’?” by IAIS Principal Research Fellow **Christoph Marcinkowski** argues that while most of the recent movements in the Muslim world have been spearheaded by Islamic parties and leaders, the ‘Arab Spring’ is – surprisingly to those on the radical fringe – led by civil society, especially the youth. However, he also warns that lengthy phases of transition may ultimately play into the hands of extremists.

“Control of *Ḥalāl* Food Chains” is by **Marco Tieman**, a PhD candidate with Universiti Teknologi MARA Malaysia in Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia. He argues that Muslim countries should expand their role in the *ḥalāl* food value chain by investing in critical areas, establishing *ḥalāl* parks, developing a *ḥalāl* supply chain orchestrator (HSCO) and better protecting *ḥalāl*-related issues in non-Muslim countries.

“Whither ‘Homosexual Rights’?” by **Tengku Ahmad Hazri**, a researcher at IAIS Malaysia, investigates the question of ‘gay rights’ as an issue that seems to present a certain dilemma for Islam today, especially as the Muslim world generally accepts human rights as valid aspirations and as some scholars have even included these among the ‘higher objectives’ (*maqāṣid*) of Islamic law.

This issue of ICR has also a section on **significant speeches and events**, which, among others, carries two momentous and, as I find, very timely, speeches by the current **Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato’ Seri Najib Tun Razak** and his predecessor (and Patron of IAIS Malaysia) **Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi**, respectively, that were delivered by them at the ‘Global Movement of Moderates Conference’ which took place on 17 and 18 January 2012 in Kuala Lumpur.

This segment also features excerpts of the UNITEN (Universiti Tenaga Nasional) Inaugural Lecture by Tun Abdul Hamid bin Haji Mohamad, Former Chief Justice of Malaysia, on the very crucial issue of integrity.

Furthermore, IAIS Principal Research Fellow **Christoph Marcinkowski** offers two

reports of two lectures delivered by him on invitation: “The Arab Spring: Prospects and Challenges for Good Governance in the Near and Middle East” delivered at an international symposium at Thammasat University at Thailand’s capital, Bangkok, and the ISEAS-NSC Lecture “Persians and Shi’ites in Thailand: From the Ayutthaya Period to the Present” at Singapore’s Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS).

IAIS researcher **Tengku Ahmad Hazri** reports on the ‘Second International Conference on Islam and Higher Education: The Empowerment of Muslim Communities in Private Higher Education’ which was co-organised by IAIS Malaysia and the Pahang Foundation in November last year in Kuantan, Malaysia.

Finally, IAIS Principal Research Fellow **Karim D. Crow** provides a brief report of the public seminar ‘Music and Islam: Opening the Heart’ which was staged at our Institute in December last year.

In addition, this time we also carry **two notes and communications** and **five book reviews**.

As always, I would like to thank my IAIS Malaysia colleagues, especially the Publications Department and all the other contributors to this issue of ICR for their hard work and continued support.

Mohammad Hashim Kamali
Editor-in-Chief