

virtual symposium on the topic of ‘Theory and Uses of *Maqasid al-Shari’ah*.’ Professor Dato’ Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali, the founding CEO of IAIS Malaysia, was invited to give a keynote speech at this symposium, talking on the ‘History and Jurisprudence of the *Maqasid*: A Critical Appraisal.’ The event started with opening remarks by Dr Ovamir Anjum (University of Toledo) and Dr Shuruq Naguib (Lancaster University). In his keynote address, Professor Kamali gave a broad overview of the recent renewed interest in *maqasid al-shari’ah*, citing a growing formalism and technicality in the discipline of *usul al-fiqh* as a primary cause of this. Professor Kamali then discussed *maqasid al-shari’ah* and its development as a distinctive field vis-à-vis *usul al-fiqh*, dividing this into five topics: i) historical, ii) epistemological, iii) criteria of evaluation, iv) implementation, and v) excessive use of *maqasid*. He demonstrated the prospect for the implementation of *maqasid* and *maqasid*-based *ijtihad* in our own times by giving an interesting example from the area of Islamic finance. His captivating presentation sparked interest among participants, with a lively Q&A afterwards, lasting for almost an hour.

Webinar: Islamic Finance Talk Series: Transformasi Digital dalam Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah: Pengalaman dan Cabaran (The Digital Transformation of the Zakat Board of Kedah: Experiences and Challenges) (26 January 2021)

The Concept of Waqf in Agriculture (4 March 2021)

Apnizan Abdullah

An online discussion on ‘Transformasi Digital dalam Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah: Pengalaman dan Cabaran’ (The Digital Transformation of the *Zakat* Board of Kedah: Experiences and Challenges) was held on the IAIS TV channel and IAIS Facebook page on 26 January 2021. This programme, conducted in Bahasa Malaysia, came under the Islamic Finance Talk Series. It featured Syeikh Zakaria bin Othman, Chief Executive Officer of Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah (LZK, The *Zakat* Board of Kedah). The discussion focused on LZK’s experience of managing *zakat*-related matters in the state of Kedah via its new digital platform, the *Zakat* on Touch (ZOT) app. This app has improved the efficiency of *zakat* management as it allows LZK to monitor the collection and distribution of *zakat* via smartphones. This transformation through technological

advancement is crucial for the present narrative of *zakat* management, to ensure its efficiency and enhance public trust and confidence.

Another session under the Islamic Finance Talk Series was an online seminar, entitled ‘The Concept of *Waqf* in Agriculture.’ It was organised on 4 March 2021 and presented by Mr. Muhaimin Iqbal, the Co-Founder and Chairman of iGrow, via IAIS TV and IAIS Facebook channels. The speaker commenced his presentation by explaining the historical background of *waqf*, its nature and categories, and its traditional and current applications, especially in Indonesia. The speaker highlighted existing loopholes in the Indonesian regulatory regime and the need to leverage blockchain technology to manage *waqf* assets collected from the public, including in agriculture. To ensure the optimum mobilisation of *waqf* assets, professionals must manage them under a proper governance framework.

Both sessions were moderated by Assoc. Professor Dr Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, the Deputy CEO of IAIS Malaysia, and ended with a Q&A session.