

EDITORIAL

It is with pleasure that I present to our readers this latest December 2021 issue of IAIS Malaysia's flagship journal, *Islam and Civilisational Renewal*. In this issue, we continue our dedication to pragmatic and revivalist discourse, addressing a myriad of contemporary issues and challenges facing the Muslim world and wider global community in the twenty-first century. It comprises seven insightful articles, all with actionable policy recommendations, and four viewpoints on *maqasid al-shari'ah*, law (both shariah and modern), Islamic finance, economics, education, and governance, as well as sustainable development.

Our articles section begins with a Focus piece, 'An Enhanced Islamic Well-Being Index (IWI 2.0-2021) for Muslim Countries,' by Dr Daud Batchelor, Adjunct Fellow of IAIS Malaysia. This data-driven article evaluates the *Islamic Well-Being Index of Muslim Majority Countries*, which was first released in 2013. This evaluation is done based on a more up-to-date approach rooted in the core principles of *maqasid al-shari'ah*, as articulated by Imam Abu Hamid al-Ghazali. It provides insights and practical guidelines for countries seeking to advance to higher levels of development.

As the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to pose severe and unprecedented issues across the globe, our second article, 'Implementing the E-Family Expert Model through a Legal Framework for Online Dispute Resolution,' by Professor Zaleha Kamaruddin, Dr Umar A. Oseni, and Dr Zati Ilham Abdul Manaf, all of the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), assesses the pandemic's impact on family institutions. To solve the many family-related issues thrown over the last year, such as dramatic rises in domestic violence, divorce, and family disputes, this study proposes the development of an online resolution dispute platform known as the E-Family Expert Model, which resonates well with the current trends of Big Data and Digital Revolution.

Our third article, titled 'Factors Influencing Islamic Financial Inclusion in Indonesia: A Structural Equation Modelling Approach,' is by Dr Mohammad Mahbubi Ali (Associate Fellow at IAIS), Dr Abrista Devi, Dr Hamzah Bustomi,

Dr Muhammad Rizky Prima Sakti, and Dr Hafas Furqani. It addresses the problem of financial inclusion, which is fast becoming a global issue for governments and central banks. Together, the authors provide a quantitative study by gathering primary data samples from across Indonesia's five main islands and analysing them using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) and Binary Logistic Regression. This study provides good prospects for policymakers and financial regulators who wish to foster Islamic financial inclusion in Indonesia, if not internationally.

In our fourth article, 'Ibn Sina's Theory of the Soul: A Taxonomy of Islamic Education,' IAIS Fellow Dr Nurul Ain Norman designs a taxonomy that will allow curriculum designers and Islamic educationalists to identify hierarchical human faculties and correlate them with specific curricular objectives, constructive classroom assessments, and suitable pedagogical practices. The taxonomy is based on a philosophical-descriptive analysis of Ibn Sina's theory of the soul and his logic-argumentative description of human categorisation, with the aim of fulfilling the needs of our modern educational system while promoting holistic human development and resolving the pertinent issue of 'excellence without a soul.'

The fifth substantive article we present in this issue, 'A Unified Model of Shariah Indices for Human Development and Prosperity,' is by Dr Atiq-ur-Rehman and Dr M. Ishaq Bhatti. The authors attempt to design a global unified model for a human development and prosperity index based on the higher objectives of shariah and United Nation's Millennium and Sustainable Development (MSD) goals. It analyses recent statistics in human developments and incorporates 'shariah-led prosperity' measures to achieve the global development goals of prosperity and human development via religiosity.

'Veiling and Muslim Women in African History since the Ottoman Empire' is the title of our sixth article, written by Dr Habibat Oladosu-Uthman and Dr Mutiat Titilope Oladejo, both of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. In a fascinating discussion, they 'unveil' the profound history and dynamism of the veiling tradition in Africa, which is deeply rooted in the identity of Muslim women in the region. Imperial Ottoman rule and cross-cultural relations established through the trans-Saharan trade routes were the driving forces behind this tradition, which is still very much alive and visible today. Beyond the symbolism of piety and fashion, the modern re-interpretation of veiling in Africa has revealed its noteworthy influence on regional debates surrounding socio-economic issues, citizenship, identity, politics, nationalism, and global trade.

Our final substantive article is by Mohd Tahir Nasiri and reviews the impact of Islam and traditional codes of conduct on the supremacy of the constitution in Afghanistan. The author discusses the *Loya Jirga* (Grand Council) as a constitutionally-recognised Afghan tradition. He also raises the issue of persistent political instability in Afghanistan and proffers constructive solutions to preserve

the constitution's stability and survival in order to escape relentless government downfalls.

Our four viewpoints cover a wide range of issues, reaching out to a large spectrum of reading interests. Two of them are related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Dr Shahino Mah Abdullah points to the significance of practicing both a 7R approach to the environment and a circular economy when laying the groundwork for post-pandemic recovery, while Muhammad Sayuti Mansor's contribution, 'Price of the Digital Nomad Culture for Employer, Employee,' summarises the positive and negative attributes stemming from the current culture of 'Work from Home' (WFH), while also providing useful advice for employers and employees who wish to promote a better work-life balance.

In 'The Race Against Time to Save the Planet for Future Generations,' Dr. Ahmad Badri Abdullah calls for concerted efforts to mitigate the alarming effects of climate change by raising public awareness, achieving green targets, and implementing both circular economic policy and stricter regulations. He also stresses the need to realise Malaysia's Green Technology Master Plan 2017-2030 and Roadmap Towards Zero Single-Use Plastics 2018-2030. Our final viewpoint, by Muhd. Nur Iman Ramli, expresses concern for Malayan tigers, a protected species under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 (Act 716) that is currently in danger of extinction as a result of unlawful poaching and illicit trade. The author urges that Malayan tiger killers be declared 'enemies of the state,' tracked down, and severely punished.

In addition to our articles and viewpoints, we feature nineteen event reports, covering a range of lectures and seminars hosted between May and November 2021 by IAIS Malaysia and its partners. These include the 'Third World Congress of Integration and Islamicisation: Mental Health and Well-Being in the 4th Industrial Revolution,' 'KL Conference on Afghanistan: Re-Emergence of a Nation,' 'Regional Roundtable Discussion (RTD) Malaysia-Australia: Preparing for COP26: Curbing Carbon Emissions by Governments, Civil Society and Individuals,' and 'First International Conference on Islam, Sustainability and Resilience (ICISR 2021).' Although all held virtually due to Malaysia's Movement Control Order (MCO), these events were well-attended and well-received by the public.

This issue of the ICR also includes two book reviews. The first is by Muhammad Sayuti Mansor and appraises Fahd Salih al-'Ajilani's *Prohibition and Criminalisation: Explaining the Relationship Between the Shariah's Prohibition and the Law's Criminalisation*. It deftly evaluates al-'Ajilani's contribution to the subject of morality's legal enforcement, while also exploring the correlation between shariah prohibition and legal criminalisation. Our second book review sees Mohamed Fouz Mohamed Zacky encapsulates Joseph J. Kaminski's *Islam, Liberalism and Ontology: A Critical Re-evaluation*. Fouz asserts that Kaminski's

work concerning the direction of the Islam-liberalism debate offers thought provoking ideas capable of fostering mutual understanding by disengaging the ‘us against them’ narrative while respecting the values of plurality and diversity.

It is with deep sadness that we close this issue with the obituaries of Professor Malik Babikr Badri Mohammed, Professor Emeritus Dato’ Abdul Hamid A. Abu Sulayman, Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, and Professor Dato’ Siddiq Fadzil, all of whom were prominent figures in Islamic thought and civilisation. May Allah (swt) bless their souls, accept their good deeds, and encompass them in His boundless mercy.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the authors who contributed to this issue. Their enlightening contributions will, I am sure, be of interest to readers worldwide. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Editorial Committee and the Publications Unit of IAIS Malaysia for their relentless support and cooperation.

Mohammad Hashim Kamali
Editor-in-Chief