

In Indonesia, according to Rifki, Islamic social finance instruments are used to empower small and medium enterprises and Pondok Pesantren (Islamic boarding school) through various initiatives by Bank Indonesia and Badan Amil Zakat Nasional – National Zakat Agency (BAZNAS). For example, Bank Indonesia launched an initiative called *Rumah Amal Bank Indonesia “Berbagi”* using *zakat*, *infaq*, and *shadaqah* funds to financially assist COVID-19 high impacted economic sectors and to enhance the *halal* value chain via a link and match mechanism to meet the demand and supply of the real sectors. BAZNAS introduced a health emergency programme as well as social and economic programmes to assist those who are financially affected by the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Webinar: ‘Poverty Porn’ vs. Misi Kebajikan dan Kemanusiaan:  
Memperkasakan Integriti dan Professionalisme NGO Islam Bertaraf  
Antarabangsa  
(Poverty Porn vs. Charity and Humanitarian Mission:  
Empowering Integrity and Professionalism to Establish a World-Class  
Islamic NGO)  
(5 August 2021)**

*M. Fakhurrazi Ahmad*

Natural catastrophes, wars, genocides, infectious diseases, and man-made disasters are all examples of common crises that result in human suffering, loss of life, infrastructure damage, homelessness, and poverty. These situations demand our concern and solidarity; therefore, humanitarian and charitable non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were founded to respond to crises, alleviate suffering, and provide assistance to those in need. However, contemporary challenges are facing the organisations, such as trust issues, mismanagement, inefficiency, and ‘poverty porn’—exploiting the poor and vulnerable to raise money for self-interest or committing fraud. A webinar was jointly organised by IAIS Malaysia and the Youth Committee of the National Dakwah Council to discuss the issues and strategies to promote integrity and professionalism in developing a world-class Islamic NGO. It was moderated by Associate Professor Dr Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, the Deputy CEO of IAIS Malaysia.

Mr Azhar Ab. Shukur, Chairman of EZ Group of Companies, emphasised that humanitarian missions and charities are more than just collecting donations and delivering aids; they require comprehensive strategic planning involving human resources and logistics administration, good marketing strategies,

financial management, transparency, and the application of *fiqh al-awlawiyyat* (understanding the priorities in decision making).

(Dr) Ahmad Sani Araby bin Dato' Abdul Alim Araby, the CEO of the Malaysian Consultative Council for Islamic Organization (MAPIM), urged Islamic NGOs to implement transformational changes in their administration and leadership. MAPIM is currently conducting research with the National University of Malaysia (UKM) to empower Islamic NGOs by developing explicit guidelines for constitutional framework and execution of impactful policies, supervision of human resources and volunteerism, management of funds, investment and endowment, construction and maintenance of *asnaf* houses, *asnaf* database management, and *fiqh*-based application systems for effective administration, domestic and foreign affairs, and management of humanitarian missions. He expected Islamic NGOs in Malaysia to adopt these guidelines in the near future.

Although non-profit organisations are allowed to spend up to thirty per cent of their collection on management and administration, they should consider minimising expenses to ensure their long-term viability and resilience. NGOs can use innovative approaches to promote their causes and activities in the media, but exploitative portrayals and fraudulence are not acceptable. Associate Professor Dato' Dr Mohd Izhar Ariff bin Mohd Kashim (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Islamic Studies, UKM) urged the public to avoid scams, fraud, and money laundering by conducting background checks, verifying all media information, and acquiring reports and proofs of payment for all donations to ensure their charitable giving goes to the right direction.

Islamic NGOs in Malaysia are encouraged to obtain the ISO 9001: 2015 certification, an internationally recognised standard for Quality Management System (QMS) that will elevate their organisations to greater heights in terms of better management and professionalism, proper accounting and auditing, measuring key performance indicators, and providing effective client services. This will help them build a reputation and gain public trust in the long run.

## **Webinar: Zoo and Animal Well-Being during the COVID-19 Pandemic (12 August 2021)**

*Muhd Nur Iman Ramli*

This webinar was delivered by Dr Muhammad Danial Felix Abdullah, former Deputy Director of Zoo Negara Malaysia, and Noorzakiahnum Binti Mohd Noh, Senior Assistant Director of PERHILITAN, highlighted concerns on the well-being of zoo animals during the pandemic outbreak.