

to what it has put forth for tomorrow” (59:18). According to Dr Daud Bakar, the key characteristics of future studies are predictive and prescriptive, data-driven (qualitative, quantitative or synthetic), objective, multidisciplinary, unbiased, and develop intuitive power of thinking in anticipating the future. Future studies, if embraced and implemented in our daily lives, will transform our understanding of Islam and its teachings in terms of knowledge management, ethics and moral obligations, laws and jurisprudence, and the construction of a sustainable and resilient civilisation for humanity in the social, political, and economic landscapes. The study of Islam should be subjected to natural language generation and processing that can automatically interpret the teachings of the Qur’an and *sunnah* in a well-organised manner. This will help to spread the message of Islam and establish effective communication with the rest of the world.

**Webinar: Malaysia-Australia Regional Roundtable Discussion (RTD):
Preparing for COP26: Curbing Carbon Emissions by Governments,
Civil Society, and Individuals
(Tuesday, 12 October 2021)**

Shahino Mah Abdullah

IAIS Malaysia, in collaboration with Better Futures Australia, hosted a regional webinar to bring together stakeholders and specialists from both countries in discussing the issues, possible effective responses, and actionable recommendations in reducing carbon emission prior to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. The webinar was officiated by Dato’ Seri Ir Dr Zaini Ujang (Secretary General in Ministry of Environment & Water, Malaysia) and featured several local environmental experts and activists including Professor Dato’ Ir Dr Wan Ramli Wan Daud (Founding President, Malaysia Association of Hydrogen Energy), Dr Shaikh Mohd Saifuddeen Shaikh Mohd Salleh (Director, Centre for Science and Environmental Studies, Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia), and Mr Yusaimi Md Yusof (Chairman, Nature Harmony Society Malaysia - GRASS). During the webinar, Zaini Ujang pointed out several measures taken by the government through the Malaysia Climate Change Action Council to reduce 45% carbon intensity based on GDP by 2030, compared to the 2005 level. Wan Ramli stressed the need for Malaysia to seriously adopt renewable energy to reduce its reliance on depleting fossil fuels, and consider alternative energy sources with low or zero emissions. According to Shaikh Mohd Saifuddeen, religion offers invaluable

lessons in the ethics of environmental protection and thus, religious institutions should be at the forefront of the campaign in reducing carbon footprint. Yusaimi called to preserve the forest, protect soil, and improve the farming system to maintain ecological sustainability. From the Australian side, the webinar continued with presentations by Dr Daud Batchelor (Ambassador, Better Futures Australia), Mrs Philippa Rowland (President, Multifaith Association of South Australia) and Mr Mark Delaney (Australia Religious Response for Climate Change). Daud stated that excessive consumerism in wealthy and developed countries has greatly contributed to carbon emission and advised them to return to spiritual teachings and self-training to avoid detrimental desires. Philippa Rowland urged the need to start looking at nature-based solutions and ecosystem service, including respecting indigenous and First Nations' Wisdom in managing their country sustainably. Mark Delaney listed down several actions that can be taken by both individuals and policymakers to reduce wasteful consumption in goods production, transportation, diet, and energy usage. The webinar proceeded with a discussion session by Associate Professor Dr Zul Ilham Zulkiflee Lubes (Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya), Mr Fauzy Omar Basheer Othman (Head of Facilities of the Future, Group Research and Technology, Petronas) and Dr Ahmad Badri Abdullah (Head of Science, Technology, Environment & Ethics Unit, IAIS Malaysia), Dr Habib Jamal (President, Islamic Council of Queensland), Lisa Cliff (Programme Manager, Better Futures Australia, Climate Action Network Australia), Professor Dr Shahjahan Khan (President, Islamic Society of Toowoomba, also a Professor of Statistics, University of Southern Queensland), Dr Kuntal Goswami (Founder, Australian Centre for Sustainable Development Research & Innovation), and Imam Ahmed Naffa (Imam, Masjid Al Farouq, Kuraby Queensland). The webinar ends with resolutions from both Malaysian and Australian representatives.

**Online Islamic Finance Training Series:
 Waqf and Waqf-Based Islamic Financial Products
 (11 & 12 November 2021)**

Mohammad Mahbubi Ali

Waqf has a long history in Islam. It has played — and, in many cases, continues to play — a pivotal role in the advancement of the socio-economic well-being of the Muslim community. Throughout the centuries, *waqf* has funded many magnificent architectural monuments and public infrastructures all over the