

The research camp is an annual event conducted by IAIS Malaysia and is designed to provide its participants with a thorough understanding of how to write high-quality academic writings. The primary focus of its modules is the fundamental concepts and practises of academic and policy research, as well as helpful tips for researchers and lecturers in efficiently managing academic references.

The fourth research camp was organised into seven modules: (1) Decades of academic excellence and prolific writing: experiences as an Islamic scholar by Prof. Mohammad Hashim Kamali; (2) Developing and designing policy issue papers by Dr Ahmad Badri Abdullah; (3) The art of constructing quality academic papers: the Oxford style of writing by Dr Alexander Wain; (4) Tips and tricks for publications in Scopus journals by Dr. Mohammad Mahbubi Ali; and (5) Citing & referencing Islamic sources: avoiding common pitfalls by Mr Mohd Fariz Zainal Abdullah; (6) Academic housekeeping: Managing reference and database; and (7) Essential skills in writing newspaper articles by Muhammad Sayuti Mansor.

This year's research camp gathered 23 participants from a variety of backgrounds, including researchers, lecturers, students, policymakers, and practitioners.

**International Launch of the 2022 Islamic Well-Being Index for
Muslim Countries: the Republic of Maldives as Leader and Approach
Taken
(IAIS Malaysia streamed by Zoom Platform & IAIS Facebook Live, 15
July 2022)**

Ahli Fatoni

The event was held on 15 July 2022 at IAIS Malaysia. Moderated by Dr. Ahmad Badri (Acting deputy CEO, IAIS Malaysia), the programme was given a welcoming remark by Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali (Founding CEO, IAIS Malaysia). The main programme began with Dr. Daud's (Adjunct Fellow, IAIS Malaysia) presentation, followed by a discussion led by four experts, namely Prof Dr. Aziz Berghout (Dean, ISTAC-IIUM), Mr. Azizi Che Seman (Senior Lecturer, APIUM), Dr. Alwan Ghazali (Senior Lecturer, APIUM), and Dato' Ghazali Yusoff (Chairman, Iran-ASEAN Business Council).

In his presentation, Daud elaborates that the current assessment of the Well-

Being Index of Muslim countries places The Maldives top out of 33 countries, with Malaysia and Indonesia tied for second. These three are societies in which women play significant roles in societal well-being. The Index follows the approach outlined in his 2021 article, “An Enhanced Islamic Well-Being Index (IWI 2.0-2021) for Muslim Countries,” which is based on the Higher Objectives of Islamic Law (*Maqasid al-Shari‘ah*). This is an updated version of “A New Islamic Rating Index of Well-Being for Muslim Countries,” which was first released in 2013. The Index can help decision-makers and policymakers discover and correct deficiencies in a country’s well-being status by applying Islamic principles to contemporary issues. It also informs where Islamic forms of foreign aid may be most beneficial.

Prof. Berghout, in his commentary on the Index, remarks that the index is extremely important for the growth of the Islamic ummah, society, and country. He also encourages all academicians and scholars to support and contribute to enhancing and improving the Index. Azizi then commented that Daud should add more components or dimensions to measure religiosity in the Index, such as Islam, *Iman*, *Ihsan*, and *akhlaq*. In addition, Azizi and Alwani commented that another aspect that should be included in the index is governance. Finally, Dato’ Ghazali stated that this Index should be disseminated, processed, and not function in the shadows. It is vital to collaborate with other religions so that they will see what we are about to do as a collective energy to the entire element of human civilization rather than a threat.

The Rise of the East-West Tension and Its Impact on Muslim Countries: Rethinking International Relations Through the Islamic Perspective

(IAIS Malaysia Facebook Live, 25 August 2022)

Wan Naim Wan Mansor and Muhammad Izzuddin Jaafar

In this Islam and Civilisational Talk Series, globally renowned political scientist and expert Dr. Louay M. Safi, currently a professor of political science and Islamic thought at Hamad bin Khalifa University’s Faculty of Islamic Studies (HBKU), presented the topic The Rise of the East-West Tension and Its Impact on Muslim Countries. As a prominent scholar in the fields of social and political development, democracy, human rights, as well as Islam and modernity, Dr Louay Safi covered a variety of subjects, such as finding the best expression