

of Muslim thought and societies that is best suited for the modern context, addressing the mutual misinterpretations between the East and West—which has caused tension between the two worlds, and identifying potential impediments to mutual understanding across the cultural and civilisational divide.

Many Muslim nations are minor nations with limited influence compared to the three world giants, therefore this tension has little effect on them. Muslim countries are often caught in the midst and will usually side with one of the superpowers to preserve their safety. Thus, by offering these Muslim countries a choice to aligning themselves with the global powers, they can free themselves from being used as saviours by the global powers. The shift should focus on expanding their zone of independence and developing new visions that include Muslim countries. The discussion also addresses the issue of establishing a renewed moral framework for the international community, named rational idealism as an alternative to political realism which has been the main culprit for the immoralities, destruction, and bloodshed in geopolitics. Such applications have the potential to liberate Muslims from the relentless grasp of political realism that has shackled Muslim countries. The event was followed by an interactive Q&A session with members of the audience from diverse background.

**Forum Kemerdekaan Malaysia & Indonesia 2022
Generasi Penamat Budaya Rasuah & Salah Guna Kuasa Dalam
Konteks Malaysia & Indonesia
(Malaysia & Indonesia Independence Forum 2022: Generation
Ending the Culture of Corruption & Abuse of Power in the Context
of Malaysia & Indonesia)
(IAIS Malaysia Facebook Live, 29 August 2022)**

Ahli Fatoni

Malaysia will celebrate its 65th anniversary of independence on August 31, 2022, while Indonesia will celebrate its 77th anniversary on August 17, 2022. Malaysia's and Indonesia's development as countries have been distinguished by many proud successes, glorious triumphs, and no less challenging obstacles. Despite all of the glory and accomplishments, including two years of fighting the spread of COVID-19, both countries are today being hit by a 'disease' that has been infecting our society for so long that it has even become a culture. The sickness is a culture of greed and power abuse that exists at all levels of society, regardless of background, status, or position. This attitude and misuse of power

are so pervasive that it casts a negative light on attempts to strengthen society and the state and establish a positive image of the country at the national and international levels.

The International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia, in collaboration with *Rasuah Buster* (*Sinar Harian*) and the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM), organised the Malaysia & Indonesia Independence Forum 2022: Generation Ending the Culture of Corruption & Abuse of Power in the Context of Malaysia & Indonesia on August 29, 2022. Lecturers from the Faculty of Humanities at Universiti Presiden (PresUniv), Dr. Muhammad A.S Hikam, Secretary General of the Malaysian Islamic Youth Force (ABIM), Mohammad Fazril Mohd Salleh, and Nurhayati Nordin, Chief Executive Officer of the *Sinar Foundation*, attended this session.

Hikam opened the conversation by explaining how colonialism and feudalism contributed to corruption in Indonesia. According to him, this activity becomes a cultural standard for many people, and mythologically, it is required as a lubricant of advancement if corruption is assessed. Apart from law enforcement, the most difficult aspect of eradicating corruption is educating the public that there is no such thing as a corrupt culture in Indonesia. Nurhayati agrees with Hikam that encouraging the generation of corruption elimination requires the establishment of a strong moral and belief system. Based on her direct involvement in anti-corruption advocacy at the grassroots level, the new generation has a rather weak grasp of corruption. Meanwhile, Mohammad Fazril feels that the next generation can be awakened as a group that breaks the country's chain of bigotry. He stated that this may be accomplished by nurturing a pure culture in Malaysian traditions. Malaysian cultural traditions are rich in features that highlight the concepts of integrity, such as the embodiment of the terms honest, self-respect, *maruah*, and shamelessness.

**Islamic Finance Talk Series (IFTS): Demystifying Carbon Markets: Is There Space for Shariah Compliance?
(IAIS Malaysia Facebook Live, 27 September 2022)**

Ahli Fatoni

This online talk was organised to clarify the function of carbon markets and their implementation in Malaysia, as well as to provide some viewpoints for Islamic scholars and finance to consider. The talk was chaired by Dr Ahmad Badri Abdullah (Deputy CEO, IAIS Malaysia) and Mr Mohd. Radzuan Ahamd