

THE INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW FIELD OF INQUIRY OF ISLAMICJERUSALEM STUDIES WITHIN BRITISH HIGHER EDUCATION: 1998 – 2004

AISHA AL-AHLAS

Al-Maktoum Institute-Scotland

Following the establishment of the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Dundee, several statements have been made about the foundation of the new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies. On 21 April 2003, for example, the Lord Elder of Kirkcaldy, Chancellor of Al-Maktoum Institute in his introduction to the 2003 International Academic Conference on Islamicjerusalem stated that “We feel proud that the new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies was found through the intellectual and academic hard work of our Principal, Professor El-Awaisi. From the initial efforts, determination and clear vision of one man, we are now seeing this new field of inquiry flourishing”.¹

One could argue that it was through ISRA that El-Awaisi had planned for research and scholarship to take place in building the foundations of his vision for the new field of inquiry. However, practical steps were needed to develop and integrate this new field from within the British institutions of higher education. Indeed, the founder’s “central aim was to establish an international academic platform for discussion on Islamicjerusalem Studies, and to sponsor, encourage and prepare young scholars to specialise in that field, establishing a new discipline within academia on Islamicjerusalem”.²

The aim of this paper is to discuss how Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi managed to institutionalise the development of the new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies within academia. In addition, the researcher will examine how this new field of inquiry has been promoted.

The main source of information for this research was the archive of the Academy and Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi's personal archive. Also, the researcher as a member attended all the Management Committee meetings of the Academy and most of its Annual General Meetings. This was indeed an advantage, enabling the researcher to gain access to the documents of the Academy. In addition, the researcher benefited significantly from her continuous observations as Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi's wife, and also from her interview with him.

New Undergraduate Unit on Islamicjerusalem Studies at the University of Stirling

As part of his vision to establish the concept of Islamicjerusalem Studies within academia, Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi developed a new course entitled "Islamic Jerusalem" which he taught at undergraduate level at the University of Stirling.³ Indeed, November 1998 witnessed a major step in establishing the new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies. On 3 November 1998, El-Awaisi proposed to the University of Stirling, where he worked at the time, that a new course on Islamicjerusalem be introduced. Following the initial discussion and approval by the Department of Religious Studies of El-Awaisi's proposal, the Faculty of Arts Board confirmed its approval with the introduction of the new course on 18 November 1998.⁴ As El-Awaisi was still working on other fronts⁵ to develop this new field, he could not offer the new unit in the spring semester 1999. However, he was able to offer and teach it at the University of Stirling in spring 2001 (February - May 2001).

In his proposal, El-Awaisi identified the unit's main aims and objectives as being "to identify the nature of Islamicjerusalem, to provide a basic framework for discussion of the main problems

and issues of the role of Islamicjerusalem in both contemporary and historical contexts”; and “to develop an awareness of some of the key features of the study of Islamicjerusalem”.⁶ Accordingly, the course consists of religious, historical and political perspectives on Islamicjerusalem, with in-depth studies on particular aspects. It examines the key religious, political and demographic issues involved, and begins with a discussion of the place of Islamicjerusalem in Islam. The course then moves on to examine how Muslims have ruled that region as the physical manifestation of their spiritual vision. Several questions have informed the study of Islamicjerusalem through its Muslim rule: Whose is Islamicjerusalem? To whom does it belong? Can it be shared? Is it an exclusive or inclusive region? How have Muslims responded to the competing spiritual claims of the other religions? Particular attention is paid to specific subjects, such as the role of religious institutions, relationships with other religious communities, demographic transformation and the Israeli settlements, the peace process in the Middle East and the future of Islamicjerusalem, the legal status of Islamicjerusalem and the role of the United Nations.⁷

This new unit received very positive responses from the students at the University of Stirling. On 2 May 2001, it was stated during the last meeting of the Staff/Student Consultative Committee at the Department of Religious Studies in spring 2001 that “There was a fantastic response to this course. Students found the lecture well structured. There was a positive reaction to the separate topics being brought together so well, and it has given the students a clear understanding. The seminars were also looked upon enthusiastically, and the idea that the students lead the actual seminar is greatly encouraged. All in all the structure, readings and workshops are all going well”.⁸

In addition, at the end of spring semester 2001, El-Awaisi was asked to fill the Faculty Rolling Review Report for the Islamicjerusalem unit and the Semester Unit Review Report. In a response to one question in the Faculty Report “to what extent were the specified objectives met over the review period?” El-

Awaisi stated that all the objectives of the unit had been met to “a high level of satisfaction (excellent)”. Most importantly, he pointed out that “**the course successfully identified the nature of this new field of inquiry**”.⁹

Moreover, of the questionnaires used at the end of the spring semester 2001, 18 out of 18 were returned. Such a response indicated a high level of satisfaction (excellent): 100% found the lecture to be informative, stimulating, well-organised, the amount of material covered to be about right, and the level of difficulty to be about right; 94% found the workshops informative and stimulating; 89% to be well-organised; and 83% found the amount of material covered about right. In addition, 94% found the unit to be “above average”; just one student found it to be “average”.¹⁰

There were several other excellent comments from the students on the questionnaire, and the researcher feels it is appropriate to quote a few: “I enjoyed this course and felt it opened my mind up to the Arab side of argument. I feel there should be other courses examining Islam”; “Superb course that could continue to grow; a great stepping stone into Islamic Studies”; “The discussion topics were brilliant, as they enabled us to expand our understanding of the topics and the overall course ... the course was absolutely fantastic. I enjoyed every minute of it, because **it opened up a whole new academic area**”; “An excellent course, more please!”; “The course was one, if not the best I have studied in my time at University”; “Congratulations, everything was excellent”; “Probably one of the most stimulating lectures I have attended ... this course was extremely well-presented and challenging. This course should be more widely used”; “Unlike other courses, you (were) really ... like. **You were covering new ground.** Very good”; “I feel that it was a success on all levels”.¹¹

It is very interesting to note that none of the 18 students deleted their names from the questionnaires, as they usually do in these circumstances. This indicates that all of his students were very happy to openly express their positive views to the Department, Faculty and the University.

In short, it seems that this new course was a unique unit within British universities and helped to develop El-Awaisi's new field of inquiry on Islamicjerusalem Studies within academia. Indeed, this was another serious effort and practical step toward achieving his vision.

Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum's Passion and Commitment to Develop the New Field of Inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies

To develop this new field within academia, the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies was established in Dundee with special focus on Islamicjerusalem Studies. In 2003, Mirza al-Sayegh, Chairman of the Institute Board, who played a major role in facilitating the scholarship scheme and helping to establish the Institute, argues that "the most recent and perhaps the clearest example of His Highness Shaikh Hamdan's commitment in ensuring the development of Islamicjerusalem Studies is the establishment of the Al-Maktoum Institute here in Dundee".¹² Indeed, since 2000, Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi had been arguing that "The main focus of the Institute will be to promote the new field of inquiry known as Islamicjerusalem Studies in the international arena from within British academia".¹³

Moreover, in his opening address to the 2003 International Academic Conference on Islamicjerusalem, Mirza al-Sayegh summarised Shaikh Hamdan's passion and commitment to this new field of inquiry. He stated that "His Highness Shaikh Hamdan is very keen to see the development of this new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies. Through the Islamic Research Academy, His Highness Shaikh Hamdan showed his passion for Islamicjerusalem by initially providing scholarships for young scholars from all around the world to pursue Islamicjerusalem Studies at postgraduate level".¹⁴

In short, one could divide Shaikh Hamdan's contributions to the new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies into two important stages. The first stage was when the new field was in its initial and crucial age of development. At that stage Shaikh Hamdan played

an essential part by generously funding several scholarships from 1999, and sponsoring the annual conference organised under his patronage from 2000. The second stage was the establishment of the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Dundee which was officially opened by Shaikh Hamdan on 6 May 2002.

Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies

As mentioned earlier, in 1999 HH Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum “generously agreed” to fund several postgraduate scholarships in IslamicJerusalem Studies each year, to be administrated by the Academy. The relationship with the United Arab Emirates was “greatly strengthened” in 2000 when Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi spent four months in the Emirates.¹⁵ Before El-Awaisi’s trip to the UAE in February 2000, the Management Committee had begun a process of negotiation to establish the “Al-Maktoum Centre for IslamicJerusalem Studies” as part of one of the British universities. Guidelines for the proposal to establish such a Centre have been sent to Durham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde, Stirling, Dundee, and Aberdeen Universities. However, on examining the British universities’ replies, the Committee decided, in principle, on 27 August to widen the scope of the project and to establish an institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.¹⁶ In addition, on 8 October 2000, the Committee approved El-Awaisi’s proposal to establish the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.¹⁷

The “concern of His Highness for IslamicJerusalem” was given further expression in 2000 by his patronage of the Academy’s annual international conference in 2000 on IslamicJerusalem Studies. In addition, “His Highness has once again demonstrated his extraordinary generosity” by offering to establish and sponsor¹⁸ in Scotland the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies. This was in recognition of the work and achievements of the Academy in the field of IslamicJerusalem Studies. This understanding was made official by signing a joint agreement between the Al-Maktoum Foundation in Dubai and ISRA with

regard to the establishment of the Institute during the 2000 conference, on 24 October. "The main focus of the Institute will be to promote the new field of inquiry known as IslamicJerusalem Studies on the international arena from within British academia".¹⁹ On 29 December 2000, the Management Committee decided to authorize Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi to approach Mirza al-Sayegh, Chairman of the Al-Maktoum Foundation in Dubai, to appoint the first Board of Directors of the Institute.²⁰ Consequently, on 30 December 2000 the members of the first Board were appointed. The appointments meant that the Institute had become a separate and independent entity from ISRA.²¹ On 6 May 2002, the Institute was officially opened by His Highness Shaikh Hamdan. It is worth mentioning that, due to the establishment of the Institute in 2001, ISRA considered its seventh year as "the year of achievement".²²

The First Chair in IslamicJerusalem Studies

Two days after the establishment of the first Board of Directors for the Institute, the Institute Board, in its first meeting on 1 January 2001, decided to establish the first academic post at the Institute, the first Chair in IslamicJerusalem Studies. In addition, it decided to advertise this new post in January 2001, so that the Chair could start her/his job in September 2001. One could argue that the commitment of the Institute to develop the new field of inquiry of IslamicJerusalem Studies expressed itself at a very early stage of the foundation of the Institute. Indeed, the decision to create this post was another bold step towards developing the new field of inquiry of IslamicJerusalem Studies within academia.

Following the official registration of the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies on 26 March 2001²³, the Institute started taking practical steps to install the new post. The Institute, in co-operation with ISRA, widely advertised the vacancy of the new post in the academic world. Some very good applications were received before the closing date of 16 April 2001.²⁴ Three short-listed candidates²⁵ were interviewed on 5 May 2001 by an independent appointing committee consisting of four academics from the University of Stirling, the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, the University of Wales, and

the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, and a fifth member from central Scotland. The appointing committee decided to offer the post to Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi.²⁶

It seems that this new post was created as a natural progressive development to engaging in a more serious and structured way in the research and teachings of Islamicjerusalem Studies. Indeed, if the establishment of the Institute began with the appointment of El-Awaisi as the first Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the Institute by the Institute Board on 1 January 2001, the academic activities of the Institute were also started with the appointment of El-Awaisi as the first Chair in Islamicjerusalem Studies on 5 May 2001.

Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies

To institutionalise the advancement of this new field of enquiry, the Institute Board decided, on 28 January 2002, to accept El-Awaisi's recommendation to establish the Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies. In addition to advancing research and scholarship in Islamicjerusalem Studies, this unique Centre would promote this new field of enquiry. Moreover, one could argue that this design signifies the Institute's commitments to the new field. Indeed, the Lord Elder of Kirkcaldy in 2003 argued that "the promotion of this new field of enquiry is an integral aim of the Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies of the Institute, and this involves developing further the discipline of Islamicjerusalem Studies within academia and encouraging young scholars to specialise in the field".²⁷ In addition, Al-Sayegh in 2003 argued that "The development of Islamicjerusalem Studies as an academic discipline takes a central place at the Institute. The Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies, led by the founder of the field himself, our Principal (El-Awaisi), was established so that efforts could be focused on producing scholarly works in the field".²⁸

Indeed, following the establishment of the Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies at Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, El-Awaisi pondered over, and discussed with the officer and members of the Management Committee, whether ISRA had served its purpose. He started up the debate very openly

during the meeting of the Management Committee on 30 November 2002. The Committee discussed “at length and in detail” the future of ISRA. It was decided that most of ISRA’s activities should be shared or given to the Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies. The annual international academic conference on Islamicjerusalem on 21 April 2003 was organised jointly with the Centre at Shaikh Rashid Conference Hall at the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.²⁹ The Journal of Islamicjerusalem Studies published from 2005 by the Al-Maktoum Institute Academic Press for the Centre of Islamicjerusalem Studies.³⁰ In addition, the first postdoctoral studentship was offered to a young scholar to be spent at the Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies at the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies from 1 November 2002 to 13 June 2003.

It was obvious that the Conference should be organised jointly between ISRA and the Centre. In addition to Islamicjerusalem Studies being at the centre of the activities of the Institute, and to avoid confusion and duplication of the work, the Management committee of ISRA decided to leave the issue of organising the Conference to the Institute and in particular to the Centre of Islamicjerusalem Studies.³¹ In short, it seems to the researcher that the Centre will play a key role in developing this new field of inquiry.

M.Litt. in Islamicjerusalem Studies

To pioneer this new field of inquiry within academia, the Institute embodied El-Awaisi’s vision by inaugurating an M.Litt. in Islamicjerusalem Studies. As he was the only academic working at the Institute, El-Awaisi had to use his previous experiences and expertise to finalise the proposed document for both courses in Islamic Studies and Islamicjerusalem Studies, which took him several weeks. The proposal for the programme “had undergone detailed examination by the University’s Committee for Academic Standard and Quality (CASQ)”.³² It was initially examined and approved by the School of Social and Health Sciences Board on 14 November 2001. It was then examined and approved by a Scrutiny Group of the UAD on 23 November 2001 and a Course

Validation Advisory Group (CVAG) of the UAD on 14 December 2001, both of which were set up by the UAD's CASQ. It is worth mentioned that the document "received a very good response from CVAG" and the committee "complimented the Institute on the robustness of the validation that had been undertaken and the quality of the programme documentation". Following this "very good review", CASQ of the University decided on 11 January 2002 to recommend to the UAD's Senate that "courses leading to the award of M.Litt. in Islamic Studies/Islamicjerusalem Studies, to be delivered by the Al-Maktoum Institute, be validated without limit of time". On 18 January 2002, a Chair action was taken by the Principal of the UAD to approve the programme on behalf of the University's Senate; "and this was subsequently approved by the Senate on 20 February 2002".³³

On 4 February 2002, the Institute celebrated the launch of its two taught postgraduate programmes, one of which leads to the award of M.Litt. in Islamicjerusalem Studies from the UAD. This date was a "historic day on which the first group of taught (postgraduate) students started their studies"³⁴ in the new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies. The course structure in Islamicjerusalem Studies "reflects the Institute's commitment to advance an exciting and multi-disciplinary approach to a relatively new field of inquiry".³⁵ The foundation modules for this M.Litt. were: the Status of Jerusalem in Islam, the History of Islamicjerusalem 1, the History of Islamicjerusalem 2, and Islamicjerusalem Today. This could be seen as a "distinctive" and "exciting development in the world of academia in Scotland, and even in Britain as a whole".³⁶ In addition, this postgraduate degree in Islamicjerusalem Studies and its modules are unique worldwide.

First Masters Graduates in Islamicjerusalem Studies from the Institute

History was made on 4 July 2003 when the first three postgraduate students graduated from Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies/UAD with M.Litt. degrees in Islamicjerusalem Studies. One of the three students, Mohammad Roslan Mohammad Nor from Malaysia, was the first postgraduate student

to be graduated with an M.Litt. in IslamicJerusalem Studies with distinction, and he registered for his PhD degree in IslamicJerusalem Studies at the Institute.

On 28 November 2003, the second group of four postgraduate students graduated from Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies/UAD, each with an M.Litt. in IslamicJerusalem Studies; two of them with distinction. This brings the total of the first Masters' students who completed their studies in the academic year 2002/2003 in IslamicJerusalem Studies to seven graduates.

M.Litt. with Distinction in IslamicJerusalem Studies

1. Aminurraasyid Yatiban for successful completion of the requirements of the degree and a dissertation entitled *The Islamic Concept of Sovereignty: Islamic Jerusalem during the First Islamic Conquest as a Case Study*.
2. Khalid El-Awaisi for successful completion of the requirements of the degree and a dissertation entitled *Geographical Boundaries of Islamic Jerusalem*.
3. Mohamad Roslan Mohamad Nor for successful completion of the requirements of the degree and a dissertation entitled *Malaysian Muslim Non-Governmental Organization's Awareness Towards Islamic Jerusalem: Muslim Scholars Association of Malaysia (PUM) as a Case Study*.

M.Litt. in IslamicJerusalem Studies

1. Raja Hisyamudin Raja Sulong for successful completion of the requirements of the degree and a dissertation entitled *The Development of Islamic Jerusalem under the Mamluks Sultanate with Special reference to the Urbanization and Constructional activities in the Walled City*.
2. Aisha Al-Ahlah for successful completion of the requirements of the degree and a dissertation entitled *Islamic Research Academy (ISRA): 1994-2003; Background, Activities and Achievements with Special Reference to the New Field of Inquiry of Islamic Jerusalem Studies*.

3. Maimon Herawati for successful completion of the requirements of the degree and a dissertation entitled *Islamic Jerusalem under the Latin Kingdom – the Life of Muslims during the Period 1099-1187 AD*.
4. Amanullah De Sony for successful completion of the requirements of the degree and a dissertation entitled *Religio/Intellectual Activities of Muslims in Islamic Jerusalem: 7-11th Century AD*
5. Rizwan Ahmed who successfully completed in February 2004 the requirements of the degree and a dissertation entitled *Authentication of the Hadith of the Virtues of Bait al-Maqdis and al-Masjid al-Aqsa*.

Among the eight who successfully finished their M.Litt. in Islamicjerusalem Studies from the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, four registered for their PhD degree in Islamicjerusalem Studies at the Institute.³⁷

First PhD Graduates in Islamicjerusalem Studies from the Institute

History was also made on 7 October 2002 when Othman Al-Tel, the first postgraduate student at the Institute, completed his PhD in Islamicjerusalem Studies. His thesis was entitled “*The first Islamic conquest of Aelia (Islamicjerusalem): a critical analytical study of the early Islamic historical narratives and sources*”. Al-Tel graduated from Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies/UAD on 29 November 2002.³⁸

Maher Abu-Munshar was the second postgraduate student at the Institute to complete his PhD in Islamicjerusalem Studies on 24 July 2003. His thesis was entitled “*A Historical Study of Muslim Treatment of Christians in Islamic Jerusalem at the Time of Umar Ibn al-Khattab and Salab al-Din with Special Reference to Islamic Values of Justice*”. He graduated from Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies/UAD on 28 November 2003.

Conclusion

All these are serious efforts that further enhance the institutional development of the new field of inquiry of Islamicjerusalem Studies within British higher education. This was initiated by Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi's introducing the new undergraduate unit on Islamicjerusalem at the University of Stirling. He developed this unit into an M.Litt. degree in Islamicjerusalem Studies delivered by the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies and awarded by the UAD. The passion and commitment of Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum to develop Islamicjerusalem Studies led to the establishment of the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Dundee. This resulted in the appointment of the first Chair in Islamicjerusalem Studies at the Institute, and the establishment of the Centre for Islamicjerusalem Studies.

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- 1 The Lord Elder of Kirkcaldy, Introduction to the 2003 International Academic Conference on Islamicjerusalem.
 - 2 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, "Secretary General's Report", in the Fourth Annual Report of the Islamic Research Academy (IRAP): 1999-2000, p.2.
 - 3 Interview with Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi.
 - 4 Memorandum from the Faculty of Arts Officer to Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi dated 18 November 1998 (ref: JLB/JF) regarding the Islamicjerusalem unit.
 - 5 Such as the Conference, and the Journal. He also took his sabbatical in early 2000, and was busy finalising the arrangements for the establishment of the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.
 - 6 Proposal for new underground unit, University of Stirling: Faculty of Arts – Department of Religious Studies, 3 November 1998.
 - 7 See the handout for the unit 72FC Islamicjerusalem, Spring 2001.
 - 8 Minutes of the meeting of the Staff/Students Consultative Committee on 2 May 2001 – Department of Religious Studies, University of Stirling.

- 9 See the Faculty Rolling Review Report for the unit 72FC Islamicjerusalem, Spring 2001.
- 10 From El-Awaisi's personal archive, the researcher examined a copy of the Student Questionnaire findings, normally prepared by the secretary of the Department of Religious Studies and presented to the members of staff, the Department, and the staff/student consultative committee. See also both the Faculty Rolling Review Report for unit 72FC Islamicjerusalem, Spring 2001, and the Semester Unit Review Report for unit 72FC Islamicjerusalem, Spring 2001.
- 11 From the El-Awaisi personal archive, the researcher examined copies of all 18 questionnaires. See both the Faculty Rolling Review Report for unit 72FC Islamicjerusalem, Spring 2001; and the Semester Unit Review Report for unit 72FC Islamicjerusalem, Spring 2001.
- 12 Mr Mirza al-Sayegh, Opening Address. In addition, "His Highness has once again demonstrated his extraordinary generosity in recognising the work and achievements of the Academy by offering to establish (and sponsor) in Scotland the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies". Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, "Secretary General's Report", in the Fifth Annual Report of the Islamic Research Academy (ISRA): 2000-2001, p.2.
- 13 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, "Secretary General's Report", in the Fourth Annual Report of the Islamic Research Academy (IRAP): 1999-2000, p.6.
- 14 Mr Mirza al-Sayegh, Opening Address to the 2003 International Academic Conference on Islamicjerusalem, 21 April 2003.
- 15 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi took two trips to the UAE in 2000: one in the spring semester (February to June) and the other in October. For more details on this academic link with the UAE, see El-Awaisi, "Secretary General's Report", in the Fourth Annual Report of the Islamic Research Academy (IRAP): 1999-2000, p.3.
- 16 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, "Secretary General's Report", in the Fourth Annual Report of the Islamic Research Academy (IRAP): 1999-2000, p.5.
- 17 Minutes of the Management Committee on 8 October 2000.

- 18 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, "Secretary General's Report", in the Fifth Annual Report of the Islamic Research Academy (ISRA): 2000-2001, p.2.
- 19 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, "Secretary General's Report", in the Fourth Annual Report of the Islamic Research Academy (IRAP): 1999-2000, p.6.
- 20 Minutes of the Management Committee on 29 December 2000.
- 21 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, First Annual Report: 2001/2002, Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, p.6.
- 22 The Fifth Annual Report of the Islamic Research Academy (ISRA): 2000-2001.
- 23 Although the members of the first Board of Directors for the Institute was appointed on 30 December 2000 and re-confirmed at the first meeting of the Institute Board on 1 January 2001, the Institute was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee without share capital (registration number SC217303) on 26 March 2001. The Institute was also recognised as a charity (Scottish Charity number SC031415) with effect from 26 March 2001. See Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, First Annual Report: 2001/2002, Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, p.7.
- 24 It is important to note that El-Awaisi advised the Institute Board on its meeting on 2 April 2001 that "he intended to apply for the position of Chair in Islamicjerusalem Studies and declared his interest in that position". The Institute Board "resolved that Dr Mohamed Branine be appointed as the Chair of the Appointing Committee for the Chair in Islamicjerusalem Studies, and that Dr Branine be authorised to co-opt independent academic experts from the UK and Europe into the Appointing Committee". See the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting on 2 April 2001 – the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.
- 25 One each from the United Kingdom, Germany and Switzerland. See Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, First Annual Report: 2001/2002, Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, p.16.
- 26 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, First Annual Report: 2001/2002, Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, p.16.
- 27 The Lord Elder of Kirkcaldy, Introduction.
- 28 Mr Mirza al-Sayegh, Opening Address.

- 29 The first time the Management Committee decided to organise the Conference “in conjunction” with the Centre was at its meeting on 14 July 2002.
- 30 The Management Committee decided on 30 November 2002 “to hand over the publication of the Journal to the Al-Maktoum Institute Academic Press”. On 1 December 2002, Jack Kilby, the Secretary of ISRA signed an agreement with the Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies to give permission and licence to the Al-Maktoum Institute Academic Press to undertake publication.
- 31 Minutes of the Management Committee on 6 July 2003
- 32 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, First Annual Report: 2001/2002, Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, p.17.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Ibid, p.2.
- 35 Ibid, p.18.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 Mohamad Roslan M. Nor (Malaysia), Aminurraasyid Yatiban (Malaysia), Khalid El-Awaisi (Scotland), and Hisyamudin Raja Sulong (Malaysia).
- 38 Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi, First Annual Report: 2001/2002, Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, p.17. Al-Tel thesis was published in 2003 by Al-Maktoum Institute Academic Press.