

Sempozyum Notları / Conference Reports

International Conference on Leadership and Social Change in the Muslim World: Prospects and Challenges (İslam Dünyasında Liderlik ve Sosyal Değişim Konferansı: Beklentiler ve Zorluklar)

11- 13 February 2012, Kuala Lumpur / Malaysia

From 11 to 13 February 2012, Students' Representatives Council of IIUM in collaboration with Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, Model Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Egypt and Istanbul Youth Assembly, Turkey Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation, under the auspices of International Islamic University Malaysia, hosted the International Conference on Leadership and Social Change in the Muslim World: Prospects and Challenges in Kuala Lumpur. The conference aimed at promoting development, sustainability, social changes and peace worldwide through inculcating the seeds of true and Islamic leadership. The main objective of the conference was to allow young leaders to discuss the proper guidance and principles of Islamic leadership to the young Muslim generation which will help them in fulfilling the objective of producing quality and dynamic Muslim leaders. More than 250 participants from various countries, comprising young politicians and the youngest political scientist and a Member of Parliament of Turkey (Mr. Muhammet Bilal Macit), advisors to the Prime Minister of Turkey (İlker Astarıcı, Mehmet Çakır), Members of the Institute of Strategic Thinking (Prof. Dr. Yasin Aktay, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hasan Kösebalan), Egyptian politician and Physician (Dr. Abdel Moniem Abo el Fotouh), scholars, lecturers, think tank institutions' leaders from NGO's, students representatives, youth representatives, as well as a significant guest of honour, renowned politician Former Prime

Minister of Malaysia (Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad), Turkish Ambassador to Malaysia (H.E. Serap Ataay) attended and the fifty-five presented working papers made this one of the region's most successful academic and international events.

The Conference started with recitation of the Asmaul Husna, National Anthem, IIUM Song, and Holy Qur'an. Mohammad Mohiuddin (Chairman of the Conference, Vice President of the Student Representative Council of IIUM) welcomed the audience and gave remarks on the Conference and its program. Prof. Dato' Dr. Md. Tahir Azhar (Deputy Rector, Academic and Planning) opened the event on behalf of Prof. Dato' Sri Dr. Zaleha Kamaruddin (Rector of International Islamic University Malaysia) and encouraged the participant to spread the idea of unity which prevents the Muslim Ummah from being colonized easily. Keynote speaker Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad (former Prime Minister of Malaysia) talked on the qualities of leaders, in need of strong and knowledgeable leaders in both material and spiritual aspects without neglecting religious and natural sciences. He emphasised that being a leader does not mean a privilege, however it is a responsibility as the life of the Prophet (pbuh) has been an excellent example for us. While underlining the importance of knowledge he stressed that Muslim countries were colonized only because they neglected modern knowledge and science.

The conference mainly covers the frame work of Importance of Islamic leadership; Transnational media and social changes in the Muslim world; Political and leadership crises in the Muslim world; woman leadership; Impact of knowledge and science in the Muslim leadership; Strengthening social, economical, and political alliances among OIC countries; Absence of quality leadership in the Muslim world.

After all the opening speeches, delicious Malay cuisine in the Senate Hall and Zohar Prayer at the Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Mosque, the first day's first parallel session "Importance of Islamic Leadership: Challenges and Issues," chaired by Prof. Dr. Khaliq Ahmad (Dean of Kulliyah of Economics & Management Science, International Islamic University Malaysia[IIUM]), featured Abdulazeez B. Shittu. (Lecturer, University of Abuja, Nigeria), Omair Anas (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India), Mohammad Habibullah & Jasmin Ara (Research

hers, Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Science [IRKHS], International Islamic University Malaysia [IIUM]), Anas presented "Creating Islamic Soft Power for Post Arab Uprising Challenges" highlighting the issue he analyzed the Arab uprisings in these points first: transnational, second: reversing the domestic political landscape, third: demonstration of pragmatism from Islamic camps and fourth: its peaceful and conciliatory nature, fifth: carrying strong cultural contents, and lastly it does not pose serious threat to status quo. On the other hand the crisis has also created windows for opportunities to create new forms of powers.

The second parallel session "Transnational Media and Social Changes in the Muslim World," moderated by Dr. Mohd. Moniruzzaman (Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Science [IRKHS]), comprised Kafayat Quadri (Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies), Mohamed A. El Agroudy (Founder Member of Freedom and Justice Party, Cairo, Egypt, Lecturer, The American University in Cairo, Egypt), Muhammad Ishfaq Khan & Quratulain Jalil (Department of Management Sciences, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Mohammad Ali Jinnah University, Islamabad Pakistan). El Agroudy presented "Lesson Learned, Challenges and Future Vision for Egypt by Freedom & Justice Party". He emphasised that since the first day it was founded and launched into Egyptian political life in the month of June 2011, the FJP took upon itself the tasks of rebuilding Egypt, respecting freedoms and safeguarding fundamental rights for every Egyptian, within a basic framework of good religious values, defending political and social freedoms indispensable for people to exercise their rights and improve their communities; as well as non-discrimination among citizens with regards to rights and duties on the basis of religion, sex, and colors.

The first day's final two parallel sessions, "Political and Leadership Crisis in the Muslim World" and "Understanding Democracy According to Islamic Perspective and Women Leadership in the Muslim world: An Islamic Case Study" moderated by Dr. Nor Asiah Mohamad (Former Director, Student Development Division, IIUM), began with Doha S. Mostafa (Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt). He talked on "Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood's Politics of Generations: 1970s/ Al Wasat's Generation's Experience". Mansur Isa Yelwa (Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws,

IIUM) presented a paper on “Implementation of Human Rights in Islam: A Solution to Muslims Contemporary Political and Social Problems”, Md. Al-Amin Parvez, (Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh) explored the awakening of Muslim women through eroding gender discrimination in Bangladesh. Rochimah Imawati & Aliah B. P. Hasan (University Al-Azhar Indonesia) analyzed women leadership in Indonesia: cooperation between freedom fighter and after independence transformative leader in Islamic education. Ali Manzo Usman (Bukar Abba Ibrahim University, Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria) highlighted on women’s political rights in Islam: concept and application. The first day of the conference concluded with a light dinner hosted by the conference organizers.

The seminar’s second day was launched by an invited speech given by Tan Sri Prof. Dr. Mohmd. Kamal Hassan (Distinguished Professor of Malaysia & Former Rector, International Islamic University Malaysia). Following the invited speech, second day’s first parallel session “Impact of Knowledge, Science & Technologies on Islamic Leadership & Motivational Education for Accomplishment of Leadership” chaired by (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jamal Ahmed Bashier Badi, Director, International Affairs Division, IIUM), comprised Muhammad Mumtaz Ali (Assoc. Prof. Dr. In IRKHS, IIUM), Foyasal Khan (Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, IIUM), Zahid Zamri (Department of Political Science, IIUM) and Nusrat Jahan Lia (Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka). Mumtaz Ali talked on the Strategy of New Islamic Leadership: Challenges and issues.

The conference continued with an exceptional forum “Strengthening Social, Economic & Political Alliances Among OIC Member Countries” moderated by Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashid Moten (Department of Political Science, IRKHS, IIUM). The forum began with Prof. Dr. Yasin Aktay (Member, Institute of Strategic Thinking, and Sociologist at Selçuk University, Turkey), who talked on leadership problem since the abolishment of the Caliphate in 1924. He highlighted that Muslims became disintegrated after the abolishment like organs without head or head without body. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hasan Kösebalaban (Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Istanbul Şehir University) emphasised on the nature of colonization, quoted the word of Malik bin Nabi “If you

do not have ability to be colonized, you will not ever be colonized". Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Hossain (Department of Political Science, IRKHS, IIUM) who claimed he is a realist viewer, due to this, he indicated that OIC has no power of implementation, therefore politically it is not existed. The second day's morning sitting of the conference was concluded by project presentations by Istanbul Youth Assembly, Turkey.

The afternoon session of the second day began with invited speaker's speech by İlker Astarci (Advisor to the prime minister of Turkey, Public Diplomacy Director, Turkey) who talked on "The significance and growing influence of Turkish's foreign policy in global arena". Following the speech, the second day was concluded with last two significant parallel sessions. The first one "Absence of Quality Leadership in the Muslim World" chaired by Dr. Akmal Khuzairy Bin Abdul Rahman (Dean, Student Affairs & Development Division, IIUM) and the second one "Importance of Islamic Leadership: Challenges and Issues" chaired by Dr. Majdan Bin Alias (IRKHS, IIUM). The sessions began with Assoc. Prof. Saim Kayadibi & Mrs. Yasemin Kayadibi's (Faculty of Economics, IIUM) paper on wisdom behind the popularity of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's leadership in the Muslim world. The session featured Jannatul Fardosh (Institute of Governance Studies, Dhaka, Bangladesh), Mahfuzur Rahman and Arphan Ali (Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, IIUM), Saeid Naji and Jayum A. Jawan (Faculty of Human Ecology, University Putra Malaysia [UPM]), Habibur Rahman (Chartered Islamic Finance Professional, INCEIF), Shukri Shuib, Mohamad Faisol Keling and Mohd Na'eim Ajis (Government and International Studies, University Utara Malaysia). Kayadibi focused on the leadership crisis in the Muslim world particularly in the Middle East. Unfortunately Muslim world has been struggling with leaders who are not in concern of their own people's problems. Therefore, Muslim societies still remain as colony of the Westerners in terms of cultural and political, despite of physically being freed as colonized countries; they are suffocated from the rulers' repression, persecution and dictatorship, which brought the peoples to the verge of serious social explosions. In contrast to these leaders, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdoğan welcomed by all the Muslim world as unique leader who devoted himself to his own people. He took the Muslim world's common problems as priorities in

his agenda besides Turkey's domestic affairs. Therefore, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (RTE) emerged as "the most admired world leader", "the most welcomed world leader", "the most constructive leader" in the region. According to Kayadibi, these values made Arab world to consider Turkey as really the model country for them in terms of its system of internalizing the concept of democracy and free elections. By then, the second day of the conference completed with a gala dinner followed by project presentation in the Senate Hall by Model Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Cairo University, Egypt.

The third day of the seminar consisted of three parallel sessions with colourful English and Arabic papers mostly the presenters focused on "Motivational Education for accomplishment of Leadership" and "The impact of Middle-East revolutions: Lessons to Muslim Ummah". Among them were Benaouda Bensaïd and Salah b. Tahar Machouche (IRKHS, IIUM) presented "A Conceptual Framework for Human Capital In Islam: The Perspective of Abdul Rahman Ibn Khaldun (D. 1406)" and Maszlee Malik (Department of Political Science, IIUM) elaborated People's Participations as a mean for Good Governance. He stressed that the typical understanding of people participation is strongly highlighted only with the political involvement of the people. On the other hand, there is another type of participation that will empower the citizen, apart from their political activities. This type of participation engages closely with the governance process in both micro and macro level. The people will not only have their access to put the government into account, to vote the government and to express their view; but they also involve directly with the decision and policy making and the implementation of those decisions. Muslim Youths as part of the civil society has their significant role in this realm. Following these presentations, the conference concluded with a special closing ceremony followed by asar prayer and dinner.

Associate Prof. Dr. Saim Kayadibi
Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences
Department of Economics
International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).