

Conference Statement and Recommendations

The Seventh International Conference on Islamic Economics
King Abdul Aziz University – Jeddah.
24-26 Rabi Al-Awal 1429H. – 1-3 April 2008.

By the grace of Allah (SWT) and His help, and by the generous patronage of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, may Allah (SWT) support him, the 7th International Conference on Islamic Economics was held at King Abdul Aziz University during the period 24-26 Rabi Al-Awal 1429H (1-3 April 2008).

The Conference was inaugurated by HE the Minister of State, Member of the Government Council Dr. Abdullah Matlab Al-Nafeesa on behalf of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques.

The Conference comprised three main themes: academic discussion sessions, working papers, and applications and solutions sessions as it has been detailed in the programme prepared by the Organizing Committee.

Based upon the papers presented, the discussions that followed, the dialogues that took place and the suggestions made, the participants have issued the following statement:

First: Sending the utmost gratitude and thanking to the custodian of the Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, for his kind patronage of the Conference and his continuous support for the movement of Islamic Economics.

Second: Thanks are also extended to the following:

- His Excellency the Minister of Higher Education for his courtesy and follow-up of the various activities of the Conference.
- His Excellency the Minister of State and Member of Government Council Dr. Matlab Al-Nafisa for attending the inaugural session of the Conference representing the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, May Allah (SWT) grant him His support.
- King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah represented by its rector Dr. Usamah Bin Sadeq Tayib, as well as the honourable University Deputy-Rector for Postgraduate Studies and Scientific Research Dr. Abdullah Bin Omar Bafeel the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Conference, and other deputies and deans, scientific and administrative leaders of the University for their support in the preparation and organization of the Conference and its various activities.

- Islamic Economics Research Centre (IERC) at King Abdul Aziz University, the Islamic Development Bank, and the International Association for Islamic Economics for organizing the Conference.
- All those who have participated in making this Conference a successful event; researchers, persons chairing the sessions, supervisors and chairmen of the different committees, members of the IERC and the Faculty of Economics and Administration, and all other helpers from within and outside the University for organizing and executing the various activities of the Conference.
- Sponsors of the Conference; Companies and Institutions that have supported the activities of the Conference. These include: Saudi Company for Economics and Development (SEDCO), The National Commercial Bank, *Al-TaHER* Group, *Al-Jazeera* Bank, *Al-Khabeer* for Financial Consultations, *Al-Juraisi* Company Group, *Al-Baraka* Banking Group –Bahrain, The United Group for Cooperative Insurance (ASEEJ), Arab-Malaysian *Takaful* Company, *Al-Eqtisadiya* Newspaper, *Okaz* Newspaper, *Dar Al-Iman*, and *Al-Eqtisadiya* Satellite TV.
- The **Arabic Company for the Management of Festivals** for its participation in the supervision processes of organizational matters of the Conference.

Third: Recommendations

1. Islamic Economics Movement

- Call upon the Islamic Economics Research Centre to document the movement of Islamic Economics through the collection of pioneers's writings, recording their testimonies by all means with regard achievements and challenges that they have faced since the start of the discipline till now.

2. Research in Islamic Economics

2-1 Current State of Knowledge

- Necessity for determining the relationship between Islamic Economics on one hand, and the prevailing economic literature and practices on the other hand.
- The importance of tracing the efforts of non-Muslims interested in Islamic Economics, or ethical economics or the like of institutions and individuals for coordination and cooperation purposes.
- Giving important care to Economic Miracles in the *Qura'an* and *Sunnah*.

2-2 Obstacles

- The importance of conducting studies by Research Centres to achieve the following objectives:
- Determining the difficulties and obstacles that Islamic Economics faces in order to come out with the best solutions to overcome them.
- Overcoming the financial obstacles that hinder the production and dissemination of researches and studies in Islamic Economics.

2-3 Methodology in Islamic Economics

- Call upon researchers of Islamic Economics to follow the scientific methodology in choosing and selecting from the statements of the scholars in jurisprudence matters. Attention must also be given to *Shari'ah* Objectives (*Maqased Ashar'iah Al-Islamiya*) in Economics researches and current financial practices.
- The stress upon the multi-disciplinary nature of knowledge sources of Islamic Economics as a social science discipline affected by the Islamic jurisprudence heritage, conventional economics and other human science disciplines.

2-4 The Future Strategic Vision

- Call upon the Islamic Economics Research Centre with the cooperation of other similar Centres to work out a future strategic plan for research in Islamic Economics. In addition the Centre should involve other entities and individuals; especially the renowned pioneer scholars of Islamic Economics.
- The necessity for collaborative efforts from all concerned entities; such as Research Centres, Educational Institutions, Financial Institutions, and Government Bodies ... etc, to materialize the objectives of the aforementioned strategic plan and to implement the recommendations contained in this statement.

2-4-1 Guidelines for Future Research in Islamic Economics

- Universities and Research Centres are encouraged to carry out researches and studies in Islamic Economics in applied areas that aim at tackling the current economic problems that many Islamic Countries face. Problems such as unemployment, poverty and high prices, inflation, Economic underdevelopment, stock markets turbulences, debt crises are some examples of these problems that deserve rigorous and deep studies to come out with solutions that are in line with Islamic *Shari'ah* principles.

- Encouraging public, Charitable and *Waqf* Institutions to carry out historical and contemporary researches and studies in specific areas like: *Waqf*, *Zakat*, and Islamic Public Finance.
- The necessity of collaborative efforts from Research Centres, Financial Institutions, *Shari'ah* Advisory Boards, and *Fiqh* Academies to design new financial products that serve the current and future needs of the various economic agents in stock markets, and are Islamically compliant.
- Call upon the Islamic Development Bank in collaboration with other Islamic financial Institutions and Research Centre to establish a *Waqf* fund for financing researches in Islamic Economics, providing grants for postgraduate students, and setting-up prizes for distinguished researches to support the research process in Islamic Economics.
- Giving attention to researches and studies in Islamic Economic thought and application in languages other than Arabic, English and French. Languages like Persian, Malay, Turkish and others.
- Encouraging translation efforts of Islamic Economics from/to languages other than the aforementioned three.
- Encouraging Islamic Universities and Economics Departments to produce textbooks, other University study materials for various University levels in different areas of Islamic Economics.
- Giving attention to educating the masses and the dissemination of culture and concepts of Islamic Economics through media means, like the establishment of a devoted satellite TV for Islamic Economics.

2-4-2 Databases in Islamic Economics

- Call upon the Islamic Development Bank in collaboration with other related Research Centres and Institutions to create a comprehensive database containing information and data that serve research in Islamic Economics.
- The necessity to reap the utmost benefit from the development in the information technology field to improve and develop channels to disseminate research output in Islamic Economics.

2-4-3 Researches

- The Islamic Economics Research Centre in collaboration with other Research Centres and the various educational institutions should seek to create scientific specialized groups in Islamic Economics field from amongst the best gifted and

distinguished individuals specializing in the fields of Islamic *Shari'ah*, Economics and other related disciplines to carry out studies, researches and to give scientific advices in Islamic Economics matters.

- The necessity of collaborative efforts among Universities, and other educational and research institutions in drawing up plans that help in creating the second generation of researchers in Islamic Economics.

2-4-4 Centres, Institutions and Entities

- Call upon Centres, Institutions, Research Organizations and Researchers of Islamic Economics to determine priority research topics within the proposed strategic plan.
- Call upon Centres, Institutions and Research Organizations to draw up plans and programs to cater for the development of their financial resources. The call is also extended to Islamic Financial Institutions, businessmen and other related entities to provide sufficient financial resources that will help Research Centres of Islamic Economics in meeting their objectives.
- Call upon Centres, Institutions and Research Organizations to suggest mechanisms that will overcome administration hurdles in order to establish an effective communication way that will allow constant and continuous contact with Islamic Economics specialists all over the world.
- Call upon Universities and Research Centres to organize seminars and workshops that aim at enhancing research performance and outcome of Islamic Economics to reach International standards as published through the well known channels.
- Call upon *Fiqh* academies as advanced institutions of collective *Ijtihad* to give more attention to contemporary economic problems and issues including Islamic transactions and products.