



**HARVARD UNIVERSITY
MUSLIM ALUMNI**

2016 HARVARD UNIVERSITY MUSLIM ALUMNI ISLAMIC FINANCE CONFERENCE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: WHAT ROLE FOR ISLAMIC FINANCE?

BOYLSTON HALL

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 14 AND 15, 2016



The 11 Harvard University Forums on Islamic Finance were milestones for the evolution and growing maturity of the Islamic finance industry. The closure of the Harvard Islamic Finance Project (IFP) left a large gap in North America for critical but accessible discussions on Islamic finance involving leading Shari'ah scholars, practitioners, academics and students in this burgeoning field.

Harvard students and alumni had traditionally played an active role in the organization of the IFP Forums, and many Harvard alumni directly benefitted from the presence of IFP on campus. Harvard University Muslim Alumni (HUMA) is thus proud to re-launch a conference on Islamic finance at Harvard University.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which constitute a vision for eradicating poverty while protecting the environment and ensuring shared prosperity. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved in the next 15 years.

The 2016 HUMA Islamic Finance Conference aims to bring together thought-leaders, practitioners, scholars and students in a critical and productive dialogue to assess the role that Islamic finance can play in realizing the SDGs. The Conference will examine the functions that Islamic finance, with its risk-sharing approach, can perform in achieving the SDGs, while also critically probing the institutional constraints and the product limitations that may challenge the Islamic finance industry in making a meaningful impact.

For further details and registration:
<http://www.humaislamicfinanceconference.com>

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Wahed Invest Inc., New York, NY

Day 1: Friday, October 14, 2016

2:00 PM: Registration

2:30 PM-2:45 PM: Welcome Remarks

2:45- PM-4:45 PM: Islamic Finance 101

Ibrahim Warde, Adjunct Professor of International Business at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University will present an overview of Islamic finance principles, typical contractual approaches, historical growth of the industry, and current challenges and opportunities.

5:00 PM-7:00 PM: Parallel Panels

Parallel Panel I: Sustainability & The Halal Brand

The panel will explore the overlap between traditional concepts of Halal and sustainability, opportunities for the Halal brand to take into account sustainability issues, challenges of standardization, education and accessibility, and existing businesses that have successfully approached Halal branding with an eye towards sustainability concerns.

FEATURING:

Shazia Saleem, *Founder, ieat foods (UK)*

Khalid Latif, *Executive Director, Islamic Center of New York University & Founder, Honest Chops*

Aisalkyn Botoeva, *Graduate Student, Brown University*

Nuri Friedlander, *Graduate Student, Harvard University*

Taha Abdul Bassar, *Shariah Scholar & Managing Partner, Straightway Ethical Advisory (moderator)*

Junaid Wahedna, *Chief Executive Officer, Wahed Invest Inc.*

Ikram Ul-Haq, *President, Fatwa Center of America*

Parallel Panel II: Education Financing & Islamic Finance

Do Islamic finance models provide any solutions to the overwhelming need globally for accessible quality education, or to the student debt crisis in the United States? The panel will examine opportunities for the Islamic finance industry, as well as constraints that have limited its impact in the education sector. Up and coming business models will also be discussed, including successful ideas from outside the industry that are ripe for adoption.

FEATURING:

Mohamed Geraldez, *Entrepreneur & Co-Founder, ReCenter Finance*

Tonio DeSorrento, *Chief Executive Officer, Vemo Education*

Kevin James, *Director of Higher Education, Jain Family Institute*

Saif I. Shah Mohammed, *Associate, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP (moderator)*

Aamir Rehman, *Managing Director, Fajr Capital Limited, U.A.E.*

7:00 PM-9:00 PM: Mixer

Day 2: Saturday, October 15, 2016

9:00 AM-9:30 AM: Keynote: Islamic Finance and the Challenges of SDGs

S Nazim Ali, Research Professor & Director, Center for Economics & Finance, QFIS, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar); Visiting Fellow, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program, Harvard University

9:30 AM-12:00 PM: SDGs: What Can Islamic Finance Bring to the Table?

Moderated by **Robert Eccles**, Professor, Harvard Business School, an authority on sustainability issues, the panel will critically examine what role Islamic finance can play in achieving the SDGs. Can the Islamic finance industry, in its current trajectory, address the concerns that animate the SDGs? Where are the gaps left by conventional finance that Islamic finance can credibly fill?

FEATURING:

Robert Eccles, *Professor of Management Practice, Harvard Business School & Chairman, Arabesque Asset Management*

Ihsan Bafakih, *Chief Executive Officer, Mohammed Alsubeai & Sons Investments Company (MASIC) (Saudi Arabia)*

Yusuf Talal DeLorenzo, *Shariah Scholar*

Khaled ElSayed, *Chief Executive Officer, Guidance Residential*

M. Kabir Hassan, *Hibernia Professor of Economics and Finance, University of New Orleans*

Aamir Rehman, *Managing Director, Fajr Capital (United Arab Emirates)*

12:00 PM- 1:00 PM: Lunch / Dhuhur

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM: Inequality, Risk Sharing & Islamic Finance

Moderated by **Asim Khwaja**, Professor, Harvard Kennedy School, a leading scholar of development finance, the panel will explore the role of risk-sharing in addressing issues of inequality, the central place of risk-sharing in the conceptualization of Islamic finance, the gap between reality and expectation with regard to risk-sharing in the practice of Islamic finance, and novel risk-sharing business models.

FEATURING:

Asim I. Khwaja, *Professor of International Finance and Development & Co-Director of Evidence for Policy Design, Harvard Kennedy School*

Michael Bennett, *Head of Derivatives & Structured Finance, World Bank*

Shima Rayej, *Co-Founder, PartnerOwn*

David Loundy, *Chairman, Devon Bank*

Taha Abdul Bassar, *Shariah Scholar & Managing Partner, Straightway Ethical Advisory*

Friedemann Roy, *Global Product Lead, IFC Housing Finance Advisory Services*

Aaron Pitluck, *Associate Professor of Sociology, Illinois State University*

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM: Coffee Break

Day 2: Saturday, October 15, 2016

4:00 PM-6:30 PM: Infrastructure Development & Islamic Finance

Moderated by **M. Kabir Hassan**, a leading scholar of Islamic finance and economics and the winner of the 2016 IDB Prize in Islamic Banking and Finance, the panel will discuss novel Shari'ah-compliant infrastructure financing models, the role of sustainability issues in Islamic financing, and the challenges and opportunities for the Islamic finance industry in addressing infrastructure development needs in North America and globally.

FEATURING:

M. Kabir Hassan, *Hibernia Professor of Economics and Finance, University of New Orleans*

Michael McMillen, *Partner, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, LLP*

Jahangir Sultan, *Professor of Finance, Bentley University*

Shariq Nisar, *Professor, Rizvi Institute of Management and Research Studies (India)*

Bashar Qasem, *Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Azzad Asset Management*

Ibrahim Mardam-Bey, *Principal & Chief Commercial Officer, Taylor DeJeong*

6:30 PM-7:00 PM: Closing Remarks

