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Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia receives the Secretary General of the Academy in Riyadh



H.E. Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh, Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the Council of Senior Scholars and Head of the General Presidency of Research and Ifta, received on Thursday 29 Jumada Al-Akhira 1442, corresponding to 11 February 2021 in his office in Riyadh, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Mustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy.

The Grand Mufti welcomed and thanked his guest and the accompanying delegation for their visit. His Excellency took this opportunity to congratulate the Secretary General on his appointment to the Academy.

The Secretary General of the Academy then made a detailed presentation on the message, values, objectives and the most important activities and programs that the Academy undertakes inside and outside the Muslim world, in addition to the critical role entrusted to it by Muslim world leaders, its peoples and Muslim communities. This can be summed up in clarifying Shariah resolutions on issues of concern to Muslims around the world and providing appropriate Shariah solutions to the problems of contemporary life, as well as addressing the provisions



of the true Islamic law regarding issues and current developments, based on the Holy Book of Allah, the Noble Sunnah of the Prophet and the rich Islamic heritage.

His Excellency concluded his presentation by informing the Grand Mufti that the Academy has developed a five-year strategic plan to achieve its objectives, particularly with regard to strengthening cooperation, coordination and integration between the Academy and the leading Shariah institutions in the Muslim world in general and the headquarters country in particular.

To achieve this, the Academy vows to sign a cooperation agreement and a memorandum of understanding with the General Presidency of Research and Ifta

and the Council of Senior Scholars, which includes eminent and distinguished scholars.

On his part, the Grand Mufti expressed his satisfaction with the additional information he had received about the Academy, reiterated his thanks to His Excellency for his visit and assured him of the cooperation between the Academy, the Council of Senior Scholars and the General Presidency of Research and Ifta, asking Allah to grant success and reward to the Secretary General of the Academy.

At the end of the meeting, the Grand Mufti presented a commemorative gift to the Secretary General of the Academy who in return presented him with a copy of the fourth edition of the Academy's resolutions and recommendations.

Secretary General of WAMY welcomes the Secretary General of the IIFA in Riyadh

H.E. Dr. Saleh bin Solaiman Al-Wahaibi, Secretary General of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), met with H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, in his office at the headquarters of the Assembly in Riyadh, on Wednesday 28 Jumada Al-Akhira 1442, corresponding to 10 February 2021.

The Secretary General of the Academy came to congratulate the Secretary General of WAMY for the crucial and laudable efforts it exerts to immunize the Muslim youth from social scourges and contemporary issues by providing them with educational and training opportunities and various development activities and programs in all regions of the world.

H.E. Dr. Saleh Al Wahaibi opened the meeting by welcoming his guest



and congratulating him on his appointment as the Secretary General of the Academy. He expressed his willingness to strengthen cooperation and communication with the Academy in all matters that promote joint Islamic action, particularly in the provision of scholarships, educational and training opportunities for Muslim youth.

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano thanked

H.E. Prof. Saleh Al-Wahaibi for the warm welcome, expressing his sincere thanks and great joy to meet him on this auspicious occasion as he was his teacher and mentor thirty-five years ago. The latter opened to him his doors, home and provided him with all the care and attention during his study years at King Saud University during his bachelor's and master's degree.

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano presented to His Excellency and his assistants a brief overview of the vision, message and objectives of the Academy, noting in this regard the Academy's willingness to establish a permanent partnership with WAMY in all areas of common interest. These interests include raising awareness of the importance of education, providing training opportunities for youth, in addition to



the aspirations and benefiting from WAMY's fundraising experience to support its five-year strategic plan.

At the end of the visit, the Secretary General of WAMY hosted a luncheon in honor of his guest and then showed him the WAMY permanent exhibition. Finally, the two sides exchanged commemorative souvenirs.

The Secretariat General of the Academy calls for the permissibility of using the Covid-19 vaccines, and the permissibility of using the Zakat funds to purchase vaccines

In response to two inquiries from the Secretariat General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank about the Shariah ruling on the use of new vaccines against Covid-19, and about the Sharia's ruling on disbursing zakat funds to buy vaccines and finance their distribution to the poor, the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy held on Monday the 10 of Rajab 1442, corresponding to 22 February 2021, a medical jurisprudential seminar to answer the above inquiries under:

"The Medical Fiqh Symposium on the Shariah rulings regarding the Use of the new Covid-19 vaccines and financing its distribution through Zakat funds for the poor"

1) The Fiqh symposium concluded after discussions and deliberations between the virtuous jurists and doctors that the use of the current vaccines against Covid-19 is permissible in Islam, and their use becomes obligatory upon everyone if the authorities oblige to do so thus Muslims are obliged to be respectful and obedient to the instructions of their authorities especially with regard to issues related to the public interest particularly the protection of the life.

Accordingly, the seminar called on Muslims around the world to abide by the instructions issued by the public health authorities in their communities in order to safeguard their lives and the lives of others.

2) As for the disbursement of zakat funds to buy vaccines and finance their distribution to the poor people and nations, the seminar decided that *this is legally permissible to do so. This is due to the



fact that the pandemic of the emerging corona virus (Covid 19) is a global danger that threatens all humanity. Therefore it must be combated with all permissible material and moral means. The portion of the zakat that should be utilized is under the recipient called "for the sake of God". The share of this recipient could be used to buy vaccines and finance their distribution to the poor. The seminar called on scholars, preachers, imams and guides to direct people to respond to vaccination campaigns, and to warn against rumors and fatwas that raise confusion about the legality of using the new vaccines, and also called on rich countries to cooperate to provide vaccines to

countries which are unable to purchase them and finance their distribution.

The seminar was chaired by His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, a member of the Senior Scholars Council, the imam and preacher of the Grand Mosque, the president of the Academy, and the discussions and deliberations were moderated by His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, and a blessed elite of eminence, Excellencies, senior male and female scholars, members, experts of the Academy, as well as the distinguished physicians attended the seminar.

Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars visits the IIFA headquarters in Jeddah

As part of the discussions held in Riyadh with H.E. Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Aal-Sheikh, Grand Mufti of the Kingdom, President General of Scientific Research and Ifta and Head of the Council of Great Scholars, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received on Sunday 2 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 14 February 2021 in his office in Jeddah, the Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Dr. Fahd bin Saad Al-Majed and the accompanying delegation.

His Excellency opened the meeting by thanking H.E. Dr. Al-Majed for the warm welcome he received during his visit to the Council of Senior Scholars' head-

quarters in Riyadh and his meeting with the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom and several prominent members of the Council of Senior Scholars. His Excellency also expressed his thanks to Dr. Al Majed for his gracious visit to the Academy, assuring him of the Academy's willingness to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Academy and the Council of Senior Scholars at the earliest possible date, and to seek more coordination and communication with the leading jurisprudential councils of Muslim countries, such as the Council of Senior Scholars of the Kingdom.

On his side, H.E. Dr. Fahd Al-Majed, Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars,



expressed his satisfaction at the convergence of views between the two sides, confirming – in turn – the Council's willingness to strengthen cooperation and deepen communication with the Academy, as well as to participate in the Academy's conferences and seminars. His Excellency

also confirmed the Council's willingness to cooperate in the drafting of the memorandum between the two parties.

His Excellency concluded his visit by visiting Sheikh Dr. Mohamed Habib Belkhoa Hall, which also includes the Academy library.

H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri meets H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano in Riyadh



H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri, Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, member of the Council of Senior Scholars, the Permanent Committee of Ifta and the Board of Directors of the Academy Waqf Fund, received on Sunday 25 Jumada Al-Akhirah 1442 (7 February 2021) in his office in Riyadh, the Secretary General of the Academy who came to greet His Excellency during his official visit to the state capital.

H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saad Al-Shathri thanked the Secretary General of the Academy for his visit and reiterated his full readiness to continue providing the necessary support and attention to the Academy, whether through the Council of Senior Scholars, or the Permanent Scientific Committee of Ifta, in order to strengthen cooperation and communication relations and enable the Academy to achieve its objectives and carry out its mission to the best of its ability.

On his side, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano thanked Sheikh Saad Al-Sha-



thri for his continued support to the Academy through his membership in the Board of Directors of the Academy Waqf Fund. He also thanked His Excellency for his sincere desire to mobilize the necessary support for the financing of the Academy's five-year strategic plan which the Secretariat General vows to implement starting next March.

At the end of the visit, the Secretary General of the Academy presented His Excellency Sheikh Saad Al-Shathri with a copy of the fourth edition of the Academy's book of resolutions and recommendations.

The Center for Research and Intercommunicative Knowledge receives the Secretary General of the IIFA at its headquarters in Riyadh



H.E. Dr. Yahya bin Mahmoud bin Junaid, President of the Center for Research and Intercommunicative Knowledge, received the Secretary General of the Academy Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano at its headquarters in Riyadh, on Thursday 29 Jumada al-Akhira 1442, corresponding to 11 February 2021. The President of the Center welcomed the Secretary General of the Academy and in-

formed him of the most significant cultural and scientific works and projects carried out by the Center, particularly publishing periodicals in Arabic language for Asian readers, as well as on international relations, and culture.

For his part, the Secretary General of the Academy gave a lecture on the work of the Academy, in which he also commended

the efforts of the Center and its impressive achievements in the field of scientific research and strategic studies. His Excellency presented additional information on the foundation, vision, mission, objectives and achievements of the Academy in issuing resolutions, recommendations, and statements concerning the novelties, calamities and problems of concern to Muslims. The conference witnessed a great interaction from the participants, who expressed their interest in getting acquainted with the Academy and its efforts to strengthen cooperation, coordination and integration among the fatwa councils in the Muslim world.

At the end of the visit, His Excellency expressed the Academy's willingness to sign a cooperation agreement and a memorandum of understanding between the Academy and the Center in order to cooperate in research projects, scientific and cultural projects in areas of common interest, intending to consolidate relations, the convergence of views, and raising awareness of the importance of coexistence and constructive dialogue among the followers of different faiths and cultures.

Kuwait Center for Islamic Economy invites Prof. Sano to deliver a lecture on “Methodology of Writing Scientific Thesis in Islamic Economics”

Following the invitation of the Kuwait Center for Islamic Economy at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the State of Kuwait, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, gave a public lecture on Monday 15 February 2021, within the framework of the center's activities. More than six hundred and fifty people attended the online lecture entitled “Methodology of Writing Scientific Thesis in Islamic Economics”.

His Excellency started his lecture with a scientific review on the leading position of Islamic economics at the present day, as the Islamic economic theory is nowadays studied side by side with traditional economic theories. Hence a tremendous interest is growing in Islamic economic thought in general, and in Islamic finance in particular, as evidenced by the wide spread of Islamic banks and financial institutions throughout the world.

In his lecture, His Excellency referred to the need to give an important place



to scientific research in Islamic economics in response to developments in the contemporary economic arena at all levels and to keep pace with the changes taking place in financial and business matters. He also discussed in detail the most essential and necessary scientific criteria in writing scientific theses. These criteria are represented in the statement on the importance of the research topic, the formulation of the

research question in the form of precise methodological questions, the determination of the research objectives that represent answers to the questions, scientific and objective review of past literature to highlight the aspects not covered hitherto, editing the study chapters in the light of the objectives. His Excellency also stressed the importance of balancing the study chapters by early sizing (determining a balanced

size) of their pages so that one chapter does not overwhelm another.

Furthermore, His Excellency referred to the importance of the evaluation of academic theses and called on their chairmen and supervisors to motivate the young generation to take an interest in Islamic economics and to help them conduct their research in a flexible and accessible manner. He also called on researchers and students to pay attention to the scientific subjects of Islamic economics that had not received as much scientific research as needed, such as the subjects of wills, vows, financial compensation, etc., and how to benefit from them in the field of finance, which is known as social finance.

His Excellency concluded his lecture by expressing his thanks and appreciation to the Kuwait Center for Islamic Economy for its sponsorship of research, science, and training in the field of Islamic economy.

Visit of the Secretary General of the IIFA to the headquarters of the Islamic Solidarity Fund in Jeddah



In search of further coordination and communication with the OIC subsidiaries and specialized organs, a delegation from the Secretariat General of the Academy headed by H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano visited the headquarters of the OIC Islamic Solidarity Fund on Monday 10 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 22 February 2021. H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Al-Khuzayem, Executive Director of the Fund, warmly welcomed the delegation and thanked them for the visit. He then gave a comprehensive presentation with photos and documentation on the Fund's activities and its achievements in several OIC Member States. The executive director also reviewed several ongoing development projects of the Fund, mentioning – in this regard – the Fund's willingness to strengthen coop-

eration with the Academy and provide it with the necessary support for its activities.

The Secretary General of the Academy thanked the Executive Director for the warm welcome and congratulated him for the Fund's remarkable achievements in supporting various types of development projects in the OIC Member states, emphasizing the Academy's willingness to provide Shariah support to the Fund through its sessions, conferences and seminars, by calling on the OIC Member states to double their contributions to the Fund through zakat, charities and endowments.

At the end of the meeting, both parties agreed to carry on with their periodic meetings and coordinate their efforts to achieve mutual objectives.

Visit of the Secretary General of the Academy to the Jeddah-based Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission



As part of the efforts of the Secretariat General of the Academy to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the OIC subsidiary and specialized agencies, a delegation from the Secretariat General of the Academy headed by H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano visited the headquarters of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Committee in Jeddah on Thursday 16 Rajab 1442, corresponding to 18 February 2021. The delegation was received by H.E. Mr. Margoub Salim, Executive Director of the Commission.

During the meeting, both parties discussed aspects and areas of cooperation between the two institutions. His Excellency reiterated the willingness of the Secretariat General of the Academy to provide intellectual and Shariah support to the Commission, particularly in regard to clarifying the Shariah provisions on the documents and resolutions issued by regional and international organizations in the field of human rights.

His Excellency also expressed the Academy's willingness to include the Commission's various questions in the future themes of the Academy's sessions, conferences, and seminars with a view to issue resolutions and recommendations regarding their Shariah provisions.

For his part, the Executive Director thanked His Excellency for this visit and expressed the Commission's willingness to strengthen the cooperation and communication relations with the Academy in all areas of common interest. He also expressed his deep gratitude for the jurisprudential and intellectual support that the Academy provides to the Commission through its members' participation in its various seminars and meetings.

The delegation included Mr. Mohamed Mondher Chouk, director of cabinet and protocol, Mr. Amjad Mustafa Ibrahim, head of the protocols division, and Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussein, supervisor of public relations.

Final Statement and Recommendations of the Medical Fiqh Symposium: Shariah Rulings regarding the Use of Covid-19 Vaccines, their Purchase and the Financing of their Distribution with Zakat funds

First: Final Statement

Praise to Allah Lord of the worlds, and may the blessings and peace be upon whom He sent as a mercy, our master Muhammad, upon his family, companions, and those who follow them until the Day of Judgment

With the grace of Allah, the Secretariat General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) held via videoconference on Monday 10 Rajab 1442 (22 February 2021) a medical fiqh symposium on Shariah rulings regarding the use of Covid-19 vaccines, the purchase of these vaccines and the financing of their distribution with Zakat funds, following two questions received from the OIC Secretariat General and the Islamic Development Bank.

The symposium brought together several eminent scholars who are also members and experts of the Academy (list of names attached), and opened with a recitation of the Holy Quran.

H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Academy and Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, delivered the opening address in which he welcomed the distinguished participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation of the Secretariat General of the Academy to participate in the medical fiqh symposium.

Afterwards, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, presented in the keynote address the first question of the Secretariat General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the second question of the Islamic Development Bank, which both read:

1) What is the Shariah ruling on the use of Covid-19 vaccines?
2) What is the Shariah ruling on the purchase of Covid-19 vaccines and the financing of their distribution to the poor using Zakat funds?
After presenting the two questions to the jurisconsults and doctors, the seminar's audience listened to a detailed presentation of the participating doctors who gave essential explanations on the most important substances that make up the currently available vaccines against Covid-19 from a medical point of view. Then the audience listened to the interventions of the jurisconsults on the questions mentioned above. A committee was therefore

formed among the symposium participants to formulate its recommendations. The Secretariat General of the Academy contacted the participating jurisconsults and doctors in order to submit their proposals on the recommendations. The Academy received many interesting proposals, and after review, the following recommendations were concluded:

Second

Recommendations

1) Components of Current Covid-19 Vaccines

Specialists in pharmacology and preventive medicine confirm that the vaccines available against Covid-19 consist of the messenger RNA (ribonucleic acid) of the "SARS CoV2" virus, recombinant DNA material, the common cold virus (adenovirus), other viruses, bacteria, compounds of quillaja tree and plants (as bioreactors), in addition to other auxiliary substances such as potassium, sodium, magnesium, phosphate, acetic acid, tromethamine hydrochloride, diacetate, polysorbate, sucrose, lipids, cholesterol, histidine, ethanol and water.

Therefore, these vaccines do not contain pig or human derivatives, and during their production, chemical reactions and transformations occur between their components, which fall within the Shariah rulings regarding metamorphosis in Islamic jurisprudence.

2) Shariah Ruling on the Use of Current Vaccines

Based on the above medical description of the current vaccines, their use for vaccination against Covid-19 is permissible according to Sharia law.

Moreover, vaccination becomes mandatory if the government obligates it, because the government's rulings are commended by upholding public interests.

On this basis, this symposium calls on Muslims around the world to comply with the instructions issued by the governments of their countries and by the competent health authorities in their communities, in order to implement the Shariah objective of the preservation of life, which is one of the necessary purposes in Islamic law.

3) Shariah Ruling on the Use of Zakat funds for the purchase of Covid-19 Vaccines

After examination and review of the Shariah-based evidences, the supreme purposes, the general



maxims, the finalities of actions, the jurisprudential efforts (Ijtihad) of the renowned jurisconsults, past and present, on the meanings of the eight categories of the Zakat recipients mentioned in the Quranic verse:

"Zakat expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect [zakat] and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives [or slaves] and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveler - an obligation [imposed] by Allah. And Allah is Knowing and Wise." Al-Tawbah 60.

The symposium recommends the following:

(A) It is permissible to use Zakat funds as this is contained in the above category of "and in the cause of Allah"; as a matter of fact, the Covid-19 pandemic threatens all humanity, and it must be fought with all the scientific and material means that are permitted. Therefore, the ruler (government) has the right to use the Zakat funds for the elimination of this danger.

(B) To say: it is legitimate under Sharia law to use Zakat funds to purchase vaccines and finance their distribution, does not allude to spending all Zakat funds for that purpose. Indeed, only a part of its funds would be spent for that while taking into account the rest of the beneficiaries based on the evaluation of interests and needs.

4) General Recommendations

1- Calling on the states of the world, especially those that are able to cooperate in making vaccines available to countries that cannot purchase them, to finance their distribution to the needy people of the world, because the fight against

Covid-19 must be global and for all the countries of the world so that everyone will be protected against the pandemic, in sha Allah.

2- Calling on states, organizations, health authorities, media and all humanity to consider vaccination as a humanitarian issue, which requires cooperation and solidarity in vaccines distribution between countries and humans in a simple and accessible manner.

3- Calling on scholars, preachers, imams, orators and counsellors to advise people to respond favorably to the Covid-19 vaccination campaigns and to warn against rumours and irregular fatwas that sow confusion about the legitimacy of the use of these vaccines, which have been medically proven to be effective and capable of protecting humans against this pandemic.

4- Calling on Muslims to return to Allah, to repent even more, to seek for forgiveness, to give more charities and acts of obedience, so that Allah may spare this pandemic from us and the world, and may He accept those who have perished because of this pandemic. May Allah grant them His forgiveness and mercy, and may He hasten the healing of the sick, protect us and all mankind, for He is All-Capable.

We ask Allah to hasten the end of this pandemic and may wellness, security, and peace prevail over all peoples. May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon our prophet Muhammad, his family and all his companions.

(statement and recommendations published by the Secretariat General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in Jeddah on Sunday 22 Rajab 1442, corresponding to 07 March 2021).



Secretary General of the IIFA meets with the Consul General and the Special Envoy of France to the OIC in Jeddah

In accordance with the Academy's willingness to strengthen cooperation and partnership relations with scientific institutions and official bodies responsible for the Muslim religion in the countries of Muslim communities outside the Muslim world, the Secretary General of the Academy, Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, met on Wednesday morning 12 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 24 February 2021 with H.E. Mr. Mostafa Mihraje, Consul General and Special Envoy of France to the OIC at the headquarters of the Consulate General of the French Republic in Jeddah.

The Consul General welcomed the Secretary General and the accompanying delegation, and thanked him for his visit and expressed his gratefulness of the first meeting he had with the Secretary General last December at the Academy's headquarters. His Excellency confirmed his aspirations for broad cooperation and coordination relations with the Academy.

The Ambassador assured that the French government has full respect for the Muslim religion and the Muslim world, considering that Islam is the second most followed religion by French citizens, which shows the importance of Islam in France, stressing that there is no conflict between France and Islam. For his part, the Secretary General of the Academy expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Consul General and Special Envoy of France to the OIC for his warm welcome. His Excellency also expressed the thanks and appreciation of the Academy for the efforts made by the Consul General and his assistants at the Consulate to strengthen friendship and respect between the Muslim world and the French Republic in general, and between the Academy and the authorities responsible for the Islamic faith in France, noting in this regard the willingness of the Academy to strengthen communication and coordination with the Muslim community in France in order to support good initiatives aimed at building trust and good relations between Muslims and the authorities respon-



sible for the Muslim faith.

His Excellency also expressed that the respect and appreciation that the Academy enjoys among Muslim communities around the world, as the first global jurisprudential reference for the Muslim world and Muslim communities, and that it should continue to work tirelessly and thoughtfully to help the Muslim community of France to adopt a genuine, correct and moderate understanding of Shariah provisions, in order to enable them to preserve their religious identity while fully respecting the contingencies of citizenship based on respect for the laws and regulations of public life and the relations between individuals and their societies, far from all forms of violence, extremism, rejection and hatred, as dictated by the Academy's genuine scientific mission and religious responsibility to work on the communication with the authorities responsible for Muslim religion in France, in order to face all forms of hate speech, discrimination, contempt for religious symbols and exclusion in accordance with the principles of the French Republic that guarantees freedom of worship.

His Excellency took this opportunity to inform the Consul General and his assistants of the publication

of the Academy's strategic plan, which includes a precise formulation of its intellectual and scientific activities and programs for the next five years. He also informed him about the intellectual efforts that the Academy makes in the field of combating malicious rumors, especially those that fuel hatred and conspiracy theories, and widen the gap between the Muslim world and the West, pointing out that the Academy held a few days ago a Fiqh symposium to clarify the Shariah rulings regarding the use of vaccines against Covid 19, in response to malicious rumors and misinformation about the truth of vaccines and their effectiveness in combating the Covid 19 pandemic.

His Excellency concluded his speech by expressing his hope that the cooperation and coordination between the Academy and the authorities responsible for the Islamic faith in France will result in strengthening trust and mutual respect between the Muslim world and the West, unifying efforts to combat all forms of extremism, violence, exclusion, hatred and contempt.

At the end of the meeting, the Consul General of France reiterated his thanks and appreciation to the Secretary General of the Academy, promising to organize for His Excellency an official visit to France in the near future.



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H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano visits the Headquarters of the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the OIC

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy paid a working visit to the headquarters of the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the OIC in Jeddah, with a delegation from the Academy, on Tuesday morning 11 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 23 February 2021. His Excellency was received by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Nejm, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the OIC.

The Ambassador welcomed His Excellency and the accompanying delegation and thanked them for their visit. He also reiterated the support of the Arab Republic of Egypt – as government and people – to the Academy to enable it carry out its mission in the best possible way.

For his part, the Secretary General of the Academy thanked the Ambassador and his assistants for their continued support and also requested the Ambassador to convey to the Egyptian authorities the great recognition of the Academy, its members and experts, to the Egyptian government for its continued support since the Academy's creation to date. His Excellency took this opportunity to inform the Ambassador that the Secretariat General of the Academy has completed its five-year strategic plan, the first of its kind since its creation and that it includes a precise formulation of the most important activities and programs that the



Academy intends to implement over the next five years.

His Excellency said that this plan's implementation was part of the Academy's efforts to familiarize OIC Member states its activities and programs clearly and consistently. It also aims to highlight the Academy's efforts and achievements in enhancing cooperation, integration, and coordination with Fatwah Councils inside and outside the Muslim world.

His Excellency noted that it is very important for Member states to see the crucial impact of the Academy's intellectual contributions to the life of their people through its resolutions, rec-

ommendations and declarations which are based on the values of moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and to provide appropriate Shariah solutions to the problems of contemporary life, and to clarify the Shariah provisions on calamities, novelties and issues of concern to Muslims around the world.

His Excellency also expressed to the Ambassador the aspiration of the Secretariat General of the Academy to sign cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding between the Academy and the prestigious scientific institutions in the Arab Republic of Egypt, mainly al-Azhar University, the Islamic Re-



search Academy, Dar Al Ifta, and Cairo University. It is expected that these agreements will be an opportunity for the Academy to benefit from the contributions and experiences of eminent scholars, jurists and experts emanating from these great Egyptian institutions.

On his part, Ambassador Muhammad Nejm expressed his deep content with this honorable visit and affirmed his willingness to provide all possible support to the Academy. He also congratulated His Excellency for these remarkable developments and the manifest changes that have taken place in the Academy's activities since His Excellency's assumption of office, which has become a place of admiration and tribute to every visitor to the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah.

The Secretary General of the Academy took this opportunity to extend to the Ambassador the official invitation submitted to him by the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Egypt to participate in the 31st Conference of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs to be held in March in Cairo. His Excellency welcomed the invitation and promised to respond.

On the Academy's side, the delegation consisted of Mr. Mohamed Shouk, Dr. Ayman Abdul Karim, Mr. Amjad Ibrahim Mustafa, Mme Sarah Amjad Hussein and on the Egyptian side, Mme Moushira Al-Ammari.

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano meets with Ambassador Al-Ayashi, Dean of the Consular Corps, at the Consulate General of Yemen in Jeddah

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, visited the Consulate General of the Republic of Yemen in Jeddah on Thursday morning 13 Rajab 1442, corresponding to 25 February 2021. Ambassador Ali Muhammad Al-Ayashi, Consul General of the Republic of Yemen and Dean of the Consular Corps in Jeddah, received the Secretary General and the accompanying delegation.

Ambassador Al-Ayashi welcomed His Excellency and thanked him for this visit, which is the first visit of its kind to the Consulate's headquarters in Jeddah. He also expressed his sincere thanks to His Excellency for the hospitality he received during his visit to the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the Academy last December, noting on this occasion the willingness of the legitimate government of Yemen to strengthen cooperation and partnership relations between Yemen, the OIC and its subsidiary organs, particularly the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, whose resolutions and recommendations on Yemeni affairs he highly appreciated.

For his part, the Secretary General of the Academy thanked the Ambassador for the warm welcome and expressed his sincere appreciation for his visit to the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the Academy last December. His Excellency also expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the continued support of Yemen's legitimate government for the Academy, praising the distinguished presence of Yemen's representative to the Council of the Academy, Sheikh Mohamed Abduh Omar.

His Excellency seized the opportunity to inform the Ambassador that the Secretariat General of the Academy is in the process of publishing its five-year strategic plan, which includes a comprehensive presentation of the most important scientific and intellectual activities and programs that will be organized during the next five years aiming to spread the values of moderation, temperance, tolerance and cooperation among Muslims inside and outside the Muslim world.

His Excellency concluded his address by emphasizing the Academy's com-



mitment to coordination and communication with Ifta institutions and scientific councils in the countries of the Muslim world and within Muslim communities in order to fight against all forms of extremism, fanaticism, anarchy and exclusion.

At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Al Ayashi promised His Excellency to organize in the near future an introductory and consultative meeting between the Academy and the consulates operating in Jeddah in general, and the consulates of the OIC member states in particular, in order to improve

the prospects of cooperation and communication between the Academy and the diplomatic missions in Jeddah.

Both sides concluded the meeting by asking Allah the Almighty that peace, security, safety and stability prevail throughout Yemen and that the next phase will witness prosperity, progress and comfort for the people of Yemen in particular, and for the people of the world in general. His Excellency was accompanied by Mr. Mohamed Chouk, Dr. Ayman Abdulkarim, Mr. Mourad Tili, Mr. Amjad Al-Mansi and Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussein.



The Consul General of the Republic of Guinea welcomes Prof. Koutoub Sano to the Guinean Consulate in Jeddah



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy paid a courtesy visit to the Consulate General of the Republic of Guinea in Jeddah on Thursday 13 Rajab 1442, corresponding to 25 February 2021.

During the visit, His Excellency and the accompanying delegation were warmly received by H.E. Mr Mohamed Savani, Consul General of Guinea, members of the consular corps, as well as the president of the Guinean community of Jeddah.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the Consul General began his speech by warmly welcoming Prof. Koutoub Sano, who described him as the virtuous son of Guinea, the Consulate had received hundreds of requests from the Guinean community in Jeddah to come and greet him, and wishing him the best success in his new duties as Secretary General of the Academy, but the Consulate had to apologize to them following the instructions of the Saudi Health Ministry concerning the ban of gatherings due to the current pandemic.

The Consul General expresses his great happiness of this visit, and his thanks from the Guinean government represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Guinea to the OIC officials for their confidence

in one of the distinguished sons of Guinea to assume the post of Secretary General of the Academy; hence, the Republic of Guinea will be the first African and non-Arab country to obtain this great honor, that is considered a great achievement for His Excellency because of his high scientific qualifications, distinguished administrative experience and successful political experience, as His Excellency had already demonstrated his competences during his tenure in several ministerial portfolios in Guinea over the last ten years.

Afterwards, the president of the Guinean community took the floor and expressed his pride and happiness of this visit, emphasizing the

community's desire to meet with His Excellency to congratulate him on his new position, which represents the culmination of his achievements and distinguished career.

On his part, His Excellency expressed his deep joy for this hospitality and expressed his sincere thanks to the Consul General, Mr Mohamed Savani, as well as to the members of the diplomatic corps and the Guinean community for this warm welcome, praising in this regard the professionalism and sincerity of the Consul General and his staff regarding the management of the Consulate and its community affairs.

His Excellency then presented a

brief overview of the Academy, hoping that the cooperation and partnership relations between the Republic of Guinea's scientific institutions and the International Islamic Fiqh Academy would witness progress and development at all levels. His Excellency also confirmed the Academy's willingness to fully strengthen cooperation and communication between the Academy and the National Council of Fatwa at the Secretariat General of Religious Affairs of Guinea. His Excellency concluded his speech by expressing his desire to communicate with the community in the coming days and his desire to contribute to all that would strengthen the ties and consolidate the relations of brotherhood and love between the members of the community, as well as his enthusiasm to develop fraternal relations and close cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Guinea.

At the end of the meeting, His Excellency and the accompanying delegation visited the Guinean International School and the Consulate's community office. His Excellency was accompanied during this visit by Mr. Mohamed Chouk, Dr. Ayman Abdul Karim, Mr. Amjad Al-Mansi, Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussein and Mr. Mourad Talili.



Secretary General of the IIFA meets with the Consul General and the US Representative to the OIC in Jeddah

In appreciation of the remarkable visit of Mr. Alan Krause, Head of the Political Affairs Department at the Consulate General of the United States of America with a large delegation to the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy a few months ago, and in order to strengthen the relations of cooperation and partnership between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and American scientific institutions and centers that are active in the field of dialogue and intellectual discourse especially the dialogue among the followers of religions and the alliance of civilizations, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, on Wednesday 19 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 3 March 2021, visited the Consulate General of the United States of America in Jeddah. He and his accompanying delegation were received by His Excellency Mr. Ryan Gliha, Consul General and US Representative to OIC.

His Excellency, the Consul General, welcomed His Excellency and the accompanying delegation, and congratulated him for the excellent efforts made by him since assuming his duties as Secretary General of the Academy. These efforts would certainly contribute to introduce the Academy, its mission, its activities and its programs to a larger number of people. He also expressed his appreciation to His Excellency for the sincere interest in strengthening the partnership and cooperation relations with institutions and scientific centers in the United States. In this regard, the Consul general expressed his full readiness to facilitate all means of communication and cooperation between the Academy and the American scientific institutions and centers.

For his part, His Excellency Professor Sano thanked His host, the Consul gen-



eral for the wonderful reception and the warm welcome. He also highly valued the successful visit of the Head of the Political Affairs Department to the Academy a few months ago. Indeed this visit did allow the two parties to discuss different aspects and areas of possible cooperation between the Academy and the prestigious American scientific centers and institutions. Then His Excellency Professor Sano highlighted the vision of the Academy, and its mission that is based on presenting Islam in a correct and moderate way far from all forms of extremism, fanaticism and exclusion. Further he reiterated the interest of the Academy in establishing partnerships, signing memoranda of understanding, and cooperation agreements with American institutions and scientific centers that promote dialogue and intellectual discourse and encourage rapprochement, integration and solidarity among peoples especially while addressing human issues and proposing solutions to challenges of the contemporary life. His Excellency Professor Sano also affirmed to his

host the Academy's adoption of a comprehensive, objective scientific and moderate approach in issuing its fatwas and decisions related to family, women and children issues. For that purpose, the Academy pursues closer cooperation and partnership with fatwa institutions and higher scholarly councils inside and outside the Islamic world in order to strengthen coordination and integration while providing appropriate legal solutions to new issues and calamities. His Excellency concluded his remarks with informing his host that the Academy has just finalized a five-year strategic plan for the Academy that includes a clear formulation of the most important activities and programs that the Academy intends to carry out during the next five years. He also informed his host that the Academy held recently a seminar aiming to clarify the position of Islam with regard

to the available vaccines against Covid 19. The Academy had confirmed the permissibility of using the vaccines and it also called upon Muslim communities all over the world to

strictly follow the instructions given by the competent authorities in their respective countries and communities. The Academy also issued warning against rumors and malicious fatwas stemming from the conspiracy theory that warns, without evidence, of vaccines while it has become an important and necessary means that helps to preserve the lives which preservation is considered as one of the most important necessities that must be preserved in Islam. At the end of the meeting, His Excellency, the Consul general, reiterated his sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Professor Sano and the delegation for the wonderful information that he and his colleagues heard about the Academy especially its new strategic plan, wishing to obtain a copy of it. Moreover that plan could facilitate the establishment of partnership and cooperation with American institutions and scientific centers which might be willing to cooperate with the Academy. He also reiterated the US State Department's invitation to His Excellency to visit Washington and meet with the relevant authorities within the delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Such visit aims at consolidating the partnership and cooperation relations between the United States of America and the Islamic world. His Excellency Professor Sano, welcomed the invitation and confirmed his readiness to take part in order to establish strategic partnerships with American institutions and scientific centers that would be recommended by His Excellency, the Consul General and the American administration. Mr. Mohamed Mondher Chouk, Dr. Ayman Abdul-Karim, Mr. Mourad Tlili, Mr. Amjad Al-Mansi and Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussain participated in the meeting from the General Secretariat of the Academy, and Mr. Alan Krause and Mr. Rizk participated on the American side.



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano meets with Ambassador Mehmet Metin Eker, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC

In order to strengthen the relations of cooperation, integration and partnership between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the OIC Member States, and in response to the visit of H.E. Mr. Mehmet Metin Eker, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC, to the headquarters of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, paid a visit to H.E. Mr. Muhammad Metin Aker on Wednesday 19 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 3 March 2021, at the Headquarters of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the OIC in Jeddah.

The Ambassador welcomed His Excellency and thanked him warmly for his visit to the Mission's headquarters. He expressed his pleasure and gratitude for the efforts made by His Excellency to modernize the Academy and develop its performance in line with the hopes of the OIC Member States.

On his part, His Excellency thanked the Ambassador for the continuous support that the Academy has



received from the Turkish authorities since its creation until today. His Excellency also gave a detailed presentation of the most important activities and programmes organized by the Academy in the last few months, the latest being the medical fiqh symposium which concluded with the recommendation of allowing the use of the available vaccines against Covid-19 in accordance with Shariah and called upon the Muslims to comply with the instructions given by the leaders of their countries in this regard. The symposium also recommended that Zakat money be allowed to be spent on vaccines and to finance

their distribution to countries that cannot purchase them.

His Excellency informed the Ambassador of the publication of the first strategic plan of the Academy, including a precise formulation of all the activities, programmes and events of the Academy over the next five years, calling on the Ambassador to seek the support of the Turkish authorities to contribute to the funding of this plan through voluntary donations to cover the costs of implementing some of the programmes and activities.

For his part, H.E. the Ambassador welcomed the good news about the strategic plan and promised to provide the necessary support to the Academy and promised to strengthen the cooperation and communication relations between the Academy and Turkish scientific institutions and centers, especially the authorities in charge of religious affairs.

His Excellency was accompanied by Mr. Mohamed Mondher Chouk, Mr. Amjad Al-Mansi and Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussain.



H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO meets with H.E Abdoul Aziz Branley, Dean of the African Consular Corps in Jeddah

As part of the strengthening of co-operation and partnership relations between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) and the African group of OIC members States in Jeddah, His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, carried out on Tuesday 19 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 2nd March 2021, a friendly visit to the headquarters of the Consulate General of the Republic of Gabon in Jeddah.

His Excellency and his accompanying delegation were received by HE Mr. Abdul Aziz Branli Opolo, the Consul General of the Republic of Gabon and Dean of the African Consular Corps in Jeddah, members of the Consulate General of Gabon and HE Mohamed Savani, Consul General of the Republic of Guinea.

At the start of the meeting, HE Abdul Aziz welcomed HE Professor SANO and thanked him for this visit to the Consulate General of Gabon as well as to the Dean of the African Consular corps. He also expressed his great pleasure and pride at the appointment of a non-Arab African to the post of Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy for the first time since the establishment of the Academy. For him, it is a great honor for the African continent in general. Also, it is a clear recognition of the academic qualifications and administrative and political experiences of His Excellency Professor SANO who had assumed many important ministerial

portfolios in the Republic of Guinea.

He then expressed his intention to take the initiative, in his capacity as Dean of the diplomatic and consular corps of African countries in Jeddah, to organize an enlarged meeting between the representatives of the African consulates in Jeddah and His Excellency the Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, in order to discuss ways and means to strengthen the ties and cooperative relations between these countries and the Islamic Fiqh Academy with the aim of discussing possible aspects of the support that the Academy could provide to the African group, in particular with regard to the appropriate proposal of legal solutions to the jurisprudential problems in African countries. He concluded his speech by expressing the willingness of the Republic of Gabon to host one of the Academy's sessions after the pandemic is over, God willing.

For his part, His Excellency Professor SANO thanked HE the Consul General for the warm welcome and the wonderful welcome from him and his accompanying delegation. He also expressed his sincere thanks and great appreciation for the wisdom and important role that His Excellency plays in preserving unity, cooperation and solidarity among the representatives of African countries. Subsequently, His



Excellency provided additional information on the mission, activities and programs of the Academy, noting in this regard the series of meetings he had held since assuming the office of Secretary General of the Academy. His Excellency also confirmed to his host the full willingness of the Academy to organize specialized scientific seminars and organize workshops in Gabon on certain issues that concern society. In addition, the issue of marriage between Muslim women and Christian men, knowing that Muslims are considered a minority in terms of population, remains a theme that deserves to be debated and discussed since Mus-

lims are in the minority in a country like Gabon and elsewhere. Certainly, this question is raised over and over again on all occasions, as it is one of the thorny issues that requires clarification from the Academy in light of the reality that Muslims experience there. His Excellency promised His host to present the matter in the themes of the next sessions, God willing, in order to make an appropriate decision.

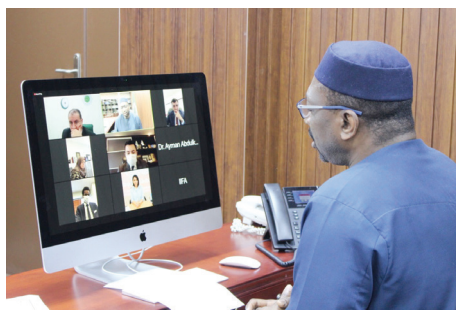
Before the end of the meeting, His Excellency the Consul General presented a documentary film on the Republic of Gabon and the evolution it is witnessing at all levels.

HE Professor SANO was accompanied by Mr. Mohamad al-Moundhir, Dr. Ayman Abdul Karim, Mr. Murad al-Tili, Mrs Sarah Amjad Hussain et Mr. Amjad al-Mansi



H.E Professor SANO discusses with H.E Taha Ayhan, President of the Islamic Cooperation Forum for Youth, areas of cooperation and partnership

As an extension of the efforts of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy to contribute to addressing youth and childhood issues through its sessions and seminars, and as a continuation of the efforts of His Excellency to strengthen cooperation and integration relations with Islamic institutions and centers that are concerned with the affairs of youth, children and the elderly inside and outside the Islamic world, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha SANO held on Monday 17 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 1 March 2021, a meeting with the president of the Islamic Cooperation Forum for Youth, one of the specialized bodies of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. His Excellency Professor SANO reviewed at the outset of his speech what the International Islamic Fiqh Academy is doing in terms of activities, actions and events in the framework of providing appropriate legal solutions to the problems of contemporary life that Muslims face around the world, pointing to the permanent interest of the Academy in its decisions and its statements of everything that would protect youth against Ideas that feed extremism, exaggeration, terrorism and intolerance. Also the Academy spreads and promotes the values of moderation and tolerance within the OIC



countries and Muslim societies, and in this regard the Academy emphasizes the efforts to encourage constructive dialogue, tolerance among followers of religions, combating hate speech, and contempt for cultural and religious symbols.

His Excellency concluded his speech by welcoming close cooperation with the Islamic Youth Forum to achieve common goals, especially with regard to supporting the Forum's efforts in achieving its project entitled the Youth and Faith Project in cooperation with the Religions for Peace Foundation.

For his part, the President of the Islamic Coopera-

tion Forum for Youth, H.E. Taha Ayhan, thanked His Excellency for his acceptance to participate in this meeting, and highly valued the distinguished efforts of the Academy in the field of educating Muslim youth outside the Islamic world about the importance of preserving their Islamic identity while adhering to the requirements of citizenship and positive integration into their societies, and he also thanked His Excellency for the approval of the Academy to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Academy and the Forum in the near future in order to strengthen the partnership between the two institutions. He concluded his speech by inviting His Excellency Professor SANO to deliver a series of public lectures for youth through the forum's upcoming seminars and conferences. His Excellency, Professor SANO, welcomed the invitation, and promised to fulfill it, and confirmed the Academy's readiness to enter into a partnership strategy with the Forum in order to achieve common goals that serve Muslim youth all over the world. As for the implementation of what was agreed upon in this meeting, His Excellency Professor SANO informed the President of the Forum on the appointment of Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussein as the Forum focal point.

Secretary General of the Academy mourns the late Professor Malik Babeker Badri..

Indeed... our father you left us a time and bid farewell to this world in a hurry at a time when we desperately needed your advice and guidance ...!!

May Allah have mercy on you, educator of generations. May Allah welcome you into his vast Paradise, and may He make your grave a garden within the gardens of paradise.

Indeed it is the norm of life, and the law of the universe, that we sometimes wake up to hear news that could tear the eyes, sadden the heart, confuse the mind, and affect the soul.

Last Monday, February 8th was a very difficult and trying day for me, as the news of the passing of our beloved father, Professor Malik Badri, was announced.

Yet, it was the most challenging hour that I have had in recent years. This is due to the fact that he was for me as for many students a source of inspiration and guidance. He was a model of pious and truthfulness. A scholar who worshipped his Lord day and night, his tongue never tired of performing supplications and prayers..

O The Almighty..

Is this true that the angel of death stretched out his hand to the soul of our father, our teacher, our educator and the educator of generations..

Is this true that our father will no longer answer our calls, our messages..

Is this true that this great erudite of Allah will not be able, from now onwards, to guide us out of our worries and distress..

Is this true that the interpreter of our dreams and the analyst of our behavior will no longer be there to counsel us..

Is this true that from today onwards we will be deprived of enjoying and savoring our father's prayers and invocations..

Indeed, our Lord... all this is true... death is true... the day of judgement is true... the resurrection is true... Paradise is true... Hell is true... but we are desperately troubled and deeply triste by his demise..

Yes, we do strongly believe that he deserves the mercy and forgiveness of The All Forgiving in shaa Allah..

He has been for me and for many generations a spiritual father, a great educator, a pride for the Islamic Ummah, and an excellent reference for Muslim and non-Muslim psychologists.

Truly, he left our mortal world after being ears and sight for thousands of those who sought a rational Islamic interpretation of dreams and a coherent scientific analysis of human behavior based on the Noble Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (PBUH).

As believers we certainly accept the fact that



he responded the call of the Creator of the Universe after serving his Lord, his Prophet (PBUH) and his Ummah as well as fulfilling his duty on earth.

Yes he would always be remembered as a righteous scholar and a devoted worshipper, whose light shone on his forehead, whose tranquility was above his life, whose trust in Allah filled his wings, whose optimism never left his tongue, the tragedies of this age never affected him, harsh circumstances never changed his positions; the delations of the enemies did not bother him and did not change his fatherly love to us..

For decades we used to see him always smiling in front of crises, his heart was open to ease the dark situations and harsh circumstances..

He was constantly reminding us day and night of the power of dhikr (divine invocations), and of dua (supplications) to overcome obstacles and difficulties..

For decades he never tired of leading, counseling and guiding us. Meeting him was a source of comfort to our souls, and hearing his voice was a source of hope and courage.

O Allah.. You are our witness that much of our worries would disappear when we met him, and a cloud of our anguish would disperse as we listened to his speeches..

He taught us that adulation and flattery are among bad manners and that honesty, integrity and courtesy in words and behaviour are honorable people's qualities..

Indeed, he was deep in his observations, creative in his analyses, exceptional in his interpretations of dreams, continually seeking to solve his students' problems. He was also so attached to the Mosque, always invoking Allah, and carrying in his retreats a fragrant purple rosary, that smelled sincerity.

We have learned from this great teacher of generations that our Islamic heritage is

wealthy with the knowledge and ideas of great psychologists, and that this heritage includes psychological interpretations and analyses that are no less consistent, profound and mature than what others boast of in this era. He – may Allah have mercy on him – has always told us in conferences and meetings that there are genuine efforts in the field of psychological and behavioral studies among such virtuous scholars such as Al-Ghazali, Ibn Rochd, Ibn Sina, Ibn Taymiyya, Ibn Al-Qayyim, Ibn Sirin, among others who deserve the pride and praise of the Muslim Ummah. My dear and beloved father..

May Allah have mercy on you, and reward you with the best of rewards, in my name and that of all your students, all your disciples, and all those who love science, purification, and education..

May Allah accept you alongside the Prophet (PBUH) whom you truly loved and whom you had sincerely invoked in your movements and gestures.

My family and I express our condolences to the students of knowledge that you were sincerely devoted to their education, and you taught them self-confidence and pride in their heritage and culture.

Our condolences to the country where you were born on its land and grew up in its embrace, and where you learned the love of the pious and the company of the righteous..

Our condolences to many countries where you have sown seeds of goodness and righteousness in which thousands of students and researchers have grown up.

Our condolences and sympathy to the righteous offspring you raised, educated and instilled in them the love of Allah, His Messenger (PBUH) and the pious.

Last but not least, I console myself and my family for your departure, and for the void you will leave in my life from today. Thus I will no longer be able to hear your voice, I will not be honored from now onwards to see your smiling face or to enjoy your speech full of spirituality and optimism..

O my Lord, do accept our father in Your Paradise among the Prophets, the Truthful, the Martyrs, the Righteous, and these are the best companions.

O my Lord, reunite us with him on a day when neither wealth nor offspring will be beneficial, in the gardens of bliss, in an assembly of truth with the All-Powerful Sovereign. O my Lord, have great mercy, forgiveness, and generosity to our father and teacher.

To Allah we belong and to Him we return
Your son and student forever / Koutoub Moustapha Sano

Book Release: Codification of the IIFA Resolutions on Islamic Finance



Dr. Omar Zuhair Hafez

The Scientific Publication Centre of King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, has recently published an important and distinctive book dealing with the codification of the resolutions of the International Academy of Islamic Fiqh on Islamic finance. This book represents the first serious scholarly attempt to codify the Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy's resolutions on Islamic Finance from its creation four decades ago to the present day.

It is believed that the author has successfully written the resolutions of the Academy in the form of clear and precise legal articles in an easy and fluent economic and legal language and that he has also succeeded in extracting the precise meanings contained in the resolutions concisely and distinctly, which will facilitate the understanding of the researchers. It will also be easier for researchers to refer to the resolutions in a simple and accessible manner, as they are all combined and organized in an easy purpose and order such as the resolutions on Zakat that were issued between the different sessions of the Academy, the reader will find that they are all grouped under a unified title.

The Academy appreciates the author's commitment to scientific honesty and methodological transparency in transmission and reference, as he was committed and concerned to keep the reader and researcher in direct contact with the resolutions he has codified. He has accurately also mentioned the numbers of all the resolutions he has codified as in the book of the fourth edition of the resolutions and recommendations, which will help the reader refer to these resolutions' texts if he or she wishes to go deeper for clarification and investigation.

In general, the Secretariat General of the Academy takes this opportunity to congratulate the talented author, Dr. Omar Zuhair Hafez, Associate Professor at the Research Center for Islamic Economics at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, for this outstanding scientific achievement and for his creativity in writing and editing. The Secretariat General of the Academy also congratulates and appreciates him for his particular interest in the Academy's resolutions, enabling researchers and students to understand and represent them.

The Secretariat General of the Academy calls on researchers and scholars, especially postgraduate students to pay attention to the resolutions and recommendations of the Academy in other fields that are not less important than Islamic finance issues, noting that the number of resolutions and recommendations of the Council amounts to two hundred and thirty-eight (238) resolutions regarding various issues of our era, its calamities and novelties.

In conclusion, the Secretariat General of the Academy congratulates the Islamic Economic Research Centre at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah for this distinguished publication and their patronage of sound scientific research in Islamic finance in particular and Islamic economics in general.

Academy Divisions Heads



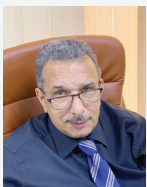
Dr. Ismail Cebebi
Head of Research
& Encyclopedias



Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Shoab
Head of Studies and Fatwa
Division



Khalid Hussain Ali Gerbeben
Head of Printing Division



Moez Riah
Head of Financial Affairs &
Accounting



Amjad Ibrahim Mustafa
Head of Protocols Division



Khalid Hamid Al-Ahmedi
Head of Administrative
Affairs & Training



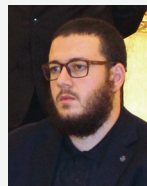
Mohamed Sila Albachir
Head of Library and
Warehouses



Belayet Hossain
Reception & Foreign Ministry
Relations Supervisor



Hassan Kumait
Head of Information &
Communication Technologies



Jawzi Belkacem Lardjane
Head of Translation Department



Ahmed Ali Gzouli Abdelghani
Head of Archives &
Follow-up

7th Periodic Meeting of the Divisions Heads



The Secretary General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, chaired on Thursday 22 Jamada al-Akhira 1442, corresponding to 4 February 2021, the seventh periodic meeting of the heads of the Academy's divisions. His Excellency opened the meeting by stressing the need to expedite solving technical issues and providing a suitable working environment for some of the Academy's staff to carry out their work effectively.

His Excellency spoke of the results of his visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Province of Makkah and his meeting with H.E. Amb. Hani Moumina, Director General of the Mak-

kah Branch of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, to strengthen cooperation and communication relations between the Academy and the agencies of the of Foreign Affairs Ministry in the headquarters country. His Excellency also spoke of the results of the visit of the OIC Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Secretariat General of the Academy. His Excellency alerted all the Academy's personnel of the need to respect and fully comply with all the directives of the Health Ministry regarding health precautions, especially social distancing, wearing masks and carrying personal rugs to praying places.

Furthermore, His Excellency instructed the IT department to work on the continuous updating of the Academy's website and to integrate the electronic version of the newsletter on various social media sites in order to make it accessible to the largest possible number of readers, and to make the newsletter the Academy's window on the world.

His Excellency decided to establish a permanent committee to update and develop the Academy's website, Wikipedia, and to seek ways to use new media to disseminate the Academy's monthly newsletter on various social media sites. Mr. Mourad Tlili has been assigned to chair this committee whose members include Dr. Ismail Cebeci, Mr. Hassan Kumait, Mr. Jawzi Lardjane, Mr. Saad Al-Sammar.

His Excellency referred to the completion of the review of the Academy's strategic plan, confirming its printing by February 14, 2021. Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussain has been charged to send copies of the strategic plan to all divisions' heads at the Academy to express their final notes on the strategic plan by Wednesday 10 February 2021 at the latest.

His Excellency concluded the meeting by thanking the team that worked on the maintenance of the Academy warehouse located at Quraysh Street, Jeddah.

8th Periodic Meeting of Divisions Heads

The eighth periodic meeting of heads of the Academy's divisions was held on Thursday 6 Rajab 1442, corresponding to 18 February 2021. The Secretary General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, opened the meeting by calling on all Academy staff to review the final version of the strategic plan and take notes of it before its final printing, stressing that the strategic plan will become a mandated professional guide to be followed by every Academy staff member in the activities and programs.

His Excellency then reviewed the results of his recent visit to Riyadh and his meeting with Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Aal Sheikh, the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President of the Council of Senior Scholars, and Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, member of the Council of Senior Scholars, Imam Khatib at the Great Mosque of Makkah, and



President of the Academy, Dr. Fahd bin Saad Al-Majed, the Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars, as well as other eminent scholars in Riyadh.

His Excellency lauded the warm hospitality received in Riyadh from all parties he visited, which aimed at strengthening cooperation and integration with the Academy in

order to meet the aspirations of the leaders of the OIC Member states, being the jurisprudential reference for the Muslim world and Muslim communities. His Excellency also spoke of the honorable visit of the Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars to the Academy's headquarters.

Both parties took this opportunity

to discuss a draft cooperation agreement and memorandum between the Academy and the Council of Senior Scholars. The draft agreement was presented to the Secretary General of the Council during his visit to the Academy for signature by both sides.

Furthermore, His Excellency reviewed the articles of the previous meeting's minutes, during which he called on the finance and administrative affairs department to expedite the maintenance of the central air-conditioning equipment. He also addressed the relevant authorities of the Academy about the importance of the wise use of social accounts and platforms due to their critical role in disseminating the mission and activities of the Academy.

The meeting concluded with an appeal to all concerned officials for the success of the Fiqh mini-seminar scheduled for Monday 22 February 2021.

4th Monthly Meeting of the Academy's Personnel



Due to the official visit of the Academy's Secretary General to the capital of the headquarters state, Riyadh, which coincided with the date scheduled for the fourth monthly meeting of the Academy's personnel, the meeting was then held via videoconferencing on Sunday 25 Jumada al-Akhira 1442, corresponding to 7 February 2021. His Excellency opened the meeting by reviewing the series of meetings to be held in the city of Riyadh with several major scientific institutions, particularly the Council of Senior Scholars, the General Presidency of Ifta, the World Assembly of Muslim Youth, as well as the King Faisal Center for Islamic

Research and Studies. His Excellency briefed the staff on the program of his visits and meetings during his stay in Riyadh. He also said that -on this occasion- he would have the honor of meeting with H.E. Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh, Grand Mufti and Head of the Council of Senior Scholars, H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Imam Khatib at the Grand Mosque of Makkah, and President of the Academy, H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mutlaq, H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathry, H.E. Dr. Fahd Al-Majid, Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars,

H.E. Dr. Saleh bin Sulaiman Al-Wahaibi, Secretary General of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), as well as other eminent scholars and honorable personalities. His Excellency listened to the participants' proposals and remarks on the various issues related to the working conditions at the Academy, considering that these monthly meetings aim at consulting on how to improve the performance of the Academy and address the shortcomings at all levels. After discussions and deliberations, the meeting resulted in the following decisions: -Recalling the need to fully comply with the precaution-

ary and health measures put in place by the Ministry of Health, including the wearing of masks, social distancing, and washing hands regularly at every opportunity. -Expedite the completion of the lighting process for the main warehouse located on Quraysh Street, in addition to full compliance with the regulations of the civil defense department in this regard. -Follow-up on the bids submitted by the companies involved in the redesign of the main gate of the Academy in accordance with the required technical specifications, to be completed within one week.

18th Periodic Meeting of Departments Directors

From Riyadh, and via videoconferencing, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired on Monday 27 Jumada Al-Akhira 1442, corresponding to 9 February 2021, the eighteenth weekly periodic meeting of the directors of the Academy's departments.

His Excellency opened the meeting by referring to the official duties of his visit to Riyadh, which includes his meeting with H.E. Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh, Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Head of the Council of Senior Scholars, H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, Member of the Council of Senior Scholars, and President of the Academy, H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mutlaq, H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri, H.E. Dr. Fahd Al-Majed, Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars, H.E. Dr. Saleh bin Sulaiman Al-Wahaibi, Secretary General of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth, as well as other eminent

scholars and honorable personalities. His Excellency then took this opportunity to remind the departments' directors of the importance of redoubling efforts to implement the strategic plan once published in order to achieve the Academy's vision, mission and objectives.

After discussions and deliberations, the meeting issued the following decisions:

1- Transcription of the audio recording of the virtual scientific forums recently held between the Academy and the Shariah boards of the Islamic banks in the headquarters state and the Gulf Cooperation Council states, due to their importance and preparing them for printing in a small booklet within two weeks from the date of this decision.

2- Follow-up of the letters addressed to the OIC Member states concerning the proposal of translators and institutions that can translate the resolutions of the Academy into the following languages: Hausa, Malay, Farsi, Urdu, Russian, Spanish.

3- Accelerate the submission of an



urgent plan to the finance and administrative affairs department concerning printing out of issues of the Academy's scientific journal.

4. The necessity for the publications and dedication committee to keep one hundred (100) copies of each of the Academy's publications for archive purposes.

5- Completion of the printing of the strategic plan and the statute of the Academy no later than Thursday 11 February.

6- To invite the Saudi Fiqh Associ-

ation to visit the Secretariat General of the Academy to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation between the Academy and the Association in the near future.

7. To establish a clear plan for the calendar of scientific meetings between the Academy and the Shariah boards of Central Banks of the OIC Member states, and between the Academy and the Shariah boards of Central Banks in East and Southeast Asia, North, South and West Africa.

19th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, the nineteenth weekly meeting of the directors of the Academy's departments was held on Monday 3 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 15 February 2021.

His Excellency opened the meeting by reviewing his official visit to Riyadh – the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which he visited several scientific institutions and met with several senior scholars, particularly H.E. the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Academy, H.E. Dr. Saleh bin Sulaiman Al-Wahaibi Secretary General of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mutlaq, Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, member of the Council of Senior Scholars, H.E. Dr. Saleh bin Sulaiman Al-Wahaibi, H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri, Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, member of the Council of Senior Scholars, the Permanent Committee for Fatwa and the Board of Directors of the



Academy Waqf Fund. The purpose of these visits is to strengthen cooperation and communication relations and conclude joint cooperation agreements between the Academy and the leading scientific institutions in Saudi Arabia.

His Excellency confirmed his willingness to make a similar visit to the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic Uni-

versity, King Saud University, Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University, the King Faisal Center for Islamic Studies and the International Center for Combating Extremist Thought (Etidal), provided that this should be coordinated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to determine the appropriate dates for these visits. The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

-To organize a scientific forum with Shariah boards and committees of banks and financial institutions within East and Southeast Asian countries during the first week of April, and another scientific forum with Shariah boards and committees of central banks during the last week of March.

-Prepare an integrated file on the Headquarters Agreement and send it to the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the OIC.

-Courtesy visit of the OIC Subsidiary Organs in Jeddah, including the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights, during the next week.

-To develop a preliminary vision for the specialized scientific mini-symposium that the Academy intends to hold next Tuesday, aimed at answering the UN question on using Zakat funds for the release of vaccines for poor countries.

-Coordinate and prepare a visit to Al-Rajhi Endowment (Awqaaf al-Rajhi) to introduce thereto the Academy Waqf Fund.

20th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

The twentieth weekly meeting of the Academy's departments was held on Tuesday 11 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 23 February 2021.

The Secretary General of the Academy opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda of his visits to the OIC subsidiary and some specialized organs, such as the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission and the Islamic Solidarity Fund, which aim to strengthen the cooperation and communication relations between the Academy and other OIC organs.

During the meeting, His Excellency expressed his thanks and appreciation to the research, studies and encyclopedias department, the sessions and conferences department and the media and public relations department for their efforts in planning the mini-symposium on "Shariah Ruling concerning the Use of Vaccines, and of Zakat Funds for Vaccine Distribution in



Poor Countries". The meeting was well received and appreciated by participants, which included eminent scholars, experts and medical specialists.

His Excellency also referred of the visit of the Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Dr. Fahd bin Saad Al-Majid, to the headquarters of the Academy intending to strengthen joint cooperation and prepare a memorandum of understanding between the Academy

and the Council in order to seek more coordination and communication between the Academy and the leading jurisprudential councils of Muslim countries, headed by the Council of Senior Scholars of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting issued several decisions, notably:

- To organize a scientific meeting with the Shariah boards and councils of banks and financial institutions in East and Southeast Asia and central banks.

- To coordinate with the representatives and consulates that visited the Academy to visit them as well.

- The publications dedication committee shall continue its distribution of the fourth edition of the book of resolutions, provided that these copies for the council representatives who do not have a mailbox shall be delivered to them through their consulates with an explanatory note in that regard.

- Emphasizing to the department of sessions and conferences the importance of follow-up of technical aspects and correspondence when holding forums and seminars, with the creation of a database for scholars and experts who participate in the Academy's events to facilitate contacting them when necessary. Likewise, the department of research and encyclopedias shall take charge of the scientific aspects related to the studies, content and planning, and the transcription and printing of their scientific content.

21st Weekly Meeting of the Academy Departments



The twenty-first weekly meeting of the directors of the Academy's departments was held on Monday 17 Rajab 1442, corresponding to 2 March 2021.

The Secretary General of the Academy opened the meeting by welcoming the participants, then spoke about the importance of weekly meetings for following up the progress at the departments, its new programs and activities.

In this meeting, His Excellency clarified that the documentation and archiving of the minutes of these meetings is a matter of commitment to the transparency value, in order to refute rumors, and provide

an atmosphere of cooperation and communication among employees in addition to facilitating the monitoring of activities and programs that will be implemented.

The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

- To approve the final revision of the translation of the resolutions into English and to begin printing them.

- To prepare the quarterly magazine of the Academy.

- To provide adequate information on the apartment endowed for the Academy Waqf Fund, located in Makkah, and organizing a visit to the apartment.

9th Periodic Meeting of the Divisions Heads



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Mustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the ninth periodic meeting of the divisions' heads, held on Thursday, 20 Rajab 1443, corresponding to 4 March 2021.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency spoke about the strategic plan of the Academy, commending the efforts of all the staff for its preparation and realization in the best possible way through their suggestions and remarks. His Excellency stressed on this occasion that strong and courageous souls only realize great hopes, challenges and aspirations.

Furthermore, His Excellency stressed that the estimated financial budget for the implementation of the strategic plan represents both a great challenge and a great opportunity; and it should in no way be an obstacle and obsession, for after seeking help and trusting in Allah the Almighty, we must seek sponsors and conclude partnership agreements with donors

inside and outside the Muslim world in order to mobilize the greatest possible support and spread the financial burden over several sources.

His Excellency then addressed the agenda of the meeting, speaking with colleagues, each in their field of expertise. The meeting resulted in several administrative decisions, notably:

- To distribute the new administrative offices among the divisions according to the needs of each division.
- To pay the overtime bonus up to date without cancellation or delay as an incentive for staff to be more productive and to improve their skills.
- Assigning the IT Division with carrying out an online course for Academy staff on office automation programs.
- Assigning the finance and administrative affairs department to develop a staff leave plan for Academy personnel in light of the corona pandemic situation.

5th Monthly Personnel Meeting of the Academy

The fifth monthly personnel meeting was held on Sunday 23 Rajab 1442 corresponding to 7 March 2021 under the chairmanship of H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy.

His Excellency opened the meeting by informing the participants that the strategic plan is ready and that the departments and divisions should start working on it, each on its own. He explained in this context that the Academy will establish and strengthen cooperative relations with the OIC subsidiary and specialized bodies and scientific, Shariah and Fiqh institutions to implement the various activities and programs included in the plan.

His Excellency also referred to the publication of the Shariah rulings and recommendations of the medical fiqh symposium on the use of Covid-19 vaccines and Zakat funds for their purchase and distribution to poor people and countries.

The Secretary General of the Academy praised the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation among the officials of the Academy and then opened the floor for discussions and clarifications on various issues related to the Academy, considering this monthly meeting as a meeting for self-criticism and receiving complaints and suggestions.

His Excellency also thanked the publications committee for their efforts in sending the Academy's publications to members, experts, institutions and universities. He also requested to send copies to the ministers and secretaries of the Ministries of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, heads of Ifta institutions, presidents of religious courts, university presidents, central and international



libraries such as the Library of Congress (USA), heads of Islamic councils, as well as health workers as the Academy's resolutions contain medical issues and health-related fatwas.

In this regard, His Excellency requested the cabinet department to update the addresses and contact numbers of the Academy's members and experts, and also instructed the Academy's website committee to expedite the implementation of the proposed improvements to the site by modifying the interface and developing the content of the site.

His Excellency informed about the transformation of the Division of Family, Women, Children

and Elderly Affairs (of the Department of Cabinet and Protocols) into an independent department with the same name. One of the tasks of this newly created department is to pay special attention to children and their problems, including juvenile delinquency, exploitation of children in begging and trafficking of disabled people, and to deal with the problems, issues and rights of the elderly by creating, editing, investigating and stating the correct position of Islam on all problems and issues related to these segments of society.

22nd Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

The twenty second weekly meeting of the departments' directors was held on Monday 24 Rajab 1442, corresponding to 9 March 2021, under the chairmanship of H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano who opened the meeting by welcoming all participants.

His Excellency spoke about his meeting with H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, OIC Secretary General, on Sunday 7 March 2021 at the headquarters of the OIC Secretariat General, during which he presented the strategic plan of the Academy in its final form, which H.E. Dr. Al-Othaimeen expressed his pleasure and admiration, and requested that it be distributed to the members and published on the website of the Academy.

On this occasion, the Secretary General thanked the Academy's personnel for their efforts in the achievement of the strategic plan and noted the importance of starting the implementation of the activities and programs it contains, pointing out that the deadlines stipulated in the plan are flexible and subject to review from time to time.

The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

- Expedite the translation of the strategic plan



into English and French.

- Communicate and coordinate with the Secretariat General of Awqaf in Kuwait to arrange a visit to overview the possibility of its support to the Academy Waqf Fund.

- To prepare a list of all cooperation agreements and memorandums that have been concluded in the past between the Academy and other institutions to update their content and renew them if necessary.