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## ACADEMY NEWS

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GRATIS

# OIC Secretary General chairs the Second Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the IIFA WAQF Fund



Dr. Yousef Al-Uthaimin



Dr. Saleh bin Hamid



Dr. Koutoub Sano



Dr. Bandar Hajjar



Dr. Abdullah Al-Mutlaq



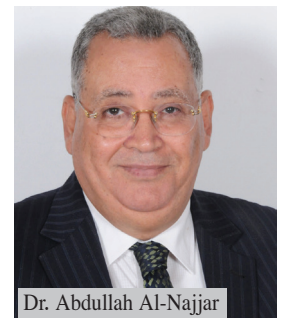
Dr. Saad Al-Shathry



Dr. Ahmed Al-Haddad



Dr. Youssef Al-Shubaily



Dr. Abdullah Al-Najjar

H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the Organization Islamic Cooperation (OIC), chaired the second meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Waqf Fund of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy on Tuesday 24 Shaaban 1442, corresponding to 6 April 2021. His Excellency opened the meeting by paying tribute to the late Professor Abdul Salam Al-Abbadi, the former Secretary of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy.

He also praised the efforts of Prof. Koutoub Sano, the current Secretary General, in advancing the Academy by developing its performance, stressing the important role of the Academy in unifying the voice of Muslims at all levels and providing a balanced environment that enhances solidarity among OIC Member States concerning the intellectual challenges facing the Ummah.

He called on the Member States on this occasion to support the

Academy at all levels so that it can accomplish its mission in the best possible way.

His Excellency also pointed out that establishing the Academy's Waqf Fund was of great importance to provide a stable and regular resource to implement its activities, programs and initiatives contained in its strategic plan. His Excellency stated that entrusting the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) with the investment of the Waqf Fund's assets was a positive and effective measure, given the IsDB's vast experience in this field. His Excellency concluded his speech by stating that he would do his utmost as OIC SG to incite Member states to donate to the Academy's Waqf Fund.

In his welcome address, H.E. Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Humaid, President of the Academy, thanked H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen for his continuous support to the Academy, and thanked the members of the Board of Trustees for

their participation. He then commended the successful steps taken by H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano since he took office, especially his commitment to recover the arrears of the member states. His Excellency also stressed that he looks forward to the Waqf Fund taking its place among the major Islamic institutions and achieving its establishment's desired objective, namely to provide the necessary funding to implement the Academy's strategic plan.

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and Secretary of the Waqf Fund's Board of Trustees, expressed his thanks to the honorable participants for their active contributions and concern for the future of the Academy. Furthermore, and on behalf of all the members and experts of the Academy, His Excellency expressed his condolences for the former President of the Academy and the former Secretaries General

as well as to the members and experts who have left this world for the hereafter. Then, His Excellency presented to the members of the Board the topics on the agenda, and after deliberations and suggestions, the meeting took several decisions, notably:

- Approving the general collection policy of Awqaf and donations in cash and kind for the Academy's Waqf Fund.

- Approving the accounting rules and regulations of the Waqf Fund.

- Approving the Islamic Development Bank's assignment to invest the Waqf Fund's assets and funds.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Dr. Saad bin Nasser Al-Shathri, Advisor to the Royal Saudi Court, Member of the Council of Senior Scholars, and His Eminence Dr. Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al-Haddad, Grand Mufti of the Emirate of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



# H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Humaid inaugurates the first consultative symposium between the IIFA and Awqaf's Secretariats General in the Gulf Cooperation Council

On the morning of Sunday 29 Shaaban 1442, corresponding to 11 April 2021, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy held via video conference the first consultative symposium entitled "Towards a scientific partnership between the International Academy Islamic Fiqh and the Secretariats General of Awqaf in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries".

The symposium started with the presentation of a short documentary film about the Academy, starting with its establishment in 1981, passing through several sessions and symposia, and ending with the establishment of the Academy's Waqf Fund about four years ago to become its main permanent financial resource. Then, **H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid**, Advisor to the Royal Court, Member of the Council of Senior Scholars, Imam Khatib at the Grand Mosque of Makkah, and President of the Academy, delivered the opening speech thanking the participants for attending the symposium, explaining that its ultimate objective is to express the Academy's willingness to strengthen the scientific partnership with the Awqaf Secretariats and Directorates General in the OIC Member States in particular, considering the Academy's outstanding scientific achievements since its establishment, especially in issuing resolutions and recommendations that contributed to the advancement of the Waqf institutions.

His Excellency pointed out that the Academy's resolutions and recommendations related to Awqaf have been and still are appreciated, praised, and widely accepted, especially in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries; therefore, there is an urgent need to follow up the scientific efforts to guide and advise in Awqaf related issues and developments to ensure the sustainability of this Islamic social financing in growth and development. He also pointed out that for the Academy to fulfill its Islamic duty, there is a need to organize many conferences and symposiums to prepare a set of research, studies, and a database for endowments. All this requires financial capacity and stable resources, which prompted the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Muslim countries, during the forty-fourth session of the Ministerial Conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to establish the Academy's Waqf Fund to receive endowments in cash and in kind, supervise the management of the Waqf Fund and invest them for the benefit of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy. His Excellency informed the participants that this Fund aims to raise a financial ceiling of two hundred and fifty (250) million US dollars from cash and in-kind donations from countries, institutions, and individuals.

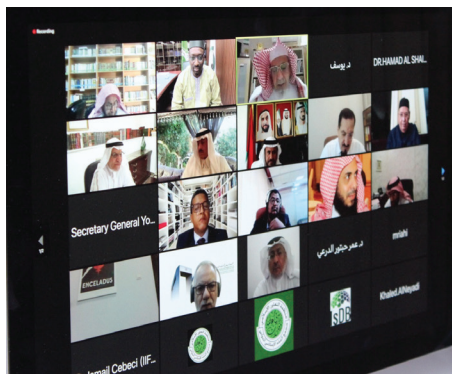
In order to achieve this great aspiration, the Academy calls upon the Awqaf Secretariats and Directorates General of the GCC countries to support this Fund through donations and to encourage the wealthy and benefactors of their countries to donate to it in order to enable the Academy to fulfill its legal duty of clarifying the provisions of the Shariah on issues of concern to Muslims.

**H.E. Koutoub Moustapha Sano**, Secretary



Dr. Saleh bin Hamid

General of the Academy, delivered the keynote address of the symposium, praising the outline given by the President of the Academy and reminding that the institution of Waqf has today, thanks to Allah, become a matter of pride and inspiration for the Ummah because of the distinguished position it occupies among the instruments of Islamic social finance. Moreover, Waqf has become the subject of studies in universities



and scientific centers in recognition of its leading role in combating unemployment and reducing social disparities and diversifying the sources of philanthropy and charity. His Excellency said that in view of the calamities and developments taking place within Awqaf, it is necessary to have a strong scientific support to face these calamities and guide the developments in order to preserve the development and progress of Waqf.

On his part, **H.E. Dr. Bandar Hajjar**, President of the Islamic Development Bank Group, clarified the consequences and effects of the Corona pandemic on the world economy, indicating that the world was not prepared for a pandemic of this magnitude, nor did anyone expect its challenges and effects on all aspects of economic life.

His Excellency then reviewed the achievements of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group in the non-profit sector, particularly the Awqaf, in providing relief, scholarships and health care and in continuously contributing to construction and infrastructure development programs in IDB member states. His Excellency also emphasized IDB's commitment to manage and invest the funds of the Academy's Waqf Fund and provide

the necessary support for its development.

**H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mutlaq**, Advisor to the Royal Court, Member of the Council of Senior Scholars in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Council member of the Academy's Waqf Fund, stressed that the success of the Islamic Ummah requires cooperation and convergence between the scientific community on the one hand and the wealthy on the other, and that there is an urgent need to plan and invest the available resources with more cooperation. Therefore, the Academy urgently needs to provide funds and stable resources to play its role in the development of resolutions, studies, and scientific, legal and jurisprudential research that the Awqaf general secretariats need in their activities.

**Dr. Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al-Haddad**, Grand Mufti of the Emirate of Dubai, and Council member of the Academy's Waqf Fund explained that the Academy is an important and beneficial scientific reference, so it is appropriate to sponsor it through endowments so that it becomes rich in itself, urging the Islamic Development Bank to make the management of the Waqf Fund free of charge. **Dr. Hamad Al-Shaibani**, Director of the Department of Awqaf and Charitable Activities of the Emirate of Dubai, submitted queries and clarifications on some administrative and procedural issues which were answered. As for **H.E. Mr. Muhammad Saeed Al Niyadi**, Director General of Awqaf in the UAE, he promised to strengthen cooperation with the Academy in all areas of common interest.

On their part, **Dr. Ziyad Al-Fawaz** spoke on behalf of H.E. the Governor of the General Authority of Awqaf in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, expressing the authority's willingness to support the Waqf Fund. **H.E. Prof. Yousef Al-Shubaili**, member of the Academy's Waqf Fund Board reiterated the call to support the Fund and to strengthen the partnership between the Academy and Waqf institutions.

**Dr. Yousef Al-Khalawi**, member of the Waqf Fund Council, explained the importance of supporting endowments for scientific research and institutions operating in this field, in addition to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy. Finally, **Prof. Muhammad Abdullah Mabrouk Al-Najjar**, member of the fund's board, urged the generous Awqaf secretariats and directorates to provide all the necessary support and care to the Academy's Waqf fund, as it is of great importance to enable the Academy to carry out its mission.

At the end of the seminar, **H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano** presented the main points of the draft declaration and recommendations of the symposium, promising the participants to send them the draft as soon as possible to express their views on its publication. On behalf of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, His Excellency congratulated the participants on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan, asking Almighty Allah to grant success to all for their fasting and patience.



# IIFA Statement on the Ruling to take the available Covid-19 vaccines during the fast of Ramadan, and on the precautionary measures taken by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards visitors of the two Holy Mosques during Ramadan

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful  
Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, and Blessing and Peace be upon our master Mohamed, the Last Messenger, on his family, on his companions, and on all those who follow him until the Day of Judgment.

Conscious of its role as the global leading jurisprudential reference for the Islamic Ummah, of its intellectual responsibility towards the various issues of the Ummah, and its duty to clarify the Shariah provisions on the current issues and contemporary life problems and other matters of concern to all mankind, while basing itself on the Holy Qur'an, the Noble Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH) and the rich Islamic heritage,

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is committed to clarify the Shariah rulings concerning the two topics mentioned in the title above.

First: Shariah ruling regarding the taking of the available Covid-19 vaccines for fasting people during the days of Ramadan

According to Shariah, it is permissible for the fasting person to take the available Covid-19 vaccines during the days of Ramadan, and it does not affect his fasting, as non-nutritive subcutaneous or intramuscular injections are not considered as an invalidator of fasting according to a legal consensus.

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy has previously issued a resolution (no. 93 (1/10) at its tenth annual session in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 1418H (1997AD), regarding the breaking of the fast in the field of therapeutics, which reads as follows:

"The following are not considered breaking the fast: subcutaneous, intramuscular or intravenous therapeutic injections, except for liquids and nutritional injections." Second: Shariah ruling on the precautionary measures taken by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards visitors of the two Holy Mosques during



## Ramadan

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy affirms that the precautionary measures and health guidelines taken by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which stipulate requirements for visitors of the two Holy Mosques of Mecca and Medina during this holy month, including the taking of the Covid-19 vaccines, are considered legitimate. Any person who goes to the two Holy Mosques for Umrah, for prayer or for visiting, must comply with these measures and not transgress them, considering them to be necessary precautions based on well-considered interests and on the preservation of the essential purposes of the Shariah, which are imperative for establishing the essentials of religion and the welfare of the world, the main objective of which is the preservation of life.

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy has previously issued a resolution in this regard authorizing the ruler (government) to require people to take preventive measures, which nowadays include vaccines if the general interest so requires, following the agreed-upon Shariah maxim stipulating that "the ruler's decisions are based on

safeguarding the general interest".

The following is an excerpt from the Academy resolution (No. 67 (7/5) at its seventh session in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in 1412H (1992AD), concerning medical treatments:

"The ruler (government) has the right to require citizens to take medication in certain cases, such as infectious diseases and preventive vaccinations."

Accordingly, it is a Shariah obligation for all those who visit the two Holy Mosques during Ramadan to comply with these guidelines and precautions aimed at achieving the objective of preserving life in particular, and the rest of the necessary objectives in general, such as the preservation of religion, progeny, intellect, and property.

Third: The International Islamic Fiqh Academy congratulates Muslims worldwide on this holy month and calls upon all of them to fully comply with health guidelines and precautionary measures issued by their rulers, governments, authorities and health directorates within their countries and communities when practicing their religion such as salah (regular prayer), fasting, distribution of Zakat and charities, and iftar (break-fast meal).

The Academy also calls upon all Muslims to cooperate constructively and responsibly with the health authorities and departments to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and refrain its spread.

Finally, we ask Allah, the Almighty Healer – to lift this affliction from us and the whole world and to hasten this pandemic's end from humanity and all countries as soon as possible.

May Allah's blessings and peace be upon our master Mohamed, on his family, on his companions, and all those who follow until the Last Judgment.

**H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano**  
Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy  
Jeddah, 01 Ramadan 1442, corresponding to 13 April 2021

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Secretary of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy

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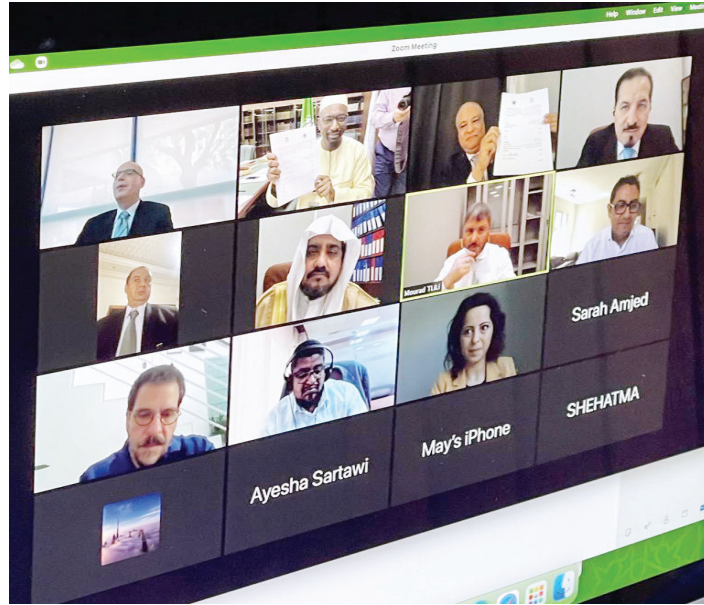
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## Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the IIFA and the Regional Representation of the United Nations HCR

On Sunday 8th Sha'aban 1442, corresponding to 21 March 2021, the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding was held between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the Regional Representation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Academy was represented by H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, and the Regional Representation of the UNHCR was represented by H.E. Mr. Khaled Khalifa, the Representative of the UNHCR for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Advisor to the High Commissioner for Islamic Finance.

The signing ceremony started with a welcome address by Dr. Mamoun Mohsen, who explained that this memorandum represents the fruit of a humanitarian cooperation between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy as the leading jurisprudential authority for Muslim countries and communities, and as the Shariah arm of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the one hand, and UNHCR's religious reference on the other. He also indicated that this cooperation agreement aims at providing humanitarian assistance and building a better future for millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes, as well as for displaced and stateless people, stressing in this regard that the UNHCR is working hard to strengthen its relations with the



Academy in order to benefit from all that has been issued in its resolutions and recommendations regarding refugees and displaced people. For his part, H.E. Mr. Khalid Khalifa expressed his thanks to H.E. the Secretary General and the participants. He maintained that this occasion represents a turning point in the history of the partnership between the Academy and the UNHCR, and that it will be the starting point of a wider cooperation in the service of refugees and displaced persons in the world.



For his part, H.E. Professor Koutoub Sano also expressed his enormous pleasure on this occasion, noting the importance of providing the necessary intellectual and religious support to the UNHCR, in recognition of its noble work and efforts to save millions of displaced persons and refugees living in difficult conditions. His Excellency also expressed the full willingness of the Academy to consolidate and strengthen the cooperative relationship between the Academy and the Office of the High Commissioner in order to turn this relationship into a

tangible reality that can be measured and evaluated at the end of each year, stressing the effort of the Academy, through its conferences and seminars, to invite States and peoples to work together to provide a decent minimum level of life for the human being, as it is a creature whom Allah has honored and deserves to live a happy and dignified life. His Excellency reiterated that the issue of refugees and displaced persons is first and foremost a humanitarian issue, which necessitates calling upon well-doers around the world to donate part of their Zakat and charities to the activities and programs of the High Commissioner to save millions of people who live in tough conditions and do not enjoy the most basic human rights.

His Excellency expressed his wish that the last day would come when we will celebrate a world without refugees and displaced persons, which are the victims of devastating wars. He reaffirmed the Academy's willingness to issue fatwas and resolutions and organize conferences and seminars in support of the laudable efforts of the UNHCR. His Excellency concluded his speech by thanking all the participants and wishing the High Commissioner success in all its activities and programs. At the end, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two parties.

## IIFA signs a Cooperation Agreement with the Republic of Uzbekistan's Muslim Directorate

Within the framework of promoting close cooperation and strong partnership between the Academy and the main scientific institutions and centers inside and outside the Muslim world, and in order to activate one of the most important provisions of the Strategic Plan, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, recently signed a cooperation agreement between the Academy and the Directorate of Muslims of Uzbekistan, represented by



His Eminence Sheikh Osman Khan Taymur Khan al-Samarqandi, President of the Directorate of Muslims and the Grand Mufti of Uzbekistan.

This agreement aims to expand the bridges of academic cooperation and scholarly communication and the joint organization of seminars, conferences, and workshops on various issues of common interest.

It should be noted that the Secretariat General of the Academy is making intensive contacts to obtain the approval of the Uzbek authorities for hosting the next twenty fifth Annual Session of the Academy in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan.



## Visit of the Permanent Representative to the OIC and the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the IIFA Headquarters

H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received in his office at the Academy in Jeddah, on Monday 9 Sha'aban 1442, corresponding to 22 March 2021, H.E. Mr. Ulu Gabbek Maksudov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Permanent Representative of his country to the OIC. The Ambassador was accompanied by H.E. Dr. Ismatullah Fayd al-Layyouf, First Counselor at the Embassy, who both came to greet His Excellency, and to review the aspects of cooperation between the Academy and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Ambassador Maksudov opened his speech by congratulating His Excellency on his assumption of office, expressing on this occasion the willingness of the religious institutions and centers of Uzbekistan to strengthen the cooperation relations with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, noting in this regard the strong interest that the current President of Uzbekistan attaches to cooperation with the OIC and its subsidiary organs, in particular the International Islamic Fiqh



Academy as the first jurisprudential reference for the Muslim world and Muslim communities. His Excellency also expressed the wish of the Directorate of Muslims in Uzbekistan, headed by His Eminence, the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to sign a cooperation agreement with the Academy.

For his part, the Secretary General of the Academy greeted the ambassador and thanked him for his visit. He then assured him of the Academy's full readiness to

cooperate with scientific institutions and centers in Uzbekistan, praising the outstanding efforts of His Eminence Grand Mufti Sheikh Osman Khan Alimov to strengthen cooperation and communication with the Academy. His Excellency also confirmed that the Academy has approved the draft cooperation agreement with the Directorate of Muslims in Uzbekistan.

Furthermore, H.E. Ambassador Maksudov informed that his country is about to celebrate the inauguration of two Islamic cen-

ters in Tashkent and Samarkand, and on this occasion, the Uzbek government is honored to send an official invitation to the Secretary General of the Academy to participate in the inauguration events. He also informed that the Government of Uzbekistan would also like to consider hosting a future Session of the Academy in conjunction with the celebration of the two Islamic centres' opening. The Uzbek government is also inquiring about the possibility of organizing a workshop for imams and persons in charge of Islamic affairs in Uzbekistan.

His Excellency responded positively to the invitation to attend the two Islamic centres' inauguration and expressed the joy of the Secretariat General for the Republic of Uzbekistan to host a future Session of the Academy. His Excellency reiterated the Academy's willingness to organize a training course for officials of Islamic affairs in cooperation with the Office of H.E. the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Mr. Ayman Abdelkarim, Mr. Mourad TLiLi and Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussain attended the meeting.



## Visit of the OIC Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the Secretariat General of the IIFA headquarters

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received in his office at the Secretariat General of the Academy on Wednesday, 4 Sha'ban 1442 corresponding to March 17, 2021, H.E. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Siad Abdi, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, who came to congratulate His Excellency on his assumption of office as Secretary General of the Academy.

His Excellency greeted the Ambassador and thanked him for his visit and praised the constant support that the Academy receives from the Federal Republic of Somalia, noting in this regard the leading role that Somali scholars and thinkers play in the Horn of Africa in disseminating the moderate approach of Islam and fighting all forms of extremism, violence, and terrorism. His Excellency also confirmed to the Ambassador that the Academy is ready to provide the hoped-for intellectual support to the Somali authorities, especially in the field of combating the ideas that fuel terrorism and extremism, and justify brutal violence and murderous attacks on souls, dignity, and property, based on erroneous concepts and blind interpretations of the sacred scriptures.

The Academy is fully prepared to strengthen close cooperation with scientific and religious institutions and centers in Somalia by organizing lectures, seminars, and workshops in cooperation with Somali scholars on ways to deconstruct the foundations of extremist thinking and to refute the ideological bases on which extremists rely, as well as the ideas on which they manipulate many young men and wom-



en, and children to commit heinous acts that Islam totally renounces.

His Excellency concluded his speech indicating that the Academy is about to organize in the coming days a specialized scientific symposium on the sanctity of blood in Islam, the importance of preserving the five necessities, and educating the youth on moderation, tolerance and temperance.

For his part, Ambassador Abdul Razzaq Siad Abdi expressed his thanks to His Excellency for the understanding and willingness of the Academy to cooperate with Somalia, stressing that he is looking

forward to a workshop to be held by the Secretariat General of the Academy in cooperation with the Security Institute in Somalia and the leading scientific institutions in the country. This workshop aims for combating extremist ideologies and promoting and disseminating the values of moderation, tolerance, and temperance in Somali society. His Excellency welcomed this project and assured that the Academy is ready to participate in its implementation. The meeting was attended by Dr. Ayman Abdel-Karim, Mr. Mourad TLiLi and Ms. Sarah Amjad Hussein.





## Consuls General of the African Union visit the IIFA headquarters

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received on Monday 23 Shaban 1442 corresponding to 5 April 2021 at the Secretariat General of the Academy in Jeddah, the Consuls General of the African Union accredited to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Consuls General were headed by His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Branly Oopolo, Dean of the Consuls and Consul General of the Gabonese Republic. His Excellency welcomed the honorable guests who came to greet him on his assumption of office as Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy.

His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Branly, Dean of the Consuls General, delivered a speech in which he expressed the Consuls great pleasure and pride to see a member of the African Union assume this prestigious scientific responsibility and to be the first non-Arab African to occupy this post since the establishment of the Academy four decades ago. He also expressed his great joy and that of all his fellow consuls general at the remarkable qualitative changes and structural developments that have taken place in the Secretariat General of the Academy since His Excellency took office, stressing in this regard the support of all the Afri-



can Union's Consuls accredited to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah and their full readiness to cooperate and communicate with the Academy in order to help His Excellency succeed in his duties. For his part, the Secretary General of the Academy welcomed the Consuls General and thanked them for honoring him with the first visit of its kind to the Academy's headquarters and for their willingness to strengthen cooperation and communication between the Academy and their countries, pledging to work to make his appointment to this intellectual and scientific position a true honor for the African Union countries. His Excellency seized this opportunity to present a general overview of the Academy – its history, vision, mission and objectives – as well as a



brief overview of the most significant achievements of the Academy and the areas of its activities and programs that are needed by the countries of the African Union, particularly in the field of promoting tolerance and interfaith dialogue, combating extremist ideologies and terrorism, and addressing the aspirations of Muslim communities in non-OIC countries.

His Excellency expressed his wish to organize one of the future sessions of the Academy in one of the African Union countries. He also expressed the Academy's willingness to organize specialized seminars and workshops in these countries, as per their request, in

order to address relevant issues and problems, such as combating the takfirist groups that exploit the Islamic religion to justify their heinous crimes against humanity, including bloodshed, transgressions against dignities and destruction of infrastructure. During the event, Some Consuls General took this opportunity to comment and inquire about the Academy's activities and its strategic plan, announced by His Excellency.

The ceremony was concluded with a buffet lunch in honor of the guests and the Consuls General entering their words in the guest-book.

## Executive Director of the Islamic Solidarity Fund visits the IIFA headquarters

As part of the efforts to discuss and implement the aspects and modalities of cooperation and joint consultation between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) bodies and institutions and the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received in his office at the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah on Thursday 26 Shaban 1442, corresponding to 8 April 2021, a delegation from the Islamic Solidarity Fund of the OIC, led by Mr. Ibrahim bin Abdullah Al-Khuzayem, Executive Director of the Fund, accompanied by Mr. Hani Siraj Tayeb, Financial Officer of the Fund, and Mr. Abdul Raziq Muhammad Abdul Raziq, Projects Director.

During the visit, the two sides discussed the bilateral relations between the Academy and the Islamic Solidarity Fund and ways to improve them in areas that serve their mutual aspirations, in addition to new developments and topics of common interest especially on ways to exchange experiences and expertise in the field of Awqaf,



its development and management. The Academy's Secretary General stated that the meeting was fruitful and constructive and represented a positive step towards closer cooperation among the OIC subsidiary bodies in realizing the aspirations of the Member States in the service of Islam and Muslims worldwide.

His Excellency also expressed his sincere thanks and special appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Nasser Hamdan Al Zaabi, Permanent

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, for his continuous and competent efforts to enhance the distinguished performance of the Fund and his enormous contributions to solidarity, which made it recognized and respected by the OIC Member States. His Excellency also reiterated his thanks and congratulations to the Executive Director, officials, and staff of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for the remarkable achievements and projects realized by the Fund in some OIC Member States.

At the end of the meeting, the Islamic Solidarity Fund pledged to finance some of the scientific activities and programs included in the strategic plan of the Academy, in particular the project for a comprehensive database on contemporary Muslim jurisconsults and reliable muftis inside and outside the Muslim world in order to enable students and researchers to refer to them and benefit from their knowledge and thought.



## Secretary General of the IIFA welcomes the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OIC at its headquarters



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received in his office at the Secretariat General of the Academy in Jeddah, on Monday, 2 Sha'ban 1442 corresponding to 15 March 2021, H.E. Ambassador Radwan Saeed Sheikh, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OIC and other international organizations. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Elias Mahmoud Nizami, Deputy Permanent Representative. The Ambassador expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency for the kind reception and expressed his joy and pride to meet His Excellency, who after reading about him, his career and scientific contributions, hoped to meet and benefit from his vast

knowledge. The Ambassador also confirmed to put the capabilities of the Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Jeddah at the disposal of the Secretariat General of the Academy to support Islam and Muslims worldwide. On his part, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to the Ambassador and his Deputy for this gracious visit, commending the continuous and uninterrupted support of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Academy since its inception, and appreciating the great efforts made by its wise leadership in championing the causes of Islam and Muslims all over the world, especially in addressing the problems of Muslim communities in the Asian conti-

nent, such as Sri Lanka and elsewhere. His Excellency also expressed the Academy's firm commitment to strengthen cooperative and communicative relations with long-standing Pakistani scientific institutions and centers, especially those active in the field of dialogue, countering extremism and terrorism, and promoting moderation and tolerance, noting – in this regard – the Academy's readiness to sign cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with these institutions and centers. His Excellency concluded his speech by informing the ambassador of the publication of the new strategic plan of the Academy, which includes a precise formulation of the most important activi-

ties and programs that the Academy intends to carry out during the next five years. His Excellency took this opportunity to invite the Ambassador to mediate with the Pakistani authorities to support this plan through the Academy Waqf Fund. On his part, H.E. the Ambassador congratulated His Excellency on this achievement and promised to facilitate communication between the Academy and the institutions, scientific centers, and universities of Pakistan, and promised to provide the necessary support to the Academy Waqf Fund through official channels. This meeting was attended by Mr. Mohamed Chouk, Dr. Ayman Abdel-Karim, Mr. Mourad TLiLi and Ms. Sarah Amjad Hussein.



## Secretary General of the IIFA participates in the Global Launching Event of the Annual Report on UNHCR's Islamic Charitable Activities

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, participated on Monday, 17 Sha'aban 1442 corresponding to 29 March 2021, in the global event organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, for launching the annual report for the year 2020 on Islamic charitable activities focusing in particular on the UNHCR's activities and events in receiving Zakat funds and distributing them to refugees and displaced persons.

The event kicked off with a keynote speech by H.E. Dr. Ayid bin Dabsan al-Qahtani, the CEO of the Sheikh Thani Ibn Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services, who said that UNHCR's programs are subject to transparent governance systems to ensure that Zakat funds are disbursed to refugees promptly and in a way that preserves their human dignity, in accordance with the provisions of the noble Shariah. He also pointed out that the Commissioner provides money to the needy, as they are prioritized according to their needs and those of their families, so the principle of putting money in the hands of the needy is a commendable action. He concluded by saying that the provision of shelter, care, and security by the UNHCR, aims to strengthen the role of Zakat in enabling refugees to live in dignity.

H.E. Koutoub Sano then delivered a speech that confirmed that the International Islamic Fiqh Academy,



as the leading jurisprudential reference in the Muslim world, plays a vital role in calling on wealthy people to pay their Zakat and charity to support the cause of refugees and displaced people who are suffering under the yoke of misery and difficult living conditions. His Excellency pointed out that the Academy plays a critical role in explaining the provisions of Shariah and that these refugees are entitled to Zakat as they are included among the characteristics of Zakat recipients mentioned in the Holy Quran.

His Excellency commended the role played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as a trusted intermediary between the donors of Zakat and the beneficiaries and praised the Commissioner's commitment to the foundations of effective governance based on transparency, integrity and clarity. He explained that what UNHCR is doing

regarding the appropriation of funds to those in need is a very important and appreciated action to preserve their human dignity and understand their difficult conditions.

His Excellency took the opportunity to remind the UNHCR of the importance of providing educational opportunities for refugees and displaced persons and attention and care for children, women, and the elderly, affirming the Academy's full confidence in the Commission's activities. His Excellency also asked the Commissioner to pay attention to the issue of how to benefit from Awqaf to pay its income to the refugees and displaced people in addition to the Zakat money paid to them, quoting the hadith of the Prophet (PBUH), "The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever."

At the end of the event, His Excellency answered questions from attending journalists and stressed the enormous importance of the commitment of every capable person to pay Zakat annually according to the divine command, in order to show the spirit of responsibility, and to fight against poverty and misery in society, which is a disease that must be eradicated and treated like any disease to which a person is exposed, therefore requires solidarity and coordination of efforts to fight it.

## First Meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Prophet's Digital Biography Project (PBUH)

Following the generous invitation of the Qatar Foundation (Doha), His Excellency participated in the first meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Prophet's Digital Biography Project (PBUH), also known as the Digital Sira (biography) Initiative.

His Excellency opened his speech by expressing his thanks to the Qatar Foundation and Hamad Bin Khalifa University for choosing him as a member of the Advisory Committee for this great and ambitious contemporary scientific project, which is the digitization of the biography of the Prophet (PBUH), and praised the scientific importance and intellectual necessity of such a project in the current era where digitization has become an essential and indispensable means to bring the youth closer to the Islamic heritage and encourage them to adopt and study it in an interesting and enjoyable method in line with intellectual and cultural realities. His Excellency also stressed the importance of digitizing the biography of the Prophet (PBUH) in the current era in order to facilitate for scholars to refer to its subjects and contents in an accessible manner in the hope of encouraging the youth to discover the biography of the Noble Prophet (PBUH), as well as to enable scholars and researchers to highlight the different aspects of his biography and its multiple dimensions through new technologies.

Furthermore, His Excellency mentioned the importance of using other social media, digital communication, as well as modern information technologies and exploiting them to present the Prophet's biography in a beautiful, modern and interesting language that makes the rising generation of young people eager to multiply and benefit from the gems of the Prophet's



biography in all areas of their contemporary lives, noting in this regard the importance of revealing and presenting different aspects of his life, including emotional, social, cultural, human aspects, etc., as it is an urgent need to pay attention to these aspects of the biography, and to emphasize their impact on his message.

His Excellency also pointed out that the digitization of the Prophet's biography is of great scientific importance, considering that digitization can be used to achieve effective results at four levels, namely: The level of correcting misconceptions about his beautiful biography, where accusations and lies can simply be refuted by presenting facts, accurate information, and the second level is to bring more light and details about the aspects of his biography that have been dealt with in the books of the Seerah (biography of the Prophet) in a concise manner, despite the urgent need for research, and analysis, from various social and human dimensions that the Seerah books have exposed in a brief and concise manner. The third level is to highlight important aspects that other biographies have rarely clarified, or to which modern studies have paid little attention, despite its primacy in

educational, cultural, humanistic, and psychological aspects, such as his life as a husband, parent, father-in-law and other roles are often neither presented nor mentioned, so they deserve to be analyzed and enlightened. The fourth level is about reformulating the biography's events in its different dimensions in a modern, enjoyable, easy-to-read language in accordance with the different intellectual levels of today's youth.

His Excellency concluded his speech by calling on those responsible for this project to take advantage of many serious contemporary attempts to serve the biography of the Prophet (PBUH), to bring it closer and enable researchers to easily achieve their goals, stressing the need to include additional information on the most important sources and references of the Prophet's biography, ancient and modern, in different languages to facilitate this for researchers wishing to know more about them.

His Excellency also noted the importance of seeking assistance from scholars who can differentiate in terms of legal provisions the different aspects of his life when seeking to follow him in some of his actions regarding the cultural, environmental, and social aspect, some of which should not be considered as absolute Shariah rulings for every time and place, but rather as a reflection and contemplation of his reality. The digital biography of the Prophet, for which His Excellency was selected as a member of the advisory committee overseeing the project, is an ambitious project that the Qatar Foundation, in cooperation with Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha, seeks to achieve in the coming years to address the Prophet's Biography for the current times.



## The Secretariat General of the IIFA mourns His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum

(Those who, when a calamity befalls them, say: We belong to God and to Him we shall return) Al-Baqarah: 156

(Nor can a soul die except by Allah's leave, the term being fixed as by writing. If any do desire a reward in this life, We shall give it to him; and if any do desire a reward in the Hereafter, We shall give it to him. And swiftly shall We reward those that (serve us with) gratitude) Al-Imran: 145

With heart full of sadness and sorrow, and with sincere faith in the judgment and destiny of God, and with complete surrender to the powerful will of God, the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy received the news of the death of the late His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Deputy Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

On this sad occasion the members, experts and associates of the Academy would like to express their sincere condolences to the government and people of the United Arab Emirates. They would also like



Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum

to seek the mercy and forgiveness of the Almighty on the soul of the deceased. May He forgive him, pardon him, accept him in His Paradise, and grant him the company of the prophets, the righteous, the martyrs, the righteous.

On the same time the Secretariat General prays to the Most Kind to grant the courage and patience to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahy-

an, President of the United Arab Emirates, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, to the family of the deceased, and to his loved.

Indeed the members and experts of the Academy will remain grateful and thankful to the late His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid, May God have Mercy on him, for his generous sponsorship of the twenty-fourth session of the Academy's assembly, which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2019.

May God make the reward for that in the balance of his good deeds on the day of judgement.

H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO  
Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy.  
Jeddah.

## IIFA participates with the UNHCR's in the campaign #Remember\_Zakat



A joint initiative between the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Displaced Persons (UNHCR), started on the evening of Friday, 20th Shaban 1443, corresponding to April 2, 2021. The initiative is a broad joint digital awareness campaign that highlights the necessary humanitarian needs of refugees and displaced persons worldwide.

This participation comes within the framework of strengthening cooperation and partnership relations between the Academy and the UNHCR to support refugees and displaced persons every-

where.

This participation also confirms the scientific and the Shariah role of the Academy, as the first global jurisprudential reference for Islamic countries and Muslim communities, in issuing fatwas and resolutions in order to urge the provision of necessary support and urgent aid for the cause of refugees and displaced persons, which is primarily a humanitarian issue.

Accordingly, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy issued a fatwa calling on Muslims around the world to give part of their Zakat and donations to finance the activities and programs of the UNHCR aimed at saving

millions of people who live in extremely harsh living conditions and suffer under the burden of poverty and hardships.

In support of this awareness campaign, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, directed Mr. Muhammad Al-Idrissi Director of Media, Public Relations, and ICT at the Academy, and Mr. Mourad Tlili Media Advisor to His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy to represent the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in the campaign and to provide it with all the necessary support to enable it to achieve its desired goals.

## Dr. Ismail Cebeci Participates in the Technical Committee Meetings of the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC)



Dr. Ismail Cebeci, head of research and encyclopedias division, represented the Secretariat General of the Academy in the meetings of the technical committee meetings of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC-OIC) from 15 March 2021 to 1 April 2021.

Several experts from different Muslim countries participated in the committee meetings, which discussed many topics and issues, namely energy efficiency, renewable energy, halal cosmetics, halal management systems, agricultural products, halal food, halal medicines, transportation of dangerous goods, halal supply chains, leather and tanning products industry, textile industry and related issues.

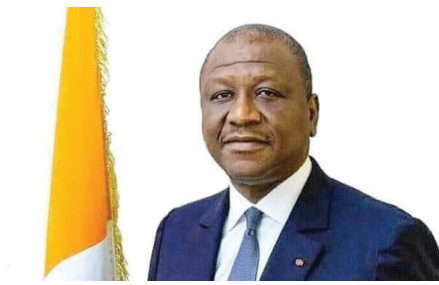
It should be noted that the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries aims at developing a quality infrastructure by standardizing standards to facilitate trade, support sustainable economic growth and create an environment conducive to innovation in OIC member states.

## The Secretariat General of the IIFA mourns the Prime Minister of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

(Those who, when calamity befalls them, say: We belong to God and to Him we will return) Al-Baqarah: 2: 156

(No one shall die except by Allah's permission, and at the predetermined time. Whoever wants the reward here below, We give it to him. Whoever wants the reward from the Hereafter, We give it to him, and We will soon reward the grateful) Al-Imran: 3: 145

With a heart full of faith in the judgment and destiny of God, and a soul filled with total submission to the will of God and to the assigned and predetermined deadline for each human being, the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Jurisprudence Academy, OIC, learned, with dismay, the reminder to His Creator, His Excellency Hamed Bakayoko, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of



Côte d'Ivoire, a member country of the Academy, on 10 March 2021.

In this painful circumstance, the General Secretariat of the Academy presents, on behalf of its members and its experts, its most saddened condolences and its

deep compassion to the government and people of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

He bows piously before The Master of the universe, The Almighty, so that He will have mercy on the soul of our dear deceased and forgive him his sins.

May Allah, the Compassionate and Merciful, accept him among the prophets, the martyrs and the righteous.

Finally, the General Secretariat also implores the Lord to grant to His Excellency the President of the Republic and the grieving family, the strength to transcend this ordeal with great courage and patience.

We are all for God and to Him we return.

H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO  
Secretary General of the Academy.

Jeddah

## H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano delivers a lecture on "Wills as a Model for Islamic Social Finance" at the Islamic Economics Institute of King Abdulaziz University

At the invitation of the Islamic Economics Institute at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah to the Wednesday Debate platform, which has been held weekly for more than thirty years, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), delivered a lecture on Wednesday 25 Shaban 1442 corresponding to 7 April 2021, entitled "Wills as a model of Islamic social finance".

His Excellency explained in his lecture the economic and social dimensions in the legislation of wills in Islam, the most important of which is the diversification of the sources of charity and benevolence in addition to Zakat, Awqaf, vows and penances, preserving the objective of the circulation of money, and trade through the empowerment of others; therefore, non-heirs can obtain a source of funding from the testator within the limits of one third of the money. His Excellency also explained that it is time for researchers and students to pay attention to wills in Islam, showing how to benefit from them in Islamic social finance. His Excellency also confirmed that conducting many studies and research on wills in Islam would lead to the development of laws and regulations that make it a social finance tool no less important than Awqaf and Zakat. Furthermore, there is a need to organize specialized conferences and seminars on wills to study all relevant issues and problems. His Excellency reiterated his call to researchers and scholars interested in Islamic economics to avoid limiting Islamic economics to Islamic finance and banking, considering that there are other fields and subjects that are not less important than Islamic finance and banking. Therefore, wills are among the



most critical economic subjects and issues to study. His Excellency pointed out that if it is known that the will is the giving possession to the other, the money attributed after the death by donation, then one of the most important legal purposes of this type of charity is to allow a person to allocate part of his wealth to his brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, who do not inherit if the deceased had male children. Stressing the importance of wills, His Excellency also pointed out that the funding of churches, private universities and social institutions in the Western world comes from trust funds. Some institutions have billions of dollars in budgets which come from wills, enabling them to be independent in their thoughts and positions, to cite a notable example, Harvard University is a leading reference, as its funds amount to at least 30 billion US dollars, most of which come

from wills. If endowments (Awqaf) are now actively contributing to poverty reduction and social justice, wills should also be strongly considered and institutionalized.

His Excellency concluded by saying that he wanted, through this lecture, to open the door for a new scientific research topic in the field of Islamic economics, and that he hopes that a day will soon come when we will be happy with the presence of the institution of wills alongside the institutions of Awqaf and Zakat, or even the establishment of institutions for atonement and vows, as these institutions represent living models of social financing in Islam.

At the end of the lecture, His Excellency answered questions from the attendants and thanked the Institute for inviting him at this prestigious forum, the Wednesday Debate.

## Dr. Abdulqahir Qamar Represents IIFA in the Islamic Advisory Group's Symposium on Safety Practices during Ramadan at COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Abdul Qahir Muhammad Ahmad Qamar, Director of Research, Studies, Fatwas, Encyclopedias and Printing Department at the Academy, represented the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and a member of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Advisory Group in the symposium organized by the World Health Organization in cooperation with UNICEF and the Inter-

national Federation of Crescent and the Red Cross on "Safe Ramadan practices and access to Covid 19 vaccine". Dr. Abdel-Qaaher Qamar gave a detailed presentation on the topic, and also answered the legal inquiries related to the vaccine raised by a number of participants in the symposium. Fifty participants representing organizations and ministries of health in the

Middle East region participated in the symposium.

It is worth noting that Dr. Abdel-Qaaher Qamar previously represented the Academy at the World Health Organization by providing legal directives on the instructions, directions and precautions regarding Covid 19 during the month of Ramadan, Eid Al-Fitr and Al-Adha last year.



Dr. Abdulqahir Qamar



## The Secretariat General of the IIFA mourns H.E. Professor Muhammad Omar Zubair

(Who, when disaster strikes them, say, "Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return) al-Baqarah 2:156.

(Among the believers are men true to what they promised Allah. Among them is he who has fulfilled his vow [to the death], and among them is he who awaits [his chance]. And they did not alter [the terms of their commitment] by any alteration) al-Ahzab 33:23.

Having said that, one of the outstanding figures of this age joined the Above Companion, he who left brilliant milestones in the lives of all those who knew him, lived with him, or met him.

One of the most prominent men in the modern age in the call to Allah with wisdom, beautiful exhortation,

and sound arguments, left our mortal world, and went to Allah's mercy – by His Permission. For him, humility, selflessness, kindness, and charity were instinctive characteristics. Our ephemeral world has bid farewell to the economist who through his thought, experience, and background advanced Islamic economics at the early phase of the emergence of this branch of contemporary economic thought.

He is the great preacher, the outstanding educator, the man of righteousness and benevolence, the teacher of generations, our father H.E. Prof. Muhammad Omar Zubair, may Allah have mercy on him.

This man was a pious worshipper and devoted his



Muhammad Omar Zubair

whole life to the service of knowledge and its people and preaching Allah in private and public. He devoted himself to defending the causes of Islam and Muslims throughout the world, and he cared for the children of Muslims who flocked to al-Haramain (Makkah and Madinah) in the mid-seventies of the last century in order to benefit from this source of pure

knowledge.

History will remember with great gratitude and appreciation that His Excellency had great merit and a leading role in accepting a large number of international students from different countries of the world in King Abdulaziz University's faculties during his term as head of this university.

Islamic economics will remain indebted to his thought and struggle to make it known in international forums and promote it at all levels. His distinguished contributions as an expert in the various sessions of the Academy will continue to be celebrated, praised, and appreciated.

May Allah have mercy on our professor, teacher of generations, who answered

the call of his Lord during the second rak'ah of the Dohr prayer last Thursday. May Allah accept our teacher in His Paradise among the Prophets, the Truthful, the Martyrs, the Righteous, and these are the best companions.

Finally, on behalf of the members and experts of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and all its affiliates, the Secretariat General of the Academy presents its sincere condolences to the family of the deceased, his relatives, his students, and his acquaintances, asking the Almighty Lord to inspire us and to inspire them with patience and solace.

**Your son / Koutoub Moustapha Sano**  
Secretary General of the Academy

## The Secretariat General of the IIFA receives a delegation from the International Center for Research and Studies (MEDAD) in its headquarters

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received in his office in Jeddah, on Tuesday 10 Sha'aban 1442, corresponding to 23 March 2021, a delegation from the International Center for Research and Studies (MEDAD), consisting of Dr. Yahya Muhammad Zamzami, Chairman of the Center's Board of Directors, and Dr. Khaled Abdullah Al-Suraihi, Secretary General of the Center.

The meeting opened with a speech by Dr. Khaled Al-Suraihi in which he introduced the Center known as MEDAD as a non-profit research center established in 1427 by late Sheikh Saleh Al-Hussain along with some personalities at that time, to be an intellectual center concerned with enriching charitable activities through research and information that supports charitable initiatives that are based on scientific and professional foundations and that enter in permanent partnership with charitable and philanthropic organizations, be they governments, institutions or individuals.

For his part, Dr. Yahya Zamzami explained that the Center is currently working on the preparation of a series of studies on Shariah norms for charitable activities and works, expressing in this regard the willingness of the Center to organize joint conferences and seminars with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy on a regular basis to discuss contemporary problems, calamities and developments relating to charitable works in order to provide appropriate Shariah solutions.

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano welcomed the delegation and thanked them for their visit, praying to Allah to reward the late Sheikh Saleh Al-Hussain and his fellow collaborators with the best



reward- for establishing this Center and laying its solid foundations, sensing at an early stage the importance of sound scientific research in the field of supporting, remunerating, and directing charitable works. His Excellency also welcomed the delegation's proposal to organize conferences and seminars in partnership with the Academy to advance charitable works, stressing the Academy's willingness to cooperate with research, scientific and intellectual centers and institutions that serve Islam and humanity worldwide.

On this occasion, His Excellency commended the ongoing cooperation between the Academy and the Regional Representation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, in

addition to the importance of holding regular and special seminars to raise the public's jurisprudence and Shariah-related awareness on the importance of charitable activities and their urgency in the modern era.

On his part, His Excellency, the Secretary General of the Academy warmly welcomed the proposal of Dr. Khaled Al-Suraihi regarding the creation of an electronic platform attached to the website of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in order to communicate with charitable associations and centers, find and solve their problems with appropriate legal solutions based on Shariah. His Excellency concluded the meeting by inviting MEDAD to present a proposal for a cooperation agreement with the Academy.



# Visit of the OIC's Director General of Administrative and Financial Affairs to the Academy

Dr. Faisal Al-Sharabi, Director General of Administrative and Financial Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, paid a visit to the Secretariat General of the Academy in Jeddah, during which he met with H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Mr. Adnan Al-Fihri, Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs Department of the Academy, Mr. Moez Al-Riahi, Acting Director of Finance, Investments and Projects Department, and Mrs. Sarah Amjad Hussein, Director of Family and Women Affairs.

Dr. Faisal al-Sharabi discussed with the Secretary General the strengthening of cooperation and communication between the Academy and the OIC Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs and expressed his thanks to His Excellency for the warm welcome and assured His Excellency of his full readiness to provide the necessary support to the Academy's administrative and financial needs.

For his part, the Secretary General of the Academy thanked the Director General for this visit and highly appreciated



this fruitful step, which indicates his firm commitment to strengthen the cooperation between the OIC subsidiary organs and its Directorate of Administrative and Financial Affairs. Furthermore, His Ex-

cellency assured that all the departments and divisions of the Academy are ready to cooperate with the latter.

At the end of the visit, Dr. Faisal Al-Sharabi toured the administrative offices of the Academy

and expressed his great content for the remarkable qualitative changes and organizational developments taking place in the Academy since the current Secretary General took office.

## Head of Research and Encyclopedia Represents the IFA in the Symposium of the Care and Protection of the Rights of people with Special Needs of IHRC

Dr. Ismail Cebeci, head of the research and encyclopedias division represented the Academy in the scientific debate organized by the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission on Tuesday 17 Shaaban 1442, corresponding to 30 March 2021, entitled: Care and Protection of the Rights of People with Special Needs.

Dr. Ismail Cebeci gave an appreciable lecture, explaining thoroughly the rights of this segment of society in Islam and

made it clear that the noble Islamic law preserves the rights of people with special needs and provides them a decent life without exclusion from society. He also discussed in his lecture the importance of preserving the five necessities, including the preservation of religion, reason, progeny, life, and property. He said that the society is responsible for providing and protecting these necessities for people with special needs and allow them to live with dignity and happiness like the rest of

the society.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Cebeci answered questions from the participants on the jurisprudential issues related to people with special needs.

It is worth noting that meeting was attended by representatives from the OIC Secretariat General and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center (SESRIC-OIC), as well as observers from countries and international institutions interested in human rights.



Dr. Ismail Cebeci



## 23rd Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors



The twenty third weekly meeting of the directors of Academy's departments was held on Monday 02 Sha'aban 1442, corresponding to 15 March 2021, under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the Academy, Prof Koutoub Moustapha Sano.

His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and then spoke about the official working hours in force at the OIC and its subsidiary organs, which prescribes working hours to be seven hours.

In order to comply with the scheduled working hours of the OIC Secretariat General and its Athe adoption of official working hours from 08:30 am to 03:30 pm, and also prescribed the adoption of flexible working hours in two parts, namely starting from eight am to three pm or nine am to four pm.

Finally, His Excellency stressed to all departments the need to implement their activities and programs as provided for in the annual strategic plan.

The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

- Preparing luxurious copies of the fourth edition of the book of resolutions and the five-year strategic plan for dedication to high-level personalities.
- Installing CCTV cameras in the building's internal corridors to ensure the Academy and its staff's safety.
- Updating the revised strategic plan's translation in its final form in English and French by 22 March 2021.

## 24th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

In the presence of the Secretary General of the Academy, the 24th weekly meeting of the directors of the Academy's departments was held on Monday 9 Sha'aban 1442 corresponding to 23 March 2021.

His Excellency spoke about the importance of these meetings to ensure the implementation of the programs and activities of the Academy and preserve the ten corporate values. He also spoke in detail about the professional promotions of the OIC officials while stressing his desire that every official should get his rights without prejudice, injustice, or favoritism. The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

-Directing the departments to sort out from the strategic plan the activities and programs related to them and classify them chronologically.

-To propose a date for the twenty fifth Annual Session of the Academy next October via videoconferencing, and that it will be devoted



to the discussion of epidemics and pandemics in Islam under different aspects (economic, jurisprudential, medical, psychological, criminal, international ...).

-Selecting the topics of the Session

and conclude this before the beginning of the month of Ramadan. The seminars and conferences department should send invitations to the applicant researchers before the beginning of Ramadan, specifying the

submission period and its terms.

-Expedite the completion of the installation of the new main gate of the Academy before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.



## 10th Periodic Meeting of Divisions Heads

As part of the dialogue and consultation with the heads of the Academy's divisions, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the tenth meeting of the heads of divisions on Thursday 5 Sha'aban 1442, corresponding to 18 March 2021.

His Excellency opened the meeting by stressing the need to hold such periodic consultative meetings between the divisions to overcome the obstacles encountered during the daily work and provide ideas and raise the performance and achievement levels according to the imperatives of the Academy's strategic plan. His Excellency also mentioned the importance of strategic and administrative planning as two fundamental pillars for the success of any department or institution, which are considered the two most effective ways to eliminate improvisation and anarchy in the workplace. The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

- Entrust the IT division to contact the IT officials of the OIC to update the information related to IIFA on the OIC website.

- Submit a complete and thorough design of the Academy's new website by Sunday 21st March

- Each Academy employee shall submit a brief updated CV to the Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs, along with a copy of their academic credentials.

- Improve the performance and speed level of the Academy's website.

- Entrust the task of administering and supervising the Academy's social media accounts in English and French to Mr. Jawzi Lardjane to post Academy-related content, considering that the content must be taken from the official website of the Academy.



## 25th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

The 25th weekly meeting of the departments' directors was held on Monday 16 Sha'aban, corresponding to 29 March 2021, under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the Academy.

His Excellency opened the meeting by greeting the participants, and then spoke about his participation in the inauguration ceremony of the annual report of the Refugee Commissioner, in which he explained the importance of the Academy's role as the main jurisprudential reference for Muslim countries and communities in issuing fatwas that support the cause of refugees and displaced persons, which is first and foremost a humanitarian issue, that requires inviting well-doers from all over the world to pay part of their Zakat and donations to fund the Commissioner's activities and programs and save millions of people living in extremely difficult conditions.

His Excellency also expressed his joy for participating in this event and for the Commissioner's noble efforts to ensure a dignified life for all humans regardless of gender, religion, and color. He also thanked the Department of Research and Studies for coordinating this important meeting. The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

- To organize an introductory online seminar with the Secretaries General



- of Awqaf in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries before the month of Ramadan.

- To send the recommendations of the final statement of the medical-fiqh symposium on the use of vaccines, to the OIC subsidiary and specialized agencies, representations, and con-

- sultates in the three languages.

- To hold a training course for the Academy staff via zoom to get familiar with the new Microsoft office program and some working computer programs.

- Each department shall submit its programs and activities included in

- the Strategic Plan to the Secretary General of the Academy's office.

- To hold a joint virtual meeting with the Indonesian Ulema Council to strengthen cooperation and coordination between them and the Academy.



# 11th Periodic Meeting of Divisions Heads

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, presided over the eleventh periodic meeting of the heads of the Academy's divisions on Thursday 19 Shabaan 1442, corresponding to 1 April 2021. His Excellency opened the meeting by stating that the activities of the strategic plan of the Academy require permanent coordination and continuous cooperation between departments and divisions since the plan's programs and activities are interdependent and multidisciplinary, which requires integration and solidarity.

His Excellency also informed the meeting that his office is currently conducting intensive contacts with the Republic of Uzbekistan, seeking approval from the Uzbek authorities to hold the next Annual Session of the Academy in Tashkent.

In this regard, His Excellency said that in case the session could not be held due to the pandemic, then it will be necessary to start planning from now on to hold it via video-conferencing, which requires determining the topics of the session, calling for papers, and fixing three months' deadline for submissions while ensuring maximum participation of leading scientific figures from universities and scientific centers.

The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

1-Contact al-Maymaan publishing company to resolve its outstanding issues with the Academy as soon as possible.

2-Upload electronic copies of the Academy's scientific journal on its official website to allow students and researchers to benefit from them.

3-Reorganize the classification of books in the Academy's library according to modern classification techniques, drawing from the expertise and experience of the central



libraries of prestigious Saudi universities such as King Saud University and King Abdulaziz University.

4- To objectively classify the research in the Academy's journals to re-select the valuable research on current issues, and then print them together in independent books to be part of the Academy's series of paper and electronic pub-

lications.

To update the data of the Academy's members and experts on the official website and complete the website's updating by developing it and increasing its speed in response to the high number of visitors to the site recently.

# 6th Monthly Personnel Meeting of the Academy

The 6th monthly meeting of the Academy's personnel was held under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the Academy Prof. Koutoub Sano on Sunday 22nd Shabaan 1442 corresponding to 4th April 2021.

His Excellency opened the meeting by referring to the importance of adhering to the specified timetable for implementing the different activities and programs included in the strategic plan with annual performance indicators, noting the importance of cooperation, integration, and coordination in this process.

His Excellency referred to the recently signed cooperation agreement between the Academy and the Directorate of Muslims of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and he spoke about the ongoing negotiations with the government of Uzbekistan regarding the hosting of the twenty fifth Annual Session of the Academy in Tashkent, capital of the country.

Due to this meeting's nature, which includes listening to the suggestions and questions of the Academy's staff, His Excellency listened to many of their suggestions concerning the improvement of administrative and professional performance. The meeting made several decisions, notably:

1-Requesting the dedication Committee to continue sending the publications of the Academy, including the fourth edition of the resolutions and recommendations to the rest of the members and experts of the Academy, as well as to the presidents and directors of public and private universities, Ifta authorities and Islamic councils in the



OIC member states, provided that one hundred copies -at least - should be kept in the publications warehouse.

2-The Department of Media, Public Relations and ICT should shift to the administrative offices on the second floor of the Academy's headquarters next to the De-

partment of Financial and Administrative Affairs.

His Excellency concluded the meeting by announcing to the participants that the consuls of the OIC African Group countries will visit the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the Academy on Mon-

day 5th April 2021, the first of its kind since the creation of the Academy. This visit aims at strengthening the cooperation and coordination relations between the Academy and the diplomatic representations of the different OIC Member States and Muslim communities.





## 26th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

The Secretary General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, chaired the twenty sixth weekly meeting of the directors of the Academy's departments on Monday 23 Shaaban 1442 corresponding to 05 March 2021.

His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the participants, then spoke about the strategic plan's implementation mechanism and the importance of classifying it by precise, timely classification for each department. He also stressed that the plan's implementation and success require close cooperation and continuous integration between the Academy's departments and staff.

His Excellency also reiterated the importance of involving the Department of Family and Women's Affairs in implementing the activities and programs, especially those that involve the participa-



tion of women jurisconsults, experts and muftis, and other issues related to the family, women, children, and the elderly.

The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

-To organize an online consulta-

tive seminar with the Secretaries General of Awqaf in the GCC countries.

-To expedite the updating of the Academy's website, and the website development committee should submit a weekly report of

its work.

-To follow up on communication and coordination with the Indonesian Ulama Council to hold a joint online meeting.

## 27th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors

The Secretary General of the Academy, Prof. Koutoub Sano, chaired the twenty seventh weekly meeting of the directors of departments of the Academy, on Monday 30 Shaaban 1442 corresponding to 13 April 2021.

His Excellency spoke about the reception ceremony of the Consuls General of the African Union countries accredited to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the first of its kind to the Academy, and informing the consuls about the Academy's willingness to strengthen cooperation and communication with their countries. His Excellency briefed them on the Academy's history, vision, mission, and objectives. He spoke about the most important achievements of the Academy in recent years and took the opportunity to express his thanks to the Cabinet Department for organizing this event.



His Excellency mentioned the consultative symposium organized by the Academy with the Awqaf Secretariats and Public Directorates in the GCC countries entitled "Towards a Scientific Partnership between the Academy and the Secretariats General of Awqaf in the GCC" in which many Awqaf Secretaries and Directors from the GCC participated. His Excellency presented Academy's Waqf

Fund and showed the importance of strengthening cooperation relations with the Awqaf authorities, in the hope of obtaining their substantial support to enable the Academy to continue the progress and achieve its goals and ambitions. His Excellency thanked the Media & ICT Department, the Seminars and Conferences Department, and the Research Department for their efforts that led

to the success of this seminar.

The meeting resulted in several decisions, including:

-Redesigning and printing the Statute of the Academy Waqf Fund with the addition of the members of the Board of Trustees, the Supervisory Board and defining the general policy of the Waqf Fund.

-Updating and printing the brochures and adding the basic information about the Waqf Fund.

-Reproducing and updating the documentary film about the Academy and dividing it into different clips.

-Reviewing and defining the research that the Academy wishes to publish.

-To call researchers about the subjects of twenty fifth session papers and inform them of the required subjects and research criteria.

### Advisors to H.E the Secretary General of the Academy



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Dr. Ayman Mohammed Abdul Karim  
Media & Finance Advisor



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