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SHAWWAL 1442 - MAY 2021

GRATIS

Minister of Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom welcomes the Secretary General of the Academy at the Ministry's headquarters in Jeddah

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of the Academy, accompanied by a delegation from the Academy, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdulatif bin Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Call and Guidance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the headquarters of the Ministry in Jeddah on Monday 19 Shawal 1442 corresponding to 31 May 2021.

His Excellency the Minister welcomed the H.E. the Secretary General and the accompanying delegation and congratulated him on his appointment as Secretary General of the Academy, noting the great role entrusted to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in our times as a legal reference for nearly two billion Muslims. His Excellency the Minister spoke about the need to pay more attention to correcting misconceptions about Islam, and to avoid the use of religion for worldly gains and political ambitions, mentioning in this regard the importance of adhering to moderation and temperance in order to combat deviant thoughts, and aberrant fatwas issued by people far from the essence of Islam.

His Excellency the Minister also stressed the need for the members and experts of the Academy, who represent fifty-seven (57) countries, to fulfill their legitimate responsibility in explaining the divine law and guiding people to the correct belief and acts of goodness. He also expressed the importance of joining efforts and coordinating approaches to promote a culture of moderation and temperance. He concluded his speech by saying to the Secretary General of the Academy: "I have confidence in the knowledge of Your Excellency, and I know that you are intelligent, skillful, energetic and experienced, and therefore, we hope that you will advance the Academy to enable it to achieve its mission and objectives", stressing in this regard the readiness of the Ministry to provide full support to the Academy within the framework of what the law allows, and expressing at the same time his agreement to sign a memorandum of understanding between the two parties after consultation with the competent authorities.

For his part, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, expressed his sincere thanks to His Excellency the Minister for his warm welcome. He also conveyed to His Excellency the Minister the greetings of H.E. Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Humaid, President of the Academy, praising the appreciated efforts made by His Excellency the Minister to develop the activities of the Ministry and its performance in order to meet the challenges of the time.

H.E. Prof. Koutoub SANO then presented an overview of the Academy, its history, vision, mission, objectives, means as well as its members, noting in this respect that the Academy is a global, intellectual and scientific body emanating from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It is considered as a scientific platform for intellectual convergence and integration of knowledge among the jurists and intellectuals of the Ummah rep-



resenting fifty-seven (57) Member States. On this occasion, His Excellency praised the generous care that the Academy has received -since its establishment to date- from the wise leadership of the Headquarters State and the Saudi people with all its components.

His Excellency also reviewed some of the achievements of the Academy, represented in its resolutions and recommendations, which amount to two hundred and thirty-eight (238) resolutions and recommendations on various topics and issues of concern to Muslims worldwide, as well as a good set of multiple statements issued from time to time, the most recent of which is the statement of the Secretariat General of the Academy regarding the Shariah rulings on the taking of available vaccines against Covid-19, the use of Zakat funds for the purchase of vaccines, and the precautionary measures taken by the Saudi government regarding visitors to the two holy mosques during Ramadan.

His Excellency affirmed that the Academy has continued to provide Shariah assistance to ifta bodies, Shariah councils and Islamic financial institutions in OIC member states and Muslim communities, regarding Shariah provisions governing calamities and developments.

On this occasion, His Excellency expressed his aspiration to strengthen cooperation, partnership and coordination with the Ministry in various fields of common

interest, especially in the field of joint organization of conferences, seminars and roundtables, as well as in the preparation of researches and studies, exchange of publications, in addition to coordinating efforts and unifying visions to disseminate the approach of moderation and temperance in the world. His Excellency also emphasized that the mission of the Academy is to present the teachings of Islam in a moderate manner by emphasizing their advantages, greatness, flexibility, applicability at any time and place, as well as their full capacity to provide practical solutions and satisfactory answers to the problems, challenges and calamities of contemporary life, based on the Qur'an and Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH), as well as on the rich Islamic heritage.

At the end of the meeting, H.E. Prof. Koutoub SANO invited His Excellency the Minister to visit the General Secretariat of the Academy, and then he answered the journalists' questions on the importance of spreading a culture of moderation and the right balance. He also emphasized in his answer that the achievement of security and stability and the realization of happiness and prosperity lie in the commitment of the Ummah, peoples and individuals, to the culture of the middle way and the approach of moderation, pointing out meanwhile what Allah the Almighty said:

"And We have made you an intermediary nation so that you may be a witness for mankind and the Messenger may be a witness against you." alBaqarah:143

This verse calls upon Muslims to be moderate if they wish to become witness and guide for other nations and people.

At the end of the visit, both parties exchanged souvenirs. His Excellency the Minister presented to the Secretary General of the Academy a luxurious and elegant copy of the Holy Qur'an of Madinah while the Secretary General of the Academy presented him with a copy of the fourth edition of the Academy's resolutions and recommendations and the first issue of its scientific series.



Malaysian Minister of Religious Affairs receives the Secretary General of the IIFA in Putrajaya, Malaysia

Within the framework of his relentless endeavor to strengthen cooperation and partnership relations between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the religious and scientific institutions and centers in the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the countries of Muslim communities outside the Muslim world, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy met with His Excellency Dr. Dato Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri, Malaysian Minister of Religious Affairs, in his office in the city of Putrajaya, Malaysia.

His Excellency the Minister welcomed the Academy's Secretary General, congratulated him on assuming his duties as Secretary General of the Academy, and also congratulated him on the developments and the qualitative changes that have occurred in the General Secretariat of the Academy since he took over a few months ago.

His Excellency also expressed his great happiness with this visit, which comes to strengthen the close cooperation and permanent coordination between the Academy and the scientific and religious institutions and centers in Malaysia, especially the National Fatwa Council, which represents the first reference for fatwas in Malaysia, and the Department of Islamic Affairs of the Office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, as well as the Malaysian Fiqh Society, which is also active in the field of jurisprudence studies and research.

For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy expressed to His Excellency the Minister his sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome, praising in this regard the appreciated efforts made by the Minister for the advancement of the religious institutions in Malaysia. He also assured the minister of the Academy's full readiness to make



strategic partnerships between the two sides, through the joint organization of conferences, seminars and discussion groups, preparation of studies, publication & translation of scientific research, as well as the exchange of publications, visits, and scientific meetings. And to achieve this, the two sides agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding between them on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

At the end of the meeting, His Excellency the Minister asked His Excellency the Secretary General of

the Academy to make a television interview about the importance of taking vaccines against Covid 19, and explain the ruling of the Sharia regarding the extent to which this is permissible, based on the resolution issued by the General Secretariat of the Academy in this regard, in which it confirmed the permissibility of taking vaccines from a Shariah point of view, and that it is permissible for the ruler to put this in force for the general public interest, based on the rule agreed upon between scholars of jurisprudence: The Ruler's actions towards his subjects, are in the general public's interest. It has indeed become clear today that there is no room for doubt that there is a real and clear interest in taking vaccines against Covid 19, as it has been clinically proven to be of great efficiency and great benefit in preventing the Corona pandemic, and therefore Muslims around the world are encouraged to take the available vaccinations to preserve their lives and the lives of those around them.



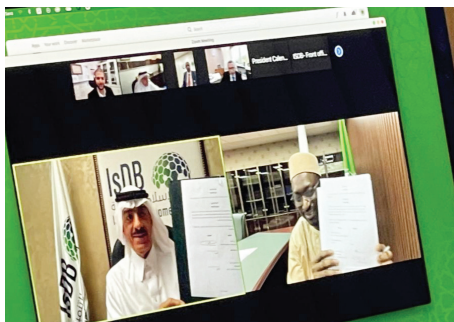
IIFA and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) sign a Cooperation Agreement

His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, the Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, signed on Sunday 20 Ramadan 1442 corresponding to May 2, 2021, a cooperation agreement with His Excellency Dr. Bandar Hajjar, President of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDBG), and as Director of the Endowment Properties Investment Fund.

The agreement aims to put in place the appropriate framework through which the contributions of the Academy are received and managed according to the policies and regulations of the fund, whereby the bank, according to this agreement, undertakes the investment of those contributions as the owner of the Endowment Properties Investment Fund, which is a trust fund that aims to mobilize financial resources for the purpose of creating a financing mechanism to enhance and develop the properties of the endowments that have economic viability in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states and Muslim societies in non-member states.

This agreement is considered a general framework for close cooperation between the two parties, and a strengthening of the existing partnership relations between the two institutions, as they are two important organs of the OIC.

His Excellency Dr. Bandar Hajjar delivered a speech



on this occasion in which he spoke about the economic and financial implications of the Corona pandemic on the whole world, and praised the efforts made by the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in the field of promoting moderation and solidarity among all peoples, expressing his happiness with the good and solid relationships between the IIFA and the IsDBG. His Excellency also pointed out the great role played by the Endowment Properties Investment Fund in order to ensure the sustainability, financial independence, and social development of charitable organizations and in order to strengthen the non-profit sector.

On his part, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha

Sano expressed his happiness with the occasion, which comes as a culmination of the negotiations the two parties held for months, and also expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Bandar Hajjar for the successful development activities carried out by the bank under his leadership within the member states of OIC, commending in this regard the impressive success of the bank's Endowment Properties Investment Fund, and praising the importance of supporting this fund at all levels. His Excellency concluded his speech by inviting His Excellency Dr. Bandar Hajjar to mediate with the Islamic financial institutions that the bank deals with in order to support the Endowment Fund of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy.

It is worth mentioning that the IIFA Endowment Fund was established by a decision of the Ministerial Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States in 2017 in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in order to become the fixed financial resource for financing the activities and programs of the Academy from its proceeds and revenues. The fund seeks to collect a capital of two hundred fifty (250) million US dollars from donations and grants coming from the governments of the member states of the OIC and from charitable institutions and individuals from Muslim peoples around the world.

Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation between the IIFA and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY)

Based on the strategic objective of IIFA to provide shariah provisions on current life issues and the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah, and based on the objectives of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY) in consolidating the principle of Muslim pride and moderation among Muslim youth, and strengthening the role of Muslim youth in building society and its institutions, H.E. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, IIFA Secretary General and H.E. Dr. Saleh bin Solaiman Al-Wahaibi, WAMY Secretary General, signed a memorandum of cooperation on Wednesday 2 Ramadan 1442, corresponding to 14 April 2021.



The MoC aims at strengthening the relations of cooperation and coordination between the two organizations in areas of common interest, especially in promoting moral values among the youth and understanding the most important

intellectual, social, economic, and cultural challenges they face in the current era in order to provide Shariah provisions and solutions to them. It was also agreed to jointly organize conferences, forums, and seminars on different topics and current issues of concern to the youth and influence their ideas and behavior.

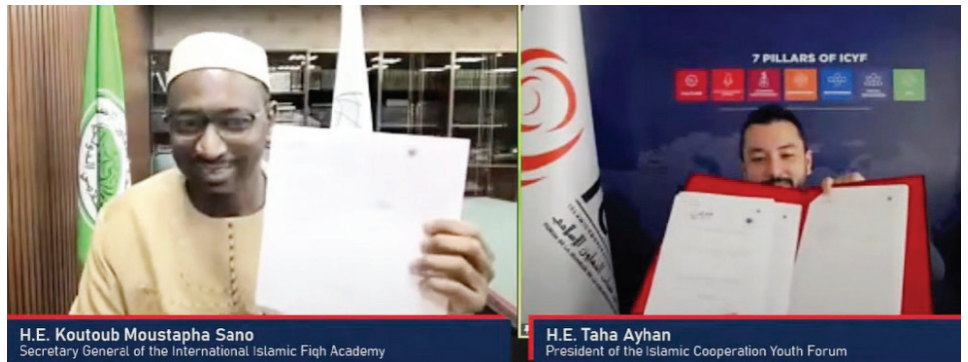
The signing of this memorandum is a proof of the high importance for the topics of family, women, youth, and childhood that are within the strategic plan of the Academy. In order to achieve this, the Academy needs to promote strong cooperation and close coordination with reputable organizations such as WAMY.

IIFA and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) sign a Memorandum of Understanding

Within the framework of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy's pursuit towards strengthening close cooperation and permanent partnership between the Academy and the specialized agencies and subsidiaries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and based on the Academy's keenness to provide all forms of intellectual and scientific support to intellectual and social institutions and bodies inside and outside the Muslim world, especially with regard to strengthening the moderation approach and the idea of moderation among all segments of society, especially young people in the member states of the OIC and in the countries of Muslim communities, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of the Academy, signed with His Excellency Mr. Taha Ayhan, CEO of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum on Tuesday 22 Ramadan 1442 corresponding to May 4, 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum.

The signing ceremony of the memorandum took place via visual communication and was started with a recitation from the Holy Quran, then His Excellency Mr. Taha Ayhan delivered a speech in which he emphasized the importance of strengthening the bonds of communication and cooperation between the Academy and the Forum.

On his part, His Excellency Professor. Koutoub Moustapha SANO delivered a speech in which he wel-



comed the cooperation between the Academy and the Forum and praised the distinguished role the forum undertakes in educating and guiding young people and enhancing their belonging to their religion and nation.

He also expressed the Academy's keenness to strengthen the partnership with the Forum, noting in this regard the special place that family issues, especially women and youth, have within the activities and programs of the Academy. His Excellency also promised to ensure the implementation of all the provisions that were included in the memorandum on a regular basis, especially with regard to the participation of young people in the Annual Conferences of the Academy, and its specialized seminars to enable

them to meet and communicate with the most prominent jurists and thinkers who are members and experts of the Academy. His Excellency also confirmed the Academy's readiness to organize and hold training courses in coordination with the Forum on ways to enhance Islamic values among youth in light of the challenges of globalization and the information and communication technologies revolution.

It is worth noting that the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum is an international non-profit and non-partisan organization that works to unify the leading youth organizations in the OIC member states.

لمزيد من المعلومات يرجى التفضل بالتواصل
معنا على العنوان التالي:

المملكة العربية السعودية ص ب ١٣٧١٩ جدة ٢١٤١٤
هاتف: (+٩٦٦١٢) ٢٥٥٦٦٢/٦٩٠٠٣٤٦/٦٩٠٠٣٤٧
فاكس: (+٩٦٦١٢) ٦٩٧٩٣٢٩/٢٥٥٦٦١

تصوير
أحمد المنسلي
ترجمة
جوزي لرجان

مدير العلاقات
العامة والإعلام
محمد وليد الإدريسي

رئيس التحرير
د. أيمن محمد عبد الكريم

المشرف العام
أ. د. قطب مصطفى سانو
أمين عام مجمع الفقه الإسلامي الدولي

IIFA signs an MoU with the De-



ment, and the Academy was represented by His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, the Secretary General.

Following the completion of the signing ceremony, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub SANO stated that this memorandum represents a general framework for close cooperation and serious coordination between the two sides, especially in the field of joint organization of conferences and seminars, holding discussion sessions, preparing, publishing and

ter of Malaysia, the two parties signed a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday, 7 Shawwal 1442 corresponding to May 19, 2021, in the office of the Minister of Religious Affairs in the Prime Minister's office in the city of Putrajaya, Malaysia. The department was represented in the signing of the memorandum by His Excellency Dato Sri Dr. Zulkifil Mohamad Al-Bakri, Minister of Religious Affairs, and His Excellency Professor Dato' Abdul Aziz bin Yusuf, Director General of the Depart-

Based on one of the most important objectives of the Academy to achieve intellectual convergence and knowledge integration among the respected jurists of Islamic schools of thought, and coordination between fatwas bodies, jurisprudential bodies and Islamic councils inside and outside the Muslim world, and considering what the Islamic Affairs Department (Jakeem) does in terms of coordination, development and supervision tasks of the Islamic affairs at the office of the Prime Minis-

IIFA and the International Shariah Re-



regarding the block chain technologies in the field of communicating with individuals, institutions, and charities in order to collect all types of donations for the benefit of the Academy's Waqf Fund.

It is worth noting that ISRA is affiliated with the Central Bank of Malaysia and specializes

the two institutions, as well as the joint organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, and training. The MoC also enhances cooperation in the field of digitization and Islamic finance technology, the exchange of publications, as well as the development and provision of technical and digital support to IIFA's Waqf Fund, especially

Within the framework of strengthening the relations of cooperation, partnership and coordination between the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) and the scientific institutions active in the field of studies, research and training inside and outside the Muslim world, and in order to provide Shariah support, scientific and intellectual leverage to the institutions that seek to promote the banking and finance sector within the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of IIFA, signed a memorandum of cooperation with Prof. Mohamad Akram Laldin, Executive Director of the International Shari'Ah Research Academy for Islamic Finance (ISRA) on Tuesday, 13 Shawwal 1442 corresponding to May 25, 2021 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia .

The memorandum aims to build a broad strategic partnership in the field of supporting the organizational and administrative capabilities of



IIFA and the International Center for

of resources in favor of the Academy Waqf Fund. It came also in line with the most crucial objectives of MEDAD Center represented in developing charitable activities through research and data processing on scientific basis through permanent partnerships with charitable organizations and donors, including governments, institutions or individuals,

Under this agreement, both parties agreed to jointly conduct scientific and Islamic research on charity and Awqaf and to participate in charitable activities. They also agreed to organize seminars, conferences, meetings and round tables, to give lectures on topics of common interest, and to ex-



munication with the leading Islamic institutions, especially the institutions involved in charitable activities and the development

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) and H.E. Dr. Khaled bin Abdullah Al-Suraihi, Director General of the International Center for Research and Studies (MEDAD) signed a cooperation agreement at the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the Academy on Tuesday 20 Shawal 1442, corresponding to 1 June 2021.

This cooperation agreement came as part of the efforts of the Academy towards convergence and integration between the jurists of the Islamic schools and the specialists in the different fields of knowledge, and at strengthening cooperation and com-

H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO

Interaction With Surah Al-Mulk
READ · UNDERSTAND · APPLY

IIUM ALUMNI WORLD #QuranHour
... a beginning

5 MAY 2021
23 RAMADAN 1442H
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
MALAYSIA TIME/GMT +8

USA
DR. OMAR SULEIMAN KIRKHS

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H.E. PROF. DATO' DR. KOUTOUB MOUSTAPHA SANO AIKOL

MALAYSIA
AMIN IDRIS AIKOL

TURKEY
ENES YALMAN KOE

IRAQ
ABDULLA O. ALI KIRKHS

PHILIPPINES
MOHAMMAD NAIEEB D. ABDULJALEEL KIRKHS

COMOROS
ZAINOUDINE SOLIHI KOED

MALAYSIA
MUHAMMAD HAZAMIN B. HARUN KENMS

ALUMNI RELATIONS DIVISION
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FIQH ACADEMY

UMMAHIKHLAS

eral meanings contained in the thirty verses of the great Surat Al-Mulk. His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Sano, on his part, highlighted in his speech the importance of knowing the reasons of the revelation of the verses, and the social contexts behind them. It happens that the polytheists decided to use secrecy when talking about the Messenger of God, Peace Be Upon Him, wrongly believing that God would not know what they are saying and doing. Therefore, the Surah revealed indicating and confirming that God knows what they reveal and what they hide when they are badmouthing the prophet.

His Excellency also indicated the status of this surah and the benefit of reading it every night, and explained that it has several names, the most important of which are: Al-Munjiyah (the saviour), Al-Mani'ah (the preventor), Al-Waqiyah (the protector), and Al-Mujadilah (the arguer). It was called Munjiyah because it saves its reader from the torment of the grave, and it is called Mani'ah because it prevents its reader from the

Within the framework of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy's endeavor to promote the concept of moderation and balance between thought and behavior, and in the midst of its desire to contribute to enhancing awareness of the importance of caring for the Holy Qur'an through reading, understanding, contemplation, and extrapolation of secrets and wisdom, and profiting from the directives and endless benefits of the Holy Quran, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of the Academy delivered the closing remark in the IIUM ALUMNI World QuranHour organized by the Department of Graduates Affairs of the International Islamic University in Malaysia on Wednesday 23 of Ramadan 1442 corresponding to May 5, 2021 under the title "Interacting with Surat Al-Mulk: Reading, Understanding, Applying".

A number of prominent university graduates participated in the study, headed by the American preacher Omar Suleiman, who presented a simplified explanation of sev-

The International Centre for Fatwa and Hala at the Malaysian Islamic Sciences University hosts H.E. Prof. Koutoub SANO's lecture entitled "Jurisprudence between Theory and Practice"

On Monday 28 of Ramadan 1441 corresponding to May 10, 2021 during his working visit to Malaysia, His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, accepted the International Center for Fatwa and Hala's invitation to deliver a virtual lecture entitled: "Promoting Jurisprudence from the Perspective of the Academic Professor, Minister and Secretary General of the Academy." His Excellency began his lecture by shedding light on an important scientific milestone in his Academic career, which he started a quarter of a century ago as a lecturer, then an assistant professor, then an associate professor, then a professor, and indicated in the meantime that this period was characterized by the predominance of thinking, contemplation, reflection, and innovation. He focused his attention during this period on writing research, books, preparing studies and events, and participating in international scientific conferences and symposia around the world, noting that his vision of the outside world was at this stage an ideal one based on the belief in the possibility of achieving the desired reform and change easily and quickly and within a record period of time. He spent sixteen (16) years of his life in this period, which he described as the most stable psychologically, mentally, and socially. Then the second milestone was when he returned to his country as Minister of Religious Affairs, Minister of International Cooperation, then Minister at the Presidency for Diplomatic Affairs and Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Republic.

His Excellency explained that this period also posed a challenge to him as he was searching for different ways and means to apply many Shariah rulings and teachings to the living reality in his country, whose constitution stipulates that it is a secular country that stands at the same distance from all religions and does not allow it to oblige people with the provisions of the Shariah, based on the principle of freedom of religions and beliefs. Hence, His Excellency emerged from this period with the belief



of the importance of starting from the Shariah objectives when trying to apply the Shariah rulings on social, political, economic, and intellectual realities, and he also strongly believes of the utmost importance to start from a number of the purposes of revelation, especially taking into account progress and balance between good and evil. His Excellency spent twelve (12) years in the aforementioned ministries, and he tried hard to carry out a number of reforms in many vital areas such as strengthening the relations of cooperation, partnership and friendship between his country and countries of the Islamic world. He has also developed the performance of ministries, highlighting the fact that mastery, creativity, transparency, productivity, and innovation are essential features of management and reform. He also sought to change perceptions about the relationship between religion with politics, and about the ability of intellectuals with a religious culture to

hold higher ministerial positions.

Then His Excellency spoke about the current milestone that he started months ago in his capacity as Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, which is, in fact, a scientific, intellectual and political institution that combines the two previous milestones, and requires a sophisticated combination of thought and management, and politics, and a reconciliation between theory, application and practice through political and scientific institutions inside and outside the Islamic world, given that the Academy is a scientific reference to which the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Muslim societies all over the world resort to in order to clarify the Shariah rulings on issues that concern them.

He emphasized that he is continuing to benefit from the first two milestones for the sake of advancing this institution and promoting it among the world's leading scientific institutions capable of shaping thought, giving opinion, and rationalizing practice in total harmony and integration between jurisprudence, application, and practice.

His Excellency concluded his lecture by stressing the importance of the Jurist's involvement in the social, political, and economic life in order to bring about the required change and reform in an organized and well-planned manner taking into account priorities, and rules of progression. His Excellency then answered the questions and inquiries of the attendees, the most prominent of which was the response to the skeptics about the efficiency of the vaccines against Covid 19 based on the conspiracy theory, where His Excellency explained that questioning the effectiveness of these vaccines is nothing more than an adventure that the jurist should not be involved in, especially that doctors and scientists agree on its efficiency and its ability to prevent from Corona virus, and to reduce its impact in the event of infection, which means that it must be sought to combat this pandemic.

IIFA Secretary General holds a consultative meeting with the Malaysian Fiqh Society "AFHAM"

His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), held a meeting on Sunday 4 of Shawwal 1442 corresponding to 16 of May 2021 in Kuala Lumpur with members of the Malaysian Fiqh Society, also known as the Malaysian Islamic Fiqh Academy "AFHAM".

This virtual meeting was attended from the Malaysian side by Dr. Abdulmanan Ismail, Chairman of the Society and Dr. Irwan Mohamad Subri, its General Secretary, as well as a number of members of the Society's Executive Office. The meeting discussed ways to develop cooperation relations between the Academy and the Society and to enable it to make the most of the scientific and administrative expertise and capabilities of the Academy.

Dr. Irwan Mohamad Subri welcomed Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO, the esteemed guest of Malaysia, and thanked him for this first visit to Malaysia in his capacity as Secretary General of IIFA. He also thanked His Excellency for giving this opportunity to "AFHAM" to meet with him and hold talks regarding cooperation prospects between the two organizations and emphasizing in this regard that one of the objectives of "AFHAM" is to strengthen the relationship with the International Islamic Fiqh Academy in order to benefit from its achievements, expertise, and experiences. He also confirmed that the Society looks forward to hearing the advice and directions of His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy.



Dr. Irwan Mohamad Subri, Secretary General of "AFHAM", then spoke about the establishment of the Society, its objectives, and areas of activities, explaining that "AFHAM" is a private, non-governmental, and non-profit civil society. It is newly established, and its members consist of Malaysian university professors. Membership is always open to graduates of Shariah and jurisprudence from Malaysian universities. He stated that the Society's objective is to become the first reference for jurisprudence studies and research in Malaysia.

For his part, His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy thanked those in charge of the Society "AFHAM" for their welcome, trust and appreciation to him and to the International Islamic Fiqh Academy. He also congratulated them on establishing this Society in an effort to advance jurisprudential studies and research, and to strengthen cooperation between graduates of universities, colleges, institutes, and centers of Shariah, Fiqh and Osul (fundamentals). He also expressed the Academy's readiness to provide support

and assistance to the Society in all fields.

His Excellency then spoke about the Academy's vision, mission, goals, means, and strategic plan, stressing in this regard the series of reforms and qualitative changes that have occurred in the General Secretariat of the Academy in recent months, especially with regard to the establishment of a number of strategic departments to ensure that the activities and programs of the Academy are executed in a smooth and orderly manner. Among the most important of these new departments are the Department of Family, Women and Children Affairs, the Department of Planning, Development and International Cooperation, and the Department of Conferences and Seminars.

His Excellency also spoke about the Academy's adoption for the first time since its establishment forty years ago, an ambitious and detailed

strategic plan with clear five-year performance indicators to serve as a working manual for the Academy and a comprehensive document for its activities and programs during the next five years.

His Excellency concluded his intervention by accepting the requests of "AFHAM", especially with regard to inviting some of its members to participate in the conferences and symposiums organized by the Academy. He also promised to provide them with the Academy's publications, especially the fourth edition of the Academy's book of resolutions and recommendations.

IIFA Secretary General meets with the 14 Malaysian Muftis

On the gracious invitation of the Malaysian National Committee for Revision (Fatwas), His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, held a consultative virtual meeting on Friday 09 of Shawwal 1442, corresponding to 21 of May 2021, with their eminent Muftis of the fourteen states of Malaysia, members of the Malaysian National Committee for Revision, in the headquarters of the Department of Islamic Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Eminence Dato Wan Zahidi, Chairman of the National Committee for Revision (Fatwas), welcomed His Excellency the Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, and thanked him for accepting the committee's invitation. He also presented to His Excellency the members of the National Committee who represent the fourteen Malaysian states, and each member of them is considered Mufti of his own state. The committee also includes three other expert members.

Then the Director of the Research and Studies Division at the Department of Islamic Affairs Development at the Office of the Malaysian Prime Minister spoke about the historical stages that the Malaysian National



Committee for Revision went through, explaining that this committee was until recently called the National Fatwa Council, and this name was changed to the National Committee for Revision in compliance with the desire of the Sultans of the states for each state to maintain its independence in fatwas and guidance, since the specialization of the committee to issue fatwas in public matters does not pertain to a specific state.

For his part, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of the Academy expressed his sincere thanks and great appreciation to their eminence the muftis who represent their states for this first ever meeting of its kind, in order to discuss and debate about strengthening ways and aspects of cooperation

and communication between the Academy and the National Committee for Revision (Fatwas), especially with regard to coordination between the two parties in the field of fatwas, in cases that transcend borders and countries and concern Muslims all over the world. His Excellency also provided the participants with an extensive briefing on the Academy's history, vision, mission, goals and means, stressing in this regard that the Academy looks forward in the coming days to broader cooperation and closer communication with the National Committee in the fields of research, studies and fatwas, and the organization of training and qualification courses for members of the National Committee.

Moreover, the Academy will provide the Fatwa Centers at the different states in Malaysia with its publications, especially the fourth edition of the book of resolutions and recommendations. His Excellency also expressed the academy's readiness to provide intellectual and administrative support for all research and development projects that the National Committee intends to implement in the coming years, regarding the committee's desire to establish a Malaysian Fiqh Academy specialized in jurisprudence and Ifta issues.

IIUM's Alumni Club hosts the Secretary General's lecture on Lessons from Covid-19

Within a series of scientific and intellectual lectures organized by Alumni of the International Islamic University in Malaysia, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, delivered a lecture on Friday 16 Shawwal, corresponding to May 28, 2021, entitled: "Lessons from the Covid-19: Five (5) opportunities that must be seized before it is too late."

His Excellency began his lecture by expressing his sincere thanks to the Club's managers for keeping in touch with the university's alumni, praising their commitment to promote the club through organizing intellectual and social activities and events. He also commended them for the efficient organization, arrangement and coordination of events and praised the accuracy of the intellectual topics that the club raises for discussion and study.

His Excellency then commented on the lecture's title, which he described as a good summary of a hadith (prophet saying) that carries within its folds a warning, advice, and reminder of those great blessings that Allah has bestowed on each of us in varying degrees. However, many of us do not make the most of these blessings that are eternal. As for the hadith, it is what the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said to Abu Dharr Al-Ghifari:

"O Abu Dharr, take advantage of five before five: your youth before your old age, your health before your sickness, your wealth before your poverty, your free time before your busyness, and your life before your death". The scholars consider this hadith as one of the most important sayings and a clear proof of his prophecy due to the simplicity of its content, yet the consistency with what Allah grants to all of us in various degrees. These five blessings represent the grace of youth, the grace of health, the grace of wealth, the grace of free time, and the grace of life. These graces are not eternal, which makes it wise of any man to seize them and benefit from them to the maximum in accordance with



God's commandments and his intent for man on earth; therefore, in order to benefit from them, it is necessary to exploit them in obedience to Allah and His Messenger (PBUH) in order to fulfil the mission of God's vice-regency on earth, to build the earth in accordance with the divine teachings, and to work for good deeds that include all aspects of intellectual, scientific, social, economic, political, cultural, and educational life.

His Excellency also explained that the Corona pandemic has increased awareness of these graces and their importance, since the partial and total halt of economic activity that has affected many countries and cities in the world is a reminder of all these graces, especially those of health and free time. Unemployment and heavy losses suffered by individuals, companies and countries remind us of the grace of wealth, just as the quarantine imposed on people and companies, and the crowding of hospitals and health centers with sick

and dead people, remind us of the graces of health and life. As for the grace of youth, which calls for optimism, activity, planning, projects and hopes, it was also interrupted due to the restrictions on movement and traveling resulting from the pandemic.

Therefore, we should all contemplate these graces and seize them before their disappearance by avoiding procrastination, delay and relying on a future that is not under our control. Therefore, our young people must use their age, strength, and energy to equip themselves with knowledge and all types of know-how. It is time for them to make the most of this temporary grace before it disappears. In fact, we must all exploit these graces for what is beneficial for us, our societies, and our countries.

His Excellency concluded his lecture by invoking Allah to hasten the disappearance of this pandemic from the Ummah, to accept those who perished into the gardens of his paradise, and for the speedy recovery of the sick.

Then, His Excellency answered the questions raised by the audience, especially regarding the call to Muslims and the world to seek forgiveness, repentance and return to Allah, to honor our parents and next of kin, to increase charitable work, to be good and to show kindness to the poor, the needy and the vulnerable all over the world. He also called upon Muslims to comply with the health authorities' precautionary measures in their countries to protect themselves and people around them.

It is worth noting that the Alumni Club of the International Islamic University Malaysia plays a role in following the graduates' achievements in their professional lives after graduation. In addition, the Alumni Club organizes an annual conference to honor outstanding graduates who have made significant achievements and impact on their society and country.

The Secretariat General of the IIFA mourns H.E. the Head of State, President of the Republic of Chad

‘No one can die except by Allah’s permission, and at the predetermined time. Whoever wants the reward from 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.’ Surat Al-Imran: 3: 145

‘Those who, when a calamity befalls them, say: We belong to God and to Him we will return’ {2:157}

‘These receive blessings and mercy from their Lord, and these are righteous’ {2:158}

Truly The Giver of life has prescribed a term for every human being. When that term comes, he cannot delay it for a second, and neither can he hasten it. It is with a heart full of faith in the judgment and destiny of God, and with 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 Fiqh Academy of the OIC, has learned, with dismay and sadness, the recall to his Creator, His Excellency Marshal Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, founding member country of the Academy, on the 20th of April 2021. Peace to his soul.

In this painful circumstance, the Secretariat General of the Academy, on behalf of its members and experts, offers its condolences and sincere compassion to the family of the deceased, to the government and to the people of Tchad.

They bow piously before The Master of the universe, The Almighty, so that He may have mercy on the soul of our

dear defunct and forgive him all his sins.

May Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, accept him among the Prophets, the martyrs and the righteous.

The Secretariat General also implores the All Sovereign in order to grant His Excellency the Interim President of the Republic, the Chadian people and the grieving family, the strength to transcend this tragic ordeal with great courage and patience.

“Certainly we are all God’s and to Him we return”.

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



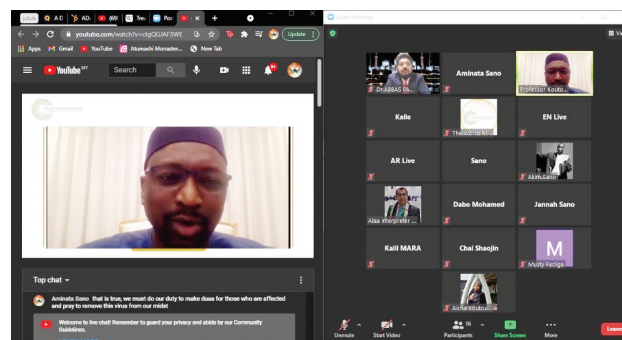
The World Council of the Muslim Communities invites H.E Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO to deliver a lecture entitled Corona and Ramadan: The Best Practices

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, delivered on Sunday, 13 Ramadan 1442, corresponding to 25 April 2021 a virtual Ramadan lecture entitled “Ramadan and Corona: Best Practices” as part of the Ramadan lectures hosted by the World Council of Muslim Communities in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

His Excellency began his lecture with thanks and praise for the good efforts of the World Council of Muslim Communities under the leadership of its Chairman Dr. Ali bin Rashid Al Nuaimi and its Secretary General, Dr. Muhammad Al-Bashari, through valuable intellectual lectures and seminars for the benefit Muslims worldwide and that contribute to the renewal of Islamic thought and the consolidation of the concepts and values such as moderation, dialogue, tolerance, and religious, ethnic, and cultural pluralism.

His Excellency then referred to the current unprecedented and challenging situation through which humanity is living under the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, which has deeply affected our daily life and practices. In this regard, he called on all Muslims worldwide to positively respond to the authorities’ instructions in their countries, especially taking the vaccines to protect themselves and those around them.

Furthermore, Muslims should avoid engaging in conspiracy theories that are futile and



can only cause division and weakness to their societies. Indeed, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy has issued a statement on the positions of Shariah towards Covid-19 vaccination, which was based on the recommendations of reliable and competent medical specialists in the Muslim world and elsewhere. The IIFA declared that it is lawful to take the vaccines, and it could become compulsory if the legitimate authorities decide so. Therefore, Muslims should take vaccines to help save lives.

His Excellency added that there are many effective practices that we should adhere to during this blessed month of Ramadan. On top of that practices, we must keep praying and invoking the Almighty to help humanity to defeat Covid-19 as soon as possible. Hence, moderation is one of the best practices during the month of Ramadan, the month of moderation in all that we do, particularly when eating, drinking and sleeping. In other words, it is, in fact a month of worship and

not a month of extravagance in eating; therefore, we have to spend more of what we have on the poor and the needy who are desperate for our assistance to alleviate the burden of poverty from them. His Excellency also stressed that Ramadan is the month of increasing our worship and good deeds, so a Muslim should take advantage of this holy month to spend most of his or her time in prayers, supplication, reading the Qur’an and doing

righteous deeds instead of long hours of laziness and sleep.

His Excellency also warned against some harmful behaviors such as excessive anger, arguments, and fighting during this holy month, in which we must instead be patient with everyone and treat them all with love and kindness. He also encouraged good practices such as social visits, especially visiting parents, to obtain their blessings with total commitment and observance of health safety requirements.

In conclusion, His Excellency affirmed the need to seize the opportunity of this holy month to change for the better, to reform our behaviors and practices, treat everyone and ourselves with kindness, and to pray to Allah to remove this pandemic and keep its scourge away from us and also pray for goodness, peace and security to prevail among all human beings.



Mohammed Bin Zayed University for Humanities in Abu Dhabi invites H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO to deliver a lecture on the values of love in the Holy Quran

At the invitation of the Mohammed bin Zayed University for Humanities in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha SANO, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, delivered a lecture entitled: Values of Love in the Holy Quran.

His Excellency began his lecture by expressing his sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Hamdan Musallam Al Mazroui, Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, and to His Excellency Dr. Khaled Al Dhaheeri, the University President for his invitation to deliver this lecture as part of a series of religious lectures on the grand values in the Holy Qur'an. He also thanked the faculty members and students for their attendance and active participation.

Then His Excellency spoke about the importance of the topic of the lecture – love-, considering that it is the basis of faith, the key to paradise, the pillar of stability, the pillar of happiness and prosperity. It is ultimately the origin of the relationship between humans and their Lord, and between each other, as there is no happiness, safety, or stability without love.

His Excellency then indicated that the concept of the term love is determined by looking at the beloved and the lover, even if the origin of it is the tendency of the soul to what it sees and thinks it is good for it, referring in this regard to what the predecessors said that there are thirty concepts of love. Then His Excellency explained that the concept of a person's love for God and His Messenger, differs from the concept of a person's love for his parents, his children, and for relatives.

He explained that man's love for God means his obedience to Him, thanks to Him, praise for Him, compliance with His orders and avoiding His prohibitions, while His love for the parents, children and relatives means showing righteousness to them, benevolence to them and making them happy. As for the love of God for man, it means caring for him, preserving him, and protecting him from all harm, as mentioned in the Holy Quran:

"And I bestowed upon you love from Me, that you would be brought up under My eye [i.e., observation and care]" Taha: 39.

His Excellency explained that in the Holy Qur'an a noble verse referred to the ranks of love, and the importance of taking it into account when in doubt, which is the Almighty's saying:

"Say, [O Muhammad], If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your relatives, wealth which you have obtained, commerce wherein you fear decline, and dwellings with which you are pleased are more beloved to you than Allah and His Messenger and jihad [i.e., striving] in His cause, then wait until Allah executes His command. And Allah does not guide the defiantly disobedient people." At-Tawbah: 24.



Many scholars and researchers wrongly misinterpret this verse as a warning and a rebuke, but a closer look at it reveals that it refers to the levels and types of love and is a clear legislation that the Muslim should refer to in order to differentiate between the types of loved ones.

In fact, the verse acknowledges two types of love: An innate and natural love, and the second is an optional and acquired love, and the verse shows the types that fall under the first type of love, namely: love of origins (fathers and grandfathers), love for off springs (children and grandchildren), love for the first kinship (brothers and sisters), love for spouses (in-laws) and love for the clan (Tribes and human society), love of money (in-kind and cash), love of professions (trade, agriculture, and industry) and love of dwellings (homes, villas, and palaces).

This love is natural and innate in us, we do not learn it but rather we learn how to tame it and make it moderate. As for the second type of love, it is represented in the love of God, the love of His Messenger, and the love of jihad [i.e., striving] for the sake of God. This kind of love is optional and acquired because a person acquires and chooses it through his struggle and hard work.

Therefore, this love is the one that must come before all kinds of love, in the belief that it is love for the greatest and most beloved. More precisely, if any love conflicts with this love, then it must be preceded unreservedly, as is the case in the obligation to put first the love for God over the love for our parents, children, wives, wealth, professions, and business.

His Excellency then mentioned that the Holy Qur'an called upon the believers to acquire the love of types of good deeds and actions that would increase their feelings of happiness, security, and stability. We find them especially in the love of repentance (he loves the repentant), the love of piety (he loves the pious), the love of justice (he loves the just), and the love of purity (He loves the purified ones), the love of patience (he loves the patient), the love of trust (he loves

those who trust in Him), and the love of charity (he loves the benefactors).

His Excellency touched on highlighting the integral relationship between love and affection on the one hand, and between love and cordiality on the other hand, as he emphasized that affection is higher and more general than love, as affection is an advanced stage of love if it is mixed with tenderness, compassion, and mercy then it becomes affection. As a result, the Beloved is not one of God's names but the Compassionate is, which affirms that affection is greater and higher than love. Therefore, every affection is love, and not all love is affection. The noble Lord, moreover, urged that the relationship between the spouses should rise to the stage of affection and mercy given the importance of this relationship as the cornerstone of society.

His Excellency added that God the Almighty indicated that the ideal relationship that should prevail among the followers of what is known today as the Abrahamic religions should be affection rather than love, a confirmation of the value of affection and its importance for happiness, stability, security, and safety for all humanity.

At the end of his valuable lecture, His Excellency reiterated his call for researchers and scholars to give more attention and care to the topic of love in the Holy Qur'an and the Noble Sunnah, in order to enable the young generations to absorb its complex meanings, understand its themes, and ultimately acquire its values.

Finally, His Excellency Dr. Hamdan Musallam Al Mazroui deeply thanked the honorable speaker and made a distinguished comment on the lecture, in which he added another type of love which is the love for our homeland and the love and obedience to our rulers.

The lecture was well received and welcomed by the participants.

IIFA Secretary General participates in the 16th annual meeting of the General Council for the Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI) in Bahrain

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), participated on Monday 12 Shawwal 1442 corresponding to May 24, 2021, in the sixteenth annual meeting of the Accreditation Board of the General Council of Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The virtual meeting was opened by Dr. Abdelilah Belatik, Secretary General of the Council, who presented the meeting's agenda, and also reviewed the most important achievements of the Council during the previous fiscal year, and the report on developing the training package for the accredited Islamic banking manager. The attendees then discussed and deliberated thoroughly the technical comments on the scientific content of the training package.

Commenting on the discussions and deliberations, His Excellency Prof. Koutoub SANO explained that the information contained in the training package is sufficient and suitable, but it needs reformulation and re-arrangement of the proposed scientific courses to become suitable for preparing an Islamic banking manager who is familiar with the most important



Sharia rules governing Islamic banking sector, and the general basics of planning, development, management, and leadership.

His Excellency also proposed that the Council communicate again with the developer of the training package in order to consider the proposed technical comments and allow him enough time to improve the scientific content of the package to make it more accurate and focused. His Excellency also talked about the importance of matching the titles of the proposed

topics and the scientific vocabulary contained in the training package, stressing in this regard the need to use the vocabulary to prepare a distinguished Islamic banking manager.

Again His Excellency suggested that it is sufficient to just study the five universal rules of Fiqh without the need to go into too many details in order to avoid confusion and misunderstandings. The meeting then discussed the report on the portfolios of Sharia auditing and the specialized certificates related to it such as the accredited Islamic Certificate in Sharia auditing, the advanced Islamic Certificate in Sharia auditing, and the professional diploma in auditing.

At the end of the meeting, the participants reviewed the CVs of the proposed trainers, and His Excellency called on the Council to verify the scientific accreditations of the trainers, and to make specialization in Islamic finance and banking the main criterion when selecting candidates, in addition to work experience. Secretary General of the Council concluded the meeting by thanking the honorable attendees for the participation and discussions aimed at improving and developing the Islamic finance and banking sector.

28th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors



The twenty-eighth weekly meeting of departments' directors was held on Monday 07 Ramadan 1442 corresponding to 19 April 2021.

The Secretary General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, congratulated the directors on the occasion of Ramadan and called upon all of them to seize this great opportunity to get closer to Allah and supplicate to Him to speed up the end of the covid-19 pandemic.

His Excellency also expressed his thanks to the Financial and Administrative Affairs Department for the installation of the

new main gate of the Academy. The meeting reached several decisions, notably:

- to call upon Member States, financial institutions, Islamic banks and businessmen to support the Waqf Fund of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy through all types of donations and grants.
- to invite the Academy's members and experts to submit research papers on the topics selected for the twenty-fifth Annual Session of the Academy.
- to organize training courses to enhance the capabilities of the Academy's staff.

32nd Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors



The thirty-second weekly meeting of the directors of the Academy's departments was held on Tuesday 20 Shawal 1442 corresponding to 01 June 2021, under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the Academy.

His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and spoke about his visit with the accompanying delegation to H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdulaziz bin Abdulaziz Aal-Sheikh, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Dawah and Guidance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The meeting allowed for an exchange of views on issues of common interests and ways to strengthen cooperation between the two institutions. This visit was part of the activities and programs provided for in the strategic plan of the Academy with regard to strengthening coordination and communication with the relevant

authorities of the headquarters.

The meeting made several decisions, notably:

- Updating the biodata of the Academy's members and experts to dispatch them the publications of the Academy, especially the monthly newsletter.
- Sending letters of thanks to the Minister of Religious Affairs of Malaysia and the Minister of Islamic Affairs, Dawah and Guidance of Saudi Arabia for their reception and generous hospitality, and preparing a draft cooperation agreement to be submitted to the Ministries as soon as possible.
- Preparing a comprehensive vision for the creation of a television channel for the Academy after reviewing the host state's laws and procedures regarding the creation of television channels.

31st Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors



The Secretary General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, chaired the 31st weekly meeting of the Academy's departments on Monday 12 Shawal 1442 corresponding to 24 May 2021.

His Excellency opened the meeting by congratulating the participants on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, and expressed his sincere thanks for the congratulatory telegram received from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz – Sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the headquarters state, may Allah protect him and his Crown Prince. His Excellency took this opportunity to commend the role of the Kingdom in supporting and facilitating the mission of the Academy with all possible means and capacities for the service of Islam and Muslims.

His Excellency then reviewed his visit to Malaysia and his efforts to unify the voice of the Academy by signing memoranda of understanding and activating some of these memoranda, such as the one with the Islamic Affairs Department directly affiliated to the Prime Minister's Office. His Excellency also discussed with the National Fatwa Committee, which comprises fourteen muftis of the fourteen states of Malaysia, a set of issues, particularly the resolution and statement on taking Covid-19 vaccine issued by the Academy, and which has had a significant impact within Muslim countries. His Excellency also held a consultative meeting with the members of the Fiqh Council of Malaysia.

His Excellency expressed his thanks to the research and encyclopedia department for preparing the invitation letters for the twenty-fifth session. His Excellency thanked Mrs. Sarah Amjad, director of the family and women's department, for sending all the letters to the recipients in record time. His Excellency also thanked Mr. Mourad Al-Tlili, H.E. Advisor of His Excellency for Media, for publishing the English articles and news on the Academy's website on behalf of Mr. Jawzi Lardjane, who was on personal leave.

The meeting resulted in several decisions, notably:

- To prepare a brochure for the Strategic Plan according to the new arrangement of the departments' activities and according to each department responsible for these activities.
- To publish the fourth edition of the book of resolutions on the Academy's website.
- To prepare a semi-annual report on the programs and activities of the Secretariat General of the Academy.

29th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors



The twenty-ninth weekly meeting of departments' directors of the Academy was held on Monday 14 Ramadan 1442, corresponding to 26 April 2021.

During the meeting, the Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy spoke about the need to implement the provisions of the Strategic Plan through coordination and integration between the different departments, considering the commitment to effective planning. His Excellency also expressed his thanks to Dr. Ayman Abdelkarim, Media Advisor to the Secretary General, for his efforts which resulted in the publication of the sixth issue of the Academy's monthly newsletter. The meeting made several decisions, notably:

- to implement the Strategic Plan by holding interdepartmental meetings. The Planning Department will be in charge of organizing these meet-

ings.

- to send the Strategic Plan along with the latest issues of the IIFA newsletter to the Academy members, experts, and OIC Permanent Delegates to keep them informed of the Academy's activities and programs.
- to invite scholars and researchers to submit their papers on the topics of the 25th Annual Session of the Academy, provided that for each topic of the Session, five members of the Academy, five male experts and five female experts, would be selected, taking into account the geographical distribution in force at the OIC Member states.
- to activate the Forum of Islamic Thought under its new name the Academy Forum, in which scholars and intellectuals from within and outside the Muslim world will be invited to give lectures on current topics.

30th Weekly Meeting of Departments Directors



His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy, Prof. Koutoub Moustapha SANO, held the 30th weekly meeting of the directors of the Academy's Departments on Monday 21 Ramadan 1442 corresponding to May 03, 2021, where His Excellency opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees, then spoke about the programs and activities of the strategic plan and the need to start implementing its contents after organizing and arranging them according to the specialization of each department, indicating that the coordinating department is responsible for the implementation and carrying out of the tasks of coordination with the rest of the departments participating in the given activity.

His Excellency also called on all departments to make more effort to implement this strategic plan, stressing in this regard that the annual evaluation of departmental performance will be carried out according to the activities and programs accomplished in relevance to this plan.

The meeting then discussed in detail the coordination tasks entrusted to each department, and issued a number of decisions, notably:

- to place the electronic versions of the book of the fourth edition of the Academy's resolutions and recommendations, the Academy's strategic plan, and the monthly newsletter on the Academy's website to enable researchers and scholars to benefit from them.
- to start sending the call for papers to researchers, provided that the invitation includes an outline of the themes and the methodological requirements to be followed when preparing the research, as well as indicating the due date for receiving the papers.
- to prepare a database for outstanding academics from the universities inside and outside the headquarters country, taking into account the geographical distribution of the Members States of the OIC, in order to send to invite them to write papers for the upcoming twenty fifth Annual Session of the Academy.

12th Periodic Meeting of Divisions Heads

The twelfth periodic meeting of divisions' heads of the Academy was held on Thursday 3 Ramadan 1442 corresponding to 15 April 2021.

The Secretary General of the Academy congratulated the divisions' heads on the occasion of Ramadan, praying to God the almighty to forgive, pardon, and have mercy on all of us, and urging everyone to strive in acts of righteousness and obedience. He also reiterated the need to fully comply with all precautionary measures issued by the health authorities in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when performing Umrah



(pilgrimage) this month in order to help limit the spread of Covid-19.

The meeting reached several decisions, notably:

ably:

- to compile the Academy's resolutions on fasting to publish them on the Academy's website.
- to expedite the redesign of the library.
- to prepare thematic and detailed indexes of the Academy's book of resolutions for upcoming publication.
- to expedite the publication of old and new issues of the Academy's scientific journal.
- to update the biographies of the Academy's members and post them on its website.

13th Periodic Meeting of Divisions Heads

His Excellency Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, chaired on Thursday, 17 Ramadan 1442 corresponding to April 29, 2021 at the headquarters of the Academy's General Secretariat, the thirteenth periodic meeting of the Heads of the Divisions of IIFA. His Excellency explained the importance of the weekly meetings of departmental directors, the bi-monthly meetings of Divisions Heads, and the monthly meetings of the employees of the Academy, stressing that there is no conflict between them, and that the relationship between them is one of complementarity and continuity. Then His Excellency moved to the meeting's agenda to ensure the implementation of the previous decisions. After discussions and deliberations, a number of decisions were issued by the meeting, notably:

- to adopt the title "Ramadaniyat" (Ramadan



Series) within the navigation menu of the site. Under this tab, all the Council's decisions related to fasting shall be placed to become accessible to site visitors during the holy month.

- to assign the task of updating the content of the website in both French and English to the

translation Division in coordination with the ICT Division.

- to update the Academy's photos on the site to reflect the big changes the Academy's General Secretariat has been witnessing for months.
- to speed up the completion of detailed indexing of the Academy's decisions to facilitate reference for researchers and scholars, provided that these indexes are added to the new edition of the fourth edition book.
- to continue to update the site by increasing its speed and taking advantage of the developments in the world of information and communication technology, considering that the site has become the main interface and the main reference for members, experts, and visitors, which requires doubling our efforts to make it the best site among the leading international institutions and organizations.

14th Periodic Meeting of Divisions Heads

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, met on Thursday 16 Shawal 1442 corresponding to 27 May 2021, with the Academy's heads of divisions.

His Excellency made a detailed presentation of the results of his recent visit to Malaysia, which resulted in the signing of scientific cooperation agreements with the Department of Islamic Affairs, headed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, and the International Shariah Research Academy (ISRA). His Excellency also referred to a series of meetings and lectures he held with Malaysian officials, led by the Malaysian Minister of Religious Affairs. His Excellency then reviewed the working progress according to the minutes of the previous meeting, praising the efforts of Mr. Mourad Al-Tlili, Advisor to the



Secretary General for Media Affairs, who followed up on the work of translating the news on the Academy's website in the absence of Mr. Jawzi Lardjane, Head of the Translation Division, who was on leave. The meeting resulted in several decisions, namely:

- To compile all the statements issued by

the Academy on various topics and issues from its inception until now in a single file, in order to publish them on the Academy's website independently of the resolutions and recommendations.

- To integrate an electronic copy of the fourth edition of the Academy's resolutions and recommendations on the website for easy access by researchers.
- To integrate biographies of Academy's members, experts, and officials with their photos on the website, following a unified template for biography content, to prepare a dictionary of Academy's members and experts.
- To prepare detailed and thematic indexes for the book of resolutions to be printed with the fifth edition after the twenty-fifth session.