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سيمفوسيوم كواغن إسلام نكارا بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ISLAMIC FINANCE SYMPOSIUM 2025

Navigating Digital Frontiers in Islamic Finance



11 Jamadilakhir 1447 | 2 December 2025
Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Brunei

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Brunei Darussalam Islamic Finance Symposium 2025

The Brunei Darussalam Islamic Finance (BDIF) Symposium 2025, themed “Navigating Digital Frontiers in Islamic Finance”, is proudly co-organised by Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) and Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and hosted by Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD). This symposium aims to provide a platform for policymakers, industry professionals, academics, and relevant stakeholders to delve into the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in the field of Islamic finance.

With the objective of increasing research paper publications and spurring interest in Islamic finance, participants will have the exclusive opportunity to listen to key presentations delivered by the winners of the Best Papers from the second BDIF Call-for-Papers (CFP) of 2024. These presentations encompass six key focus paper streams surrounding the areas of:

- ✿ Sustainable Finance and ESG
- ✿ Islamic Social Finance
- ✿ FinTech Innovations
- ✿ Financial Inclusion
- ✿ Syariah Governance
- ✿ Islamic Finance and Economic Growth



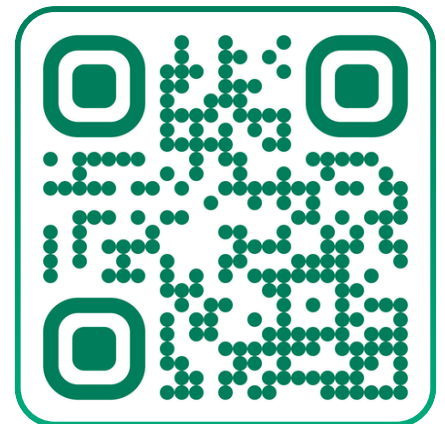
Logo Description:

The logo design encapsulates the essence of Brunei's rich cultural heritage and its significant role in the realm of Islamic finance. The intertwining of the Roman and Jawi scripts not only reflects Brunei's embrace of modernity while honouring its traditional roots, but also signifies inclusivity and unity. At the heart of the design lies the acronym "IF," representing Islamic finance. It is strategically positioned to symbolise Brunei's pivotal position in the global Islamic finance landscape.

 www.bdif.com.bn 

Official Website:

The BDIF website aims to showcase the Sultanate's Islamic financial ecosystem since the establishment of its first Islamic financial institution in 1991. The website also serves as a gateway to Brunei's Islamic finance sector, providing comprehensive information on end-to-end regulations, market players and their products, the people driving the industry, as well as the education and training opportunities available for continuous professional development.



*Scan to explore
the BDIF website*

Brunei Darussalam Islamic Finance Symposium 2025

Programme

- 8:00 am **Arrival of Guests**
- 8:40 am **Arrival of Guest of Honour**
Yang Mulia
Pg Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pg Dato Paduka Haji Sani
Acting Minister of Finance and Economy
Deputy Chairman of Brunei Darussalam Central Bank Board of Directors
- 9:00 am **Recitation of Al-Quran**
- 9:15 am **Welcoming Remarks**
Yang Mulia
Dayang Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Sabtu
Managing Director, Brunei Darussalam Central Bank
- 9:25 am **Opening Ceremony**
Launch of the new BDIF website
Presentation of the 2025 BDIF Call-for-Papers Award
Handover of the BDIF 2025 Islamic Economics Journal (Special Edition)
- 9:45 am **Keynote Presentation**
*Digital Trust and Maqasid:
Reimagining Islamic Finance in the Age of AI and FinTech*
Yang Mulia Dr. Ziyaad Mahomed
Associate Professor, INCEIF University
- 10:15 am **Coffee/Tea Break**
- 10:30 am **Panel Discussion:**
Top 3 Best Papers (Professional Category)
Moderator
Yang Mulia Dr. Amnisuhailah binti Abarahan
Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**

Brunei Darussalam Islamic Finance Symposium 2025

Programme

1:30 pm **Panel Discussion:**

Advancing Islamic Finance in the Digital Era

Panellists

Yang Mulia Mr Jason Wong
BIBD Securities Sdn Bhd

Yang Mulia Ms Brenda Low
Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn. Bhd.

Yang Mulia Awang Dr Ahmad Lutfi bin Haji Abdul Razak
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Moderator

Yang Mulia Pg Siti Nur Wafiqah binti Pg Jamal El-Fiarra
Brunei Darussalam Central Bank

2:10 pm **Coffee/Tea Break**

2:25 pm **Panel Discussion:**

Top 3 Best Papers (Student Category)

Moderator

Yang Mulia Dayang Ida Nazrena binti Haji Bujang
Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance

4:30 pm **Closing**

“Enhancing Transparency in Islamic Finance through Blockchain: A System Thinking Approach to Accountability”

Dr. Vita Sarasi

Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia

Abstract:

This study aims to analyse the role of blockchain technology in advancing transparency, accountability, and Sharia compliance across Islamic finance sectors, while identifying barriers and proposing systemic solutions for its adoption. Using a systems thinking approach with a Causal Loop Diagram, the research highlights that human resources characterized by integrity, trustworthiness, and honesty are critical for successful blockchain adoption. Countries like Malaysia and the UAE lead blockchain innovation. The UAE boasts the highest blockchain adoption rate of 90% and the largest number of key activities with 3.5 main activities, while Malaysia demonstrates significant operational efficiency with cost savings of USD 1.2 billion and value addition of USD 1 billion in halal supply chains.

Brunei, as an emerging market, focuses on integrating blockchain into logistics and public services, laying the groundwork for ethical compliance and scalability. Indonesia excels in financial inclusion through community-centric applications such as microfinance and zakah management, with a blockchain adoption rate of around 50%. However, it still faces challenges, lagging behind Malaysia at 40% and the UAE at 35%. Reinforcing loops in the CLD emphasize the role of skilled human resources in strengthening transparency-driven trust and operational efficiency, while balancing loops address systemic barriers. A proposed roadmap prioritizes Sharia-compliant regulations, investments in blockchain infrastructure, literacy programs, and capacity building for financial practitioners and Sharia scholars. By integrating blockchain with Sharia principles and fostering skilled human resources, Indonesia can strengthen its Islamic finance sector, bridge its adoption gap, and emerge as a global leader.

Future research should explore scalable solutions, integration with artificial intelligence (AI), and their role in advancing transparency, operational efficiency, and ethical financial practices.

“Issue in Sharia Review Process for New Product Development in Islamic FinTech: How Modern Agile Principle Can Improve it?”

Syafwendi Syafril

State Islamic University Raden Intan Lampung, Indonesia

Abstract:

Islamic FinTech has rapidly emerged as a transformative force in the financial services industry, enabling the development of products that were previously constrained by the rigidity of conventional banking frameworks.

This study identifies and addresses the primary obstacles in the Shariah review process that impede the development of new products in the Islamic FinTech sector. A particular focus is placed on the regulatory challenges and unique compliance requirements faced by Islamic FinTech companies, as they must satisfy both regulatory and Shariah standards. This dual-layered scrutiny has slowed innovation, underscoring the need for a more efficient compliance process.

To address this, the study proposes a replicable framework that integrates agile principles to streamline the Shariah review and expedite product development. This study employs a qualitative approach, data is gathered from diverse sources such as industry reports, scholarly research, and media publications to understand the nuances of Islamic Fintech in Indonesia. The findings highlight a lack of clarity and standardized processes from regulators, which has led to variability in the Shariah compliance review's thoroughness and interpretations.

As a solution, the study suggests a structured, three-step review process incorporating a Shariah sandbox, which could significantly reduce the time-to-market for innovative Islamic FinTech products. This framework not only enhances the efficiency of Shariah compliance in Indonesia but also offers a model that could be adopted in other regions to support the growth of the Islamic FinTech sector globally.

“Empowering Fresh Graduates through Digital Innovation: Enhancing Financial Inclusion via Islamic Microfinance with Digital Identity and Fee-Based Structures”

Siti Dalina binti Tumiran @ Kamal Nasser

Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia

Abstract:

Fresh graduates encounter a variety of financial challenges owing to an absence of credit history, income, and employment experience. This limits their capacity for economic participation and development of entrepreneurship. The incorporation of digital identity and fee-based structures into Islamic microfinance may therefore enable such a challenge to highlight the possibilities of financial inclusion for this demographic as a Sharia-compliant pathway to economic empowerment.

This research focuses on innovation as an instrumental agent in the redefinition of financial inclusion in Islamic finance, based on the Theory of Financial Inclusion. Two groups were purposively sampled: first, bank managers involved in active microfinance operations; second, fresh graduates who engaged in entrepreneurial activities during their previous studies.

Twelve fresh graduates and twelve bank managers were interviewed with semi-structured interviews based on the Grounded Theory in this qualitative research. The findings of this research would demonstrate that digital identity systems and fee-based structures have the potential to offer fresh graduates with financial empowerment and the ability to confidently participate in entrepreneurial activity. The bank manager also supports this decision as it illustrates how innovation blended with Sharia principles may encourage institutional success via the use of Islamic finance in order to achieve sustainability and improve customer satisfaction.

As a recommendation, Islamic microfinance institutions could combine ethical financing models with digital technology to address the barriers that prohibit fresh graduates from joining the field of entrepreneurship. Furthermore, this research is having beneficial effects on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Goals 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, in particular, may be realised if policies to foster entrepreneurship and minimise youth unemployment are implemented.

“Breaking the Cycle: Addressing Systemic Challenges and Fostering Resilience in Brunei's Collaborative Growth Enterprises (CGEs)”

Nurul Amalina binti Suprem

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Abstract:

Collaborative Growth Enterprises (CGEs), encompassing start-ups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), are essential drivers of economic growth, innovation, and diversification.

In Brunei Darussalam, CGEs hold significant potential to reduce the nation's reliance on its oil and gas sector. Brunei has invested a significant amount in supporting its entrepreneurial ecosystem through several initiatives such as DARE, which provides training, funding, and mentorship. However, these efforts have not resulted in a sustainable or resilient entrepreneurial landscape. Many CGEs in Brunei fail to scale or survive beyond the early stages, largely due to over-reliance on government support and limited private sector engagement. Utilising a mixed-method approach that integrates quantitative and qualitative research methods, several key findings were highlighted.

Results discovered that the risk-averse culture discourages entrepreneurship, while the ecosystem's focus on short-term funding limits startups' ability to scale sustainably. This paper proposes FinTech as a solution to these challenges. Crowdfunding platforms can diversify funding sources and reduce reliance on government grants. Digital wallets and blockchain solutions can enhance financial inclusivity, while regulatory sandboxes can foster innovation. By addressing these gaps and fostering public-private collaboration, Brunei can transform its startup ecosystem into a resilient and long-lasting driver of economic diversification.

“Understanding the Obstacles in Digital Transformation for Islamic Social Finance: Insights from Brunei Darussalam”

Dk Saiyidahtul Syahirah binti Pg Radin

Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali

Abstract:

This paper examines the challenges of digital transformation within Islamic Social Finance (ISF), with a focus on Brunei Darussalam. Islamic social finance, encompassing mechanisms like zakat, waqf, and sadaqah, plays a crucial role in social welfare by addressing poverty, healthcare, education, and community development. The efficiency, transparency, and reach of these processes could be improved by digital transformation, but putting such changes into practice inside ISF is difficult, particularly when it comes to Shariah compliance.

The research method used is a Systematic Literature Review with a descriptive approach with a mixture of collecting relevant and legitimate academic literature from diverse sources. The study aims to (1) explore the current advancements in digital-driven innovations and their impact on the Islamic finance industry; (2) identify the gaps in the ISF research and make suggestions for the further scope of the study; (3) provide an in-depth overview of digital transformation for ISF in Brunei, by highlighting specific issues and challenges related to their application in the Islamic finance industry. This paper offers a conceptual framework for comprehending how technology may potentially transform ISF in Brunei by examining current literature and international trends.

Key findings show that obstacles to digital transformation in Brunei's ISF include a lack of digital knowledge and adoption among stakeholders, technological infrastructure constraints, market competitiveness, and regulatory and Shariah compliance difficulties. Moreover, concerns about cybersecurity, which are particularly significant for financial transactions involving public confidence, exacerbate these problems.

Among potential approaches for Brunei are highlighted by a comparison study with nations like Malaysia and Indonesia, where digital tools have been successfully included into ISF.

(cont.)

(cont'd)

These tactics include partnerships with FinTech companies to create Shariah-compliant platforms, government engagement to provide clear regulatory frameworks, and educational initiatives to increase public knowledge of the advantages of digital Islamic finance and prevent malpractices, whereby improving literacy and increasing access to technology is essential to help narrow the gap and ensure equal participation in financial sectors for inclusiveness.

This paper's conclusion highlights Brunei's ability to spearhead the digital transformation of ISF on a regional and international scale and stresses the value of digital technologies in building an effective, accessible, and user-friendly ISF ecosystem. In this era of technological transformation, by addressing these challenges while leveraging the capabilities of instruments compliant with Shariah principles, ISF mechanisms may drive sustainable inclusive finance.

“The Role of Perceived Usefulness as a Mediator between Technology Readiness and Financial Technology (FinTech) Continuance Intention in Brunei Darussalam”

Noor Edatul Sofriah binti Sofry

Universiti Teknologi Brunei

Abstract:

Financial technology (FinTech), encompassing digital as well as innovative financial technologies and products, has experienced remarkable global growth and is now one of the fastest-expanding sectors of the economy.

In Brunei Darussalam, these innovations have become a key priority sector, supporting the nation's goal of achieving Brunei Vision 2035. However, the country's technological progress still remains in its early stages, highlighting the need to understand the factors that drive users' continued and ongoing engagement with technology.

This study explores whether perceived usefulness mediates the relationship between technology readiness and FinTech continuance intention in Brunei, drawing on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Based on a survey of 918 respondents, the findings reveal that perceived usefulness significantly mediates this relationship, while no direct link between technology readiness and continuance intention was found. Alternatively, higher levels of technology readiness are positively associated with increased perceived usefulness, which, in turn, strengthens continuance intention.

These results suggest that FinTech providers should focus on enhancing perceived usefulness, including improving technological infrastructure and user experience, to encourage long-term user adoption. This study contributes to the theoretical understanding of FinTech adoption and offers practical recommendations for improving customer/end-user retention in emerging FinTech markets, such as Brunei.

Keynote Presenter

Digital Trust and Maqasid:

Reimagining Islamic Finance in the Age of AI and FinTech



Dr. Ziyaad Mahomed

Associate Professor

Lead Researcher for the Centre of Excellence in Social Finance

Head of Online Programs at INCEIF University

Biography

Associate Professor Dr. Ziyaad Mahomed stands as a distinguished Shariah Advisor, extending his expertise to over 12 boards of Islamic financial institutions on an international scale. Notably, he holds the esteemed position of Chairman of the HSBC Amanah Shariah Board in Malaysia, underscoring his influence in shaping Shariah compliance within the financial sector.

Dr. Ziyaad's research and consultancy efforts have left an indelible mark on the global Islamic finance landscape. His focus on innovating Takaful products and models spans diverse regions, including South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, and Malaysia. His leadership in numerous consultancies has been instrumental in the development of Islamic Banking windows and the evolution of Takaful in various countries, with notable contributions to the UK, Maldives, Nigeria, the Philippines, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan, among others. He serves as a Senior World Bank Consultant for advancement of Islamic Finance in Africa and South-East Asia.

Panel Discussion

Top 3 Best Papers (Professional Category)

Panellists:



Dr. Vita Sarasi

Associate Professor,
Faculty of Economics and Business
Universitas Padjadjaran



Syafwendi Syafril

Lecturer
Faculty of Islamic Economics and Business
State Islamic University Raden Intan Lampung



Siti Dalina binti Tumiran @ Kamal Nasser

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Accountancy
Universiti Teknologi MARA

Moderator:

Dr. Amnisuhailah binti Abarahan

Deputy Dean
Faculty of Islamic Economics and Finance
Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA)



Moderator

Panel Discussion:

Top 3 Best Papers (Professional Category)



Dr. Amnisuhailah binti Abarahan

*Deputy Dean, Faculty of Islamic Economics and Finance,
Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA)*

Biography

Dr. Amni is the Deputy Dean and Assistant Professor at Faculty of Islamic Economics and Finance (FIEF), Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA).

She is a prominent speaker in Islamic Finance both locally and internationally. Dr Amni has authored several publications related to the field.

She is a member of the Syariah Advisory Board of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam Securities, Syarikat Takaful Brunei Darussalam, Takaful Brunei General, and Takaful Brunei Family. She is also the Associate member of Association of Syariah Advisers in Islamic Finance (ASAS), Member of Chartered Institute of Islamic Finance Professionals (CIIFP) and member of International Council of Islamic Finance Educators (ICIFE).

Best Paper Presenter

Professional Category



Dr. Vita Sarasi

"Enhancing Transparency in Islamic Finance through Blockchain: A System Thinking Approach to Accountability"

Innovations in FinTech

Biography

Dr. Vita Sarasi is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia. She earned her Doctorate in Science Management, with a dissertation focusing on the optimization of zakat fund distribution to enhance social welfare and economic empowerment. Her research interests include Islamic finance, sustainable supply chain management, and systems thinking-based policy analysis.

Dr. Sarasi has authored several academic books, including Systems Thinking and System Dynamics (Yayasan Sahabat Alam Rafflesia, 2021), Monograph on the Optimization Model of Zakat Fund Distribution (Bintang Pustaka Madani, 2021), and Excellent Project Management: On Time, On Budget, On Quality (Bintang Pustaka Madani, 2021).

Her Scopus-indexed publications appear in Innovative Marketing, Cogent Business & Management, Geography and Sustainability, and the International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy. She also serves as a reviewer for international journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, including Frontiers, F1000Research (Taylor & Francis Group), and the Research Journal of Textile and Apparel.

Her current research focuses on integrating Islamic finance, digital transformation, and sustainability to build resilient and inclusive economic systems.

Best Paper Presenter

Professional Category



Syafwendi Syafril

"Issue in Sharia Review Process for New Product Development in Islamic Fintech: How Modern Agile Principle Can Improve it?"

Innovations in FinTech

Biography

Syafwendi S., S.E, M.Sh, PhD (Cand), is an academic and professional dedicated to bridging the gap between Islamic finance theory and practice. He currently holds the position of Sharia Business Management Lecturer at the State Islamic University Raden Intan Lampung, a role he started in May 2025. Concurrently, he is pursuing a PhD in Islamic Finance at INCEIF University in Malaysia as an INCEIF Chancellor Scholarship awardee. From September 2021 to September 2024, he also served as a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) at INCEIF University, where he assisted professors with research, managed classes, and acted as a teaching assistant.

His professional background includes experience as an Islamic Finance Consultant (Assistant) at Manara Academy Training and Consultancy in Kuala Lumpur from November 2019 to April 2021, where he provided consultancy services through market research and product documentation. Prior to that, he was an Investment Specialist at PT. Mirae Asset Sekuritas Indonesia in Jakarta from November 2016 to December 2017, where he educated investors on stock analysis and attracted new investors to the Indonesian capital market. Academically, he holds a Master in Islamic Management and Finance from the University of Malaya (2018–2021) and a Bachelor in Management from UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta (2012–2016).

His organisational leadership experience includes serving as Chairman of PPI-INCEIF University (2023–Now) and General Secretary of Masyarakat Ekonomi Syariah Malaysia (MES) (2019–2021). He has published several papers on Islamic economics and finance on local and international platforms.

Best Paper Presenter

Professional Category



Siti Dalina binti Tumiran @ Kamal Nasser

"Empowering Fresh Graduates through Digital Innovation: Enhancing Financial Inclusion via Islamic Microfinance with Digital Identity and Fee-Based Structures"

Financial Inclusion

Biography

Siti Dalina binti Tumiran @ Kamal Nasser is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Accountancy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kelantan Branch, Malaysia. She holds a Master in Business Administration (Accounting) and has over 16 years of teaching experience in taxation and zakat accounting.

Her academic and research interests lie in the areas of Islamic social finance, particularly zakat, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and the integration of zakat with social and ethical development frameworks. She has actively contributed to the study of zakat as a socio-economic empowerment tool, exploring its role in financial inclusion and community well-being.

Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to nurturing students' understanding of taxation and Islamic finance through interactive and applied learning approaches. Her current research focuses on strengthening the link between zakat institutions and social finance mechanisms to achieve sustainable impact aligned with the principles of Islamic economics.

Panel Discussion

Advancing Islamic Finance in the Digital Era

Panellists:



Brenda Low

Chief Executive Officer
Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd

Head
Wealth and Retail Banking (WRB),
Standard Chartered Bank, Brunei



Jason Wong

Managing Director
BIBD Securities Sdn Bhd



Dr. Ahmad Lutfi bin Haji Abdul Razak

Deputy Dean,
School of Business and Economics
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Moderator:

Pg Siti Nur Wafiqah binti Pg Jamal El-Fiarra

Senior Manager
Financial Development
Brunei Darussalam Central Bank



Moderator

Panel Discussion:

Advancing Islamic Finance in the Digital Era



Pg Siti Nur Wafiqah binti Pg Jamal El-Fiarra

Senior Manager
Financial Development
Brunei Darussalam Central Bank

Biography

Wafiqah Fiarra is a Senior Manager in the Financial Development Division at Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB). She has been with BDCB for almost ten years, beginning her career in Internal Audit before moving into Financial Development. She holds a degree in Economics and International Development from the University of Bath, UK, and MSc in International Development at University of Birmingham, UK, which supports her strong interest in financial sector development.

During her time in Internal Audit, she led and carried out reviews and advisory engagements across key central banking functions, including facilitation and coordination of IT system controls compliance assessments and supported institutional activities in the areas of governance, controls and risk management. She has also contributed to strengthening governance and operational efficiency through consultancy advisory engagements of policies and processes within the organisation.

Panellist

Panel Discussion:

Advancing Islamic Finance in the Digital Era



Brenda Low

Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd
Head, Wealth and Retail Banking (WRB), Standard Chartered Bank, Brunei

Biography

As CEO at Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd and Head at Wealth and Retail Banking, Brenda is responsible for leading the wealth and retail banking business development and strategy for the Brunei franchise. With over 20 years in the financial industry, Brenda's experience spans across Retail Product Management, Contact Centre Management, Remote Channels Management, Service Quality and Wealth Management. She pioneered the establishment of Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd in 2016 and first-ever approved Islamic window in Brunei to distribute Syariah-compliant investments in 2021.

Under Brenda's leadership, SCSB has delivered several first-in-market capabilities that help empowering clients in their wealth journey and is the market leader in Brunei with award-winning wealth capabilities recognised by The Digital Banker and The Asian Banking & Finance Awards.

Prior to joining Standard Chartered, Brenda worked in the Derivative Trading Unit of International Brunei Exchange in Brunei. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Universiti Brunei Darussalam and acquired a Professional Diploma in Islamic Finance and Economics (LIFE Common Core) from Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance (BILIF).

She is a member of the Brunei Darussalam Capital Market Association ("BCMA").

Panellist

Panel Discussion:

Advancing Islamic Finance in the Digital Era



Jason Wong

Managing Director
BIBD Securities Sdn Bhd

Biography

Jason Wong is the Managing Director of BIBD Securities, where he oversees Islamic Capital Markets, Syariah Asset Management, and Wealth Management activities for the BIBD Group.

Under his leadership, BIBD Securities launched Brunei's first locally-managed Syariah-compliant fund, the Lion-BIBDS Islamic Enhanced Liquidity Fund, marking a significant milestone in the country's Islamic finance landscape. He also spearheaded the implementation of the Avaloq Wealth Management System, elevating BIBD Securities' advisory, portfolio management, and client-servicing capabilities to global standards.

Prior to his current role, he headed BIBD Bank's proprietary investment team, managing global market portfolios including Sukuk, Islamic credit-linked notes (I-CLNs), and other medium-term investments.

Jason currently serves as Vice President of the Brunei Capital Market Association. He holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Finance and a Master of Engineering (MEng) in Chemical Engineering, both from Imperial College London, and is a CFA charterholder.

Panellist

Panel Discussion:

Advancing Islamic Finance in the Digital Era



Dr. Ahmad Lutfi bin Haji Abdul Razak

Deputy Dean, School of Business and Economics
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Biography

Dr. Ahmad Lutfi Abdul Razak is the Deputy Dean of Academic and Student Affairs at the UBD School of Business and Economics. His research interests include sustainable finance, Islamic economics, and development policy.

Dr. Lutfi has published in leading international journals, including the Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money, the Pacific-Basin Finance Journal, and the Journal of Risk Finance. Beyond academia, he has contributed to regional policy research on climate and green finance, including projects on ASEAN's net-zero transition and sustainable financial systems. He also serves as an advisor to public and private institutions on Islamic finance and sustainability.

Moderator

Panel Discussion:

Top 3 Best Papers (Student Category)



Ida Nazrena binti Haji Bujang

Senior Manager

Professional Development Department

Brunei Institute of Leadership and Islamic Finance (BILIF)

Biography

Ida is the Senior Manager, Professional Development Department in Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance (BILIF). She joined BILIF, previously known as Centre For Islamic Banking, Finance And Management (CIBFM) in 2011 and has since been involved in the development and formulation of learning programmes and events. She completed the Certified Financial Planner certification by the Financial Planning Association of Malaysia, as well as the Islamic Financial Planning Certificate in 2005. She is also an Accredited Training Professional (ATP), awarded by SMR HR Group in 2012.

Ida has over 16 years' experience in the local financial industry, which include banking and Islamic investment services for retail clients. Ida was a regular guest speaker for Tabung Amanah Pekerja and RTB's morning show, Rampai Pagi, talking about financial planning.

She is passionate about people's development and is particularly interested in behavioural studies, emotional intelligence and Islamic leadership. Ida holds a Master of Science in Management & Technology, awarded by Universiti Teknologi Brunei.

Best Paper Presenter

Student Category



Samhan Rabinin

"Breaking the Cycle: Addressing Systemic Challenges and Fostering Resilience in Brunei's Collaborative Growth Enterprises (CGEs)"

Financial Inclusion

Biography

Samhan Rabinin is a final-year Accounting and Finance student at Universiti Brunei Darussalam with practical experience from his internship at the Audit Department in Brunei, where he built competencies in financial auditing, risk management, and compliance.

His professional interests focus on how Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) can better access financial resources to expand into regional and international markets.

For his bachelor's thesis, he investigated the potential of adopting FinTech solutions and other legal, non-traditional financing methods to support SME growth. By exploring alternative funding channels beyond conventional banking, he aims to identify scalable models that can enhance financial inclusion and competitiveness for SMEs.

He is open to networking and collaboration with practitioners, policymakers, and researchers in SME development, fintech, and international business.

Best Paper Presenter

Student Category



Dk Saiyidahtul Syahirah binti Pg Radin

"Understanding the Obstacles in Digital Transformation for Islamic Social Finance: Insights from Brunei Darussalam"

Islamic Social Finance

Biography

Dk Saiyidahtul Syahirah is a First Class Honours graduate in Islamic Finance from Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Brunei Darussalam. Throughout her academic journey, she was recognised for her exceptional performance, receiving the University Book Prize for four consecutive years as the outstanding student and graduate in her programme, in addition to multiple Dean's List awards.

She also holds the Associate Qualification in Islamic Finance (AQIF) from the Islamic Banking and Finance Institute of Malaysia (IBFIM). Driven by a strong passion for the development of Islamic finance, Dk Saiyidahtul Syahirah is committed to contributing to the advancement of Brunei's Islamic finance industry through continuous learning, research, and active participation in academic and professional initiatives.

Best Paper Presenter

Student Category



Co-author

Dr. Syahnur Farhana binti Haji Shahlehi

"The Role of Perceived Usefulness as a Mediator between Technology Readiness and Financial Technology (FinTech) Continuance Intention in Brunei Darussalam"

Innovations in FinTech

Biography

Dr. Syahnur Farhana is an Adjunct Lecturer at Universiti Teknologi Brunei, where she teaches Research Methodology and Entrepreneurship. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics in 2024 and has been recognised with the Outstanding Research Paper Award for her exemplary thesis, as well as a Publication Award for her active scholarly contributions. Since 2023, Dr. Syahnur has been involved in interdisciplinary research projects spanning 4IR and agricultural development, self-care in health sciences, and strategic knowledge management for SME competitiveness.

Her research interests include entrepreneurship, SME internationalisation and sustainability, Halal agricultural and food industry development, Islamic business and values-based management, and strategic and human capital management. She has authored six peer-reviewed journal articles, most of which are indexed in Scopus (Q2), along with a book chapter. She currently has five additional journal articles underway for publication.

Dr. Syahnur actively contributes to both local and international academic conferences, most recently presenting at the 3rd International Conference on Business, Management and Information Systems (ICBMIS 2025) and the 5th International Conference on Islamic Economics Finance and Social Finance (ICONIC SOF). She is committed to advancing inclusive and sustainable economic development through impactful, application-driven scholarship.

Qari



Mohammad Aziz Aszreen Shah bin Haji Mohd Zain

3rd Year Bachelor of Usuluddin (Tafsir & Hadith)
Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA)

Biography

Mohammad Aziz Aszreen Shah is an undergraduate student of Tafsir and Hadith from the Usuluddin Faculty at Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA). Currently, he serves as a coordinator for the Balai Talaqqi programme held by the Usuluddin Faculty and continues to attend Talaqi Kitab Ulum Islamiyyah classes, which focus on face-to-face classes to delve into Islamic religious books. The classes prioritise direct interaction to ensure the accuracy of reading, understanding, and the validity of the knowledge learned, in line with the tradition of Islamic scholarship and that of previous scholars.

Prior to his enrolment into UNISSA, he pursued his studies at Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, where he completed a Diploma in Tahfiz Qiraat. During this period, he successfully completed the Khatam Hafaz Al-Quran 30 Juz in 2018 and, accordingly, completed the Syahadah Hafaz Al-Quran in 2020-2023.

Beyond his academic achievements, he also distinguishes himself as a champion for *lagu-lagu dakwah* competitions in 2021. Since 2016, he has frequently served as an Imam for Terawih prayers at various mosques across Brunei Darussalam.

Panel Discussion

Top 3 Best Papers (Student Category)

Panellists:



Samhan Rabihin
Universiti Brunei Darussalam



Dk Saiyidahtul Syahirah binti Pg Radin
Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali



Dr. Syanur Farhana binti Haji Shahlehi
Universiti Teknologi Brunei

Moderator:

Ida Nazrena binti Haji Bujang

Senior Manager
Professional Development Department
Brunei Institute of Leadership and Islamic Finance (BILIF)



Acknowledgements



BDCB extends its heartfelt appreciation to all contributors and participants whose insights, ideas, and dedication enriched today's ceremony.

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Parks and Recreation (JASTRe),
Ministry of Development

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)

Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance (BILIF)

Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam Securities Sdn Bhd (BIBDS)

Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd (SCSB)

The International Center for Education in Islamic Finance
University (INCEIF)

Local media outlets

Your collective support has been instrumental in advancing Islamic finance in Brunei Darussalam. This collaboration reflects the spirit of partnership that continues to guide and strengthen our shared aspirations for the nation.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ISLAMIC FINANCE Call-for-Papers

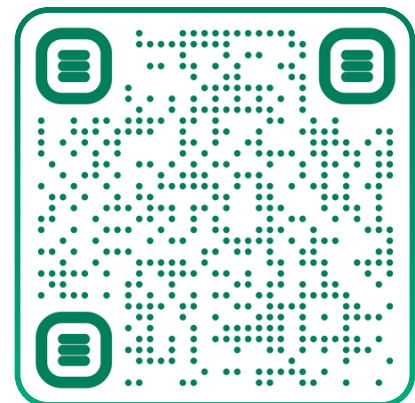


Brunei Darussalam Islamic Finance 1st Call-for-Papers

Islamic Finance as a Catalyst for Economic Growth and Shared Prosperity

Selected papers were published in the Islamic Economics International Refereed Journal as a special issue titled Vol. 2, No. 1 (2024): iECO Special Issue, June 2024.

- ❁ ***"The Integration of ESG in Islamic Asset Management: A Practical Approach"***
Farah A'liyah binti Haji Amer Hishamuddin
- ❁ ***"Achieving Economic Growth through Islamic Social Finance"***
Nurul Naqibah Izzati binti Muhammad Faizul
Dk Nur Amirah Nabihah Munawwarah binti Pg Alias
- ❁ ***"Brunei's Imperative Role: Catalyzing Islamic Finance Crowdfunding in ASEAN, Revolutionizing P2P, and Unlocking Equity Crowdfunding Potential"***
Nurul Amalina binti Suprem
- ❁ ***"Smart Contracts and the Possibility of Gharar"***
Nur Raqibah Rafaheh
- ❁ ***"Optimising Zakat Fund in Empowering Mu'allaf in Brunei Darussalam"***
Muhammad Zul Hamzi Faiz bin Haji Mohd Zali



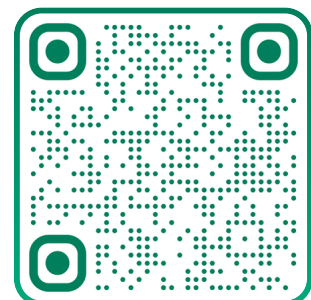
Scan to access the journal

Brunei Darussalam Islamic Finance 2nd Call-for-Papers

Navigating Digital Frontiers in Islamic Finance

Selected papers were published in the Islamic Economics International Refereed Journal as a special issue titled Vol. 3, No. 1 (2025): iECO Special Issue, November 2025.

- ❁ ***"Enhancing Transparency in Islamic Finance through Blockchain: A System Thinking Approach to Accountability"***
Dr. Vita Sarasi
- ❁ ***"Issue in Sharia Review Process for New Product Development in Islamic Fintech: How Modern Agile Principle Can Improve It"***
Syafwendi Syafril
- ❁ ***"Empowering Fresh Graduates through Digital Innovation: Enhancing Financial Inclusion via Islamic Microfinance with Digital Identity and Fee-Based Structures"***
Siti Dalina binti Tumira @ Kamal Nasser
- ❁ ***"Breaking the Cycle: Addressing Systemic Challenges and Fostering Resilience in Brunei's Collaborative Growth Enterprises (CGEs)"***
Nurul Amalina binti Suprem
- ❁ ***"Understanding The Obstacles in Digital Transformation for Islamic Social Finance: Insights from Brunei Darussalam"***
Dk Saiyidahtul Syahirah binti Pg Radin
- ❁ ***"The Role of Perceived Usefulness as Mediation between Technology Readiness and Financial Technology (FinTech) Continuance Intention in Brunei Darussalam"***
Noor Edatul Sofriah binti Sofry



Scan to access the journal

Brunei Darussalam Islamic Finance 3rd Call-for-Papers

Innovating Sukuk for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

The Call for Papers aims to encourage and promote in-depth discussions on emerging issues in the field of Islamic Finance, strengthen research efforts and increase the publication of articles on Islamic Finance that can continue to Brunei Darussalam's economic growth

Theme

Innovating Sukuk for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Research Streams

- ❁ Economic Growth
- ❁ Sustainable Finance or ESG-related
- ❁ Innovations in FinTech
- ❁ Financial Inclusion
- ❁ Islamic-Social Finance
- ❁ Syariah Governance

Cash Prize

Up to **BND1,500** cash prizes will be awarded for best papers

Delivery

English

Registration Fees

BND50 (Student)
BND100 (Professional)

Important Dates

- ❁ **31 January 2026**
Deadline for abstract submission
- ❁ **28 February 2026**
Notification on acceptance/rejection
- ❁ **30 April 2026**
Deadline for full papers submission
- ❁ **18 November 2026**
Conference

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