

HALALSPHERE

International Islamic University Malaysia - INHART



Editorial Note

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The halal ecosystem has evolved beyond questions of basic permissibility to encompass governance, quality assurance, sustainability, innovation, and ethical responsibility across the entire value chain (Tieman, 2020; Khan, Haleem, & Khan, 2021). This evolution reflects the maturation of halal as an integrated ecosystem linking production, supply chains, standards, policy, and consumer trust.

In contrast to the rapid advancement of the halal industry in response to growing demand, scholarly research and development have been observed to progress at a more deliberate pace and face challenges in remaining aligned with evolving industry dynamics (Haleem *et al.*, 2020). This is a concern, as it is precisely methodologically robust scholarship that safeguards the ethical integrity and sustainability of the halal ecosystem. High-quality research provides the analytical depth needed to inform best practices, guide policy, and address emerging challenges.

In this regard, Halalsphere serves as a platform for scholarship that approaches halal not merely as a regulatory or commercial construct, but as a holistic ecosystem shaped by technical, managerial, socio-ethical, and religious considerations. Scholarly inquiry ensures coherence between ethical values, knowledge production, and practical implementation, while contributing to the higher objectives of *Shari'ah* (Dusuki & Abdullah, 2021). Guided by tawhidic epistemology, fostering faith-based halal research can preserve halal's spiritual integrity and sanctity as a faith-bound system while effectively addressing contemporary scientific challenges in the halal industry (Hashim *et al.*, 2025).

The world has witnessed the expansion of halal sectors beyond the food sector into areas such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, tourism, logistics, fashion, and media. Articles in Halalsphere reflect these diverse perspectives and approaches within halal studies, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of the complexities facing the halal industry today. In this regard, Halalsphere welcomes contributions across three main themes: halal alternative materials and ingredients; halal authentication and sensor technologies; and *Shari'ah*, management, marketing, and contemporary halal issues. Increasingly, Halalsphere also recognises and celebrates multi-inter-transdisciplinary research, which is indispensable in solving the complex issues arising in the halal industry. The works published in the journal underscore the importance of sound research design, critical engagement, and transparent publication practices as outlined in the Guidelines on Good Publication Practice published by the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE Council, 2022). Collectively, this is an important effort in sustaining a credible and impactful halal discourse.

Established in 2021 and now entering its sixth year, Halalsphere remains committed to rigorous peer review and scholarly excellence. As the new Editor-in-Chief, I warmly welcome our community of scholars, practitioners, regulators, and industry stakeholders, and invite you to engage with the journal as a shared platform for advancing thoughtful, credible, and impactful halal scholarship.

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