

**International Islamic Forum for Science, Technology and Human Resources Development (IIFTIHAR):  
Jakarta, December 1996**

The First Conference of the International Islamic Forum for Science, Technology and Human Resources Development was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 6th to 8th December, 1996. The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. President Mohammad Suharto at the State Palace (Istana Negara), Jakarta. Nearly 400 participants from more than sixty Muslim countries attended the conference. They included Dato' Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia; Dr. Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie, Minister for Technology and Research of Indonesia; Dr. Ibrahim A. Omer, Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research of Sudan; Dr. Abd Allah Ghul, State Minister of Turkey; Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank; Dr. AbdulHamid AbuSulayman, Rector of International Islamic University, Malaysia; Dr. Jamal Barzinji, Director General of IIIT Malaysia; Dr. A. Totonji, Secretary General of IIIT, Washington; Dr. Mani-al-Jahani, Secretary General of WAMY; Dr. Tawfid-al-Shawi, Secretary General of Arabic Schools; and Mr. Fahmi Howardi, Deputy Chief-Editor of *Al-Ahram* (Cairo).

In his opening speech President Suharto emphasized the importance of science and technology for Muslim countries which have vast human as well as natural resources. He further stated that all Muslim countries could benefit from the exchange of resources amongst themselves. The session of the conference began with a written speech of the Turkish Prime-Minister, Najm-el-Din Erbakan which was read by Dr. Ghul, the state Minister of Turkey. The speech focused on the increasing number of international crises. According to him, the West is facing a severe crisis of civilization due to the ignorance of the spiritual aspects of human life. The West is concerned only with the materialistic development. He cited the failure of the UN on the international issues as an example of the weak moral basis of that experience. Prime Minister Erbakan urged for the development of an Islamic Economic System based on mutual cooperation in order to overcome the economic crises faced by the Muslim countries. This could have also enabled us to compete with the Western model.

Prime Minister Erbakan's speech was followed by the speech of Dr. Mohammad Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank. He stated

that we must develop our technology in order to meet the development challenge and praised Indonesia for being an ideal example for its efforts for fostering international cooperation to develop Science, Technology and Human Resources among Muslims, and promoting international cooperation in these areas for the advancement of mankind. The importance of science and technology for development was further emphasized by Dr. Habibie, Minister for Technology and Research of Indonesia. He discussed the programmes for science, technology and human resource development in the Muslim world, particularly in Indonesia. Emphasizing the importance of technology he stated, "the population of the world is increasing every day and by the year 2010, 95% of the world population will be in developing countries. So, the Muslims should seriously think about the means and ways of developing their human resources."

The academic seminars and paper presentations by prominent scholars from all over the Muslim world began on the second day of the conference. The participants were divided into three groups to discuss three major issues of development: Social Development, Human Resource Development, and Assessment and Application of Science and Technology. Each group had lengthy discussions on these topics with specific case studies of Bangladesh, Sudan, Iran and Malaysia on social development; Pakistan, Algeria, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia on human resource development; and Egypt, Turkey, Indonesia and Malaysia on the applications of technology. The activities of the second day ended with concluding reports of each group.

The third day of the conference was very significant as it focused on "From vision to action." The concluding speeches were given by Dato' Anwar Ibrahim and Dr. Habibie. Both emphasized the importance of science and technology for getting rid of poverty and underdevelopment in Muslim countries. The organisers and participants agreed to establish the International Islamic Forum for Science, Technology and Human Resource Development (IIFTIHAR), with the Jakarta Declaration, and approved bylaws of the IIFTIHAR and the Future Plan of Action.

### **The Jakarta Declaration**

The text of Jakarta Declaration is as follows:

We hold the conviction to be self-evident that Allah *Subhanahū wa Ta'ālā*, the Creator of the Universe has put mankind on earth commanding them to worship none but Him, and gave them al-Qur'ān as a guidance to

realize the purpose of their creation with *Imān* and *Taqwā*. We bear witness that He creates life and death to facilitate the human function as vicegerents on earth. He endowed them, among other things, with the power of thinking, reasoning, planning, engineering, developing and implementing universal Islamic values and principles, with the tools of knowledge, science and technology in order to develop the earth and establish a Divine order.

We note that the rapid advances and revolutionary changes in science and technology have brought about major changes, in the global society. On the one hand, they have paved the way human material progress never known or imagined before, on the other hand, they have reduced man to a material being that is spiritually bankrupt, morally unbound. Humanity today is facing profound challenges, threatening its very existence, resulting in major paradigm shifts in value, perception, and vision of the Truth.

Turning our attention to the Muslim Ummah, we note that its needs to revive the spirit of scientific research, pursuit of the Truth and excellence in technology leading the divine guidance, noting that more than 1000 verses in the Qur'ān refer to Science, Technology and Human Resources Development exhorting Muslims to think, develop and excel in establishing a divinely guided civilization on earth.

In response to the prevailing global crisis and moral decline we Muslims gather at the 1st International Islamic Forum for Science, Technology and Human Resources Development on 25-27 Rajab 1417 H, corresponding to 6-7 December 1996. We hereby adopt the objectives and Plan of Action of the International Islamic Forum for Science, Technology and Human Resources Development declared in Makkah on 16 Muharram 1417 (2.6.1996) as the forum for the Muslim ummah, call upon them to corporate, reform and develop Science, Technology and Human Resources Development, thereby contributing towards the well-being of mankind.

Affirming our commitment, in the name of Allah, the Beneficent and the Merciful, we hereby solemnly affix our signatures.

### **Formation of the IIFTIHAR**

The conference decided to form an organization called "The International Islamic Forum for Science, Technology and Human Resources Development" with the following objectives.

1. to foster international cooperation and develop science and technology and human resources development among Muslim societies for the advancement of mankind;
2. to facilitate opportunities among Muslim intellectuals to

exchange views, experiences and expertise as well as to formulate collective action in research in the area of science and technology, inspired and guided by the Qur'ān and the *Sunnah*.

In pursuing the above objectives the forum shall observe the principles of comprehensiveness, balance and synergy.

It was decided that the Forum shall draw out comprehensive programmes for the short (1-5 years), medium (5-10 years) and long terms (beyond 10 years).

The programmes shall include, among others, the following:

1. Developing data bases, which will be accessible and available through information highways. The data bases shall comprise information on:
  - a. Institutions engaged in scientific and technological activities as well as research projects in science and technology;
  - b. Muslim scientists, engineers and those active in human resource development;
  - c. Advanced institutions of technology;
  - d. Centres of excellence.
2. Exchanging expertise and cooperation among scientific and educational institutions all over the world through technical cooperation schemes.
3. Enhancing activities in the fields of scholarships, technical and management training, assistance to educational institutions and exchange programmes among scientific institutions.
4. Networking for research activities on Islamic methodology of science and the assessment and application of technology in the Muslim world.
5. Publication and distribution of quality scientific journals.
6. Introducing programmes that will convey to the world the true image of Islamic values, culture and civilization using modern means of multi-media and computer networks.
7. Establishing Islamic centres for the advancement of science and technology as well as human resources development.

### **Plan of Action**

The conference finalized the future plan of action of the IIFTIHAR.

The plan of action is being given below in brief:

### **General**

1. Developing a data-base on: (a) Muslim scientists around the world; (b) Centres for Islamic studies; (c) Centres for studies on Muslim women issues; (d) World Muslim organisations and institutions. The purpose of this program is to map out potential Muslim resources. The data base should be accessible and available through information highways and will be integrated in IIFTIHAR global network.
2. Developing Muslim world media. Publication of credible scientific journals, newsletters and magazines. Launching programmes that will give the world a true image of Islamic civilisation, values and culture, using advanced technological means such as multi-media and computer networks. These media will also be used to improve cooperation among member societies in order to disseminate Islamic views on comprehensive development in general and particularly on science, technology and human resource development.
3. Developing paradigms and concepts on world development based on Islamic values, especially in the field of science, technology and human resources. Giving new directions to the philosophy, vision and approaches of the existing development paradigms in order to incorporate with Islamic values. The purpose is to come up with a new vision and alternative approaches for a comprehensive world development.

### **Social Development**

1. Programmes for poverty and backwardness alleviation. These programmes will be executed in the form of a technical and economic cooperation among member countries and societies, in the field of small and medium scale industries, rural economy, cooperatives, financial scheme and managements etc.
2. **Muslim Women Empowerment.** This programme will be executed in the form of networking among women in member countries on social and economic issues, education etc.
3. Programmes for Manpower Development. This programme is to be developed to improve the quality of the Muslims in becoming more creative, innovative, and equipped with the

ability of entrepreneurship. This can be reached by a revised educational programme, from kindergarten to tertiary education, global apprenticeship, job training and exchange programmes, etc.

4. Programmes for Hygiene, Nutrition and Health Development. Adequate nutrition and good health are prerequisites for a better quality of life. Encourage joint efforts in promoting the awareness of the Muslim community about hygiene, nutrition and health as well as about family planning.

### **Human Resources Development**

1. Education, Training and Scholarship Programmes for Muslim Youth, both male and female. Enhancing activities in the field of scholarship programme, technical and management training, technical assistance to educational institutions and exchange programmes among scientific institutions.
2. Programs for the Integration of *Imtaq* (*Imān* and *Taqwā*) and Science and Technology in Human Resources Development. Developing holistic paradigms and approaches to human resource development through education to integrate *imtaq* and science and technology.

### **The Assessment and Application of Science and Technology**

1. Programmes for Science and Technology Awareness and competence in ummah committees. The programme will be undertaken by channelling efforts pertaining to expertise exchange and cooperation among scientific and educational institutions all over the world through technical cooperation schemes. Launching a network for research activities on Islamic scientific methodology, assessment and application of technology in the Muslim world.
2. Programmes for the application of selected technology in specific regions to make breakthroughs in specific areas. This can be done through technical assistance to make it possible for the more developed countries to assist the less developed ones in such areas as clean water, electricity, telecommunication, information network, etc.

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