

Conference Report

1st World Muslim Women Summit & Exhibition (WISE 2016)

The International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) had the honor of organizing and hosting the first World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition (WISE 2016) on the theme of peace building, also entitled *Liqa' ul Salam*, from 23rd to 25th September 2016 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This was a global level event with a conference, NGOs Meet, youth forum and an exhibition on Muslim women entrepreneurial and creativity achievements. The Summit was co-organized with the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Department of Women's Development (Jabatan Pembangunan Wanita) Malaysia, and the World Islamic Forum (WIF). There were also other strategic partners from Turkey and Malaysia. From Turkey were TASAM and Turkcell, and from Malaysia were the Putra World Trade Center, Karangkrak, Yayasan Dawah Islamiah Malaysia, Tourism Malaysia, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur, Jabatan Kerja Raya, Perbadanan Putrajaya, Seri Pacific Hotel, Kementiaran Kesihatan Malaysia, the Islamic Tourism Center, Yayasan Restu, Yayasan Pahang, YaPIEM, Polis Diraja Malaysia, the Warisan Ummah Ikhlas Foundation, Matrade, IM4U, the OIC International Business Center, Modanisa and the Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

The objectives of WISE 2016 were:

1. *To pool the intellectual strength of Muslim women experts around the world in a united platform to address the global challenges of peace building.*
2. *To establish networking among Muslim women leaders and intellectuals of Malaysia and other OIC member countries.*
3. *To promote innovative insights into peace building by focusing on the special contributions of Muslim women.*

4. *To encourage young women leaders to address contemporary critical and challenging peace building issues from the religious, social, political, cultural, economic and legal perspectives.*
5. *To highlight the necessity and importance of cooperation and network among Muslim women leaders and professionals.*
6. *To propose to the policy-makers practical mechanisms and means to alleviate the effects of conflicts on women in the Muslim world.*

The theme of the Summit, namely, Muslim Women in peacebuilding, was deliberated in the Conference, the NGOS Meet and the Youth Forum. All these events, as well as the exhibition, were held concurrently and at the same venue, the Putra World Trade Center. Dignitaries from Malaysia and the OIC officiated the opening, closing and also attended the events. At the closing ceremony, the Summit came up with the Kuala Lumpur Declaration and an official handing over of WISE was made to the World Islamic Forum (WIF) of Turkey who will organize and host the next Summit, WISE 2017.

Conference: *International Conference on Women and Peace building*

The Conference held intellectual discourses related to Muslim women's roles, works and contributions in the field of peace building. The Conference was conducted in four parallel sessions. There were altogether fifty presentations and about 300 participants. The presentations were made by prominent Muslim intellectuals and activists, covering the theoretical aspects and practical matters including roles, works and contributions of Muslim women in promoting peace, the challenges and obstacles they face in their efforts, the approaches and techniques they applied, and what are hoped and expected from Muslim women in the efforts and aspirations to establish and promote peace locally and globally. Also deliberated were the roles of the OIC and other Muslim organizations in supporting Muslim women's efforts in peace building.

The four parallel sessions were:

1. Muslim women roles in peace building (theoretical)
2. Challenges facing women in peace building
3. Techniques and theories in peace building
4. The role of OIC in supporting peace building

World Muslim Women NGOs Meet

This NGOs Meet brought together more than 200 participants from Muslim countries and Muslim minority countries to share their experiences of wars, conflicts, and post-war situations with the ultimate aim of working towards peacebuilding. This event was conducted in forum format, each forum with a specific topic. Many presentations were accompanied with slides and videos. The sharing went very deep among the participants.

The topics of the forums were:

1. Muslim Women as Peace builders (keynote)
2. Issues and Concerns Affecting Muslim Women
3. Muslim Women's Contributions towards Peace building in Pluralistic Environment
4. Muslim Women's Roles and Responsibilities towards Peace building – Building Resilience of the Ummah
5. Managing Differences - Muslim Women's Contributions towards Peace building
6. Conflict and Post Conflict Situations: Muslim Women's Experiences in Conflicts and Moving Forward
7. Peace through the Reinstating of Identity and Rights
8. Muslim Women and Peace building – the Western Models

The NGOs Meet came up with resolutions which were incorporated into the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.

Youth Forum: #tilljannah- Young and Pious

This Forum represented the youthful side of the Summit. It sought to gather future Muslim women leaders from all over the world to exchange ideas on the roles of young Muslim women in peace and development. The events include a series of forums, talk shows and one-on-one discussions. There were over one thousand walk-in participants per day for the multi events, for a period of two days. One of the most significant events of the Forum was the hosting of the World Women Quran Hour, a global event that sought to inspire the young generation to be in accordance with the principles of Al-Quran, to make the Quran their best friend and their greatest companion. Through this Summit, this initiative turned into a dedicated movement to inspire Muslim Women around the world to reclaim and carry out their roles in social

life, as inspired by the Quran and practiced by the great women of the First Generation of Islam.

International Muslim Women Cultural Festival (Al-Anaqah wa Al-Hishmah)

This was a platform for Muslim women to show-case their artistic and cultural creativity, and their entrepreneurial skills. The Festival took off with the Walk-for-Peace event wherein about two thousand participated. Among the highlights of the Festival was the International Exhibition which exhibited products that appeal to modern Muslim women. This Exhibition became a show-case platform for a comprehensive, integrated wellness program for women. This event also became a marketing event for marketing new products, and for introducing and promoting novel enterprises by Muslim women entrepreneurs. Cuisines, attires, cosmetics, jewelries, decorations and art works, among others, and from various Muslim countries, were also exhibited and were on sale. There were over one thousand walk-in visitors each day visiting the Exhibition and coming to the numerous events and activities of the two-day Festival.

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration

At the end of the Summit, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration was read out and was accepted by the Summit.

**KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION
WORLD MUSLIM WOMEN SUMMIT AND EXHIBITION 2016
(WISE 2016) *Liqā Ul Salam***

The organizers of the **World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition 2016 (WISE 2016) *Liqā Ul Salam***, consisting of PISWI, Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM), the International Islamic University Malaysia, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), World Islamic Forum (WIF), Jabatan Pembangunan Wanita, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia,

Hereby affirm the following:

WELCOME the recommendation of the 6th Think Tank Forum of the Islamic Countries and the Islamabad Declaration which recommended to organize a “Muslim Women’s Summit” in Kuala Lumpur in September

2015. The International Islamic University Malaysia and its partners organized the **1st World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition 2016 (WISE 2016) *Liqā Ul Salam*** from 23rd-25th September 2016, at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur;

REAFFIRM the need to strengthen cooperation among Muslim countries, Governments, private sectors and civil societies on the empowerment of women and their comprehensive engagement in peace building and societal development activities.

The **1st World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition 2016 (WISE 2016) *Liqā Ul Salam***, stresses the importance of implementing the recommendations and suggestions pertaining to the empowerment of Muslim women in all sectors and spheres through contributing to peace building, thus moving away from the language of rights for Muslim women, and to work on the practical agenda of planning and executing programs for the benefit of Muslim women and communities coming from the conflict and post-conflict regions who are in need of assistance in capacity building;

COMMEND the various on-going initiatives and programs undertaken by Muslim Governments, the OIC, private sectors, civil societies and other communal forces. The **1st World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition 2016 (WISE 2016) *Liqā Ul Salam*** stresses the importance of having a clear agenda and measurable targets for the empowerment and engagement of Muslims in general and Muslim women specifically in peace building and societal development without prejudice, discrimination or gender bias in any form;

STRESS the importance of engaging women in peace building, societal development, decision making, transformation activities, the **1st World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition 2016 (WISE 2016) *Liqā Ul Salam*** urges Muslim governments, Islamic organizations, private sectors and the civil societies to contribute immensely towards the empowerment of women by providing the necessary support in terms of financial resources and political support;

MINDFUL of the new challenges faced by Muslim women as well as the changes taking place in the Islamic world, the **1st World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition 2016 (WISE 2016) *Liqā Ul Salam*** urges all relevant institutions and parties to act **NOW** in order to create

real opportunities for women, build integrated value-based education (“IVBE”) for women empowerment, and to maximize women participation in economic and political development across Islamic communities; and

AWARE of the need for transformation at regional and global levels, **WISE** partners hereby agree to:

1. Enhance IVBE and technical and vocational training as pillars of Muslim women empowerment in the Islamic world, urging all relevant parties to accelerate the education of women through providing access to opportunities such as scholarships and financial assistance required for increasing the numbers of educated Muslim women in all disciplines;
2. Widen the role and impact of Muslim women as scientists, policy and decision makers, civil society builders and peace builders at local, regional and International levels;
3. Enhance the role of women in combating Islamophobia, extremism, gender bias, injustice, bloodshed, ignorance and all forms marginalization of Muslim women as peace builders and leaders of societal transformation through inter and intra-Islamic collaboration and movement of people and ideas;
4. Develop specific programs designed to prepare Muslim women for impactful roles through engaging of Muslim women in entrepreneurial and decision making activities;
5. Engage Muslim women in outreach and exchange programs within the OIC member countries and beyond through creating platforms and mechanisms for sharing best practices, practicing voluntarism and solving problems faced by Muslim women from different regions;
6. Support creating a wider network of Muslim women across the Islamic world through developing a comprehensive Muslim Women Online Portal which features databases of Muslim women in all endeavours;
7. Increase visibility of Muslim women achievements as role-models through increased media promotional activities highlighting Muslim women worldwide;
8. Establish World WISE Council (“WWC”) as a think tank group to develop action-plans to oversee the implementation of

- programs pertaining to Muslim women's roles in peace building and community development;
9. Establish the International Muslimah Action Network (IMAN) for engagement of grassroots to facilitate the implementation of the action plan devised to empower Muslim women in peace building initiatives;
 10. Ensure that the best practice in providing scholarships to talented and needy Muslim women and organizations as initiated by the International Islamic University Malaysia in WISE 2016 remains as a feature of WISE and its agenda;
 11. Ensure that the "WISE At-Tamayouz Award" is sustained and used as a mechanism to acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate successful Muslim women as role-models across the Muslim world and beyond in all pursuits of life;
 12. Recommend that the World Islamic Forum host the WISE 2017;

WE agree to adopt 9th Dzulhijjah of every year as the International Muslim Women Day where Muslims all around the world can get together to reflect the sacrifices and success achieved in peace building and societal development and plan way forward.

WE are committed to the above ambitions and aims. This document serves as the guiding framework in collaborating for the betterment of the role of Muslim women in peace building and societal development across the Muslim world.

WE task all our partners to implement this Declaration, and report regularly through the World WISE Council (WWC) on the progress and the implementation of the action plan developed.

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sunday, 25th of September 2016

Handover

At the closing ceremony of the Summit, WISE was officially handed over to the World Islamic Forum (WIF) of Turkey for her to organize WISE 2017.

**HANDOVER OF
WORLD MUSLIM WOMEN SUMMIT
AND EXHIBITION (WISE)
TO
WORLD ISLAMIC FORUM, (WIF) TURKEY**

The Government of Malaysia hereby hands over the responsibility to host the World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition (WISE) 2017 to the World Islamic Forum, Turkey.

On the basis of this handover agreement, WIF shall observe the following Terms of Reference in assuming the role of the host of WISE 2017 in Turkey to:

1. maintain the vision, mission and values of the World Muslim Women Summit and Exhibition as indicated in WISE 2016. As such, WISE 2016 shall remain as the reference and guiding framework for the upcoming WISE events.
2. accept WISE as the copyright of the International Islamic University Malaysia and observe all relevant protocols relating to the use of the term in all documentation, publications and correspondence in organizing the WISE 2016;
3. take the lead in planning, preparing and organizing WISE 2017 in Turkey including the logistics and financial aspects;
4. ensure collaboration and coordination with all current WISE partners, future and prospective partners sharing the same vision, mission and objectives in advancing the cause of empowering women in peace building;
5. ensure that the best practice in providing scholarships to talented and needy Muslim women and organizations as initiated by the International Islamic University Malaysia in WISE 2016, especially in war and minority Muslim countries remains as a feature of WISE and its agenda;
6. ensure that the “WISE At-Tamayouz Award” is sustained and used as a mechanism to acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate successful Muslim women as role-models across the Muslim world and beyond in all pursuits of life;
7. provide regular information and progress reports on the preparation and organisation of WISE 2017 to the World WISE

- Council and keep all partners engaged and informed of the progress;
8. encourage collaboration between academic institutions, Muslim governments, NGOs, industry, private sector and social society in organizing WISE 2017 and beyond, therefore, it is recommended that WIF collaborates with a renowned university and other organizations in Turkey to retain the intellectual and educational elements of WISE;
 9. ensure the maximum participation of Muslim women in WISE 2017 activities and events and promote to a wider spectrum of individuals and groups; and finally;
 10. ensure the smooth handover of WISE to the next host in order to sustain its vision, mission and keep its spirit and objectives intact for the empowerment of Muslim women in all spheres of life.

Handed over in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 25th September 2016

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