The First Oxford Islamic Finance Round-Table

Integrating Islamic Financial Management in Global Finance

Ditchley Park Conference Centre
24–25 March 2006

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Ditchley Park, Enstone, Oxford OX7 4ER, United Kingdom

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Organisers
Dar Al Istithmar – DI – a joint venture between Deutsche Bank, Russell Wood and Oxford Islamic Finance, provides Sharia-compliant solutions to the institutions offering Islamic financial services. It is completely independent from its parent companies in its operations. DI was recognised as the ‘Best Islamic Assurance and Advisory Services’ firm in Euromoney’s Islamic Finance Awards 2006.

Oxford Islamic Finance is a wholly owned subsidiary company of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. In close cooperation with Sharia scholars and the business community it undertakes research, facilitates innovation, and promotes educational and training activities, in respect of all aspects of the theory and practice of Islamic finance.

Sponsors

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Integrating Islamic Financial Management in Global Finance

Event Strategy

The event will bring together senior executives, economists and Shariah scholars of the Islamic finance industry for a focused analysis of major issues in the theory and practice of Islamic financial management.

The major focus will be on:
- Strategic, operational and specific theoretical issues
- Progress to date and future priorities
- Reference to specialised topics such as Islamic bonds, certificates and other financial instruments etc.

Conference Themes

1. Financial Innovation in the Islamic Finance Industry

A wide range of Shariah compliant products is needed to ensure growth in the Islamic financial system. Current opportunities are still not fully exploited and it requires more product innovation within a reliable industry structure. One of the challenges faced by the Islamic finance industry is to create investment opportunities that rank highly on the scale of conventional financial institutions. This theme aims to discern and discuss those opportunities, visualise ways of implementation and consider the social desirability guiding the continuing process of innovation.

2. Current Issues of Good Governance

The paradigm of the Islamic banking and finance industry may challenge the existing practice of corporate and public governance. However, the fast growing Islamic banking and finance industry has still to develop its structural and regulatory framework on the micro as well as on the macro level in the face of many challenges affecting its credibility and stability. The main focus of this theme is to discuss the main structural challenges faced by existing Islamic banks and conventional banks offering Islamic financial services.

Conference Agenda 24 March 2006

Plenary I
Evolution of Islamic Finance: Sustaining a Global Growth

Conference Agenda 25 March 2006

Plenary II
Assessing new developments in Islamic financial services with a primary focus on ‘Retail Banking’
- Identifying the difference between the paradigm and the practice
- The emergence of a ‘Retail Banking Model’ and its comparison with the ‘Paradigm’ version and the ‘Conventional’ banking models

A discussion on some further related issues of ‘Retail Banking’
- Regulation of Islamic retail banking products
- Risk management of Islamic retail banking products
- Liquidity management of Islamic retail banking products
- Competitiveness of Islamic retail banking products

Plenary III
Assessing new developments in Islamic financial services with a primary focus on ‘Investment Banking’
- Identifying the difference between the paradigm and the practice
- The emergence of an ‘Investment Banking Model’ and its comparison with the ‘Paradigm’ version and the ‘Conventional’ banking models

A discussion on some further related issues of ‘Investment Banking’
- Risk management of Islamic investment banking products
- Venture capital in Islamic finance and the Sukuk market
- Liquidity management of Islamic investment banking products

Conference Debate

Two panels comprising leading international policy makers, scholars, and financial experts lead the debate on the ‘Future of Islamic Financial Services’
- Financial engineering, innovation and Shariah-compliance
- Regulatory issues in Islamic corporate finance
  - Islamic banking windows in conventional banks
  - Interfacing financial Shariah compliance in the global capital market

“The content of the sessions are extremely interesting and worthwhile, with excellent coverage of many aspects of Islamic finance from retail to investment banking and including the latest developments in Shariah compliant instruments traded in capital markets.”

Prof. Rodney Wilson,
Durham University, UK

“Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) supports the objectives of the conference wholeheartedly and wishes its organizers and participants success in this first endeavor.”

Dr. Omar Bin Sulaiman, Director General