More specifically, the new MEDP education plan will take the following measures:

- Strengthening civic elements by making community service a pre-requisite for graduation by 2017;
- Enhancing Islamic and Ethical Education with a greater focus on core values and underlying principles of major religions by 2017;
- Developing students holistically by reinforcing the requirement to participate in a Uniform Body;
- Enhancing and expanding cross-school activity programmes in order to foster greater interaction across students from different types of schools, ethnicities and socioeconomic groups;

With all these measures, it is hoped that not only will students gain the requisite leadership skills, but they will also embrace strong universal values such as integrity, compassion and justice in order to guide them in making right ethical decisions. This will bring about a more socially beneficial behaviour reflected in an increase in volunteerism; a willingness to embrace diverse peoples of other nationalities, religions and ethnicities; and a reduction in corruption and crime. Every student also leaves school prepared to act as a leader, whether in their own lives and families, or as part of the broader community and nation.

Thank you.

The First World Congress on Integration and Islamicisation of Acquired Human Knowledge [FWCII]
(Kuala Lumpur, 23-25 August 2013)

Elmira Akhmetova, IAIS Malaysia

The International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) convened the First World Congress on Integration and Islamicisation of Acquired Human Knowledge (FWCII 2013) on 23–25 August 2013 at the Prince Hotel in Kuala Lumpur. The theme was “Constructing the Alternative Paradigm of Tawhid” focusing on the integration and application of the Islamic worldview and unitive paradigm. This Congress sought to apply the epistemological perspective, values and norms of the so-called ‘Tawhidic Paradigm’ to all branches of human knowledge ranging from the arts and humanities, the social and physical sciences, to the medical sciences. Its three main objectives were: (1) to gather from around the world Muslim scientists, academics, professionals and experts involved in the well-known project of ‘Islamisation of Human Knowledge’ so as to mutually benefit from one other’s work and products; (2) to forge new transnational strategies that
offer intellectual constructs of Tawḥīdic discourse constituting a complementary or alternative paradigm for human knowledge for the reconstruction of Muslim society, culture and civilisation and for resolving its internal malaise; (3) and reforming the contemporary “secular humanistic” world disorder. This international event also aimed at demonstrating IIUM’s achievement after three decades of existence in terms of teaching, research and publications, towards fulfilling its declared mission of Islamisation of Human Knowledge.

This Congress reflects the prestige invested in the ‘Islamisation’ project by Malaysia’s government, being officially inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia Y.A.B. Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak; while the Congress Banquet was hosted by Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dato’ Muhyiddin Bin Mohd Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia. Numerous keynote addresses were delivered by persons noted for contributing to the Islamisation project: HE Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri (Director General of ISESCO, Morocco), Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Osman Bakar (Chair, Centre for Islamic Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam), Tan Sri Jemilah Mahmood (founder of MERCY Malaysia), Prof. Dato’ Sri Dr Zaleha Kamaruddin (current Rector of IIUM), Dato’ Dr Abdul Hamid Abu Sulayman (second Rector of IIUM), Distinguished Professor Tan Sri Dr Mohd Kamal Hassan (third Rector of IIUM), Prof. Dr Muhaya Muhammad (prominent ophthalmologist, Prince Court Medical Centre, KL), Prof. Dr Omar Kasule (Professor at King Fahd Medical City, Riyadh), Muhammad Akram Khan (former Deputy Auditor General, Pakistan), Prof. Dr Ahmed Fouad Basha (Professor of Physics, University of Cairo), and Prof. Dr A.R. Momin (Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi).

Over three days more than 110 papers were presented by local and international scholars devoted to constructing an alternative paradigm for Tawhid in their respective fields of knowledge. Representative examples were Dr Suhaimi Mhd Sarif and Dr Yusof Ismail (both of IIUM) whose presentations focused on the application of the Tawhidic paradigm in environmentally friendly business management. Prof. Dr Omer Spahic from Bosnia and Herzegovina discussed the implications of Islamic Tawhid for Islamic architecture. My own presentation entitled “Distortion of Reality: Problems of Defining Religion in Modern Social Sciences” highlighted fundamental problems in mainstream scholarship in portraying an authentic image of Islam and its main characteristics. Analysis of the epistemology and usage of the term ‘religion’ in modern social sciences reveals the fundamental epistemic problem of translating cultural terms with restricted meaning into universal scientific concepts.

The omnipresent theme running throughout the presentations and discussions was the need to privilege the realities of Muslim intellectual and spiritual insights found in primary Islamic sources and scholarly traditions, in particular the Islamic
understanding of social and political change, so as to facilitate satisfactory and fundamentally reliable scholarly treatment of contemporary realities in the Muslim world. All thinkers stressed the responsibility of contemporary Muslim scholars to present a sound alternative approach when studying the social sciences, in order to release existing scholarship from the conceptual monopoly of the prevailing methodology of ‘intellectual neo-imperialism’. This Congress was a fruitful start towards formulating a common framework for application of the Islamic worldview, values and norms in various aspects of human knowledge, and in outlining a common strategy for advancing paradigmatic Tawhidic discourse as an alternative epistemic paradigm for the reconstruction of society, culture and civilisation.

Global Conference on Islamic Resurgence: Challenges, Prospects and the Way Forward
(Shah Alam, 7 September 2013)

Daud AbdulFattah Batchelor, IAIS Malaysia

The international conference held on 7 September in Shah Alam, organised by the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (ABIM), was primarily a venue for Muslims active regionally in the Islamic movement to gather and benefit from insights of leaders on what has worked, what global issues confront the movement and how they may be addressed. The conference was opened by YAB Dato’ Seri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, Chief Minister of Selangor.

The Islamic movement in Southeast Asia has successfully promoted a moderate form of Islamic renaissance, which no doubt is a reason for its success. The keynote address was delivered by Dato’ Seri Anwar Ibrahim, co-founder of ABIM and IIIT. Anwar called for governance in Muslim countries that applies justice, considers a maqasid al-Shariah approach, and provides economic empowerment to the people. Reform must give priority to da’wah (inviting to Islam), education and training, as well as public awareness. The linking of da’wah and daulat (government) was made by a number of speakers. Anwar highlighted the successful Malaysian experience of peaceful and tolerant relations with Hindu and Buddhist compatriots.

Dr Syed Khairudin Aljunied from Singapore who spoke on the historical background to Islamic resurgence in Southeast Asia highlighted the importance of the digital media in shaping the next phase of resurgence and recommended five steps as the way forward: (1) Establishing a Tarbiyyah Foundation, and (2) Islamic Research Institute, (3) Documentation Programmes of first-hand experiences from older workers, as well as collecting manuals of Islamic