

**Seminar on Indonesia's Mandatory Halal Law 2019
(IAIS Malaysia, 19 January 2019)**

Mohammad Mahbubi Ali

On 19 January 2019, ARK Halal and Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC), with the support of IAIS Malaysia, organised a half-day seminar on Indonesia's Mandatory Halal Law 2019. The event featured two distinguished speakers, namely Prof. Sukoso, head of Halal Product Assurance Organising Agency (BPJH), and Mr Shafie Shamsuddin, the President Director and CEO of Trans Retail Indonesia.

The event attracted around 200 local and international participants, consisting of regulators, academics, researchers, businessmen, and Islamic financial institutions. The day began with a welcoming remark by Mr Imran Musa, the Group CEO of ARK Halal, followed by a keynote speech by Dato' Seri Jamil Bidin, the former CEO of Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC).

In the first session, Prof Sukoso offered fresh insights into the legal implementation of *Republic of Indonesia No. 33 year 2014* regarding Halal Products Assurance. His presentation revolved around the changes in *halal* labelling, the requirements for *halal* food production, *halal* cosmetics production, *halal* pharmaceuticals and recognition of foreign *halal* certificates. Right after Prof Sukoso, Mr Shafii shared his vast corporate experience on the challenges and opportunities involved in venturing a new business into the Indonesian market. These included managing political dynamics, addressing social sentiment, and the Muslim consumer lifestyle ecosystem.

**Research Camp for Academic and Policy Research
(IAIS Malaysia, 21-22 February 2019)**

Abdul Muhaimin Misran

What started as an experimental training session turned out to be a success as IAIS Malaysia's "Research Camp for Academic and Policy Research" saw more than 70 participants from various backgrounds.

During the two-day training programme, participants were introduced to six modules, namely: (1) Policy Research for an Islamic Think-Thank; (2) A Brief Guide for Designing Policy Issue Papers; (3) Essential Skills to Write a Newspaper