

**Meet the Scholars - The Need for the Fiqh of Muslim Minorities in
the West and the *Maqasid* Narrative
(IAIS Malaysia, 30 May 2019)**

Ahmad Badri Abdullah

On 30 May 2019, IAIS organised a public talk and forum under the heading: ‘Meet the Scholars’. The event featured two Islamic scholars, Prof. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, founding CEO of IAIS Malaysia, and Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, New York. Prof. Kamali in his talk narrated the developmental phases of *maqasid* scholarship, from its formative period to the present and comprising five different levels. These levels include the explanatory and historical period, the methodological construction period, a period whereby *maqasid* became a yardstick to existing shariah interpretations, a phase where *maqasid* entered more practice-oriented fields (like the Islamic banking industry), and finally the current stage, which is marked by excessive referencing to *maqasid*. Prof. Kamali also proposed that a well-developed *maqasid* methodology is key to unravelling that current hurdles that may inhibit its full potential. In the same vein, Imam Feisal in his session also highlighted the critical importance of *maqasid*, particularly when addressing pressing issues faced by Muslim minorities in the West. He also argued that it is crucial to develop a *maqasid*-based jurisprudence of minorities (*fiqh al-aqalliyat*), which should become the guiding path for Western Muslims when playing active roles as citizens in their societies while staying committed to their religious principles and practices.

**Book Discussion: An Intellectual Discourse on “Islamic Law in
Malaysia: Issues, Developments and Challenges” by Eds. Mohamed
Azam Mohamed Adil and Mohammad Hashim Kamali
(IAIS Malaysia, 6 August 2019)**

Wan Naim Wan Mansor

Organised by IAIS Malaysia and Current Law Journal (CLJ) Malaysia, this book discussion event marked a significant milestone towards increasing the general public’s understanding of recurrent issues involving Islamic law in Malaysia. The book “Islamic Law in Malaysia: Issues, Developments, and Challenges” is edited by IAIS Deputy CEO, Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, and IAIS