

Dr. Kalinga drew on his vast experience of journalism and the media. He mentioned that his writings are all based on his career. Fundamentally, he questioned the existence of the truth era. He also pointed out that abuses of power by governments through free media and fake news are not the only issues we need to look into. This is because corporate domination of the media has also been abusing the public trust, presenting coverage that may be true, ‘half true’ or even false. He asserted that the media is about reporting exceptional stories. The media should provide information and stories that attract people’s attention. Eventually, Dr. Kalinga called for a new paradigm in news reporting and explained how it can be transformed from an adversarial model into one of public advocacy in promoting more cooperation and social harmony in society. A mindful communication strategy drawing upon Asian philosophical ideas was recommended. He also urged young Asian scholars to read his ideas and commence further research and develop communication theories on free media and fake news based on their national experiences.

IAIS Islamic Finance Talk Series 2019 (IAIS Malaysia)

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The International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia, in collaboration with Islamic Economic Society (MES) Malaysia, has successfully organised several Islamic Finance Talk Series (IFTS) in 2019. The series brought together reputable personalities in Islamic finance, from Shariah scholars to Muslim economists to Islamic finance practitioners.

The first IFTS was held at IAIS Malaysia on 20 August 2019 on the theme, “Bringing Vision & Strategy To Life: Malaysia’s Sustainable & Responsible Investment Growth Story.” Featuring Mr. Mohd Radzuan Tajuddin, an Islamic finance consultant from ZICO Shariah Supervisory Bhd, it brought his 23 years of experience with the Securities Commission to bear an Islamic sustainable and responsible investment in Malaysia. He also highlighted Malaysia’s vision 2020 as a basis for supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The second IFTS invited prominent Muslim economist, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ugi Suharto, who is currently senior lecturer at the University of Buraimi, Sultanate of Oman, to discuss the subject of ‘Islamic Economics as a School of Economics’. Hosted at IAIS Malaysia on 5 September 2019, Dr. Ugi examined the possibility of promoting Islamic economics as a particular school of economics among the various existing schools. He argued that Islamic economics fulfils all the criteria

necessary to become a distinct discipline of economics, with its own philosophy, methodology, and interpretation of economic phenomena.

The last IFTS of the year discussed a trending issue, “Transitioning Islamic Economy Via Technology & Innovation - Key Elements & Impacts.” Held on 4 November 2019, President of the FinTech Association of Malaysia, Mr Mohammad Ridzuan Abdul Aziz, used his 20 years of commercially-driven regulatory, compliance and technology experience in the Asia-Pacific region to describe how financial technology could impact the landscape of the Islamic economy worldwide.

All three IFTS managed to attract numerous participants from different backgrounds and sectors; ranging from academia to practitioners, lawyers and regulators.