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IsDB

Islamic Development Bank

Agenda of

AAOIFI-IsDB 20th Annual Islamic Banking and Finance Conference

"Islamic Finance in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Present Potentials and Future Prospects"

11-12 Jumada al-awwal 1447 H - 2-3 November 2025,
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kingdom of Bahrain

The Agenda of AAOIFI-IsDB capacity building week

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Agenda of AAOIFI-IsDB 20th Annual Islamic Banking and Finance Conference 2025

"Islamic Finance in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Present Potentials and Future Prospects"

2-3 November 2025, Crowne Plaza Hotel Kingdom of Bahrain

The 20th edition of the AAOIFI-IsDB Islamic Finance and Banking Conference will address the most pressing issues and latest developments in the global economy that are reshaping how Islamic financial institutions and other stakeholders respond to transformative forces, particularly artificial intelligence (AI) in multiple areas such as business operations, Shari'ah compliance and the mobilisation of human and technological resources.

In the meantime, the newly emerging forces and advancements are observed to carry certain critical and ethical concerns related to fairness, transparency and accountability in AI-driven finance. Therefore, it has become essential to assess the way Islamic finance industry can adopt new technologies in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, while remaining aligned with the objectives of Maqasid Al-Shari'ah.

In a rapidly evolving business and regulatory landscape, this edition of the conference also aims to emphasise on the importance of practical understanding of Islamic finance particularly for empowerment of individuals and professionals to attain the basic knowledge and skills necessary not only to engage in the field, but also to embrace its ethical principles and integrate it into everyday operations and decision-making.

Additionally, the conference will highlight the importance of raising awareness about the value proposition of Islamic finance among micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

With Islamic banking claiming the lion's share in terms of the financing provided to different economic sectors, the need arises for enhancing awareness of the value proposition of Islamic finance, through its other venues, by providing financing to MSMEs as a cost effective and affordably accessible alternative to the traditional financial intermediation. This includes the access that can be provided to MSMEs by Islamic capital markets through a variety of products and services, as well as the main Shari'ah compliant financing solutions offered to MSMEs for promoting and strengthening of their activities.

On a corresponding note, it will lay hands on the key business and regulatory challenges hindering a wider deployment and utilisation of these techniques.

The Agenda of AAOIFI-IsDB capacity building week		
Date	**Time**	**Title**
1 November 2025	**8:30 – 18:00**	**Day 1 of 3rd edition of AAOIFI-IsDB capacity building week**

Day 1
Sunday, 2 November 2025

8:00 – 9:00	**Registration**
9:00 – 10:15	**Opening ceremony** - Recitation of the verses from the Holy Quran - Conference host's keynote speech: **H.E. Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa,** Chairman, AAOIFI Board of Trustees, Kingdom of Bahrain - Conference co-host's keynote speech: **Dr. Sami Al Suwailem,** Acting Director General, Islamic Development Bank Institute, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Keynote speech: **H.E. Yahya Shunnar**, Governor, Palestine Monetary Authority, Palestine - Keynote speech: **H.E. Midkhat Shagiakhmetov**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, Republic of Tatarstan - Welcome address: **Mr. Omar Mustafa Ansari,** Secretary General, AAOIFI, Kingdom of Bahrain
10:15 – 10:45	**Token of appreciation for guests of honour and sponsors of the conference** **Agreements / MoUs signing ceremony** **Launch of the IsDBI Traps Report**
10:45 – 11:15	**Exhibition opening and coffee break**
11:15 – 12:20	**Session 1: Integrating AI in Islamic finance operations and services** Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force for Islamic finance, particularly through its potential to drive innovation and improve operations across different sectors within the industry. This session aims to explore the key venues of utilising its potential in terms of economic impact and contribution to the broader economy. Particularly, improving operations is expected to eventually help in enhancing efficiency and Shari'ah compliance, among others. On the other hand, improving services would allow the industry to play its rightful role in the domain of financial inclusion and economic development. **Main topics** - Integrating AI in IFIs' business operations and identifying the main areas and avenues for improvement (big data analytics, machine learning, automated processes, etc.). - The role of AI in business operations such as credit evaluation of customers, risk management, internal credit ratings and fraud detection. - The impact of AI on financial services provision and how services can be improved by integrating the same therein. - How AI can improve interaction with customers and evaluation of customer key prospects (spending and inventing solution, etc.) - How can AI be implemented in Shari'ah related operations and controls (example: improving Shari'ah compliance by the use of AI) and the use of AI in Shari'ah audits. - Cost and efficiency considerations and fiscal efficiency of AI in application in Islamic financial institutions. - The challenge of embracing AI and its impact on all relevant areas including operations, human resources, financial technology, Shari'ah compliance, etc.

Day 1
Sunday, 2 November 2025

11:15 – 12:20	**Chairman** Mr. Farrukh Raza, Group CEO and Co-founder, IFAAS; Member, AAOIFI Governance and Ethics Board, Kingdom of Bahrain **Panellists** **Mr. Ashar Nazim**, Chief Executive Officer, Aion Digital, Kingdom of Bahrain **Mr. Yahya Aleem Ur Rahman**, Global Lead, Islamic Finance Advisory Knowledge Solutions, Islamic Development Bank Institute, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia **Mr. Roustam Vakhitov**, Associated International Tax Partner, Crowe, Kazakhstan **Mr. Naser Alawadhi**, Head of Digital Banking, Bahrain Islamic Bank, Kingdom of Bahrain **Mr. Syed Amir Ali**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Meezan bank, Republic of Pakistan
12:20 – 12:50	**Islamic Finance Success Stories: learning from the leaders** **Mr. Irfan Siddiqi**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Meezan Bank, Republic of Pakistan
12:50 – 13:05	**Presentation by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** **Dr. Hashim Hussain**, Head, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), ITPO, Kingdom of Bahrain
13:05 – 14:05	**Zuhr prayer and lunch break (lunch hosted by Central Bank of Bahrain)**
14:05 – 15:10	**Session 2: Role of Islamic finance in AI-driven business and finance environment** With increasing presence of Artificial Intelligence in every walk of life, Islamic finance industry is also going through a pivotal moment in the shared evolution of global finance and business. AI is reshaping the world, revolutionising decision-making, automating processes and unlocking new opportunities from algorithmic trading to smart risk management and personalised banking. Yet, with these advancements come critical ethical questions: How do we ensure fairness, transparency and accountability in AI-driven finance? How can we harness this technology to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth that aligns with Maqasid Al Shari'ah? This session seeks to explore these and other pressing questions while highlighting AI's potential role in shaping the future of Islamic finance industry. **Main topics** - Changes in the technological environment and how Islamic finance industry shall deal with the same? - Major sectors of the technological environment liable for change and the shift to real sector. - Potential benefits of AI (cost effectiveness, seamless operations, redundancy reduction, better integration, automated customer services, etc.). - Challenges of AI taking over the service sector and its impact on general economic development including employment (or potential unemployment). - The need to create economic development opportunities in light of the impact of AI on unemployment. - Improving customer interaction and financial inclusion. - Tools that Islamic finance can provide for the potential role. - The impact of AI on financialisation / definancialisation (moving from service sector to real sectors).

Day 1
Sunday, 2 November 2025

14:05 – 15:10	**Chairman** - **Mr. Noor ur Rahman Abid**, Board Member, KFH, Kuwait **Panellists** - **Dr. Sami Alsuwalim**, Acting Director General, Islamic Development Bank Institute, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - **Mr. Khaled Al Kayed**, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman - **Mr. Muhammad Nazir Mian**, Head of Group Internal Sharia Control, Dubai Islamic Bank Group, United Arab Emirates - **Dr. Moutaz Abojeib**, Director, IFAAS group, Turkey
15:10 – 15:25	**Asr prayer and coffee break**
15:25 – 16:30	**Session 3: Islamic financial literacy and awareness: going beyond capacity building** In an era where financial systems are rapidly evolving, the need for a deep, practical understanding of Islamic finance, for different age groups, has never been more critical. It is often argued that capacity building within the financial industry remains insufficient, irrespective of the programs and academic qualifications on offer. The broader issue of financial literacy among customers, stakeholders, and shareholders of banks is largely overlooked. Compared to industry-focused capacity building, general financial literacy is significantly unaccounted for. In other words, and notwithstanding certain structured efforts and initiatives aimed at capacity building, financial literacy for the wider public receives little attention, not to mention lack of focus. While traditional financial literacy programs focus on basic knowledge and skills, empowering individuals and professionals to not only comprehend Islamic finance but to embrace its ethical principles and integrate them into daily decision-making and to capitalise on its transformative potential. This session is set to explore strategies to elevate Islamic financial awareness and learning beyond its classic role for the next generation professionals and the way technology can bridge the gaps in learning accessibility. It also discusses the means by which Islamic financial literacy and awareness can surpass traditional capacity building initiatives and individual learning. **Main topics** - Demystifying Islamic financial literacy. - Why capacity building of IFIs' human resources (those working within the Islamic finance sector) is not enough? - Role of Islamic financial literacy in entrepreneurship and skill development. - Islamic Financial literacy as a prerequisite towards financial inclusion and eventually towards economic development. - Enabling adaptive learning and real-time customisation of knowledge sources. - Islamic Financial literacy for customers and stakeholders as a means for ensuring Shari'ah compliance in Islamic finance. - Significance of financial literacy for developing entrepreneurship and business startups. - Use of storytelling for real life Islamic financial literacy.

Day 1
Sunday, 2 November 2025

15:25 – 16:30	- Possible tools, techniques and delivery methods for enhancing Islamic financial literacy for stakeholders of Islamic finance and public at large. - Integrating and deployment of Islamic financial literacy at official education systems. - The role of AAOIFI and other Islamic finance infrastructure bodies in promoting Islamic financial literacy. - Conceptualisation of a practicable curriculum for mass scale Islamic financial literacy. **Chairman** - **Mr. Hamza Bawazir**, Secretary General, General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI), Kingdom of Bahrain **panellists** - **Prof. Mohamed Cherif El Amri**, Professor, Islamic Economics and Finance, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Türkiye - **Dr. Muhammad Imran**, Group Head, Bank AlFalah, Republic of Pakistan - **Dr. Muhammad Humayon Dar**, Global Leader in Islamic Finance, Director General, Cambridge Institute of Islamic Finance, United Kingdom - **Dr. Bello Lawal Danbatta**, Former Secretary Genaral, IFSB, Malaysia
16:30	**End of day one**

Day 2

Monday, 3 November 2025

09:00 – 09:20	**MoU signing ceremony**
09:20 – 10:25	**Session 4: Entrepreneurship development through Shari'ah compliant MSME financing and creation of integrated value chains and ecosystem** With Islamic banking claiming the lion's share in terms of the financing provided to different economic sectors, the need for enhancing awareness of the value proposition of Islamic finance, through its other venues, by providing financing to MSMEs as a cost effective and affordably accessible alternative to the traditional financial intermediation. This session aims to discuss the access that can be provided to MSMEs by Islamic capital markets through a variety of products and services, as well as, the main Shari'ah compliant financing solutions offered to MSMEs for promoting and strengthening of their activities. Furthermore, the session will highlight the key business and regulatory challenges hindering a wider deployment of these techniques. **Main topics** - Shari'ah compliant MSME financing solutions: products, structures, respective benefits and challenges - Why MSME finance is not a mainstream business avenue for Islamic commercial banks and what are the business and regulatory challenges for the same? - How to enhance awareness of Islamic finance among MSMEs and their access to finance? - Bridging the gap between Islamic finance and MSME financing. - Providing MSME access to Islamic capital markets through innovative products and fintech (including crowdfunding and P2P financing) - Potential outcomes of entrepreneurship development in improving private sector development (in particular, rural areas and agriculture / agri-based sectors). - The need for integrated value chains and ecosystem and its impact on entrepreneurship development. **Moderator** - **H.E. Mr. Yahya Shunnar**, Governor, Palestine Monetary Authority, Palestine **Panellists** - **Dr. Hashim Hussain**, Head, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), ITPO, Kingdom of Bahrain - **Dr. Jarmo Kotilaine**, Chief Economist, Bahrain Economic Development Board; Chief Strategy & Data Analytics Officer, Tamkeen, Kingdom of Bahrain - **Mr. Yaser Ismaeel Mudhafar**, Chief Financial Officer, Bahrain Development Bank, Kingdom of Bahrain - **Mr. Iyad Asali**, General Manager, Islamic International Arab Bank Plc, Jordan
10:25 – 10:45	**Launch of "ICD LSEG Islamic Finance Development Report 2025"**

Day 2 (Continued)

Monday, 3 November 2025

10:45 – 11:05	**IsDB experience: AI-Driven Solutions for AAOIFI Standards – Insights from the First Islamic Finance Hackathon by IsDBI** **Dr. Hilal Hussien**
11:05 – 12:10	**Session 5: Salam and Istisna as tools for economic growth and development: practicality considerations, market reality and accounting challenges.** Deferred delivery sales and development contracts based on Salam and Istisna are amongst the unique products of Islamic finance, having a significant proportion in the Islamic finance transactions in different markets. Due to multiple unique transaction structures based on Salam and Istisna, and certain Shari'ah compliance issues in their implementation, this session seeks to discuss the role of these transactions as contributors to the economic growth and development of Islamic finance market and the broader economy. In so doing, the session strives to explore certain practicality issues and existing market realities and challenges faced by Islamic financial institutions in catering the financial reporting requirements for the same. **Main topics** - Unique transaction structures of Salam and Istisna and market needs. - Role of Salam and Istisna transactions in promoting economic development and spurring economic growth. - Market applications and practices and the use of Salam and Istisna to support and finance the trading and export activities. - Country experiences and application of Istisna for infrastructure projects and accompanying challenges. - Revising existing financial accounting standards on Salam and Istisna taken into consideration newer market practices and updates in generally accepted accounting principles. - Financial reporting challenges regarding certain essential aspects including profit distribution, revenue recognition over a period of time, fixed price contracts and so on. **Chairman** - **Mr. Firas Hamdan**, Head of Human Resources, Banque Du Liban, Lebanon **Panelists** - **Mr. Hondamir Nusratkhujaev**, Senior Financial Analyst, Islamic Development Bank, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - **Dr. Mohamed Ainab**, head of Sharia Compliance, Sombank, Somalia - **Sh. Irshad Ijaaz**, Chairman, Shari'ah Advisory Committee, State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan
12:10 – 12:30	**Graduation ceremony of AAOIFI fellows**
12:30	**Conclusion of the conference**
12:30 – 13:30	**Zuhr prayer and lunch break (lunch sponsored by AAOIFI)**

The Agenda of AAOIFI-IsDB capacity building week		
Date	**Time**	**Title**
4 November 2025	8:30 – 18:00	Day 2 of 3rd edition of AAOIFI-IsDB capacity building week
5 November 2025	8:30 – 15:00	Day 3 of 3rd edition of AAOIFI-IsDB capacity building week
6 November 2025	8:30 – 15:00	Day 4 of 3rd edition of AAOIFI-IsDB capacity building week
7 November 2025	8:30 – 15:00	Day 5 of 3rd edition of AAOIFI-IsDB capacity building week