



**Islamic Development Bank**  
Together We Build A Better Future

**International Conference on Islamic Microfinance**  
***“Promoting financial inclusion and creating business opportunities”***

***IDB Group Headquarters***  
***Jeddah, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2012***

**There is an increasing demand for Shariah compliant financial products and services around the world, including from the poor. “Islamic Microfinance” provides the unbanked access to financial products and services through partnering and risk-sharing, instead of only lending money.**

**What is the current outreach of Islamic Microfinance providers throughout the world? How many are they? What products do they propose? What is the demand for these products? What are the main challenges and opportunities of Islamic Microfinance as a way to promote financial inclusion?**

This conference gathers high-level experts from the Development Financial Institutions, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) and practitioners, who will engage in an active dialogue to tackle these questions. The conference is divided into three segments: the recent developments in the Islamic Microfinance industry and key findings of a study on the state of the Islamic Microfinance industry; sharing of innovations and challenges experienced by practitioners in the implementation of Islamic Microfinance programs, regulatory issues related to Islamic Microfinance, and experience sharing among Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Islamic Microfinance Institutions (MFI).

Co-organizers:



## APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>

**08.45am-09.00am: Arrival and welcome of heads of delegations met by VPO/VPF**

(Participants make their way to conference venue)

**Venue: IDB Tower, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room (Rm 0508)**

09.10am- 09.20am Welcome Address by Abdulaziz Al-Hinai, Vice-President (Finance)

09.20am- 09.25am Remarks by Dov Zerah, CEO of AFD

09.25am- 09.30am Remarks by Tilman Ehrbeck, CEO of CGAP

**09.30am-11.00am: Recent Development in the Islamic Microfinance Industry**

This session will briefly present the recent developments in the Islamic Microfinance industry, and key findings of the recent study on the state of Islamic Microfinance industry with a view to highlight IMF potential in addressing financial inclusion and poverty alleviation. Discussion will center on product and service offering and demand as well as source of funds and retail model.

Panelist:

- Sami Suwailem, Manager, Islamic Financial Product Development Centre, IDBG – *Islamic financial products, poverty alleviation, and financial inclusion*
- Osman Elfiel, Manager, Integrated Rural Development Division, IDBG – *IDB and Islamic Microfinance*
- Mayada El-Zoghbi, MENA Team Lead, Senior Microfinance Specialist, CGAP and Philippe Serres, Microfinance Specialist, AFD – *Findings of the recent study on Islamic Microfinance*
- Marie Pierre Nicollet, MENA Region Director, AFD – *Islamic Microfinance and its potential in addressing Financial Inclusion*
- Abdelaziz Slaoui Andaloussi, Livelihoods and Microfinance Specialist, IDBG – *The gap in Islamic Microfinance Industry- the IDB Microfinance toolbox for capacity-building*

Moderated by:

- Mohd. Azmi Omar, Director General, IRTI, IDBG

**11.00am-11.30am Coffee Break (5<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge)**

**11.30am-01.00pm Innovations and challenges in providing sustainable and Shariah-compliant Microfinance**

This session will be an opportunity to hear from practitioners the innovations and challenges experienced in developing Islamic Microfinance. What are the appropriate instruments for resource mobilization, financial placements and retail? How are Islamic Financial instruments promoted and implemented? What are the capacity-building requirements to enable this? What are the successful practices and challenges faced by MFIs? (8 minutes per speaker followed by Q&A)

Panelist:

- El Haj Abdourahmanne Bah, Director, 3AE, Guinea – *Experience and Challenges in the implementation of Islamic Microfinance in Guinea*
- Nawaf Al-Atawneh, DEEP Project Manager (Deprived families Economic Empowerment in Palestine)- *Providing Economic Empowerment for Families in Palestine*
- Fadi Salim Al Faqih, General Manager, Bank of Khartoum, Sudan – *Innovations of Islamic Microfinance in Sudan, Resource Mobilization and Financial Placement*
- Mohammed Saleh Al-Lai, Executive Director, Al-Amal Bank, Yemen – *Good Retail model and Practices of Islamic Microfinance in Yemen*
- Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Managing Director, Islami Bank, Bangladesh – *Promoting Islamic Rural Finance in Bangladesh*
- Farida Tariq, CEO, Center for Women Co-operative Development, Pakistan – *Responsible Finance, Ensuring Sustainability of Beneficiaries*
- Ranya Abdel-Baki, Executive Director, Sanabel – *Benchmarking and good practices of MFIs in Arab region*

Moderated by:

- Tilman Ehrbeck, CEO of CGAP

**01.00pm-02.00pm      Lunch Break (1<sup>st</sup> Floor Cafeteria)**

**02.15pm-03.30pm      Islamic Financial Regulatory & Supervisory Framework**

Shariah compliance and governance are important considerations for Islamic financial institutions. What is Shariah-compliance? What is the function of a Shariah Board? How can they serve Microfinance Institutions? How do you set up a Shariah-compliant Financial Intermediary and how can IDB assist in this process? (8 minutes per speaker followed by Q&A)

Panelist:

- Dadang Muljawan, Senior Economic Researcher, IRTI, IDBG – *Current State of Development of Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Islamic Microfinance*
- Hiba Mahmoud Sadig Farid, State Minister of Human Resource Development (Former Director, Microfinance Unit, Central Bank of Sudan) – *Developing Regulatory Framework for Islamic Microfinance Industry: Experience of Sudan*
- Moncef Bentaibi, Islamic Microfinance Specialist, IBF Group – *Assisting Government in Creating a Conducive Environment for Islamic Finance*
- Mansur Noibi, Manager of Operations, Legal Department, IDBG – *The IDB Participatory Approach- Legal Implications, Risks and Challenges*
- Haseeb Siddiqui, Division Manager, Advisory, Islamic Financial Services Department, IDBG – *IDB Experience in Developing the Infrastructure and Regulatory Framework*

Moderated by

- Khaled Al-Aboodi, CEO & General Manager, ICD, IDBG

**03.30pm-04.45pm      Advancing Islamic Microfinance**

Building on the findings of the previous sessions, this session will highlight some key initiatives of donors to promote Islamic Microfinance as way to increase financial inclusion. Donors with extensive experience and others with the willingness to enter in this field will exchange their views. (8 minutes per speaker followed by Q&A)

Panelist:

- Birama Boubacar Sidibe, Vice-President (Operations), IDB
- Bashir Omar Fadlallah, Director, ISFD
- Tilman Ehrbeck, CEO, CGAP
- Mohd Azmi Omar, Director-General, IRTI, IDB

Moderated by

- Dov Zerah, CEO of AFD

**04.45pm-05.00pm      Concluding Remarks**

- Birama Boubacar Sidibe, Vice President (Operations), IDB