



ELEVENTH HARVARD UNIVERSITY FORUM ON ISLAMIC FINANCE  
**TAKAFUL AND ALTERNATIVE COOPERATIVE FINANCE**  
Challenges and Opportunities

April 25–27, 2014  
Austin Hall, Harvard Law School  
Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

The Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance was introduced in 1997 to engage scholars, practitioners, legal professionals and regulators in productive dialogue about the then-nascent field. Previous forums have focused on recent economic and political developments in Muslim-majority societies, innovation and authenticity, the global recession, and points of contact between Islamic finance and other types of ethical finance.

Islamic finance literature frequently refers to economic justice, equitable distribution of opportunity and wealth, ethics, morality, equity, and fairness in business dealings. Critics, however, contend that the current practice of Islamic finance is not adequately informed by such ideals. Can cooperative financial models such as *takaful* facilitate the development and growth of financial solutions that more clearly reflect the ideals of Islamic finance?

The Eleventh Forum seeks to reassess and critically engage with issues of risk sharing, mutuality, solidarity, and socioeconomic welfare in the context of a discussion about *takaful* and other types of cooperative financial solutions.

The Forum will be a three-day event, structured around three plenary sessions and six smaller parallel sessions. A formal banquet dinner will be held at Harvard on April 26, followed by a speech by one of the forum luminaries.

Papers will be presented on the following sub-themes:

### MUTUALITY: CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

Mutuals and cooperatives are relatively rare in the Islamic financial services sector. Is there a need for a greater number of mutuals and cooperatives to replace the debt-based products predominantly being offered? What factors (profitability, business models, legal/regulatory frameworks, government support, etc.) could problematize the development and growth of Islamic financial products and institutions based on the concept of mutuality?

*Topics:*

- Alternative models and their associated challenges
- Investment models and profitability
- Shari'a-related, legal, regulatory and governance concerns
- Points of contact between *takaful*, mutual banking and other cooperative financial solutions
- Surveys of pre-modern and modern cooperative financial products and trends in practice

### RISK-SHARING

The theoretical literature emphasizes the significance and benefits of risk-sharing, as opposed to risk-shifting. What factors complicate the sector's on-going effort to develop and encourage the evolution of solutions that favor risk-sharing over risk-shifting?

*Topics*

- Innovative risk-sharing and the challenges of product development

- Risk-sharing: social concern or commercial venture?
- Analyses of various risk-sharing and risk-shifting models and approaches
- The theoretical and empirical significance of various risk-sharing models and approaches
- Risk-sharing in the context of *takaful* and other types of cooperative finance

## MARKET PENETRATION: STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Various factors contribute to the relatively low penetration of certain financial products in Muslim communities. What role might Islamic finance in general—and *takaful*, in particular—play in changing this state of affairs?

### Topics

- Obstacles to the growth of Islamic finance, particularly *takaful* (e.g., lack of effective distribution; lack of human capital and capacity; ineffective financial architecture and unsatisfactory track record)
- Increasing the penetration of Islamic finance with particular regard to *takaful* in Muslim-majority societies, and Muslim communities in Muslim-minority societies
- Resources and strategies for the establishment and development of Islamic cooperative finance institutions

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Critics contend that the prevailing practice of Islamic finance is not sufficiently informed by its theoretical ideals and that it offers little, if anything, that is not already offered by conventional finance. To what extent is such criticism valid? And if so, how can Islamic finance be “re-connected” to its ideals?

### Topics:

- Lessons that conventional cooperative finance (e.g., credit unions, building societies, cooperative/mutual banks, etc.) and Islamic finance can learn from each other
- Alternative Islamic financial ecosystems
- The impact-driven design of Islamic financial products (especially *takaful*) to serve low-income and at-risk members of society

- The implementation and execution of *takaful* and other “social” shari’a-compliant practices (e.g., *zakat*, *waqf* and microfinance)

## ISLAMIC FINANCE: THE EMERGING HORIZON (MARKETS, PLAYERS, PRODUCTS AND THEMES)

As in previous Forums, a section will be devoted to encourage young researchers. This time the theme is on new markets, players and products.

## PROCEEDINGS

The publication of the proceedings from the second, third, fourth, and fifth forums – the first reference works of their kind in the industry – has endowed the Harvard Forum with additional significance. From the Sixth Forum onwards, the Project began publishing a book of selected papers for every Forum:

Sixth Forum: *Islamic Finance: Current Legal and Regulatory Issues* (ISBN 0-9702835-5-5)

Seventh Forum: *Integrating Islamic Finance into the Mainstream: Regulation, Standardization and Transparency* (ISBN 0-9702835-6-3)

Eighth Forum: *Islamic Finance: Innovation and Authenticity* (ISBN 0-9702835-7-1)

Ninth Forum: *Building Bridges Across Financial Communities: The Global Financial Crisis, Social Responsibility, and Faith and Finance* (ISBN 0-9702835-9-8)

Tenth Forum: *Islamic Finance and Development* (in press)

All publications can be purchased by contacting [ifp@law.harvard.edu](mailto:ifp@law.harvard.edu).

We intend to publish a thematic collection of selected papers from the Eleventh Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance.

For further information on publications from previous forums, please visit

<http://ifp.law.harvard.edu/ifphtml/index.php>.

# LIST OF SPEAKERS/ PANELISTS/MODERATORS

Daud Vicary Abdullah, *President*, ICEIF, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Abdulazeem Abozaid, *Associate Prof.*, Faculty of Islamic Stud .Qatar  
Abu U Faruq Ahmad, *Senior Researcher*, ISRA, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Habib Ahmad, *Professor*, Durham University, Durham, U.K.  
Jasim Ahmed, *Secretary-General*, IFSB, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Saif Ahmed, *Managing Partner*, Infinity Consultants, Bangalore, India  
Asif Akhtar, *Assistant Professor*, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India  
Khalid A. Al-Thani, *Chairman*, Ezdan Holding Group, Doha, Qatar  
S. O. Alhabshi, *Chief Academic Officer*, INCEIF, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
M Al Bashir M Al Amine, *Group Head*, Bank Alkhair, Bahrain  
Khaled Al-Jasser, *Chief Executive Officer*, Bank AlBilad, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
Hiba Allam, *General Counsel*, FWU Global Takaful Solutions, Dubai, UAE  
Savas Alpaya, *Director-General*, SESRIC, Ankara, Turkey  
M. Nadeem Aslam, *Head*, Islamic Bank Meethaq, Muscat, Oman  
Rashid Alvi, *Deputy Director*, Islamic Legal Studies Prog, Harvard Law School  
Azhar Assan, *Asst Prof*, Salman bin Abdulaziz Univ, Al Kharij, Saudi Arabia  
Mehmet Asutay, *Reader*, Durham University, Durham, U.K.  
Muhammad Ayub, *Riphah International University*, Pakistan  
Abdulkader Barkatulla, *Sharia Scholar*, London, United Kingdom  
Arslan Aimen Bendimerad, *Project Manager*, AIDIMM, France  
M. Jamil Berro, *Chief Executive Officer*, al-Hilal Bank, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Ajmal Bhatti, *Chief Exce Officer*, Alinma Tokio Marine, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
Farmida Bi, *Partner*, Norton Rose, Fulbright LLP, London, United Kingdom  
Joe W. Bradford, *Sharia Scholar*, Bank of New York Mellon, Houston  
Alberto G. Brugnani, *Founder*, ASSAIF, Kabul, Afghanistan  
Abdul Qadir Buhari, *Chairman*, B.S.Abdur Rahman Univ, Chennai, India  
Ryan Calder, *Ph.D. Candidate*, University of California, Berkeley, California  
Sara E.B. Carmody, *Senior Associate*, King & Spalding LLP, Dubai, UAE  
K P. Charman, *Professor*, Kazakh-British Technical University, Kazakhstan  
Mahmoud El-Gamal, *Professor*, Rice University, Houston, Texas  
Mohamed El-Komi *Assistant Professor*, American University of Cairo  
Mohammad Faisal, *Asst. Professor*, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India  
Seamus Finn, *Director*, JPIC Ministry, Washington, D.C.  
Richard Gonsalves, *International Islamic University Malaysia*  
Serap Gonulal, *Senior Financial Sector Specialist*, World Bank, Washington D.C.  
Blake Goud, *Chief Compliance Officer*, Marquam Capital, Portland, Oregon  
Behnam Gurbanzada, *Director*, International Bank of Azerbaijan, Baku  
M Farooq Haq, *Sr. Joint Director*, State Bank of Pakistan, Islamabad  
M. Kabir Hassan, *Professor*, New Orleans University, New Orleans  
Sutan Emir Hidayat, *Assistant Professor*, University College of Bahrain,  
Mohammad Hudaib, *Senior Lecturer*, Glasgow University, U.K.  
Hylmun Izhar, *Economist*, IRTI, Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah  
Kauoother Jaouber, *Assistant Professor*, Dauphine University, Paris, France  
Reza Zain Jaufeerally, *Researcher*, University of Leuven, Belgium  
Baber Johansen, *Professor of Islamic Studies*, Harvard Divinity School  
M. Akbar Ali Khan, *Vice-Chancellor*, Telangana University, India  
Mohammad H. Khatkhatay, *Chairman*, TESIS, Mumbai, India  
G A. Kholjigitov, *Kazakh-British Technical Univ.*, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
Sudershan Kuntluru, *Associate Professor*, IIM, Kozhikode, India  
Mohamad Akram Laldin, *Director*, ISRA, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Mervyn K. Lewis, *Professor*, University of South Australia, Adelaide  
Luc Van Liedekerke, *Professor*, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Ismail Bin Mahbob, *MNRB Retakaful Berhad*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Yucef Maouchi, *PhD Candidate*, Aix-Marseille University, France  
Shehab Marzban, *Founder*, Shekra Crowdfunding, Cairo, Egypt  
Meryem Mehri, *Doctoral Candidate*, Sorbonne University, Paris, France  
Abbas Mirakhor, *Distinguished Scholar*, INCEIF, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia  
Mahmoud Mohieldin, *Managing Director*, World Bank, Washington, D.C.  
Murniati Mukhlisin, *Graduate Student*, Glasgow University, U.K.  
Aishath Muneeza, *Deputy Minister*, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives  
Liza Mydin, *Doctoral Candidate*, INCEIF, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Abdullah Nana, *Mufti*, Berkeley, California  
Ashar Nazim, *Partner*, Ernst & Young, Bahrain  
Volker Nienhaus, *Professor*, Reading University, Reading, U.K.  
Shariq Nisar, *Sr. Visiting Fellow*, ILSP, Harvard Law School  
Umar, A. Oseni, *Assistant Professor*, International Islamic University Malaysia  
Intisar Rabb, *Professor of Law & Director*, ILSP, Harvard Law School  
Maaz Rahman, *University of New South Wales*, Sydney, Australia  
Asad Rehman, *Asst. Professor*, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India  
Ahmed Rostom, *Financial Sector Specialist*, World Bank, Washington, D.C.  
M. Abdul Samad, *Asst. Professor*, Salman bin A Univ. Al-Kharij, Saudi Arabia  
Lyubov Sartakov, *Kazakh-British Technical University*, Almaty  
Bushra Shafiq, *Deputy Director*, State Bank of Pakistan, Islamabad  
Muddassir Siddiqi, *Sr. Advisor Comm Law Dev Prog*, U.S Dept Commerce  
Elsayed ElSiefy, *Associate Professor*, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Qatar  
Kristen Stilt, *Professor of Law*, Northwestern Law School, Evanston, Illinois  
Raditya Sukmana, *Universitas Airlangga*, Indonesia  
Hussam Sultan, *Vice President*, HSBC Amanah, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Abdur-Rahman Syed, *Fajar Capital Limited*, Dubai  
Seif el-Din I. Tag el-Din, *Professor*, Imam University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
Sarah A. Tobin, *Postdoctoral Fellow*, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany  
Tanvir Ahmed Uddin, *SJD Candidate*, University of Sydney, Australia  
Ibrahim Warde, *Adjunct Professor*, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts  
Zeine Zeidane, *Advisor*, International Monetary Fund, Washington, D.C.

## ABOUT THE ISLAMIC FINANCE PROJECT

The Islamic Finance Project (IFP) is the continuation of the Harvard Islamic Finance Information Program (HIFIP), which was established by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in 1995. IFP is now part of the Islamic Legal Studies Program (ILSP) at Harvard Law School. It aims to study the field of Islamic finance from legal and shari'a points of view by analyzing contemporary scholarship, promoting collaboration among scholars within and outside of the Muslim world, and increasing the interaction between theory and practice in Islamic finance.

Since IFP's inception, and particularly over the last ten years, the subject of Islamic finance has attracted growing interest among academics, students and professionals around the globe. In addition to the

above-listed forums, the IFP also hosted specialized workshops on topics such as *Tawarruq, Sukuk, Risk Management in Islamic Finance, Micro-Finance: Toward a Sustainable Financial Model, Reappraising the Islamic Financial Sector, Insolvency and Debt Restructuring in Islamic Finance*, and *Use and Abuse of Limited Liabilities*. The Project also assists students and other researchers with advice on and direction to the academic resources, as well as through sponsoring other events such as panel discussions on *Could Islamic Finance Have Prevented the Crisis?*, and *Bankruptcy, Financial Distress, and Debt Restructuring*. IFP attracts luminaries to deliver lectures and seminars, including Noble Laureate Robert Merton who delivered the keynote speech on “Innovation in Islamic Finance” at the Eighth Harvard University Forum.

## REGISTRATION

The Islamic Finance Project invites you to attend the Eleventh Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance. We hope that on April 25–27, 2014 you and your organization will join us for this event on the Harvard University campus.

You may register by e-mailing the information requested in the registration form below to [ifp@law.harvard.edu](mailto:ifp@law.harvard.edu) or fax the form to IFP at (617) 496-2373.

Registration fee: US\$400/person for corporate  
Registration fee for academics: US\$100/person  
(Harvard affiliates may attend without charge but still need to register for the conference.)

Please make checks payable to “Harvard University” and mail them to:

Islamic Finance Project  
Harvard Law School  
Austin Hall 108  
1515 Massachusetts Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

*\*\*Checks must be in US dollars and drawn from banks in the United States only\*\**

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please register the following for the Eleventh Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance (fill out separate forms for each registrant):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Province, Postal Code, Country:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

**Mohammed Alsubeaei & Sons  
Investment Co. (MASIC)  
Bank al-Bilad**

**The National Commercial Bank  
EZDAN Holding Group  
Kuwait Finance House**