



# **WIEF-UEF CHENNAI ROUNDTABLE 2018**

## **“Innovative and Alternative Finance for Business and Infrastructure Development in India”**

10 November 2018 \* Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

### **PROGRAMME**

#### **9 November 2018 (Friday)**

5.30 pm Presentation on Founder, Family, Group & UEF (by invitation only)

Venue: UEF Office  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Buhari Towers, #4, Moores Road  
Chennai – 600 006.  
Tamil Nadu, India

7.30 pm Welcoming Dinner (by invitation only)

Venue: Amir Mahal  
Bharathi Salai, Royapettah  
Chennai – 600 014.  
Tamil Nadu, India

#### **10 November 2018 (Saturday)**

8.00 am Arrival of Guests and Registration  
Refreshments

9.30 am

#### **OPENING CEREMONY**

Welcoming Remarks by Ahmed Buhari, President, United Economic Forum

Opening Remarks by the Honourable Tun Musa Hitam, Chairman, WIEF Foundation

Keynote Address by the Honourable M.C. Sampath, Minister for Industries, Tamil Nadu

Opening Keynote Address by the Honourable Panneerselvam, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

10.30 am

Session 1

**Shariah-Compliant Investments: Opportunities for Investments in India from Across the Globe**

Globally, investors are showing interest in investments that cover a whole range of ethical options, one of which is shariah-compliant investments.

Shariah-compliant investments have seen rapid growth in size and product offering since its introduction. This growth trajectory will continue as investment myths have been overcome, advances in standardisation, increased regulatory initiatives are in place with more transparency, comfort and continued innovation as well as greater choices for investors.

The session will explore:

- what are the options that could be made available to global investors;
- what are the types of shariah-compliant products to help support the development of local housing and transportation industry;
- how to make shariah-compliant investments subject to existing foreign exchange and tax regulations in India

**Panellists:**

- Raja Teh Maimunah Raja Abdul Aziz, Managing Director, Wholesale Banking, Ambank Group, Malaysia
- Abdelilah Belatik, Secretary General, General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions, Bahrain
- Professor Dr Ashraf bin Md Hashim, Chief Executive Officer, ISRA Consultancy, Malaysia
- Dr Mohamed Damak, Senior Director and Global Head of Islamic Finance, S&P Global Ratings, France

**Moderator:**

Mohamed Rafe Mohamed Haneef, Chief Executive Officer, CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad, Malaysia

11.45 am

Session 2

**Mobilising Innovative Financing for Infrastructure, Manufacturing and Real Estate**

Governments, the private sector and the international development community agree that high quality infrastructure plays a key role in fostering economic growth and supports efforts to reduce poverty. Innovative interest free financing can play a significant role in supporting inclusive growth as well as encourage developmental activities.

The session will explore:

- how interest free financing can be used for infrastructure projects, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- what are the challenges and opportunities of interest free financing for infrastructure, manufacturing and real estate;
- how can funds such as Tabung Haji contribute to the development of real estate projects.

**Panellists:**

- Irman Boyle, Executive Vice President, Head of Advisory Group, Indonesia Infrastructure Finance, Indonesia
- Hamid Rashid, Founder, Finterra Pte Ltd, Singapore
- S. Krishnan, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Housing and Urban Development Department, India

**Moderator:**

Professor Dato' Dr Azmi Omar, President and Chief Executive Officer, International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF), Malaysia

1.00 pm

**Lunch / Informal Networking**

2.00 pm

Session 3

**Islamic Finance in Non-Muslim Countries: Learnings from Abroad**

Over the past decades the Islamic finance has, steadily and rapidly grown internationally, drawing attention from multinational banks and moving into non-Muslim markets. Despite the regulatory obstacles faced by operating in a non-Muslim financial market, Islamic finance has slowly gained foothold in Europe and other parts of the world.

The session will explore:

- the development of and possible prospects for Islamic finance in non-Muslim nations;
- the breakthroughs, issues and challenges facing Islamic finance in countries such as UK, France, Japan, Korea and Sri Lanka;
- the driving factors that have attributed to the rise of Islamic finance in non-Muslim countries.

**Panellists:**

- Mohamed Thowfeek Mohamed Azmeer, Chief Executive Officer, Amana Bank, Sri Lanka
- Alberto G. Brugnoli, Managing Partner and Founding Member, Association for the Development of Alternative Instruments and Innovative Finance (ASSAIF), Italy
- Asad Ansari, Co-founder of Advisory Board, Amanah Islamic Finance, Australia
- H. Abdul Rakeeb, General secretary, Indian Centre for Islamic Finance, India

**Moderator:**

Raja Teh Maimunah Raja Abdul Aziz, Managing Director, Wholesale Banking, AmBank Group, Malaysia

3.15 pm

**Session 4**

**India Focus – Investment Opportunities in Tamil Nadu**

India stands out as a major emerging market economy in the world with an average growth rate of 7.5 per cent while Tamil Nadu has emerged to be the second-largest state in India in terms of their economy. The state has maintained average economic growth of 6-8 percent compared to National average. It boasts well-developed and top notch industrial, social and physical infrastructure and good quality manpower.

This session will showcase:

- the innovations and business opportunities available in Tamil Nadu;
- the areas of interest for foreign investments;
- government policies and economic incentives for investors.

**Panellists:**

- K. Gnanadesikan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, India
- Khurshid Ahmed Najmi, Former Legal Advisor, Reserve Bank of India, India
- Sherif Kottapurath, Managing Partner, Mount Judi Ventures LLP, India
- Dr Rahmatullah Abdul Ahad, Managing Director, Janaseva Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., India.

**Moderator:**

Dr Shariq Nisar, Professor Rizvi Institute of Management Studies and Research, India

4.30 pm  
to 5.00 pm

**CLOSING SESSION**

Speech by K. Rahman Khan, M. P., Former Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Government of India

5.00 pm

**End of WIEF Roundtable**

Refreshments / Informal Networking

5.00 pm  
to  
6.00 pm

**WIEF Closed Door Meeting** (by invitation only)

WIEF Closed Door Meeting is an intensive dialogue with relevant stakeholders to determine appropriate action plans after the Roundtable.

*Venue: Kaveri 1 & 2, Level 2, Hotel ITC Grand Chola*

10.30 am  
to  
4.30 pm

**Business Networking**

One to one business meetings between foreign investors and prospective Indian businesses can be arranged at the Business Networking Lounge.

**DISCLAIMER / NOTES:**

- The Organisers reserve the right to alter the content and timing of the programme in the best interest of the Roundtable and is not responsible for cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Programme as of 1 November 2018