

## Conferences/Seminars

### **Workshop on Islamization of Knowledge Sokoto, Nigeria**

*Sha'bān 20-22, 1409/March 27-29, 1989*

The Workshop on Islamization of Knowledge was held *Sha'bān 20-22, 1409/March 27-29, 1989* at Usmanu Danfodiyo University in Sokoto, Nigeria. It was jointly sponsored by the University's Center for Islamic Studies, the Islamic Education Trust of Nigeria, the Muslim World League, and the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT). The Center for Islamic Studies is headed by Dr. Omar Bellu, a specialist in Arab Islamic Studies who serves as the University's Vice-President, and as Secretary of the Nigerian Council of Scholars. The Islamic Education Trust is headed by Al-Hajj Ahmad Lemu, the Supreme Judge in Niger State and a prominent leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria who has established a number of Arabic Islamic Schools considered among the best for teaching Islamic and secular sciences.

### **Objectives:**

The objective of the Workshop was to determine the means through which Usmanu Danfodiyo University, in cooperation with the Islamic Education Trust and other Islamic organizations could devise a program of action for the Islamization of general and higher education in Nigeria. It also aimed at revising curricula for various academic disciplines to accommodate Islamic perspectives and to meet Islamic norms; developing and producing teaching and reading materials for various disciplines; and developing staff to service the revised curricula along Islamic lines.

The Workshop's attendance was restricted to the professors and teaching staff at Othman Dan Fodio University, and a number of youths from outside the university. On average, about eighty persons, including three or four women, attended each session. The participants paid special tribute to the martyr Isma'il al-Farūqī for his pioneering role in the Islamization of Knowledge.

### **The Seminar's Discussions:**

The first working session, chaired by Professor 'Abdul-Karim Hussain,

the Chairman of the Biochemistry Department at Maidqori University, discussed the following Papers:

1. "Creative Writing and the Islamic World View" by Abdul Rauf Adebesei.
2. "Islamization of Knowledge: Methodology of Research in Political Science" by Dr. Rashid Moten.
3. "Measurement of Islamic Religious Knowledge" by Dr. A. H. Saleemi.
4. "Mystical Experiences, Miraculous Revelations and Powers: Valid Sources in Islamic Theory of Knowledge" by B. Y. Muhammad.

The following papers were distributed without presentation or discussion:

5. "The Islamization of the Sciences: its Philosophy and Methodology" by Dr. Ja'afar Sheikh Idrīs.
6. "Islamization of Knowledge: an Overview of Recent Developments" by D. A. Maiwada.

The latter paper described numerous IIIT activities in Islamizing Knowledge, providing the details of this process as outlined in the book: *The Islamization of Knowledge*.

The second working session, chaired by Dr. At-Tayyib Zainul-'Abidin, the representative of the IIIT (the only agency represented in the Seminar from outside Nigeria) discussed the following Papers:

1. "Islamization and the Model Islamic Primary School" by Aisha Lemu.
2. "Islamization of Knowledge: a Workplan for Islamic Nursery Education" by Salahudeen Yusuf.
3. "An Islamic Approach to the Concept of the Library and Practice of Librarianship" by Misbah Naiya Katsina.
4. "Islamic Concept of Knowledge: the Need for Islamizing the Present Pattern of Education" by Umar Isa.
5. "Utilizing the Principles of Ta'limu al-Muta'allim . . . for the Islamization of the Modern Techniques of Learning" by Ishaq O. Oloyede.

In the third working session, chaired by Al-Hajj Ahmad Lemu, the following Papers were presented:

1. "Morality of Education" by Shaikh Ahmad Lemu.
2. "Framework of Model Islamic Primary Schools and Pre-School Education in Nigeria" by D. A. Maiwada.

The Special Session, which discussed the "Action Agenda for the Islamization of Education in Nigeria," was chaired by Shaikh Ahmad Lemu and Prof. Isma'il Bluqun. The discussion revolved around a Paper prepared by the Committee sponsoring the Workshop, entitled: "A Five Year Plan for Islamization of Knowledge in Nigeria."

## Recommendations:

The Workshop's final statement included the following recommendations:

1. Because the secular knowledge being taught and the educational system being pursued in Nigeria and in other Muslim countries is the major cause of moral decadence, social disintegration, and political instability, the Workshop strongly urges the review and restructuring of educational and intellectual pursuits to conform to the worldview of Islam. The Workshop particularly urges various academic and training institutions in Nigeria to reshape their curricula along Islamic lines.
2. The workshop urges the federal and state governments to support the Islamization program by promoting Islamic scholarships in various disciplines.
3. The Workshop believes that it is the duty of the Muslim Ummah in general and the intellectuals in particular in the country to establish Islamically oriented institutions, formulate appropriate curricula, and develop and publish appropriate books and reading materials on various Islamic disciplines.
4. The Workshop participants believe that the objectives of the Islamization of Knowledge would be better served if the Ummah and the governments adopt the Islamic System and abide by Islamic Jurisprudence (Shari'ah). We, therefore, urge the Muslims and the government of Nigeria to abide by Shari'ah.
5. The Workshop condemns in the strongest terms the blasphemous book, *The Satanic Verses*, its author, publishers, supporters and protectors and supports the position and action

- taken by the Iranian Government and the Organization of Islamic Conference, and commends the Nigerian Government in denouncing and banning the book.
6. The Workshop urges the Council of Ulama of Nigeria to take initiatives in working out a program of action for Islamization of Knowledge. The Council should explore the possibility of establishing a publishing and printing house and a broadcasting station in the country for dissemination of Islamic knowledge and values.
  7. The Seminar calls upon the Muslim intellectuals and scholars in Nigeria to organize themselves into professional bodies, publish journals and periodicals to promote Islamization of Knowledge.

Tayyib Zain al-Abidin  
Khartoum, Sudan

## JOURNAL

Institute of Muslim Minority Affairs

Editor: Syed Z. Abedin

HIGHLIGHTS 1988

**AbdulHamid AbuSulayman:** Al-Dhimmah and Related Concepts in Historical Perspective.

**Ibrahim Ma Zhao-chun:** Da'wah in the Chinese Context.

**Cees Bouma:** Non-Muslims in Pakistan: A Question of Justice and Equality.

**Lawrence Ziring:** Constitutionalism and the Quran in the Final Decades of the 20th Century.

**George M. Malek:** Politico-Religious Issues Relating to the Survival of Christianity in the Middle East.

**Raphael Israeli:** Is there Shi'a in Chinese Islam?

**P. A. Buttler:** Religious Freedom and Human Rights in Australia.

**Umar Abdurrahman:** Aliyu Na Mangi: Poet, Preacher and Purveyor of African Islam.

**Bogdan Szajkowski:** Muslim People in Eastern Europe.

**Muhammad M. A. Khan:** Demographic Changes in the Muslim Population of Soviet Russia: Facts and Fiction.

**Abdullah O. Naseef:** Mission to Bulgaria.

**Hasan Abdul-Qader Yahya:** Factors Influencing the Satisfaction of Muslim Organization Members in a University Town in the U.S. (Lansing, MI)

**Luis Lacar:** Neglected Dimensions in the Development of Muslim Mindanao and the Struggle of the Moro People for self-Determination.

**Hawthorne Emery Smith:** Historical Impact of Islam and its Future Prospects in Africa.

**Cornelia Sorabji:** Islamic Revival and Marriage in Bosnia.

**Baymirza Hayat:** Islam in Turkestan.

**Sultan Mahmud Kasgarli:** Modern Uighur Literature.

**Anis Mohamed Karodia:** The Muslim Method of Animal Slaughter and its Scientific and Social Relevance in Non-Muslim Societies.

Subscription	International	India	Pakistan	Bangladesh
2yr institution	£20 (4 issues)	Rs. 150	Rs. 200	Tk. 350
1yr institution	£12 (2 issues)	Rs. 90	Rs. 120	Tk. 200
2yr individual	£16 (4 issues)	Rs. 120	Rs. 160	Tk. 275
1yr individual	£10 (2 issues)	Rs. 75	Rs. 100	Tk. 175

Along with Sections On  
Interfaith Dialogue, An Islamic Agenda for Muslim Minorities,  
Research in Progress, Book-Reviews, Muslim Minority Profiles,  
Spectrum.

Order Your Copy Now  
Institute of Muslim Minority Affairs  
46 Goodge Street, London W1P 1FJ  
United Kingdom