



President of Islamic Development Bank lectures on Making the Market Work for Development



HE Dr Bandar Hajjar (right) with the Director

On 13 November HE Dr Bandar Hajjar, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), gave a lecture at the Centre on 'From Aid to Empowerment: IsDB Making the Market Work for Development'. The Islamic Development Bank defines its mission as working to improve the lives of those it serves by promoting

socio-economic development in Muslim countries and communities worldwide, delivering impact at scale. He acknowledged many social challenges facing the banking sector including the budget deficits faced by its member countries' governments in a world where 82% of the wealth created last year had gone to 1% of the world's population. The IsDB has just completed a major review and reform of its activities to give a much greater focus on education, for example through its scholarship programme and skills development. Capacity-building initiatives such as knowledge exchange programmes and the provision of seed money for small businesses and young innovators were additional priorities, as was female empowerment and the promotion of technology transfer between member countries.

There was a consensus within the Bank that this new approach was essential if the Bank was to build on its proud tradition of assistance to Muslim countries and communities in a way which equipped them for the challenges ahead.

Commonwealth Secretary-General lectures on Faith in the Commonwealth

On 1st November The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, gave a lecture at the Centre on 'Faith in the Commonwealth'.

Baroness Scotland spoke about the religious diversity of the Commonwealth, spread as it is across five continents and including some of the largest Muslim national populations worldwide. This gave it a special role in promoting dialogue between different traditions and cultures. The Commonwealth also had many programmes designed to help its 53 member countries develop trade, enjoy sound leadership and build for economic success. This made it easier to identify common ground, for example in articulating sustainable development goals. The organisation's efforts to coordinate on climate change and counter-terrorism initiatives had contributed to the building of a truly international consensus. The Secretary-

General also drew attention to conflict resolution projects such as 'Peace at the Crease', which used the shared commitment to cricket to bring people together and transform local communities.



The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC

The vote of thanks was proposed by Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, Principal of Somerville College.

New Scholars

Four scholars began their graduate studies in Michaelmas term:

Yousef Jameel Scholars: Dr Osaid Alser (MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences, Green Templeton College) and Shahd Qannam (MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Kellogg College).

Two Merdeka scholars: Imran Idris, reading for a DPhil in Clinical Neurosciences at St Catherine's College, and Ms Jaedah Azman, reading for a DPhil in Pharmacology at St Peter's College.

They were joined by two undergraduates: Barclays Scholar Mr Abthal Monir (Oriental College) and Noon Scholar Ms Samiha Mohsen (Lady Margaret Hall), both studying for a BA in History.

Library Lecture

Mr Edward Weech (Librarian at the Royal Asiatic Society) gave a lecture on 'Systems of Religion and Morality in the Collections of the Royal Asiatic Society', which examined the approach of British Orientalists to the study of religion and how this related to 18th-century Enlightenment historiography and philosophy.

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International Contacts

Azerbaijan



In October, the Director represented the Centre at the 6th Baku International Humanitarian Forum on 'Shaping a New World and a New Humanity: Creativity and Human Development'. Opened by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, HE Mr Ilham Aliyev, the conference focused on the themes of education, science, multiculturalism, stability and equality, and was attended by over 400 foreign participants from over 90 countries.

Russia



The Centre welcomed the opportunity to reconnect with Russian colleagues at a 200th Anniversary Congress of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) on 'Islam in the Modern world: Doctrine and Community'. The conference agenda topics included: Islamic Studies in Russia, holy writing, Islamic law, religious literature, traditions of religious practice and dialogue between civilisations.

Madinah University



Professor Hatim Hasan Almarzoky with the Director

In November, the Centre welcomed a delegation from the Islamic University in Madinah led by its President, HE Professor Hatim Hasan Almarzoky. Accompanied by Deans and colleagues from various faculties the delegation toured the Centre's building and met with fellows and visiting fellows in a roundtable discussion about the work of the University and how it might develop links and collaborative programmes with the Centre in the future.

King Abdulaziz Public Library



Mr Fahad Abdul Kareem of the King Abdulaziz Library with the Director

The King Abdulaziz Public Library sponsored an exhibition of photographs from the 1938 visit of HRH Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, daughter of Queen Victoria, to Saudi Arabia. The exhibition was open to members of the University and the general public during Michaelmas term.

Visiting Fellows Programme Expands

During academic year 2018/19, the Centre received a record 27 visiting scholars. In Michaelmas Term, the Centre welcomed: Dr Rashed Aba-Namay (International Institute for Legal and Economic Strategic Forecast Studies) as the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Visiting Fellow, Dr Faisal Z. Ahmed (Princeton University) as the Mohammad bin Ladin Visiting Fellow, and Dr Mohammad Abd Sukor (University of Malaya) and Dr Ali Altaf Mian (Seattle University) as Visiting Fellows. Three (of a planned four) Chevening Fellows were

already in residence this term: Dr Nassef Adiong (University of the Philippines), Dr Balqis Alkaraki (University of Jordan) and Dr Abdur Rehman Cheema (Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan). For this year, two OCIS-Securities Commission (Malaysia) Visiting Fellows in Islamic Finance have been appointed with one, Dr Siew Peng Lee (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman), in residence this term. Academic Visitors included Dr Yusuf Alpaydin (Marmara University) and Dr Ahmed Sanusi bin Azmi (Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia).

Inaugural Keith Griffin Lecture on Development Economics of Climate change



Professor James Boyce

In October the inaugural Keith Griffin Lecture was given by Professor James Boyce, University of Massachusetts. The Lecture has been instituted to honour the contribution of Professor Keith Griffin, an eminent economist and President Emeritus of Magdalen College, who served on the Board of Trustees of the Centre for more than thirty years. Professor Boyce took as his title ‘The Development Economics of Climate

Change: Challenges for Muslim Countries and the World’ and set out to identify the winners and losers from the fossil-fuel economy of today and those who would benefit or lose out from the clean energy economy of the future, with a particular focus on Muslim populations and countries worldwide. Future policy needed to move current beneficiaries away from reliance on fossil fuels to become, as far as possible, beneficiaries of the clean energy economy, and he examined a number of fiscal measures that could be employed to achieve this. The vote of thanks was proposed by Professor Christopher Adam, Director of the Department of Development Economics at Oxford.

Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail discusses Strengthening Centre’s ties with Malaysia

On 6th December the Centre was honoured to receive the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail. She was greeted on arrival by the Registrar and Centre Fellows before touring the building and being briefed on the Centre’s work and objectives. She was entertained to a working lunch with Centre Fellows and staff, which was an opportunity to explore a range of academic

themes as well as ways in which the Centre’s relations with Malaysia might be further strengthened.



Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

Trustees Annual Meeting



In September the Trustees gathered for their annual review of Centre activities and to agree future priorities.

This was the opportunity to welcome new Trustees to the Board, including HE Mr Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia. The Trustees hoped academic relations with Indonesia would be further reinforced.

The Board also welcomed Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP as a member and Sir Martin Donnelly as a co-opted member. Mr Dominic Grieve is a senior British politician and former Attorney General, and Sir Martin has held senior positions in the Civil Service.

Michaelmas Term 2018 Seminars

The following seminars took place at the Centre during Michaelmas Term 2018:

Mr Jonathan Benthall (*University College London*), ‘Islamic Charities Since the 1970s: A Record of Growth and Suppression’

Professor Timothy Insoll (*University of Exeter*), ‘Becoming Muslim’: The Archaeology and Trade in Eastern Ethiopia’

Professor Valerie Hansen (*Yale University*), ‘The World in the Year 1000: New Connections Within and Beyond the Islamic World’

Dr Louis Blin (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France*), ‘Jeddah 100 Years Ago... Through the French Lense’

Dr Alexander Morrison (*University of Oxford*), ‘The Russian Conquest of Central Asia in Persianate Historiography’

Dr Faisal Z. Ahmed (*Princeton University*), ‘The Political Legacy of Islamic Conquest’

Dr Iza Hussin (*University of Cambridge*), ‘The Politics of Islamic Law: Colonialism, Mobility, Translation’

Professor Khaled Fahmy (*American University of Cairo*), ‘Siyasa Shar’iyya: Some Insights From Nineteenth-Century Egypt’

HRH The Duke of York speaks at a celebration of the Centenary of the birth of Sheikh Zayed



HRH The Duke of York with Shaikh Dr Mohamed Al Sabah (left) and the Director (right).

On 2nd October the Centre celebrated the Centenary of Sheikh Zayed, in the presence of HRH The Duke of York, who was greeted by Shaikh Dr Mohamed Al Sabah on behalf of the Trustees, and spoke of his great personal respect for Sheikh Zayed and his legacy. Shaikh Dr Mohamed Al Sabah also spoke about the

impact Sheikh Zayed made on Oxford, and especially the Centre. The Centre's mosque bears the name of Sheikh Zayed as a recognition of his generosity and his commitment to education and scholarship. Dr Maqsoud Kruse, Executive Director of Hedayah, Mr Rashid bin Shabib, adviser to the UAE Ministry of Culture and Sir Harold Walker also participated and reflected on Sheikh Zayed's unique contributions to the people of the UAE, from defending their interests as the Ruler's Representative in Al Ain to creating the modern state according to his progressive principles of economic and social justice and development for all.

Photographs of Sheikh Zayed, taken by Wilfred Thesiger in Al Ain in 1948, were on view, courtesy of the Pitt Rivers Museum, and provided a remarkable insight into life in the oasis some seventy years ago. The event was organised at the Royal Society, in central London, with the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research and the UAE Embassy, with many senior British and Emirati personalities in attendance.

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