

Islamization, Ethics and Values in Science and Technology

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By

*Islamic Values and Ethics in Engineering Sciences Research Group
(IVEES-RG)*

International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

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RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND DIALOGUE IN VIEW OF GÜLEN'S GLOBALIZED WELTANSCHAUUNG

Abdi O. Shuriye

Prologue

Issues on religious dialogue and tolerance are inevitably re-emerging as topical endeavour in the academic and political circles. In fact, dialogue between religions is a defining characteristic and a pressing challenge of the modern world. The pioneers of religious dialogue, religious interfaith or religious tolerance has one thing in mind and targeted the one goal that religion is a universal entity, spiritual in nature and nonviolent.

Modern studies on interreligious dialogue are concerned with the encounter between religious traditions and worldviews. It attempts to stimulate a deeper understanding on issues concerning interreligious relations. Interfaith as a dialogue between people of different religious traditions has been happening ever since people began to identify themselves with a particular type of religious belief and practice.

Organizations as well as individuals endeavour to establish their mark or accomplish their aspirations in the subject. Trade and culture has always been the matrix of philosophical and religious ideas and exchange; the Arab traders brought Islam to the South East Asia and other parts of the world and the great Silk Road brought together very diverse religious practitioners and mingled beliefs and practices in a flowing stream of cultural and religious dialogue.

Fethullah Gülen, one of the pioneers of religious interfaith since late 1970s have immensely contributed to the groundwork of the subject in the Muslim world. Gülen promotes dialogue, tolerance and interfaith. The aim of this paper is to evaluate religious tolerance from diverse perspectives taking the views of Fethullah Gülen on religious dialogue into consideration.

Tolerance: Meaning and Background

The term tolerance denotes complexity in both behavioural and attitudinal aspects. In part, the term means permitting and respecting ideas or behaviour with which one disagrees. Lee Bollinger observes that tolerance entails "self-restraint toward what we believe to be without social value."³⁴ In this respect tolerance seems accepting inclusive characteristic and one that is essential in a diverse community, if people of differing views and values are to live peaceably together.

³⁴ Bollinger. *Supra* notes 14 at 182