

2011

Islamic Banking and Finance Against Conventional



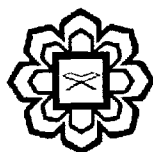
**Edited by
Saim Kayadibi**



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Contents

Preface.....	6
Chapter 1	8
Islamic banking and finance – an on-going underground war against the norm of Islam	8
Chapter 2	36
Conventional and Islamic Banking System in Malaysia.....	36
Chapter 3	57
Differences between Islamic Credit Card and Conventional Credit Card	57
Chapter 4	73
The Application of Credit Cards in Islam	73
Chapter 5	85
Takaful As an Alternative to Conventional Insurance	85
Chapter 6	95
Malaysia Airline And Airasia Share-Swap Deal: In Islamic Perspective	95
Chapter 7	108
Concept of Zakat in a Broader Sense	108
Chapter 8	124
Islamic Bond (Sukuk) in the Contemporary Economic and Finance Life	124
Chapter 9	140
Wakalah and Multilevel Marketing (MIm)	140
Chapter 10.....	150

Tawarruq in Islamic Finance.....	150
Chapter 11	157
The Legality Of Bay Bithaman Ajil And Its“ Issues	157
Chapter 12	173
Bay“ Al-,Einah: View of Scholars And Specification On Malaysia Context	173
Chapter 13	186
The Contract of Sale: From The Perspective Of Buying Commodities Online.....	186
Chapter 14	206
Conventional Insurance: Is It Shariah Compliance?	206
Bibliography.....	218

Chapter 7

Concept of Zakat in a Broader Sense

Maryam bt. Yahaya, Liyana Faten Safuraa bt. M. Ajis⁴⁶ and
Saim Kayadibi

Introduction

“Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah , the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves; [and who] establishes prayer and gives zakah; [those who] fulfill their promise when they promise; and [those who] are patient in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous.”⁴⁷

To the Quranic word Zakah and the meaning it conveys, there is no equivalent in any other language as far as we know. It is not just a form of charity or alms-giving or tax. It is not merely a deduction of a certain percentage from one's property, but an abundant enrichment and spiritual investment. It is not simply voluntary contribution to someone or some cause, or a government tax that a shrewd clever person can get away with. Rather, it is a duty enjoined by God and undertaken by Muslims in the interest of society as a whole. The Qur'anic word Zakah not only includes charity, alms, kindness, tax, voluntary contribution and so on, but it also combines with all these God-

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⁴⁷ Qur'an 2:177