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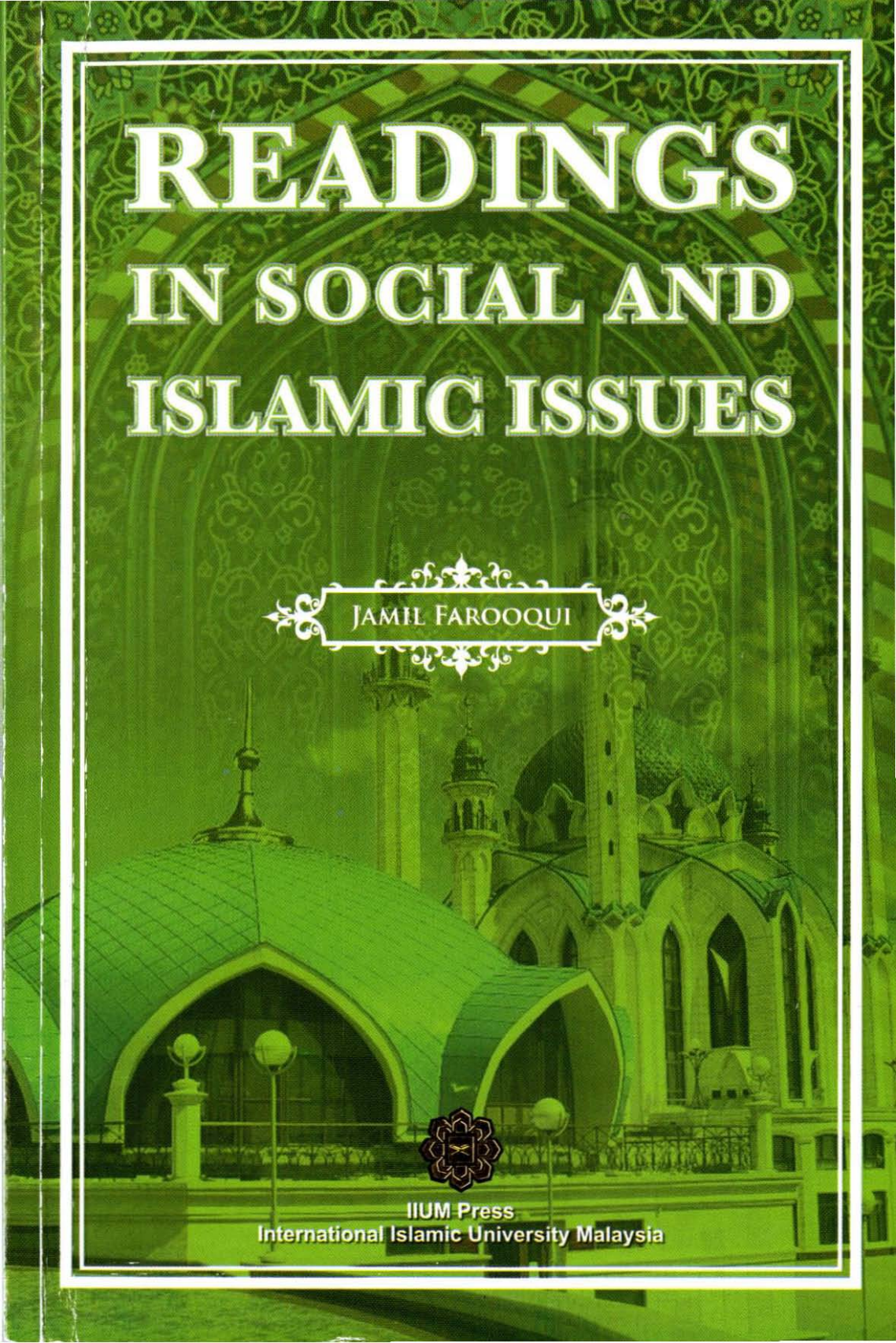
JAMIL FAROOQUI



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SOCIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE ON SAFETY AT WORKPLACE AMONG WORKERS IN SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES: A CASE-STUDY OF FELDA

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Introduction

The Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Abdullah Bin Ahmad Haji Badawi (2006) addressed the development of a safety culture for health in the workplace in 1994. The government is committed to this development because it leans to words the expectation to increasing the quality of life while working. Besides this, he added that Small and Medium Industries (SMIs) are the main contributors to the economy of the country. In 1999, it was reported that 90% of the manufacturing sectors comprised from the SMIs. However, as far as SMIs are concerned, particularly with safety and health in the workplace, most still maintain a poor working environment together with other associated problems that could not be resolved effectively. In actual fact, one reason the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1994 was enacted was mainly because of growing concerns among authorities for the increasing trend of industrial and work-related accidents and deaths arising substantially from apathy and a "tidak apa" attitude among employers and employees towards safety and health precautions (Maimunah, 2006: 2). In relation to this, it was reported that the number of fatalities in industrial accidents reached a five-year high of 1,478 in 1997, despite a 29% decline in accidents since 1993. Most fatal accidents occurred in manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, construction