

September 27, 2021

Dear Professor Mumtaz Ali,

We are writing to propose a lasting intellectual and pedagogical partnership between the Islam Actuel Institute and the International Islamic University of Malaysia, specifically the Department of Usûl al-Dîn and Comparative Religion.

Islam Actuel is an institute that aims to make the Qur'an and the Islamic worldview work in the fields of academic study and in daily activities. In this sense, we are in line with the problematic and research program of Islamization of Knowledge.

We wish for our two institutions to benefit mutually by developing Islam as Worldview and universal Wisdom. At the moment, this is what we have to offer:

- Synthesize and translate publications by professors and intellectuals who inspire the IIUM and that we can use in our 5-year training program;
- Select and encourage French and Maghrebi students to come and pursue their studies and research at IIUM.

This is what IIUM and your Department of Usûl al-Dîn and Comparative Religion can bring us :

- The initiation to Islam as a worldview, source of knowledge and universal wisdom (through texts and interventions);
- The initiation to an Islamic Methodology of Research (through texts and interventions);
- Pedagogical advice to help the Islam Actuel Institute to design a 5-year training program, inspired by the approach of Ismail al-Faruqi but lightened, considering the particular French context;
- The organization of a Summer School with approximately thirty French and Maghrebi Muslim students in 2022.

I hope that this proposal finds a favorable response.  
I remain at your disposal for any need that might arise.

Sincerely,



Mohamed Oudihat  
Director of Islam Actuel Institute (Paris)  
10 Rue de l'Industrie  
75013 Paris, France

September 27, 2021

Dear Professor Mumtaz Ali,

The Islam Actuel Institute extends its gratitude for your timely interventions during our annual Summer School in August 2021 on the following themes:

1. Critical thinking: An Islamic Perspective
2. Crisis in Knowledge and Education
3. Need for Rethinking Knowledge and Education
4. Islamization of Knowledge: General Principles and Work Plan — 1982 and 1989
5. New Perspective for Education
6. Rethinking Modern Science

We hope that we will be able to renew our collaboration in the near future.

Sincerely,

Mohamed Oudihat  
Director of Islam Actuel Institute (Paris)  
10 Rue de l'Industrie  
75013 Paris, France

## **Why Rethinking Modern science?**

**At the very outset my humble submission is that the Qur'an is neither a religious and sacred book of any particular community nor Islam is a mere religion like any other religion of the World.**

**The Qur'Én is the book of knowledge for the benefit of humanity. It is addressing to each and every individual human being.**

**Islam is the Worldview and the Way of Life presented by the Creator of the entire universe- Allah [swt] for the guidance of humanity.**

**The Qur'Én claims that it presents before mankind the Truth and Reality of Life and the World and the body of the True,**

**Authentic and Universal Knowledge which is generally understood as the Islamic revealed knowledge or revelation.**

**To establish the truth of its claims it presents a powerful ethical [rational] discourse along with empirical and historical evidence.**

**All the discussion on the issues of Islamization of Knowledge or science has been directed from the point of view of the Truth and Reality of Life and the World.**

**We understand clearly based on ethical [i-e rational] exercise and empirical and historical evidence and, therefore, accept the reasonable notion of the Oneness of Humanity.**

**We all are sailing, willingly or unwillingly, in the same ship of this**

**world. Our fate and destiny are not different from one another.**

**The failure or success or security or insecurity of humanity is shared by every single human being.**

**No nation, no country, no community, no individual, no corner of the world can escape from same 'fate'. Sooner or later all of us would be subject to same 'destiny'.**

**The environmental problems, global warming, natural disastrous do not spare a single nation. The recurrent phenomena of natural calamities and new diseases, all over the world, are witness to this bitter fact.**

**The current debate and discourse on Islamization of Knowledge or Disciplines is to arrest the deteriorative conditions**

**of the world and help people to live a happy and secure life.**

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF SCIENCE**

**The Islamization of modern science is, in fact, a call of rethinking science based on Truth and Reality of Life and the World.**

**Nothing in this world is absolutely beyond rethinking except the Ultimate Truth and Reality of Life and the World.**

**The concept of Islamization of Knowledge and science may be defined, at the very outset, as an intellectual activity through which the unfounded foundation of the modern disciplines and their philosophy is recognized and replaced by the foundation of Truth and Reality of Life and the World.**

**The goal is to develop all disciplines in right, truthful and realistic direction. Our main contention is that at present the**

**foundation of modern disciplines has been laid down on the basis of philosophical speculation and metaphysical conjecture due to which they have lost their true meaning and characteristics.**

**The modern disciplines have no knowledge of Truth and Reality of Life and the World. Instead of basing on True, Authentic and Universal Knowledge [TAUK] they had been founded on the basis of philosophical speculation and metaphysical conjecture. Hence, the modern disciplines especially science and it's by product technology have created many complex problems to the safety and security of life, society and the world.**

**We are very much convinced that the modern disciplines have lost their true meaning, purpose and characteristics and thus creating side effects, destruction**

**and chaos instead of helping people to improve the conditions of life.**

**IOMS as an INTELECTUAL enterprise is dealing and challenging with several aspects of the modern science and disciplines. Hence, it is contended that the modern science and disciplines have created hundreds and thousands of problems for the safety of life of people and the world.**

**In this context another goal of Islamization of modern science is to clarify several misunderstandings about modern science**

**See for example the following claim:**

**Whether we like it or not, science seems to be the only universally welcome contribution of European civilization to all the rest of the world. It is arguably the only thing developed in Europe**

**which every other society, culture, region, nation, population and ethnicity that has learned about it has adopted from Europe...For there is no other kind, nor did science really spring up independently elsewhere before, simultaneously, or after its emergence among the Greeks 2,500 years ago.** [Alex

Rosenberg, *Philosophy of Science: A contemporary introduction*, Second edition, Routledge Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, New York and London, 2000, 13]

**One of the goals of Islamization of Science and its Philosophy is to refute this sort of unscientific and unrealistic statements by scientific explanation supported by historical and empirical evidences.**

**There are a big number of books on Science and Philosophy of Science but a very few scholars and students know that those books are not dealing with Science or Philosophy of Science in a true sense.**

**Our main contention is that these books need to be called books on the Modern Western Science and the Modern Western Philosophy of Science.**

**It is generally said in our times that ‘science’ as a discipline deals with natural world. The understanding of the natural world in the modern Western science is not in line with the truth and reality of the natural world.**

**It goes against the understanding of the Qur’Én. According to the Qur’Én, the natural world, which is an integral part of the worldview, had been created by Allah SWT.**

**But the modern Western science denies this Truth and Reality.**

**Hence, we can rightly say that the study of natural world which denies the creation of nature by Allah SWT cannot be considered a systematic, correct, true, authentic, realistic and comprehensive study – a scientific study or science as such.**

**We, therefore, maintain that we do not have today books on ‘science’ and ‘philosophy of science’ as they were understood and**

**developed in the past when the idea of 'science' was first developed. [When, where and why the idea of science was developed is also controversial. It needs to be explained based on the truth, reality and facts.]**

**It is our claim that the idea of science as a systematic study based on rational and empirical tools was motivated on the basis of true understanding of life and the world but it was not confined to the study of natural world alone.**

**We find today hundreds of books on the modern Western science, the modern Western natural sciences and the modern Western philosophy of science which are based on an erroneous understanding of natural world.**

**As a result, all these books have been written and produced from the modern Western secular point of view which has been derived from the modern Western**

**philosophical thought which is based on conjecture and speculation instead of and rather than True, Authentic and Universal Knowledge.**

**Hence, we argue we lack badly books on 'science' and 'philosophy of science' as they were understood before the dawn of modern age.**

**To avoid confusion and differentiate clearly between 'science' and the modern Western science, we should not use any more the term 'science' but rather prefer to call it Truth-based science.**

**The modern Western science is different from the Truth-Based Science in its method and objectives.**

**The Truth-Based Philosophy of Science is also different from the modern Western philosophy of science.**

**We respectfully argue that the notion of 'science' that was first developed was based**

**on True and Realistic understanding of life and the world whereas the modern Western science is based on the speculative and conjectural understanding of the world especially the natural world.**

**The fact is that at the time of development of term 'science' it was not only based on the true understanding of life and the world but rather on Truth and Reality of Life and the World as well as True, Authentic and Universal Knowledge.**

**We are more interested in the epistemological, methodological and metaphysical issues of 'science' and also in Truth-based science and its philosophy.**

**For this purpose, we discuss in a comparative manner the origin, development, aim and method of Truth-based science and the modern Western science.**

**I do not agree with the notion of 'pure science' or 'neutrality in science' or 'value**

**free science’. It does not make a positive and acceptable sense because, in reality, they do not exist.**

**The scholars have made claims about them but in real world no ‘science’ is neutral and ‘pure’ in the modern Western sense. All these notions, in fact, illustrate the poverty of intellectual vision of truth and reality of various things.**

**We human beings as cognitive creatures need to understand and accept a fundamental Truth i.e. there is Truth and Reality of Life and the World. Everything has to be seen, studied and understood from the point of view of Truth and Reality of Life and the World.**

**The characteristics, the origin and development of sciences need to be understood from the point of view of the Truth and Reality of Life and the World.**

**The Islamization of Modern Western Science and Its Philosophy is, in fact, a call of**

**rethinking the Modern Western Science and its Philosophy based on Truth and Reality of Life and the World. Nothing in this world is absolutely beyond rethinking except the Ultimate Truth and Reality of Life and the World.**

**The concept of Islamization of modern Western Science and its philosophy may be defined, at the very outset, as an intellectual activity through which the unfounded foundation of the modern Western science and its philosophy is recognized and replaced by the foundation of Truth and Reality of Life and the World.**

**The goal is to develop science and its enterprise in right direction.**

**Our main contention is that at present the foundation of the modern Western science and its philosophy have been laid downed on the basis of philosophical speculation and metaphysical conjecture due to which**

**they have lost their true meaning and characteristics.**

**The modern Western science has no knowledge of True, Authentic and Universal understanding of the Truth and Reality of Life and the World. Instead of basing on True, Authentic and Universal Knowledge it had been founded on the basis of philosophical speculation and metaphysical conjecture.**

**The beauty and uniqueness of the Truth-Based Science, which existed in the world throughout history, is that it was conceptualized, defined and developed at the time of its inception, in the light of True, Authentic and Universal Knowledge.**

**The characteristics of which are:**

**It is true, correct, authentic, realistic, comprehensive and universal. It is based on True, Authentic and Universal Knowledge.**

**Based on knowledge the understanding of life and the world and everything of the world was developed.**

**This can be seen in the development of Islamic science. It was done with the help of the application of empirical and rational faculties, tools and skills.**

**This Truth-Based Science and its philosophy had been replaced by the modern Western science and its philosophy during modern period.**

**Hence, the modern Western science and its philosophy have lost their true meaning, purpose and characteristics and thus creating destruction and chaos instead of helping people to improve the conditions of Life.**

**Modern science has been confined to the study of the natural world alone.**

**The modern Western science applies a specific method of observation and experiment or 'scientific' method.**

**But the truth and reality is that this method deserves to be called the modern Western method of observation and experiment or the modern Western scientific method.**

**This method follows a few steps of hypothesis, observation, experimentation, measurement, data collection, analysis of data, testing and verification etc.**

**But it is not realized that all these steps are deeply rooted in a worldview which is based on speculation and conjecture.**

**The outcome of this study is called the modern Western science or the modern Western natural sciences or the modern Western scientific knowledge or the modern Western scientific laws or the modern Western scientific models.**

**The current conceptions of the modern Western science, the modern Western scientific method, the modern Western scientific spirit and the modern Western scientific thinking have been unjustly elevated to the status of universal.**

**They have become the dominant criteria for judging any piece of knowledge as true, authentic and realistic based on which every other claim to knowledge/science is accepted or rejected as being valid or invalid.**

**This modern Western view of 'science' has taken the status of a 'sacred canon'.**

**In spite of this, it is contended that this particular view of 'science' is not universal because it is based on the modern Western secular worldview. Hence, this 'science' by some philosophers and thinkers has not been accepted as 'science' rather they preferred to call it the Western science and they have questioned the meaning and the**

**philosophy of Western science. I prefer to call it as the modern Western science instead of mere Western science. The reason is: this change took place during modern period.**

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