

The Journey of



Pusat Susu Bonda

HALIMATUSSAADIA

Mother's Milk Centre

SASMEC @IIUM



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Hamizah Ismail | Nurjasmine Aida Jamani

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Dedication

This book is a tribute to all premature babies in need of treatment in the neonatal intensive care unit and their very patient parents who went through the hardship of having babies who are premature, the generous mothers who willingly share their milk and the milk kinship mothers with their children who volunteered themselves to be part of our research on milk kinship.

Special thanks to all neonatologists, obstetricians, lactation consultants and Islamic scholars who probably have paved the way that facilitate the process of establishing this first mother's milk bank in Malaysia.

Infinite appreciation to our parents who through their sleepless nights caring, breastfeeding and raising us up.

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6. Prof. Dr. Zamzuri Bin Zakaria @ Mohamad
Medical Director, Sultan Ahmad Shah Medical Centre @IIUM
7. Ms Debbie Barnet MBE
*UKAMB Chair,
ICCBA MB TAG Chair
Donor Milk Bank Coordinator
Queen Elizabeth University Hospital
Maternity Unit, 1345 Govan Rd
Glasgow G51 4TF*
8. Mdm Zurina Ali
*International Board Certified Lactation Consultant
Lactation Consultants of Great Britain
Islamic Milk Kinship Lead
United Kingdom Association for Milk Banking (UKAMB)*
9. The Committee and Staff
*Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre,
Sultan Ahmad Shah Medical Centre @IIUM*



FOREWORD

Bismillahirrahmanirahim.

This book is titled "The Journey of Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre" intended mainly to share our experiences in the establishment of the first milk bank in Malaysia and the first sharia-compliant milk bank.

When the idea of the establishment came up, our team first reference was to the Quran where we discovered our role as an institution that manages premature babies. The role is mentioned in Al-Baqarah verse 233.

Taking lessons from Rasulullah's s.a.w. breastfeeding history as a baby, it is permissible for a baby to be sent for breastfeeding by wet nurses. In the present situations, premature babies are sent or cared for in intensive care units, in an institution, therefore it is the responsibility of the institution while taking care of their medical issues, to provide their nutrition needs from the best milk, namely the human milk.

We traveled to Donor Milk Bank, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland, observed and learned the implementation of an established milk bank where we were also given hands-on opportunities.

We went through discussions and presentations with Majlis Fatwa Pahang that further clarified the sharia-related issues of the milk bank. Following the final meeting on 10th Nov 2020, we received approval to develop a milk bank with agreed conditions.

With the support received from Sultan Ahmad Shah Medical Centre @IIUM and the International Islamic University Malaysia top management, the development and establishment of Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre were made easy.

We hope that our small steps will change the breastfeeding practices in Malaysia where the sharing of breast milk will be safer, organised and formal that could not only prevent short-term neonatal infections and complications but the future marriage between milk kinship.

This journey would not be materialise without the continuous and tremendous support from the Hospital Director, Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohammed Saufi Awang to the team. I also thank my team who has tirelessly been together to bring this journey.

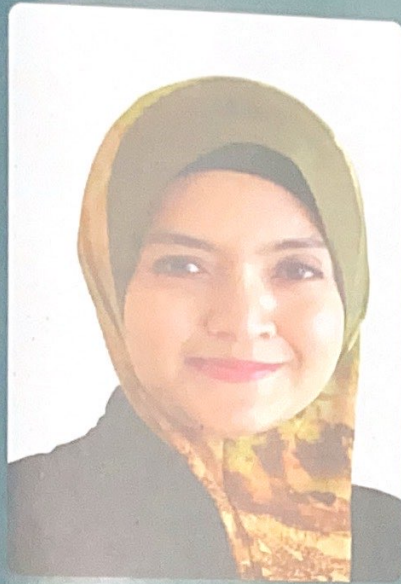
Alhamdulillah after all the beautiful experiences finally Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre is to be launched on 26th July 2022 that surely cascade to many more interesting and challenging future.

Assoc. Prof. Dato' Dr. Hamizah Ismail

Writer for The Journey of HMMC

HMMC Founder





Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah this coffee table book has finally been materialized.

Human milk banks have been well established in the Western countries since the 19th century. It serves as an important role by providing human milk for premature and sick babies when their own mother's milk is not available. However, in view of issues pertaining to milk kinship, no human milk banks have been established in Islamic countries. Therefore, the idea of a sharia-compliant human milk bank is started by establishment of Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre (HMMC).

Being part of the team to pioneer the steps in developing a sharia-compliant human milk bank is rather daunting. It all started back in 2019 with an idea sparked by Dato' Dr. Hamizah Ismail who later invited me to be part of this wonderful journey.

The journey to ensure the establishment of Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre was not a bed of roses. There were ups and downs but the hard work and perseverance among the team members had made it possible.

This Coffee Table Book reflected the journey of making Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre to what it is today. Commencing from the idea, finding the hikmah from the Quranic verses, history from the ancient times as well as Sirah Nabawiah to formation of the team, convincing the hospital management and approval from the religious authority has been documented in this Coffee table Book.

The milestones of the journey are described in detail and each photograph captures the moments. All of the photographs and illustration featured in this book are part of author's own collection over the past two years.

I am indeed grateful to see how much Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre has progressed to become the leading sharia-compliant human milk bank and to provide the best service to premature babies in this hospital.

This book is specially dedicated to all the hard work and sweats of the team members in making Halimatussaadia Mother's Milk Centre a reality.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurjasmine Aida Jamani
Co-writer for The Journey of HMMC
HMMC Vice Chairman

ASPIRATION

Despite the challenging journey to establish HMMC, each milestone is cherished with gratitude to the Al-Mighty.

With the beginning of HMMC, it is our aspiration to see that HMMC will grow into an effective and sustainable human milk bank. This can be achieved by producing and practicing the highest standards of practice in line with our local cultural context as well as at par with the global guidelines in nutrition and neonatal care.

In addition, through HMMC, we hope to maintain the best quality practices on human milk banking through usage of Hazard Analysis and Critical Points (HACCP) process and regular auditing.

We also hope to support activities pertaining to donor milk recruitment created through promotion to the community hand in hand with lactation support groups while upholding the National Breastfeeding policy.

Last but not least, it is hope that HMMC will become the centre of excellence for research and future collaborations pertaining to breastmilk in Islam and medical health. HMMC also aspires to become the centre of reference for other Islamic countries to emulate.

Insha Allah!





HALIMATUSSAADIA Mother's Milk Centre

Integrasi Sultan Ahmad Shah Medical Centre @IIUM,
Jalan Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah, Bandar Indera Mahkota, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

tel: 609 339 12615 | email: hmmc_sasmec@iium.edu.my

<https://sasmec.iium.edu.my/index.php/hmmc>