
Designing Curriculum and Writing Text Books from Islamic Perspective

Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT), International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) East Asia, and Kulliyyah of Economics and Management Sciences of International Islamic University Malaysia (KENMS, IIUM) jointly organized the 5-days workshop on Curriculum Design and Writing Textbooks from Islamic Perspective with special reference to Economics and Business Studies (WCDTB 2012) from Friday, 29th June to Tuesday, 3rd July 2012 at International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) campus and Ibnu Taymiyyah Conference Room, KENMS, IIUM.

The organizers introduced the Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT) as a think-tank which is engaged in research and in-depth studies for synthesizing education, culture & ethics. It was established in the year 1989 as a non-governmental research organization and it is one of the chapters of International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) - an independent organization devoid of local politics, party orientations and ideological bias - which was established in 1981/1401 AH.

The BIIT has been conducting a project in collaboration with IIIT on ‘Curriculum Design and Writing Textbooks from Islamic perspective’ for the last 2 years. The project aims at publishing about 40 textbooks in various academic disciplines. This project has attracted a good number of academics from various disciplines and they have attended many workshops and training sessions. There have been extensive discussion among these scholars and a consensus emerged emphasizing the need to redesign existing curriculum in various educational institutions and writing textbooks from Islamic perspective. This requires training those who would undertake the difficult task of writing as well as the reference materials to bank upon. Since, IIUM has the required Islamic resource persons as well as reference materials, it was decided to organize the workshop at IIUM.

The workshop was attended by 23 academics comprising 8 professors, 3 associate professors, 7 assistant professors and 5 lecturers from 4 major public universities and 7 top ranking private universities in Bangladesh. They were received at the airport by IIIT East Asia and arranged local transportation to transport them to the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) which was the workshop venue for the first 2 days.

The participants came with their proposal for various books. The outlines/contents of 12 manuscripts were reviewed, commented upon, and upgraded by the experts under the five

broad areas in the faculty of economics and business studies namely Accounting, Economics, Finance, Management, and Marketing. The titles of courses/books are: 1. Financial Accounting; 2. Auditing; 3. Principles and Practices of Income Tax; 4. Principles of Microeconomics; 5. Principles of Macroeconomics; 6. Comparative Financial System; 7. Fundamentals of Finance; 8. Financial Markets and Institutions; 9. Investment and Portfolio Management; 10. Total Quality Management; 11. Human Resource Management; and 12. Principles of Marketing.

Emeritus Prof. Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar, Director, IIIT East Asia, YBhg. Tan Sri Prof. Dr. Kamal Hassan, Distinguished Professor and Former Rector, IIUM, Shahril Kasim and Shabrini Sidek Coordinator of IIIT East Asia, Muhammad Abdul Aziz, Executive Director, BIIT, Prof Dr. Abdullah Al Ahsan, Deputy Dean (Academic Affairs) of ISTAC and Professor Dr. Mohamed Aslam Haneef, Director, Islamic Economics Policy Research Center (IEPRC), IIUM were present at the inaugural session of the workshop on 29 June 2012.

Professor Bakar praised BIIT for taking this bold step for speeding up the Islamization process and declared BIIT to be one of the most active chapters of IIIT. He wished its continuous success and announced the opening of the workshop. At the first session, Professor Dr. Kamal Hassan spoke on The Islamization of Human Knowledge (IOHK) agenda and its rationale which is to develop integrated reference materials. In the second session, Professor Dr. Rosnani Bt Hashim of the Institute of Education at IIUM delivered her talk on “Islamization of Knowledge and Challenges in Designing Curriculum”. At the third and the final session of day 1, Professor of Economics at IIUM Dr. Mohamed Aslam Haneef lectured on “Islamization of Knowledge and Curriculum Reform: The KENMS Experience”.

The session on the second day was devoted to specific areas that needed special attention. Thus, the Deputy Dean (Academic Affairs) of KENMS, IIUM Professor Dr. Fatima Abdul Hamid spoke on “Redesigning Course Outlines: An Overview of the KENMS Experience”. Professor Dr. Abdul Rashid Moten of Political Science, IIUM, delivered his lecture on “Writing Textbooks from Islamic Perspective: Approaches and Challenges”.

Day-3 was packed full with reviewing manuscripts of textbooks and area-wise discussion. The whole day was consumed on highlighting the selected Issues and their incorporation into the textbooks and challenges. Four broad areas, namely Finance, Economics, Accounting, and Business were led by Prof. Dr. Ahamed Kameel Mydin Meera, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Aslam Haneef, Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahman, and Prof. Dr. Khaliq Ahmad respectively.

Day-4 was allotted totally for the more precise discussion on the 12 manuscripts of the books. At least one resource person was assigned for each books/ course. Assigned resource persons were: Prof. Emeritus Mohamed Sulaiman, Prof. Dr. Khaliq Ahmad, Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahman, Prof. Dr. Sayyid Tahir, Prof. Dr. Ruzita Mohd Amin, Prof. Dr. Rafikul Islam, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dzuljastri Abdul Razak, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Normala Binti

Sheikh Obid, Assistant Prof. Dr. Mustafa Omar Mohammed, Assistant Professor Nor Azizan Binti Che Embi, and Academic Fellow Asrul Dahari.

Finally, the honorable Deputy Rector of IIUM Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Berghout addressed on “Islamizing the Islamizers” at the concluding session and the certificate giving ceremony in the last day of the workshop where M Azizul Haq, president of BIIT was present as chair. The workshop ended with a dinner talk by Dr. Md. Mahmudul Hasan, Assistant Professor of IIUM.

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