

Preface to MEJSR Special Issue “Diversity of Knowledge on Middle East”

Guest Editors of MEJSR

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This important issue focuses on examining the diversity of knowledge from theoretical and practical perspectives on Middle East with the goal of furthering our understanding of how various related issues may differ across disciplines and to explore the field of research on Middle East through historical and contemporary perspectives which the hope that it will eventually helping researchers to stimulate innovative research on Middle East. In addition, this Special Issue will move beyond typical Islamic Studies paradigms and explore additional commercial like Islamic Banking and Finance, commercialization of university's research and historical perspectives based on differing discipline foundations.

A group of authors were invited drawn widely from the experts and researchers on Middle East and who among them span a half century of research in the field. There are 17 topics in this volume and cover a variety of issues that incorporate the study of leading and influencing individuals in the field of religious education like Syed Shakh Ahmad Alhady. This includes comparative studies that explore differences in Islamic Banking Law on Laws Governing Islamic

Banks and Financial Institutions in Malaysia: An Overview, Islamic Finance on Asset Ownership and Investor's Protection under Sukuk Ijarah, Factors Adopting Islamic Home Financing: A case Study Among Consumers of Islamic Banks, Risk Management of Corporate Firms Using Islamic and Conventional Insurance Demand, Current issues on Commercialisation of University's Research such as Internet Marketing and transforming the traditional function of University as knowledge provider to making profit institutions. Finally important historical inputs like Mamluk Kingdom on Plagues, Iqta system, international relations and the Legacy of the Nasrid Kingdom's Good Governance in Granada are also included. These topics that study and examine challenges and prospects founded on theoretical and empirical research across cultures and disciplines provide unique perspectives on Diversity of Knowledge on Middle East specially dedicated for this Issue.

Critical issues discussed in this Special Issue of MEJSR can be summarized as follows:

1) The importance of the Internet as a marketing tool to measuring the marketing mechanism and effectiveness of the commercialization university research is a piece of work that is very unique. This study argues that the seemingly less stringent screening criteria been discussed about the potential of internet marketing to promote commercialization university research and attract the practitioners/entrepreneur. The authors further stress that using the internet as marketing tool in the context of commercialization of university's research can promote the collaboration with practitioner a better ways. Close interactions between university and industry is a main element in commercialization university research and the work provides experience based on Malaysia University.

2) The concept of child development from Syed Shaykh's perspective has been identified and the paper analyzes his ideas on appropriate education for the children. This study examines Syed Shaykh Ahmad Alhady's thoughts on the development of children. It is significant to reiterate that Syed Shaykh's ideas on education for children are found to be similar to Ibn al-Hajj's (d.1336) theory of education. Another paper critically analyses the influence of Middle East Education on Islamic Education in State of Kelantan, Malaysia.

3) The aspects of blind imitation and independent reasoning in the Malay society are also examined. This interesting topic analyses the place of the faculty of reason in the Malay society. It also evaluates the true attitude of the Malays towards blind imitation and independent reasoning. Such discussion may be compared with other tribes belong to any community in Middle East.

4) The issue of Islamic Banking law and Finance has stood as an alternative for conventional system. Relevant and vital aspects of Shariah banking are examined in this Edition. A creative approach by authors to show the flexibility of Syariah finance can be seen from detailed explanations on five separate papers namely; Islamic Banking Law on Laws Governing Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions in Malaysia: An Overview, Islamic Finance on Asset Ownership and Investor's Protection under Sukuk Ijarah, Factors Adopting Islamic Home Financing: A case Study Among Consumers of Islamic Banks and Risk Management of Corporate Firms Using Islamic and Conventional Insurance Demand.

5) Finally, six more papers are state-of art-review of historical perspectives on Middle East. A thorough explanations on Mamluk Kingdom on Iqta' system and Plagues in Egypt and the foreign Influences on the Mamluk Economy. The authors creatively examine how Mamluk historians describe the these situations. Further interesting analysis can be seen from an analytical discussions on Legacy of the Nasrid Kingdom and the AlNawawi's Lifetime Contributions to Shafi'i Juristic Works.

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