



EID MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FIANZ

Dear brothers and sisters,

Assalamo Alaikum Wa-rahmatullah Wa-barkatohu

EID MUBARAK



On behalf of the Executive, Council, and staff of FIANZ, I extend my warmest greetings to every one of you on this festive day of *Eidul Fitr*, "*Eid Mubarak*", "*Kullo Aamin Wa-Antum Be-khair*", "*Eid Wanaagsan*", "*Salamat Hari Raya and Zahri Batin Maaf*". May Allah SWT accept all our

fasts, salaah, charity and good deeds conducted during this blessed month of Ramadan and reward us generously. I am sure in our own ways we have been able to improve our spirituality (*Taqwa*), tolerance for others and unity among ourselves. I pray to Allah SWT to further increase these qualities among us in the months and years ahead. I have been particularly pleased with our younger generation who have so enthusiastically observed fasting in this holy month.

As the national organisation of Muslims, this is also a time of reflection for FIANZ. What have we accomplished in the year just gone by, and, have we set new priorities to ensure that our community remains united and continues the progress at an accelerated rate than what it has had in the last 30 years? FIANZ will be celebrating 30 years of its existence this year *Al-Hamdo-Lillah* (praise be to Allah), with the growth of the community reaching to 50,000 a reasonable statistical threshold to be thinking of setting up of institutions that can meet communities' growing social needs as well. We feel the focus of FIANZ and all the Muslim organisations has to be on the next generation. We need to encourage and engage our youths in shaping them so they can become valued citizens of this country by contributing in its progress and development, at the same time be the ambassadors of Islam to the wider community. We have a real opportunity living in NZ to create strong connections between people of different socio-cultural background by fulfilling our responsibility towards next-door neighbours. Festival of Eid provides excellent opportunity to invite our neighbours and share the joy of Eid with them - an excellent icebreaker.

Let me also use the opportunity to invite you all to participate in the **first NZ Muslim Convention** being organised in Auckland



during the Labour weekend. For it will be an occasion to reflect on how far we have come, where we are and where we are heading.

On this *Eidul Fitr* let us all present our good wishes and sincere greetings to our Muslim brethren in all parts of the world and in particular to people who are being continually affected by war or being displaced within their own countries because of internal conflicts. Our thoughts are also with all those less fortunate Muslims in other parts of the world that are facing economic and political difficulties. May Allah SWT alleviate their sufferings and reward them with lasting peace and prosperity.

Let us all enjoy the festival of Eid by thanking Allah SWT for His favours and bounties. Let us all pray that we get many more opportunities to observe the blessed month of Ramadan and reap the rewards by following the commands of Allah SWT.

May Allah SWT make us among the *Muttaqueens* (pious) and grant us success in this world and hereafter. *Ameen*

Wassalam
Dr Anwar Ghani MNZM JP
President



VISIT TO INDONESIA

FIANZ delegation (Dr Anwar Ghani and Br Sultan Eusoff) recently attended a three day workshop on Halal Assurance System (HAS) organised by Majelis Ugama Indonesia (MUI) in Bogor City, Indonesia.

The delegation met with Chairman of MUI and Executive Director of Lembaga Pengkajian Pangan Obat-obatan dan Kosmetika (LP-POM) [The Assessment Institute of Foods, Drugs and Cosmetics] which is a unit under the Majelis Ulama Indonesia and had fruitful discussions on wider co-operation between MUI and FIANZ.

FIANZ meets all the new criteria set out for an accredited organisation by MUI. FIANZ is optimistic that in due course it will be accredited by MUI as one of the certifiers for all Halal products exported from New Zealand to Indonesia.



اتحاد الجمعيات الإسلامية النيوزيلندية
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ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK

10-16 AUGUST 2009

This year, Islam Awareness Week was observed from from 10-16 August 2009. It was officially launched by Hon Pansy Wong, Minister for Ethnic Affairs, on Monday, 10 August 2009 at 10.00 am at the Wellington Islamic Centre.



Minister Pansy Wong delivering her speech at the Launch of IAW 2009 in Wellington. Seated- from right: Her Worship Mayor Kerry Prendergast (Mayor of Wellington), Dr Anwar Ghani (President of FIANZ) and Br Asif Koya (President of IMAN).

Islam Awareness Week is a week of information and activities organised by local Muslims to increase New Zealanders' awareness of their beliefs, values and practices, and to tackle misinformation about their religion in a positive way. The aim was to achieve greater understanding between us all, by promoting communication and new relationships. It's also hoped to reduce ignorance and misconceptions about the world's second largest religion: prejudices about Islam often result from misinformation through news media reporting on world events involving Muslims. Most provide little or no perspective as to what Islam's take is on the issue or the position of the other 1.3999 billion Muslims. Negative reporting has been a major cause of the ignorance of Islam we see today.

Islam Awareness Week provides an opportunity for the wider New Zealand community to learn about the beliefs, values and practices of Muslim New Zealanders and how these contribute to New Zealand society.

The theme of this year's Islam Awareness Week was "Al-Mizan - The Balance in Life". Islam is all about having the right "balance" in all aspects of life (economy, environment, politics, racial/ethnicity, family, gender etc). Also explored was the material and spiritual perspective, balance between this world and the next. Events were held around New Zealand during the Week, including Open Days at most of the Masajid (Mosques) and Islamic Centres, interfaith panel discussions, Islamic cultural arts and crafts displays and ethnic food fairs.



Dr Anwar with Br Husnan and a group of MUI officials.

FIANZ is a partner in the Diversity Action Programme led by the Human Rights Commission and Islam Awareness Week represents a major event in its ongoing contribution to the Programme.

As Muslims, we must reach out to fellow New Zealanders - initiatives like Islam Awareness Week highlight the work that needs to be done to increase the awareness of both Muslims and wider New Zealanders, of our respective beliefs and values.



EID-UL FITR GREETINGS FROM THE ULAMA BOARD

The Ulama Board of FIANZ sends its Eid'ul Fitr Greetings to the Muslims of New Zealand and congratulates all of them for having had this opportunity to fast in Ramadhan, the most blessed month. May Allah SWT accept our prayers and fasting. May He also bless you with all the happiness and prosperity on the most auspicious and happy occasion. Ameen.

The Fitra sum for this year is \$10.00 per person. It must be paid by every Muslim guardian for young and old, male and female by the end of Ramadhan or latest on the day of Eid before commencing Eid prayers. "The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) enjoined Zakat-ul-Fitr on the one who fasts, to purify oneself from any inappropriate act or speech during the fasting

period, as well as to provide food for the needy". The most deserving persons to receive this Zakat are poor relatives and the needy people living around you. This is to make sure that everyone in the community has the means to celebrate a joyful Eid. Our beloved Prophet has specifically advised us "Free the needy" from their wants on this day". This is the reason why the Zakat-ul-Fitr is more appropriately given nearer to the Eid day, or before proceeding to the Salat-ul-Eid, even though it can be given earlier.

SHEIKH MOHAMMAD AMIR
IMAM OF JAME'E MASJID (WELLINGTON)
AND CHAIRMAN, ULAMA BOARD OF FIANZ



NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

WAIKATO MUSLIM ASSOCIATION

The Waikato Muslim Association (WMA) has been busy organising different events in past two months which brought not only the Muslim community together but provided opportunities of interactive sessions with the wider community of Waikato Region. Activities which facilitated such sessions include but are not limited to:

*Organising inter-Faith dialogue with support from Hamilton City Council. Inviting the wider community to share food, feelings, values and views in an approachable environment during the Mosque open day.

*There has been an excellent support and interest shown by the community in the extension of the Hamilton Mosque. People continue to contribute whatever they can and we hope with some extra help we should be able to meet the need of our growing Muslim community in Hamilton and the Waikato.

Waikato Muslim Women group has been very active in organising Muslimah youth camps, walks to Mt Mangatutiri, Iftar for female youth. They are holding regular Halqah on Sundays. Association would like to thank all the active women who have been giving lot of their voluntary time to make these events happen.



MANAWATU MUSLIM ASSOCIATION

Achievement and Success

Ethkick Soccer

Earlier this year, soccer teams from many walks of life participated regionally in a series of tournaments bringing together the many different ethnicities throughout New Zealand. Here in the Manawatu and in Palmerston North in particular, our community fielded a number of teams in both the open and social grades. Competition was fierce as was the spirit shown by each team. National pride was foremost and each team was supported by their many friends and followers.

At the business end of the tournament, out of the four teams in the semi finals, three of them were Muslim. In the open competition, the Omni team led the way and in the social, the Saudi and Manawatu Muslim Association mixed teams led their grade. At the end of the day, the Omani team held the champions trophy and the Saudi team who played the Manawatu Muslim Association mixed team in the finals, also held the trophy for their grade. All in all, a very successful day and the reward for success will be the Omani team representing Palmerston North in the New Zealand Ethkick tournament here in Palmerston North later this year.

Medical Centre

Having Muslim doctors in Palmerston North and the Manawatu is not something new and is a thing we have been blessed with. Palmerston North has many outstanding doctors and specialists and it would be remiss of us not to forget our nurses as well. In a new venture about to open One of our doctors is about to open a new Medical Centre. Named Orbit Medical, it will be located in the centre of Palmerston North and readily accessible to all Muslims. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this unique opportunity.



OBITUARY

It is with great sadness to report the death of Maulana Ahmed-Said Musa Patel of AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND on 8 September 2009.



*Maulana Patel - Picture taken in 2006 by
Br Hanif Ali, former Secretary of FIANZ*

Maulana Ahmed-Said Musa Patel was the first Imam (Muslim Religious Advisor) of New Zealand and served as the principle spiritual and religious advisor to the Islamic community here from 1960 to 1987. The first Imam of Ponsonby Mosque, the oldest in New Zealand. Maulana Patel was born on 16 January 1937 in Kaphleta, Gujarat, India. One year after completing his Aalim course (Study of Quran and Hadith) in India he accepted an invitation from the Muslim Community in New Zealand to serve as Imam and arrived in Auckland on 9 October 1960. His primary task was to teach Quran and Islamic Studies to the Muslim children of Auckland and to lead congregational prayers. As the New Zealand Muslim Association (NZMA) was unable to afford a regular salary, Maulana Patel worked full-time during his 27 years of service doing factory work. In 1963 he was part of a delegation to the City Council requesting a separate Muslim burial plot and in 1966 was authorised to conduct marriages pursuant to the Marriage Act 1955. In November 1978 he performed the Hajj.

On 30 April 1987 he suffered a serious stroke and retired as Imam and religious advisor. Maulana Patel died aged 72 and leaves behind his wife Rabia, daughter Nafisa and sons Azhar and Mohammed Afzal and was the beloved uncle of Abdul-Rahman Patel. May Allah SWT grant him Junnata Firdous (paradise).

Eid Ul Ftr

For the first time in the history of the Manawatu Muslims Association and due to the ever growing numbers in the community, Eid Salat will be celebrated in the B&M Centre of the Pascal Street Stadium. The venue offers unlimited parking (something every Islamic Centre or Musjid needs) as well as the capacity to seat almost unlimited numbers. Although a little sad not to be at our Islamic Centre, we all recognize that as a community grows, we must make use of the opportunities and facilities readily available to us.



We are pleased to inform you that at the recent 31st FIANZ AGM held in Wellington in July 2009, a new Executive Committee has been elected to run the affairs of the Association.

We solicit for your support and Du'a for Allah Subhanahu Wa Talaa to provide them the wisdom and fortitude to execute the responsibilities bestowed on them.

Br Anwar who took over the Presidency from Br Javed Khan, highlighted the need for the Federation to show its commitment towards working for the cause of Muslims and Islam in New Zealand. He stressed the importance of projecting NZ Muslims as an integral part of this nation and in maintaining harmony and peace in the country.

Br Anwar also assured the members who attended the AGM and the community on his continued dedication and commitment towards seeing the unity and progress of the Muslim community here.

The new FIANZ team will, Insha Allah, initiate programmes to engage with Muslim youth and develop their leadership potentials. To begin with acknowledging youth excellence in education, sporting, scientific and technical innovation and business will take place at the first National Muslim Convention.



The New Executive Team

Front row: Seated - Sheikh Amir (Ulama Board), Dr Anwar Ghani (President), Br Umarji Mohamed (legal Advisor).

Back row: Standing - Dr Mohammad Musa (Secretary), Br Eshaq Ali (2nd VP), Br Javed Khan (1st VP), Br Steeve Ali Akbar (Asst Treasurer), Br Adam Awad (Treasurer) and Br Abdul Lateef Smith (Asst Secretary).



IAW AND THE MESSAGE OF BALANCE IN CHRISTCHURCH

The central theme of the Islamic Awareness this year is 'Balance in Life'. The event was marked in most other New Zealand cities and towns with Muslim communities from 10-16 August.

Since it was first conceived and organised by FIANZ in 2003 the IAW has become an annual fixture in New Zealand Muslim calendar. In the Garden City this year IAW centred around three public activities. These are daily public lectures, daily running of a public information booth and a Mosque open day on the final day of the weeklong activities. With over three thousand Muslims in Christchurch the University of Canterbury is now the place where one notices the highest daily concentration of Muslims in a single place. The sight of hijab wearing female students in the libraries and lecture theatres, as well as the congregational prayers on campus is the contribution of Muslims to the diversity of the University and city. With 'about 900 Muslim students' according to the UC International Students Support Manager Mary Furnari, Muslims are becoming an increasing visible presence on the campus and indeed the city of Christchurch. With the central theme of 'balance in life' organizers in Christchurch used the IAW to achieve two broad aims. They told the public about Islam as a religion for humanity, as well as clarified misconceptions and misunderstandings about Islam and Muslims. IAW this year attracted the largest attendance since the event started in 2003. At the lectures this year attendance varied

from the lowest of 50 to the highest of 170 enthusiastic participants. The public information booth erected outside the UCSA attracted big numbers too but these are mobile bodies who asked a question or two, grabbed a leaflet and moved on.

The five lectures featured on each day were:

- 1 'A Look at Palestine, the Holy Land delivered by the Palestine Solidarity Group, Christchurch.
- 2 'Balance in Life' delivered by Sheikh Mohammed Amir, Chairman of New Zealand Ulama Board.
- 3 'Introduction to Islamic Law' delivered by Omar El-Hadad (PhD student at UC)
- 4 'Islam in the global media' delivered by Dr Mohammed Musa of Mass Communication and Journalism.
- 5 'An Insiders guide to converting to Islam', Panel discussion featuring Haji Abdullah Drury, Robert Dewhirst and Sister Denise.

The local media are also taking serious notice of the IAW as The Press came out with an article on Muslims and Islam each day for the entire duration of the awareness week. Muslims who featured in the articles include Robina, Nabil Adam, Nooraysha Jones, Dr Mohammed Aljabawi and Dr Mohammed Musa. They all spoke on various aspects of Islam and life as New Zealand Muslims.

Local IAW organizer Omar El-Hadad said he is 'happy with the response of the public as manifested in the lecture attendance and engagements'. MAC President Mohamed Jama also agreed with Omar and added that the event 'must continue because of its importance in explaining and sharing Islam with the wider society'.

NATIONAL MUSLIM CONVENTION 2009

FIANZ is holding, Insha Allah, the first National Muslim Convention for New Zealand in Auckland during the forthcoming Labour weekend, ie, **24 and 25 October**. The idea is to establish, for the Muslim New Zealanders, an annual event which they can converge to, along with their families, to socialize with the other Kiwi Muslims and at the same time participate in the various programmes including sports, religious activities, meetings, forums, etc.

The theme for this Convention is **"Building strong New Zealand Muslim Families."** The Convention will take a "carnival atmosphere" where families including men, women and children will participate. The Convention will be held mainly over the two days, Saturday and Sunday with the (official) opening ceremony on the Saturday morning. The main venue will be the **Wesley Community Centre, 740 Sandringham Road, Mt Roskill**. Some of the highlight of the convention will be: The **FIANZ annual Quran Competition**. This will include Quran recitation, general Islamic knowledge and oratory contests.

Sporting activities hopefully would be soccer, volley ball, athletics and children's games. Women's sports would be volleyball, spoon and egg races and the like. Arrangements are also being made for jumping castles. So there should be programmes, fun and games for all to enjoy.

The forum would comprise a keynote speaker and another speaking to the theme of the Convention followed by a dinner. There would be stalls selling various food items, refreshments, artifacts and other items of interest.

It would be advisable to mark the dates in your calendar for the Convention.