



Muslim News

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Hilal Workshop stresses importance of moon to the practice of Islamic religion

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A Hilal workshop that focused on the importance of moon to the practice of Islamic religion was held in Mt Roskill, Auckland on 26th March 2011.

The workshop, which was facilitated by the New Zealand Ulama Board, had Professor Ilyas Ahmed (*photo*) of the Albiruni Environment and Science and Development Centre in Malaysia and, world expert on the subject as the main speaker.

Others that spoke at the



workshop included imams from the mosques around New Zealand.

Members of the Ulama Board as well as FIANZ executive members were in attendance.

In his opening remarks FIANZ President Dr Anwar Ghani highlighted the history of Muslims in New Zealand and emphasized that Muslims in the country have a very long history of fasting together and celebrating Eid together as a sign of unity and trust that have prevailed.

Dr Ghani urged the workshop participants to preserve unity as well as respond to challenges of diversity.

In his own contribution to the workshop Sheikh Mohammed Amir who is also Chairman of the

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FIANZ President Dr Anwar Ghani visits Muslim World League head office

FIANZ President Dr Anwar Ghani visited the Muslim World League head office in Makkah Al-Mukarramah on 27-29 June. He called on HE Dr Abdullah Mohsin Al-Turki and updated him on the Muslim community progress in New Zealand. Dr Anwar was accompanied by Br Saad Alshimamry (Director of WML, Australia) and Sk Mohammed Amir (Chairman of FIANZ Ulama Board). Later Dr Anwar also called on HE Dr Abdur Rahman AlZaid (Assistant Secretary General of WML). Dr AlZaid expressed his support to FIANZ's overall effort in Dawah and keeping the community together by providing good leadership. He also expressed satisfaction on the progress that FIANZ and MWL have made together on the MOU that was signed by FIANZ. The Director of Dawah at WML also promised to send a container load of Quran and other relevant literature to FIANZ.

Dr Anwar also visited IDB Jeddah and discussed couple of projects that have been approved by IDB for funding.



Lifting the Community

Jamal Green

Six years ago, in Singapore, I attended a talk at a mosque. The speaker was from the USA and he said that, as a group, Muslims in America were, per capita, amongst the most highly educated and most wealthy in the country. It struck me then (and strikes me now) that this is not the situation in New Zealand where we have many Muslims who have come as migrants or refugees but who are not working in occupations that they might have followed in the country they came from. Doctors, engineers, managers have had to swap one expectation for another, often with a lower horizon in terms of earnings.

It seems to me that this is a situation that cries out for change. Wealth creation, skills development and personal fulfilment are all important for individual families. They're important for the good of the Muslim community, and for the best interests of New Zealand. The more we can develop practical solutions for this and put those solutions into place the better it will be.

So the following words are just to generate some thought. If there is any value in what I am suggesting then this will be good. If people who read this judge it to be of little value or not worth attempting then, God willing, there will be no harm done.

Training, Studies, Learning

I know that we have many in our community who are attending college or polytechnic or university courses so that they can gain qualifications that will take them to a different level in terms of the work they can do or occupation they can apply for. But difficulties and challenges can arise. If English is not your first language then getting to grips with academic language and formal writing styles can be hard. And the kiwi style of interaction may be very different from the way things were in the place that was called home. I remember well one medical professional – a private

man, quite conservative – who had great problems working in a New Zealand setting and dealing with an approach that was much more informal than anything he'd experienced. It was completely outside his comfort zone. Your kiwi boss may call you by your first name and say, "Sing out if you have any problems", and may think this creates a perfect opportunity to get on and succeed. But for many people, bosses and subordinates don't use first names with one another, and to go to a superior and say that there's something you're not quite sure about, is about the same level as admitting that you can't do the job; admitting that you're not up to it. Different cultures handle things differently.

So what am I suggesting?
Just this: walking down a path for the first time can be a lot easier if

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If you have a skill or a set of experiences that would benefit someone else then it might be worth considering that you make a decision to “adopt” two others who are on a learning journey – they could be following a course or going through some training, or starting a business; anything that sets them on a learning curve or takes them into new territory.”

you've got someone who's gone that way before – they have the experience; they know the 'shortcuts' and can sometimes suggest what's best to do and what to avoid. So what I have in mind is a kind of quiet "adoption" scheme. Quiet because no-one else needs to know aside from the 'adopters' and the ones 'being adopted'. (It is better for us if good deeds are done in private).

Helping Others to Success

If you have a skill or a set of experiences that would benefit someone else then it might be worth considering that you make a decision to “adopt”

two others who are on a learning journey – they could be following a course or going through some training, or starting a business; anything that sets them on a learning curve or takes them into new territory.

I'm suggesting adopting two people so that there is a kind of multiplier effect. If 50 people each adopt two others then we have 100 people being helped. If these 100 in turn later adopt two more then the benefit increases. It would mean being committed to working with a brother or sister towards their success, and that could be done in many ways. If you're already qualified and working in a certain field then you could adopt two people who are going through a path of training or study. If your English language skills are good you could help to edit or advise on the coursework that the learner has to submit. If you have

business experience you could be some kind of mentor, and listen to their problems; point them in certain directions. The way that it could be done would depend on matching the skills and experience with the needs. What's important is commitment and seeing that the development of our community enriches our community (the zakat from a wealthier community in turn increases its benefit) and it can raise the dignity of our community and the dignity of the country in which we

all live. Prosperity is not measured in dollars alone: it comes with fulfilled individuals – people who realise what they are capable of.

We are taught that the Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. was sent as “a mercy to mankind”. To be in a position to be a mercy to others seems an aim that might earn a rich reward. The more we are able to develop our potential, the better the work we are able to do. The more we can give to our own community and the wider community around us; the more we can be a mercy to others.

Allah Alone knows best.

News in Pictures: Hilal Forum



News in Pictures: Quran Competition and Auckland Muslim Convention



Hilal Workshop stresses importance of moon to the practice of Islamic religion

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Ulama Board observed that Hilal is about time and this is very important to Muslims who depend on the lunar calendar.

Sheikh Amir added that Ashura, Rajab, Hajj etc are important in Islamic calendar thus emphasizing the importance of moon sighting. The moon is for fixing our time but also religious rituals and that is why any deliberate attempt to temper with lunar timing as was done in Jahiliya period is grievous offence.

In Islam, Sheikh Amir added, the postponement of a religious month is disbelief and, again, this underscores the importance of Hilal to the entire Muslim act of worship.

Contributing to the workshop Dr Anisul Rahman who is also the Chairman of Hilal committee in New Zealand gave a brief historical account on moon sighting in the country.

Dr Anis disclosed that before the Hilala Committee was formed in 1972 New Zealand had two methods of moon sighting. While Wellington used calculation Auckland was more conservative and relied on actual moon sighting. This situation, according to Dr Anis meant there was Eid at two different times.

Even though the Muslim population at the time was very small the situation that prevailed made it such that we could go three days behind.

When FIANZ was set up in 1979 Hilal was the first issue of disclosure as a way of achieving Muslim unity. A fatwa was obtained that saw New Zealand Muslim working with sighting from countries of the same time zones. This is how Fiji became

the reference point.

The system or method of combining astronomical calculation and actual sighting was adopted at the 1986 FIANZ AGM in Hamilton.

In the main presentation at the workshop Professor Ilyas of the Albiruni Environment and Science and Development Centre in Malaysia, opined that moon sighting is an optical, biological and medical phenomenon.

For instance, to be credible a reported sighting must come from someone with good eyesight and of sound mental health. This, according to Professor Ilyas, implies that science is required to implement shari'ah. In explaining the physics of moon sighting the speaker commented on how precision in sighting is crucial to the globe. Making reference to both Al-Ghazali and Abu Abdullah Albattani he called for consistency in the adoption or use of a chosen method if the global reality of a unified Islamic Calendar were to be achieved.

In his own contribution at the workshop Sheikh Anwar Sahib emphasized the importance of unity and reminded the gathering of the global village that makes it more incumbent that we act as one.

In his own contribution Dr Mohammad Alayan reiterated the importance of responding to modern challenges in moon sighting while he also provided an overview of hilal sighting in the South Island where Muslim volunteers attempted to sight the moon from tall University buildings.

Sheikh Amjad Ali noted that the workshop has generated huge information that would accord ulaama the chance to deliberate at a later date.

At COMSTECH's international workshop, chemists for curing poor man's diseases

SLAMABAD 16 June (IINA)- Chemists from different Islamic countries while speaking at the OIC Ministerial Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) international workshop on Tuesday have called for investing in research and development of drugs against poor man's diseases.

The workshop titled 'Modern Applications of Combinatorial Chemistry' was organised by the COMSTECH in collaboration with International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) of the University of Karachi and Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the

South (COMSATS).

Speaking during the inaugural ceremony held at the COMSTECH building, HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry and ICCBS Director Dr Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary underlined the need to focus attention on poor man's diseases prevalent in the developing countries and stressed the need to make investment for research and development in this sector.

He was of the view that research on medicine by the advanced world is profit centric and world's pharmaceutical corporations are investing for production of drugs, which mostly are not related to ail-

ments prevailing in the developing countries.

"OIC and other developing countries must set up a fund for research and development of drugs to treat neglected tropical diseases like dengue, rabies and tuberculosis (TB)," Choudhary said while describing relevant research taking place at Karachi-based Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research (PCMDR) which he also heads. The centre is engaged in developing remedies for such tropical diseases prevalent mostly in South Asia.

Registration Form
WOWMA Winter Youth Camp
(July 15-17, 2011)

Full Name: _____
Address: _____
Home phone: _____ Mobile: _____
Email contact: _____
Date of Birth: _____

If applicant attends or will attend high school or university in 2011, please identify the institution: _____

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____
Relationship: _____
Phone numbers: _____

Please state any medical conditions and allergies:

All camp activities on the weekend are compulsory. There will be a two-hour ski or snowboard instruction. Circle your preferred activity as we must reserve the appropriate equipment: **Skiing** or **Snowboarding**. Please state your shoe size for rental: _____

Do you need ski clothes? Circle **Yes** or **No**. If yes, please indicate your size: _____

Applicant must comply with camp regulations and requirements. If the applicant is under the age of 18, a parent must authorize and approve this application. Any false statements on this document will result in disqualification.

This is to confirm that my daughter is permitted to attend the camp and that in case of injury the adult chaperones of WOWMA are authorized to seek and obtain medical treatment for her during the camp.

Parent/Applicant Signature Date: _____

Make payment out to **Waikato Muslim Association** and mail with registration form to:
WOWMA, c/o 3 Windermere Rise, Hamilton 3210.

Registration is complete only on full payment. Payment will be receipted.

Say: Travel in the land and see how He originated creation, then Allah bringeth forth the later growth. Lo! Allah is Able to do all things.

-The Holy Qur'an (29:20)

WOWMA's Winter
Youth Camp in Snow
(for Muslimah ages 14 to 25)

July 15-17, 2011



Living Islam: A programme designed to assist our youth in ensuring they include Faith, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Leadership and Excellence in their daily lives while connecting to New Zealand. Several reflection and adventure activities are planned for the weekend.

The programme is run by the Women's Organisation of the Waikato Muslim Association (WOWMA)

Limited Spaces are available for the camp; thus, Registration and Payment **must be completed** to reserve a spot for the camp. First come, first served. **Registration closes June 15, 2011.**

The "Living Islam" programme for the weekend broadly includes the following activities:

Instruction

There will be lectures and activities to improve Islamic Knowledge of our Muslimah Youth.

Mountain and Snow Activities

The outdoor activities at Mt. Ruapehu are aimed to familiarize and to connect our Muslimah Youth to the land in which they live. The Activities include:



Skiing
Snowboarding
Sledging
Hot Thermal swim at private facility.
Snowball fight



WOWMA's goal is to assist our young Muslimah to become confident sisters, mothers, wives and leaders in our community and contributors to the wider New Zealand society while living comfortably within Islam.

If you have any additional questions regarding the camp, you may contact Sr. Aliya by telephone at 07-855-4978 or you can email the WOWMA database at info@yourwowma.com.

Eligibility: Campers must be single Muslimah residing in the Waikato region and of the ages between 14 and 25. Age and eligibility will be confirmed.

Camp Date and Time: Friday, July 15 to Sunday, July 17, 2011 departing from Hamilton at 5 pm on Friday and returning Sunday at approximately 6:00 pm.

Registration: Registration is now open and will close no later than June 15, 2011. Payment must be completed to reserve a spot for the camp. First come, first served.

Cost: \$140 per camper includes ski clothes rentals. \$100 if no ski clothes are required. No one will be permitted on the mountain or to ski or snowboard without appropriate clothing. This includes all food, activities, equipment, instructors, and transport. WOWMA is subsidizing the camp costs by nearly 50% and is supported by monies received from the Ministry of Social Development and the Trust Waikato. ** After June 15, 2011, there will be **no refund** of fee as reservations and accommodation must be paid and will not be reimbursed.

Location: The Camp will be held near Mt. Ruapehu at the Venture Lodge in Ohakune. All facilities at the Lodge have been reserved for the exclusive use of the WOWMA Youth Camp. The camp is a closed camp for only the Muslimah campers and those women invited to provide instruction. No visitors will be allowed during the weekend. The outdoor activities will occur off site on Mt. Ruapehu under the supervision of professional instructors and the Camp Leaders.

Accommodation and Food: There dorm-style rooms with bunk beds and ensembles for the campers within the lodge and there is a spa pool. Halal food will be prepared on site in the kitchen with the assistance from the campers.

Transportation: This is being arranged, and the Muslimah Youth will travel to and from the camp together as a group either by bus or vans.

Supervision and Instructors: All people associated with the camp are women. The WOWMA youth coordinator and leaders will supervise the camp and be available at all times during the weekend. Only females will be present onsite.

Follow-up Information: Additional information will be provided to each camper after registration is completed. This includes information regarding transportation and a kit list (identifying all personal items needed for the camp).

Kosovo wants GCC, OIC help to counter offensive by Serbia

RIYADH, 13 June (IINA)- Kosovo, Europe's youngest nation with a predominant Muslim population, has sought the support of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the 57-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) for recognition of its independence amid reports of a staunch campaign launched by Serbia to prevent Pristina from boosting its diplomatic stature.

The call for support was made by a senior Kosovar diplomat on the occasion of the formal opening of the country's diplomatic mission here.

Rexhep Boja, the newly appointed charge d'affaires, said "even two Gulf states, Oman and Kuwait, have not recognized Kosovo so far."

He said the Kosovo Embassy has started functioning from a hired apartment at the Diplomatic Quarter in Riyadh.

The mission is being manned by one Kosovar diplomat and two support staff. A total of 76 UN member states have recognized Kosovo as an independent country, including tiny European state Andorra.

Asked about the problems faced by his country in securing recognitions from OIC states, Boja said only a third of members have recognized Kosovo so far. He added that nonrecognition of the nation has been hampering free movement of citizens in OIC countries.

It is also creating problems for businessmen, he added. He thanked the Kingdom for recognizing Kosovar passports, enabling citizens to visit and work in Saudi Arabia.

Boja said the Kingdom became the 58th UN member state to recognize Kosovo two years ago.

"Although the long-sought goal of diplomatic recognition of Kosovo's sovereignty is being achieved slowly and consistently, Pristina has failed to garner substantial

support from the OIC group as a whole," added Boja. He said the country was still not a member of the OIC because of the cumbersome eligibility criteria for membership. He said OIC membership rules stipulate that any nation wishing to join must be a member of the UN first before applying.

To this end, Boja noted the visit of Kosovo Foreign Minister Envar Hozhaj to the Kingdom last month when he held talks with Prince Saud Al-Faisal, foreign minister, on a range of issues and sought support for securing more recognition for Kosovo.

The OIC, on the other hand, has done too little, too late, he added. The OIC in its 36th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Damascus two years ago adopted a resolution that noted Kosovo's declaration of independence, and the role of the UN in Kosovo. It also reaffirmed the strong interest of the OIC regarding Muslims in the Balkans, while welcoming the cooperation of Kosovo with OIC economic and financial institutions.

In the same resolution the organization called on the international community to continue contributing to the fostering of Kosovo's economy.

"But, the OIC itself falls short of its commitment when it comes to convincing member states to recognize Kosovo and to generate support for its UN membership bid," said an Albanian diplomat on condition of anonymity.

All these problems are also hampering business, trade, and manpower traffic between the OIC and Kosovo, he added. Some UN member states have expressed concern over Kosovo's declaration of independence. The UN Security Council also remains divided on the issue. In fact, out of its five members with veto power, only three of them have recognized the country's declaration.

FIANZ donates vehicle to Fatimah Foundation

Fatimah Foundation is delighted to be the recipients of an ex FIANZ vehicle. The Toyota Corolla, in very tidy condition was donated to Fatimah Foundation. The vehicle has added considerable value to the Social Services that Fatimah Foundation provides to the community in particular the elderly, vulnerable women with families, and youth at risk.

The car will also be used for the PantryPak-Halal Food Bank services, which operates from the Fatimah Foundation Family Centre, in Otahuhu, Auckland. "We would like to acknowledge FIANZ for their support and generosity which has been both with this car as well as financial." "As a charitable organisation, we depend largely on the gen-

erosity of our Muslim community to fund our operations. We see these significant donations by FIANZ as recognition for the important work done by Fatimah Foundation." Earlier this year FIANZ granted Fatimah Foundation a cash donation to provide support services in Auckland to victims of the February earthquake (Christchurch).