



Muslim News

19 October 2010, 11 Zulqaidah 1431

OIC chief calls for economic integration

JEDDAH — Regional groupings are building blocks for a pan-Islamic economic integration, according to Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

A source at the OIC headquarters here said that addressing the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) in Istanbul, Ihsanoglu urged OIC member states to consider supporting the numerous capacity-building programmes undertaken by the various OIC institutions as this will certainly pave the way for aligning national trade policies



to enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of trade.

The secretary-general stressed that the increased activities of the relevant OIC trade organs, namely the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT) and the International Islamic Trade Financing Corporation (ITFC) have contributed to the progressive improvement of intra-OIC trade from \$271.45 billion in 2004 to \$551 billion

in 2008 (i.e. from 14.5 per cent in 2004 to 16.6 per cent in 2009) and added that the OIC will actualise the

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Dignitaries at the reception to mark Saudi National Day

Saudi National Day marked

The Saudi national day was marked on Friday 24th September at the consulate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Auckland. At the occasion, Minister of Science and Defence Wayne Mapp revealed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an important trading partner to New Zealand. While emphasizing that trade with Gulf Cooperation Council countries now reaches \$6 billion mark, there are also about 7000 Saudi students studying in New Zealand. This alone according to the Minister injects about \$500 million into the education sector.

Consular General of the Consulate of Saudi Arabia in Auckland Ahmed Al-Johani revealed that KSA wants to continue working with New Zealand in issues of mutual interest

Consular stated that KSA wishes to open a fully fledged Embassy in Wellington in the next 3-5 years.

Muslimah in Christchurch and Dunedin Gather for IWCNZ Youth Workshops

ON the weekend of October 2 and 3, 2010, approximately 150 Muslimah youth and adult women attended workshops in Christchurch and Dunedin. The workshops, which were sponsored by the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ), emphasised the importance of living a fulfilling and rewarding life in Islam, and to do so, youth had to meet responsibilities to their families, to the community and to themselves. Each set of responsibilities was discussed in detail with examples from the Qur'an and the Sunnah being used to demonstrate these obligations.

Sr. Aliya Danzeisen presented the workshops in both cities, and Sr. Anjum Rahman attended on behalf of IWCNZ and discussed with the participants the upcoming women's programmes and opportunities. Feedback from those who attended the workshops has been very positive and similar workshops are being arranged for other Muslimah communities in New Zealand.

IWCNZ would like to thank the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand for its financial support to enable such women's programming and activities. Additionally, IWCNZ would like to thank the sisters of the Muslim Association of Canterbury and the Otago Muslim Association who efficiently organised the events in their respective cities and showed exceptional hospitality. The women on the committee who organised and hosted the workshop in Christchurch included: Dr. Maysoon Salama, Srs Dahabo Musa, Nusrat Mann, Sherin Darish and Deena Abdullah. In Dunedin, Srs. Shahirah Elaiza, Mai Tamimi and Zarghona Lafraie made arrangements and supported the workshop.

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OIC chief calls for ...

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objective of attaining the target of 20 per cent of intra-OIC trade in 2015.

He said that there is a need to increase competitiveness in OIC countries which is closely related to the new focus on fostering cooperation in the agricultural and food sector. He cited the example of OIC Cotton Action Plan which has succeeded in reviewing and approving sixteen projects that have

been submitted for further action at the level of relevant funding institutions. He emphasised the need for OIC member states to venture into food security and agricultural development programmes since 41 out of the 57 Member States of OIC are considered as food deficit countries. He said that these countries receive food aid averaging about 11 per cent of the Official Development

Assistance to developing countries, even as they continue to require an estimated annual amount of \$24.5 billion to make up for their food deficits. The secretary-general also stressed on the need to involve the private sector, national specialised agencies, and other regional actors in the elaboration, execution and monitoring processes of the envisaged development projects.

Muslim scholars should focus on spreading Islamic thinking: Dr Mahathir

PUTRAJAYA Sept 25 (IINA)-Muslim scholars have been urged to focus on spreading Islamic thinking for the good of mankind and the world, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said new methods and approaches were needed to challenge Western ideas and theories that

Muslims also felt inferior when facing theories of Western thinkers, most of whom did not base them on religion.

"They created theories and ideas that were accepted without question by Muslims," said Dr Mahathir.

He said free thinking and individual freedom spread by Western theories would make Muslim society lose



"Dr Mahathir said the world is facing a moral, social, political and economic crisis because it is bound and restricted by Western ideas and theories."

direction and objective in life.

As such, Muslim scholars should come up with alternative thinking and solutions to world crisis. Muslims should get out of the world culture of rhetoric to find a more meaningful and practical approach to solutions.

controlled and influenced world thinking.

"Western theories and conventional approach have at times, failed to provide the best solution," he said after being conferred honorary PhD in Economy & Muamalat Administration by Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) on Friday.

The PhD was conferred by USIM Chancellor Tuanku Najihah Tunku Besar Burhanuddin at a special convocation at Putrajaya International Convention Centre. Dr Mahathir said the world is facing a moral, social, political and economic crisis because it is bound and restricted by Western ideas and theories.

"Now we realise that what was inherited and taught by our religion is unsuitable and outdated," he said.

Write to us

Muslim News is published fortnightly by the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand. We welcome news and information about the Muslim community in New Zealand and the world. Please email news, views and photos, to nzmuslimnews@gmail.com

ISLAMIC WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

Six Monthly Report of IWCNZ

Submitted by Nasreen Hannif

It is amazing to see our sisters engaged in so many different kinds of programmes and activities. Most of these sisters are making a lot of sacrifice to serve the ummah while they are in full time employment and have families to look after.

Some of these activities have been outlined below.

IWCNZ ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The IWCNZ Conference will be held in Hamilton from January 21-23, 2011. The Women's Organisation of the Waikato Muslim Association (WOWMA) is hosting this annual event. We planned to give our sisters adequate notice so that they can set aside these days for the special event, especially for those who will need to travel long distances. The theme that has been chosen is 'Muslimah Living Active and Fulfilling Lives'. The Conference is packed with workshops targeted to different age groups, a Keynote address and luncheon, afternoon outings/excursions and sporting opportunities (i.e. horse-riding and canoeing is one excursion being planned), a formal dinner and awards ceremony as well as the AGM.

Please Look at the Save the Date Notice, Share it with all the Muslimah women and youth you know and Preregister at conference@yourwowma.com. (Preregistration is important as we need to confirm numbers well in advance for both lodging and the excursions)

TELECONFERENCE

The regional representatives from Hamilton, Auckland, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin had their first teleconference on Sunday 19th September. This was a very productive session where sisters had discussions ranging from the upcoming conference to situation reports from regional centres. The next one will be in November. To help improve our means of communication with one

another sisters expect to run four teleconferences per year insha Allah.

IWCNZ REPRESENTATIVES' VISIT TO SOUTH

As discussed at the FIANZ meeting in Auckland Sr Aliya and Sr Anjum visited Dunedin and Christchurch. Similar visits will be organised for Wellington and Palmerston North and Napier and Hastings. The purpose for travelling to Christchurch and Dunedin was two-fold: 1) to present a workshop to Muslimah youth for IWCNZ and 2) to share with the sisters information about the upcoming January IWCNZ National Conference that Sr Aliya and her team are organising in Hamilton and to invite them to the event. The workshop focused on Muslimah youth's responsibilities to themselves, their families and their community. The sisters who participated or helped organise the event really put forward an effort to bring everyone together, Christchurch had a very good turnout and Dunedin had a similarly good turnout based on the community size. All the feedback received from workshops has been positive and the Muslimah youth seemed pleased and motivated at the workshop. Similarly, many of the Muslimah expressed interest in attending the conference and they have begun making plans to do so. Insh Allah We will assist them as much as possible in attending and actively participating in the event. Sr Aliya and Sr Anjum had several Muslimah mothers come up and ask if there was going to be a similar workshop provided for Muslimah male youth as they thought it would be beneficial for their sons as well.

WOMEN'S PRISON VISITS

Three sisters have been given approval to visit the Women's Prison in Auckland. The first visit was just before Ramadan and the second one was a couple of weeks ago. This chaplaincy service has allowed the sisters to help the inmates with providing them with basic necessities such as Islamic literature and dates for iftaar which they could not have

access to. These Muslim sisters have kept all their fasts and even prayed tahajjud. One actually mentioned that she has been studying Quran in her spare time. They requested to see us every week. Three other sisters have shown interest to apply so that they could be visited more often.

WOMEN'S NETBALL

In Auckland sisters have run two major netball competitions successfully. The third one will be held on October 30 2010. It is really good to see the youth and sisters from all age groups well motivated and enthusiastically participating. Insha Allah there will be a veteran team ready to participate in our next game. Part of our aim is to give opportunities to youth and women to participate in physical activities. By doing this they will not only concentrate on their fitness and wellbeing but enhance their netball skills, interpersonal and team relationships, build their confidence and self esteem.

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

IWCNZ has made plans to organise programmes with workshops and seminars for families needing help. The first stage of this programme will be started in November in Auckland and will be continue till January 2012. It will be extended to other branches of IWCNZ throughout New Zealand.

EID FUNCTIONS

Sisters in all the centres have been busy organising Eid Celebrations in their groups. In Auckland there have been several celebration functions which included presentations and feasts.

HAJJ FAREWELL

Hajj Farewell functions have also been organised to farewell the sisters going for Hajj this year. This is a great time to share our experiences with the sisters who are going for the first time. May Allah SWT grant them all Hajj Mabroor, Ameen.

News in Pictures: An-Nur OSCAR activities



An-Nur OSCAR programme conducted by An-Nur Child Care Centre in Christchurch has been approved by Child Youth and Family (CYF). While the approval indicates quality assurance it also opens the door for government subsidy for deserving families. Meanwhile, the term 3 holiday programme for children between the ages of 6-13 was successfully conducted from 4-8 October 2010.

The programme was fully subscribed to and children went through various programmes that focused on their development in academic, social, physical and emotional well-being in an Islamic



FIANZ President meets with New Zealand Police

The meeting with the New Zealand Police was held on 22 September 2010 at the Police Headquarters in Wellington.

Supt Wally Haumaha, General Manager, Maori, Pacific and Ethnic Services (MPES), Sgt Rakesh Naidu Ethnic Liaison Officer (MPES) and Ms Virginia Anderson, National Strategic Advisor, MPES, attended the meeting from the New Zealand Police. Dr Anwar Ghani, President and Br Sultan Eusoff, Executive Manager, attended from the Federation.

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Police and the Federation, Supt Wally said that that was the first of its kind established between the Police and an ethnic organisation. He expressed great satisfaction on the signing of the MOU and said that the Police and the Federation should now be able to work together on many platforms to create better cohesion and harmony among the Muslim community and the wider communities.

Supt Wally assured Dr Ghani that the New Zealand Police will always be on the alert on issues that would have the potentials to create unhappiness and disunity in the country. He also informed Dr Ghani that the Federation should quickly get in touch with the Police should there be any issues that would affect the peace and harmony of

the community. In this regard, Supt Wally was particularly grateful to the Federation for quickly alerting the Police on the serious ramifications that might have occurred in New Zealand on the recent threat of the burning of the Qur'an by a Pastor in Florida, US.

On further enhancing the strong relationship between FIANZ and the NZ Police, Supt Wally and his Maori, Pacific and Ethnic Services group would, in consultation with FIANZ, initiate programmes like Media training and other useful seminars for youths and women. These would be rolled-out at appropriate intervals in the coming year.



Dr Ghani suggested that FIANZ will offer window of opportunity to Police at regional and national conventions to show case our MOU work in progress.

Clearly, the close cooperation between an important organisation like the New Zealand Police and the Federation is an important milestone for us. It is our sincere desire that building this kind of collaboration will provide our community with a sense of security and belonging. Insha



Allah, by developing such strategic partnership, we also hope to assist our community in the integration process with the wider community of the society and taking part in nation building.

News in Pictures



Participants at the workshop held in Christchurch on 2-3rd October. Approximately 150 Muslimah youth and adult women attended workshops in Christchurch and Dunedin.

Explaining Muslim suffering

By Farid Ahmed

Allah [swt] had chosen the word Muslim [Surrender] both in holy Quran and in all Books [22.78]. That means Muslims are the chosen people by Allah. Many young people ask, why then are Muslims suffering in this world?

The hardship experienced by Muslims in this world is not a punishment as such as it also has benefits. Such sufferings as experienced by Muslims must not be seen as indication that Allah has forsaken them and instead must be understood for greater good. Below are four main reasons what would provide insight into why Muslims suffer in this world.

Reason 1. Allah tests Muslims:

Do we expect to get university certificate without studying or without passing exam? Definitely not. Allah's rule is, this world is an exam period for Muslims. Allah [swt] tests them in different ways to make sure that they hold their faith patiently especially in difficulties: Allah says in the Holy Quran: 2: 155 "And be sure We shall test you with some fear and hunger, some loss in goods, or loss

in lives, or the fruits of your hard work. Good news for those who patiently persevere."

Reason 2. Allah trains

Muslims for honourable vicegerent

job: Do we expect to be a sports star without hard training and discipline? Off course not. We forego many things; we sacrifice many things to achieve our lofty goal. Similarly for Muslims every suffering in life is "training session". For example, Allah's beloved prophet Muhammad [saw] was an orphan, why? So that he could be the best ambassador for the orphans on this planet. History is witness, about 1500 years ago Muhammad [saw] started welfare system for orphans and needy in Medina. Allah [swt] reminds that in Holy Quran 93:6-10 "Did Allah not find you an orphan and give you Shelter", "And Allah found you in need, and made you independent. Therefore don't treat the orphan with harshness. Do not shut off the beggar [either]"

Reason 3. To give promotion:

Do we expect a promotion without hard work? Not really. When Allah wants to give special status or special promotion

either in this world or in paradise, then He put that Muslim through test. Look at prophet Ibraheem [a.s]. Allah tested him through jumping into the fire, through displacement from his homeland, through asking him to sacrifice his own son and so on. Was it for suffering or was it for promotion? Let us find out from Allah's own words in Holy Quran: 2.124 "And when, Ibraheem was tried by his Lord with certain commands, these he fulfilled. Allah said: "I will make you an Imam [Guide, Model] for mankind."

Reason 4. To forgive Sins:

Muslims are human too. They make mistakes by disobeying Allah's commands. Allah is very kind on them for removing their sins by taking them through sufferings. Allah [swt] sends suffering for Muslims to clean them from sins so that they can arrive before Allah as clean as sinless. Holy prophet [saw] said in a Hadis narrated by Abu Huraira [R.A] and Abu Sayeed Khudri [R.A] that: "No sufferings reaches a Muslim that is not as [Kaffara] penalty for sins like danger, disease, anxieties, worries, sufferings, sadness or even a thorn that pinch his body." [Muttafaqun A'laihi]

The Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand

INVITES ALL MUSLIMAH ADULTS AND MUSLIMAH YOUTH
IN NEW ZEALAND TO ATTEND THE:

2011 IWCNZ National Conference

to be held at the University of Waikato in Hamilton

January 21-23, 2011

The Conference will address:

Muslimah Living Active and Fulfilling Lives

Why not make a summer family holiday to the Waikato?

The Waikato Muslim Association is providing an informal bar-beque for the men, while the sisters attend their Dinner and Awards Ceremony and the Women's Organisation of WMA have a list and brochure of exciting activities that families can do in the area. WOWMA is seeking discounted rates from these providers and as well as reduced motel rates for families that come on that weekend.

Accommodation, food and workshops are provided for the sisters at the conference and they just need to register.

SAVE
THE
DATE



(Waikato River, Hamilton, New Zealand)

For more information about the event, to preregister for the conference and to receive notices about the activities, please send an email with your contact details to:

conference@yourwowma.com

Stories to share with the family

FIANZ Muslim News brings to you the third story in the lecture on how to raise a strong Muslim youth delivered by the FIANZ Dawah and Outreach Chair Mustafa Farouk to the youth who attended the Avondale-Hamilton Youth Camp on July 10, 2010 at the Hamilton Mosque. This third story is about the importance of knowledge and hard work.

The Savannah School

One day the lion, King of the African Savannah, called a meeting of all the wild animals in order to discuss the menace of poachers and their indiscriminate killing and abduction of creatures from the Savannah. All the animals, big and small, gathered and grumbled about the inaction of their king regarding such an important matter of poaching and the danger it posed to their existence and way of life.

When all the creatures settled down for the meeting, the lion cleared his throat and began to speak: "Fellow animals of the savannah, we are here today to discuss how we can save ourselves and our generations to come from this grave danger posed by mankind who are killing us for our body parts and often for fun just because they can do it. As you are aware, your elders have tried many things and nothing seems to be working, which is why as your king, I thought an assembly of everyone in the kingdom, whether young or old, big or small, might produce ideas that will help us solve this menace". Every animal nodded in unison and saluted the King in the time honoured traditions of the savannah.

The King opened the floor for ideas. Many ideas were offered and at the end it was unanimously agreed that a savannah school should be opened where the older and wiser animals would pass on their skills of survival to the younger ones. It was decided that in order to expedite the process of getting the school up and running, a principal needed to

be appointed to lead the school there and then. The principal would need to be wise, patient, knowledgeable of the machinations of man, and above all acceptable to all animals of the savannah.

The king asked for nominations or volunteers for the position of the savannah school principal. Four animals including a hyena, an elephant, a hare and a jackal volunteered or were nominated for the position. One by one each one of them was subjected to a barrage of questions from the other animals to determine their qualification and suitability for the position. The first candidate to be interviewed was the hyena. He was asked many questions, but the one that

was sitting beside the hare glared at him and said "If one is small enough to burrow a hole and run into it that might work, but what about animals like us?" And so the hare was disqualified too.

The elephants' strategy was to use his brute power and just run over the poacher whenever he is confronted by one. Again this strategy excluded as many other animals that were either too small or not strong enough to run over a man.

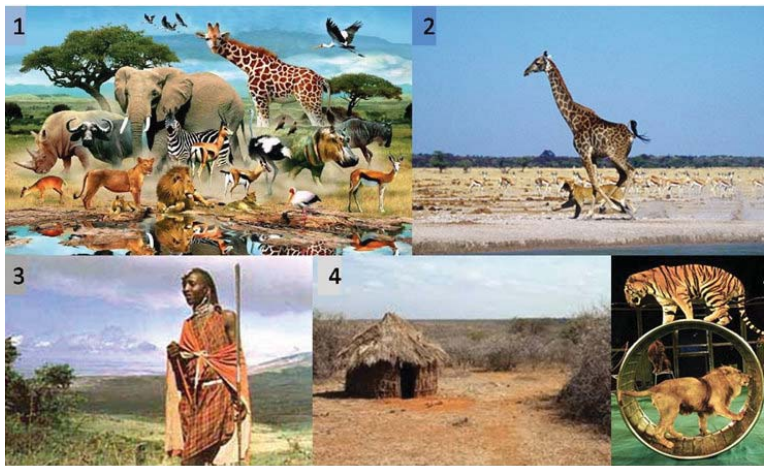
When it was the turn of the jackal, he stood up faced the assembly of wild animals and said "My strategy is based around the four areas where we are vulnerable to poachers, and these are: (1) while drinking at the watering hole; (2) when sleeping;

(3) when we communicate through our cries; and (4) when lured or tempted by food that seems to be just for the picking when we are hungry." All the animals nodded in agreement that these four areas are indeed their most vulnerable moments, but added "What are your strategies? And please spare us the oratory."

The Jackal said, "My strategy regarding the watering hole is this, I never stoop down directly into the watering hole to

drink, lest I am taken by surprise from behind. Instead, I will dip my tail into the water and soak it, then I go to a safe corner and suck the water. I keep doing thus until my thirst is quenched." Regarding sleep time, he said "I only sleep under a tree with long and wide branches and with lots of fallen dry leaves that will make lots of noise even if a grasshopper tries to walk towards me. This way I get ample warning of approaching danger in good time for me to escape." On being given away by cries, his strategy was when he cries in one place, he immediately run to the opposite direction and never remains in the same spot where he cried. His strategy towards the fourth area of vulnerability was in his own words "When I see my food in a place not normally associated with such food or just laying around

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Pictures source: Google Images

got him disqualified was "What is your strategy on how to deal with poachers"? His inadequate answer was "When I am confronted by a poacher I will bare my teeth, growl loudly at him to frighten him away". Some of the toothless and smaller animals quickly dismissed this strategy by saying "That might work if you are big enough or you have the teeth to bare, but what about us"?

The second candidate interviewed was the hare. His strategy for dealing with poachers was to build a house by burrowing underground and making sure the house had several exits spread out in many directions. He said "If chased by a poacher, one should run into a hole from one direction and while the poacher is busy digging up the hole, you have already exited through the other door." The elephant who

OIC celebrates 41 years of “service to Islamic world”

JEDDAH-Despite all the hurdles that it has faced and changing international conditions, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has proved its usefulness, according to a statement issued by the Secretariat General in Jeddah on the occasion of the forty-first anniversary of its establishment. A source told Saudi Gazette that through its General Secretariat and with the cooperation of its subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions, the OIC has been able to unite Muslims' positions, strengthen Islamic solidarity and understanding and develop the commonalities between them.

The statement said that the OIC has entered its fifth decade and its

Charter has been amended with the development of the Ten-Year Program of Action. “The OIC looks into the future with considerable confidence to discharge the duties entrusted to it in the service of the Islamic world and in defense of the interests of Islam and Muslims,” it stressed.

“The Organization has spared no effort in giving attention to the issues of the Muslim minorities spread all over the world, defending their legitimate rights,” said the statement, which recalled the outstanding efforts made by the founders, in particular the late King Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud who, “through his wisdom and clairvoyance, knew that the Muslim world was in dire need of an Islamic organization to bring together the Muslims and serve as a platform for them to discuss, consult and coordinate positions and efforts on momentous issues of the Islamic

world”.

The OIC statement explained that in the face of the successive changes that “our contemporary world has witnessed and the challenges it faces,” the Makkah Extraordinary Summit convened by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in 2005 was a response to various calls to address these challenges.

The summit was a promising starting point for joint Islamic action, as it was characterized by a practical,



robust, scientific, workable, moderate and modern approach.

The Ten-Year Program of Action adopted by that Summit focused at the outset on arranging internal Islamic affairs concerning reform, good governance, economic and commercial cooperation and a call for true commitment to the principle of Islamic solidarity in action among people of the same Ummah.

The OIC statement recalled that the Eleventh Islamic Summit, held in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, in March 2008, ratified the new Charter which became a basis for the OIC's future Islamic work to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. The new Charter has provisions for spreading and safeguarding Islamic teachings and values based on moderation and tolerance and on a desire to highlight and defend the true image of Islam.

It also encourages dialogue among civilizations and religions. The OIC also took on the task of correcting erroneous notions about Islam and Muslims, even as growing Islamophobia constitutes one of the major sources of concern for the Organization.

The OIC has intensified efforts to prevent incitement of hatred and discrimination against Muslims and has taken effective measures to confront defamation of religions and stereotyping of people on the basis of

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The OIC looks into the future with considerable confidence to discharge the duties entrusted to it in the service of the Islamic world and in defense of the interests of Islam and Muslims.”

religion, creed or race.

The statement highlighted the fact that over the past years, the number of Member States has increased from twenty-five at the time of the Organization's founding, to fifty-seven, thus making the OIC the second largest international organization after the United Nations.

“Thanks to the efforts of the OIC Secretary General, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, since his election in 2005, the OIC has gained growing visibility in the international scene, as the voice which represents and speaks for the Muslim world,” the statement said, and added: “There is no greater demonstration of this than the growing number of states wishing to become observers in the Organization or trying to develop special relations with it.”

Hope: An essential ingredient for happiness and wellbeing

Excerpt from a Friday Khutbah at Hamilton Mosque

By Mustafa Farouk, FIANZ National Dawah and Outreach

Virtues of hope

Hope is the expectation of something desired. There are many virtues associated with being hopeful. At the psychological or subjective level, hope is a potent quality of life variable because of its impact on the mental, social, and physical functioning of the individual.

Hope and optimism are closely tied together. Optimism, has been linked to positive mood and good morale; perseverance and effective problem solving; academic, athletic, military, occupational, and political success; to popularity; to good health; and even to long life and freedom from trauma. Hope is associated with certainty, courage, calmness, confidence, resilience and purpose (4:104).

The importance of maintaining a state of hopefulness in an individual is underscored by the Hadith narrated by Abu Huraira (RA) that he heard Allah's Apostle (SAW) saying, "The heart of an old man remains young in two respects, i.e., his love for the world (its wealth, amusements and luxuries) and his incessant hope." AlGhazali quoted a Hadith in Ihya Ulumul deen that the prophet (SAW) said one day to the sahaba, if you know what I know, you will surely laugh a little and cry much. Jibril (AS) came to him and told him "Your Lord says to you: Why are you making His servants lose hope" then the Prophet (SAW) came out and began to say words of hope and encouragement to the sahaba.

Vices of hopelessness

Natural calamities, the loss of loved ones, terminal illness, ageing and its associated infirmities, the constant suffering of Muslims in many parts of the world such as Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia or the abject poverty many face in the world today can all create state of hopelessness for those directly involved and others who share the brotherhood of humanity or Islam or familial relations with such people (11:9; 17:83).

Hopelessness is defined as

negative expectancies about oneself and the future. We have all at some point in our lives lost hope on certain issues, some more than others. Loss of hope has a terrible consequence on the life of humans and for that reason it is completely prohibited in Islam (12:87; 15:56; 39:53).

Hopelessness is associated with despair, dejection and demoralization (2:166; 3:127; 41:49). Modern sciences suggest that hopelessness affects neurological, endocrine, immunological, and other basic life processes; changes overt behaviour; results in less attention to the future, including self-care habits and obtaining, and adhering to, medical treatment.

Hopelessness contributes to numerous causes of morbidity and mortality including carelessness and risk taking, disturbed sleep, and breakdown of social relationships and loss of emotional

“Hopelessness is defined as negative expectancies about oneself and the future. We have all at some point in our lives lost hope on certain issues, some more than others. Loss of hope has a terrible consequence on the life of humans and for that reason it is completely prohibited in Islam (12:87; 15:56; 39:53)”.

and instrumental support. In a study of 196 patients with terminal cancer, hopelessness appears to be an important clinical marker of suicidal ideation in this vulnerable patient population. In a study of Finnish men, those reporting high levels of hopelessness were 3 times more likely to become hypertensive in the intervening 4 years than men who were not hopeless. In a study that looked at the relationship among low, moderate, and high levels of hopelessness in 2428 middle-aged men (ages 42 to 60) to all-cause and cause-specific mortality, and incidence of myocardial infarction (MI) and cancer, highly hopeless men were at more than three-fold increased risk of death from violence or injury compared with a reference group.

How to become more hopeful

1. By strengthening our beliefs in Allah Who control every aspect of our lives including our emotions. Doing what we are enjoined and abstaining from what we are forbidden, and believing and internalising the fact that anyone who depends on Allah, He is sufficient for him. Allah says in the Quran (65:2-3) ".....thus are admonished all who believe in God and the Last Day. And unto everyone who is conscious of God, He [always] grants a way out [of unhappiness. And provides for him in a manner beyond all expectation; and for everyone who places his trust in God He [alone] is enough. Verily, God always attains to His purpose: [and] indeed, unto everything has God appointed its [term and] measure".

2. By maintaining constant zikr and the remembrance of Allah (13:28). Studies have shown that repeating certain words over and over such as in tasbih (Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah, Allahu Akbar) reduces anxiety and has a calming effect on a person.

3. To remember that Allah accepts all the prayers of His servants and He only knows which of our prayers and desires are beneficial or harmful to us and He answers them according to our good (2:186).

4. To believe that after every hardship comes ease (94:5-6).

5. To believe that Allah does not place a burden over us more than we can bear (2:286; 65:7).

6. To remember that Allah Has written our share of the provision on this earth and that no one can bite our cheese or takeaway anything from us (11:6).

7. To believe that no calamity will befall us unless it is written for us by Allah (9:51).

8. To believe that we will only die when the time written for us by Allah in Preserved Tablet (Iauhul mahfuz) is up and only in the place written for us and nowhere else (3:156, 168, 185; 6:98).

9. To eat Halal and exercise regularly (2:168).

10. Avoid debt as much as possible [Abu Huraira (RA) narrated that the Prophet (SAW) use to not offer funeral prayer for those who die in debt and left nothing to cover the debt].

11. To remember that Allah is all forgiving and merciful. He forgives everything except Shirk. He forgives over and over again (3:135; 4:48; 39:53).

Mohammed Ali, the Kiwi boxer

Like the famous boxer and celebrity “Mohammed Ali” namesake Papatoetoe teenager, a Kiwi born Indo-Fijian Muslim knows how to stand out from the crowd.

The 17-year-old has been appointed chief head boy, or the college captain at De La Salle College in Mangere East.

It's no easy feat for a Muslim youngster in a long-established Catholic Boys school to get such an appointment and it's the first time it's happened in the school's 57-year history.

De La Salle has a roll of over one thousand and is state integrated school with 5 percent of the roll comprising of non-Catholics.

But while some might feel uncomfortable being in the minority, Mohammed Ali takes it all in his stride and says it's not hard fitting in. “The religions have pretty much the same values” said Mohammed Ali.

Similarities with “The Greatest” don't stop at his name, “new Ali” is also a champion boxer.

He gained his fifth consecutive national title last year and travelled to the United States to compete.

He is a registered amateur boxer for Counties Manukau and won the title of Junior Sportsman of the Year at the Counties Manukau Sporting Excellence Awards. His record is starting to match the name of the world's greatest boxer.

But he laughs at any suggestion of using his strength to keep the rest of the school in line.

At primary school Mohammed Ali was nicknamed “Fat Albert” because of his size which runs in the family, so he started boxing to get fit.

The “new Ali's” father big Mohammed Harun, said “Boxing helped my son become healthy and disciplined”.

Harun goes a step further, saying boxing was never on the cards till Mohammed Ali starting to pile on the beef. “When he was born we

never thought he would go in the ring as a boxer”.

“We started him off when he was nine because he was obese. He was over 65kg, so we decided to train him and get him fit. At 11 he started to show a few skills and a coach insisted he go in the ring. He won his first fight and ever since he has stayed focused and kept losing weight.”

To keep on pinnacle of his game he trains three to four hours a day, an achievement that De La Salle College principal Brother Steve Hogan admires.



“To attain all that and achieve in class is what I find impressive about Mohammed Ali.”

Selecting a head boy is a thorough process at De La Salle College and he was voted by students and staff.

Brother Steve said Mohammed Ali suits his new job because he's focused, hardworking, organized and disciplined.

“The staff and pupils have seen that and put their confidence in him. The most important values for the school are honesty and respect, which the head boy fulfills it quite efficiently and these are fundamental to Mohammed Ali's upbringing and to Catholicism too” Brother Steve said.

In a school ceremony earlier this year, past college captains and prefects, including a founding student from 1953 where invited and didn't have an issue with Mohammed Ali's religion. “They're proud of him and proud of having a great man in that role. Everyone could see he is Lasallian” said Brother Steve.

Voluntary Service:

- Mohammed Ali volunteered to fitness train the first XV De La Salle rugby team every Monday and Wednesday mornings before school
- Coach the De La Salle boxing team every Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays after school
- He has a fitness group for people who are trying to lose weight or get fit for their sports every Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings (join with first IX rugby team).
- He runs homework centres every Tuesday straight after school for all students, years 7 to 13, who need to finish school work or who help with their school work.
- Additionally he tutorial classes during lunch times every Wednesdays and if he can make arrangements with teachers then also Saturdays from 9 to 12.

Academic Achievements:

- Mohammed Ali has passed NCEA level 1 and 2 with an endorsement of excellence and merit respectively.
- He also became first overall in the whole school for science level 1 and science level 2.
- He has gained his U.E. (university entrance) credits.
- He is currently the Head boy of De La Salle College.
- He is the Chairman in the Academic portfolio at De La Salle College.
- He is a board member in the Board of Trustees with the title of being the Student Representative.
- He is one of the students out of the fourteen students of De La Salle College, who are chosen to participate in the MATES programme (mentoring programme run by the University of Auckland).

Sporting Achievements: Amateur Boxing

- Mohammed Ali competed in the Ringside World Amateur Boxing Championship Tournament held in Kansas City, Missouri, America. One of the biggest boxing tournaments held worldwide, with just over

(Continued on page 11)

Stories to share with the family (continued from page 7)

for the picking, then immediately my suspicion is raised and no matter how tempting or hungry I am, I will avoid that food in case it is a trap.” Of the candidates who presented themselves for the position of Principal, the assembly determined that the Jackal was the most qualified. With Jackal as Principal, the school was built, the curriculum was drawn, and all the parents enrolled their children including the King who enrolled his son the lion cub popularly known in the savannah as ‘the Prince’.

To graduate and be qualified for life in the Savannah, students were required to master many subjects including the value of hard work, sustainable use of savannah food sources, cooperative living, how to identify poachers and attributes that distinguishes the wild animals of the savannah and humans. All the youngsters of the Savannah attended school diligently except the Prince who was lazy and arrogant. Whenever his parents asked him to go to school, he wagged, and when his friends – particularly his best friend the giraffe calf – asked him why he wags school, Prince responded “Why do I need to work hard when my dad is the King of the Savannah, and why should I fear a human when I can crush him and suck his bone marrow out if I wanted to?” So while everyone was learning how to identify a poacher, the lion cub was busy with everything else except schooling.

One day the lion cub was strolling with his best friend the giraffe calf when from a distance appeared a man with a stick in his hand. The moment the calf saw the man, the giraffe calf was able to

recognise the poacher for what he was because of the knowledge the calf had gained from the teachings at the Savannah School and he took off running while calling on his friend, the Prince, to do the same. The lion cub, who had wagged school and missed lessons that discussed humans, was fascinated by this two-legged creature that was approaching him and Prince did not even notice that his friend, the giraffe calf, had taken off. When the man got close enough, the cub snap at him “What type of animal are you walking on two feet and not on four, and how come I never saw you at my dad’s palace paying homage like all other wild animals?”

The man bowed in mock respect and said “May Allah prolong your life, O Prince of the Savannah; I apologise for being remiss in my duty which I intend to rectify if given the opportunity,” The cub asked the man where he was headed to and why he was carrying a stick. The man told him he was in a hurry because the hyena asked him to build him a nice hut. The mention of hyena’s name infuriated the cub and he snarled at the man “Who is a hyena among the wild animals of the Savannah to make you want to rush our conversation?” The man again bowed mockingly and said “I apologise sir for giving the hyena the prominence he does not deserve in your presence.” The cub said “You are not going anywhere until you build that house intended for the hyena for me.” The man said “I hear and I obey”.

The man proceeded to build a very strong hut and made sure the hut was all tied up with ropes and made it look very beautiful. He then asked the Prince to get into the

house and try it for fit and comfort. The cub eagerly entered the hut and the poacher quickly shut the door of the hut and trapped the cub inside. The cub shouted from inside the hut “Open up, I am hot, and make sure you cut a window in this hut for some ventilation”. The man laughed at these naive words and replied “Haven’t your elders told you about me, the wily poacher? You are not going anywhere.” As soon as the man said that, the lion cub realised this is the creature he had been warned about but had failed to recognise because he wagged school. He started threatening the man to let him out, but to no avail. When he realised threats were not working, he pleaded for mercy, but still to no avail.

The wily poacher sold him off to a circus that smuggled him out of Africa, had him trained to do acts that are unbecoming of a Prince of Savannah, making him jump loops, carry donkeys and dogs on his back, push his arch enemy ‘Mr. Tiger’ around and sometimes even get whipped by a monkey. Once in a while when he gets the chance to rest from the hectic life of a circus animal, he reminiscences of the good old days, thinks about the freedom and respect he used to enjoy in the Savannah, and regrets his refusal to attend classes at the school... and when the other circus animals are not watching him, he often wipes a tear or two remorsefully.

The moral of the story is that a strong Muslim youth works hard, does not skip school and is not pompous, because laziness and wagging school leads to regret and servitude as happened to the once prince of the savannah, but now a circus lion.

Mohammed Ali ... (continued from page 10)

1500 boxers competing from all corners of the world. Mohammed Ali fought the national champs from different countries. He was ranked 3rd in the world in the year 2009 at this tournament.

- He was 5 times New Zealand Amateur Boxing Champ 2005-2009.
- He was 5 times North Island Golden Gloves Champ 2005-2009.
- He was awarded the Most Scientific Boxer Award at the 2009 NZ Amateur Championships.

- He was awarded Most Scientific Boxer at the Golden Gloves 2006-2008
- Awarded Junior Sportsman of the Year at the Counties Manukau Sporting Excellence Awards for 2 consecutive years, 2008-2009.
- He was awarded the Kiwanis Papatoetoe Junior Sportsman of the Year 2006-2007 Under 16.
- He was awarded the Kiwanis Sportsman of the Year 2009 Under 18.

Meet your Halal Technical Team

FIANZ seeks advice on technical matters relating to Halal foods from a group of Food Technologists and Scientists. This group is known as the Halal Technical Team (Haltech) and all its members work on a voluntary basis in this advisory capacity. The current Haltech team is made of the following people:

Tabrez Dean (Chairman), Dr Mustafa Farouk, Ahmed Basha and Sister Eka Finschi. Between them this group has over 50 years experience in the food industry. Their areas of expertise cover meat, dairy, agricultural products, beverage, processed food and food service industries. Besides being active in the food industry members of the team are also well known through their involvement in many community projects.

When a Halal application is made on-line via the Fianz website the Haltech team is also copied on the application. If there are technical queries relating to the application the Haltech team advises the Fianz office. These queries often relate to the ingredients used, the processing method and areas of possible contamination. From the initial application the Haltech team also identifies areas of risk which is then followed up and monitored via site visits by Halal supervisors.

Halal Directory & Certified Products

For a list of Halal certified companies and their products please visit the www.fianz.co.nz website. This list also

includes cafes and restaurants certified by FIANZ.

The community is urged to support businesses that are certified by Fianz as they tend to follow proper procedures to assure Halal foods and products for the Muslim consumer.

Auckland Halal Supervision

In Auckland Fianz has employed the services of Br Nizam Shah who acts as the Halal Supervisor for the region. All requests for Halal approval and certification is handled by Br Nizam who has at his disposal the services of the Haltech team and the Ulema board. The statistics for Halal approvals and certification so far are as follows:

Halal Butchers Certified	18
Processing Plants	3
Restaurants & Takeaways	12

Outlets certified Halal by FIANZ tend to prominently display a valid Fianz certificate. This is your guarantee of Halal compliance. Community members are urged to offer preferential patronage to these outlets.

Turkish Minister says nuke weapons do not belong to Islamic mentality

Turkey's industry and trade minister said that it was impossible in a scientific atmosphere shaped up according to Islamic civilization to produce atomic bombs.

Wednesday, 06 October

Turkey's industry and trade minister said earlier this month that it was impossible in a scientific atmosphere shaped up according to Islamic civilization to produce biological weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and atomic bombs.

Minister Nihat Ergun said technological products were a reflection of the mentalities that manufactured them, and they were not independent from those mentalities.

"Our civilization is based on an understanding that focuses on being constructive not destructive, attaches importance on ethical values and aesthetics as well as welfare, and regards justice above

everything," Ergun said during a panel discussion on "Technology Vision of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Countries" in Istanbul.

The panel discussion took place as a part of the 14th International Business Forum (IBF) organized by the Independent Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD).

Ergun said the recent global financial crisis had showed the entire world that economic and technological development was not sufficient enough, and countries should cooperate and establish partnerships.

The minister said technology was the most important parameter defining power in the world, and societies transforming information into technology had become rich, secure and strong countries.

"Many Islam countries have

rich oil and natural gas resources. If we find a new technology that can exclude fossil fuels in the world, many Islam countries can face serious problems," Ergun said.

Therefore, Islam countries should attach importance to private sector, entrepreneurship, production, trade, science and technology, Ergun said.

Ergun said economies that could not renew themselves, produce new products and develop their existing products could not have a word to say in the global competition.

"Therefore, there is need for R&D activities to push new products to market, raise quality and reduce costs," he said.

Ergun also said Turkey would raise the ratio of R&D expenditures to its Gross Domestic Product to 2 percent by the end of 2013, and catch up with the developed countries.