



Muslim News

3 July 2010 , 21 Rajab 1431

Players told to tap Halal Ingredients Market

KUALA LUMPUR -- Halal industry players should tap the halal ingredients sector as Muslim consumers worldwide demand checks on animal-based ingredients, the Prime Minister's wife Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor said last week.

She said the complexity of ingredients integrated into pharmaceutical products and food ingredients like gelatine, enzymes and emulsifiers used in daily cooking and food preparation have come under close scrutiny and debate.

"As such, it is crucial for additional Syariah-compliant halal ingredients be made available to fulfil the needs of these more conscious consumers," Rosmah said in her closing remarks at the 3rd World

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Halal Research Summit (WHRS) 2010.

She added the demand for typically non-halal ingredients from Muslim manufacturers and global consumers represented an enormous opportunity for halal industry players.

Al-Noor OSCAR Programme in Christchurch

The Al-Noor Charitable Trust in Christchurch has completed plans for the children OSCAR (after school) programme that would run from the 12th-16th July 2010, mornings through to afternoons.

The programme is for school children from Primary to Intermediate, and will feature sessions and activities such as sports and recreation, life skills and general Islamic knowledge.

Co-ordinator of the Oscar programme Dr Mohammad Alayan said past experience shows that both children and parents are very happy and excited about it and this year will be no exception, Insha Allah.



Muslim Converts Programme

On 10 July 2010 seven Converts (Reverts) representing the seven FIANZ Constituent Associations and led by Br Abdul Lateef Smith from Palmerston North (FIANZ Converts Dawah and Welfare Coordinator) will meet in Wellington to launch a new initiative aimed at the many individuals embracing Islam throughout New Zealand.

The programme is designed to be a whole of life initiative and will be part of their journey from the time they first make contact with you or local Islamic Centres or Masjid, through their declaration of faith or the Shahada, through the imparting

of Islamic knowledge by the adoption of a very successful programme kindly provided by Darul Arqam in Singapore to a process of mentoring and contact by members of each community and other programmes aimed at Converts Dawah and welfare.

The launch will be followed by two further meetings, one in Auckland and one in Christchurch where Converts and others will be given the opportunity to provide individual feedback which will be used to make the help programme as successful as it can possibly be.

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Dubai Islamic Bank launches three new account options

DUBAI - In line with its commitment to offering pioneering Sharia-compliant products and services to its customers, Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) announced today the launch of three new account variants to its product portfolio. Tailored to meet the needs of different customer segments, the new accounts - Al Islami 2-in-1 Account, Al Islami Current Account Plus and Al Islami E-Savings Account - represent the bank's latest addition to its diverse product range.

"Having a customer base of almost a million customers is a source of pride for DIB but presents its own challenges. It means that we need to cater to extremely varied needs of customers representing over 170

nationalities. The launch of these new retail products indicates our focus on fulfilling these customer needs and providing innovative products and services to them," said Dr. Adnan Chilwan, Chief of Retail and Business Banking, DIB. "We are committed to broadening our product range and to offer compelling value to our customers combined with a great product experience."

The Al Islami 2-in-1 Account offers the convenience of chequebook and profits in one account, with attractive profit rates that are credited on a quarterly basis. The account also comes with a free Al Islami Debit Card with daily cash withdrawal limit of AED 7,000, in addition to numerous other value added features.

Sister Aliya says Hong Kong trip was successful

Sister Alya Danzeisen is just back from a two-day trip to Hong Kong that she describes as successful. Sister Aliya was invited by the Women Leaders of New Asia to attend a Summit in Hong Kong on June 12-14, 2010. Her trip was sponsored by FIANZ and the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ) - an affiliate of FIANZ.

The Summit offered IWCNZ and the Women's Organisation of the Waikato Muslim Association (WOWMA) through sister Aliya's participation an opportunity to establish contacts with people all over the world. She was able to connect with many ladies who sit as board members of foundations and trusts that support women's leadership activities relevant to the women organizations here in New Zealand.

Through her discussions

with these women, she increased her understanding of what is required to get access to funding and support, which IWCNZ will tap into to develop programs beneficial to the Muslim women of New Zealand.

The contacts she established with several Muslim women working with grassroots organizations similar to IWCNZ in their respective countries will enable exchange of ideas and personnel with such organizations and will foster opportunities in the areas of capacity building for our youth and women.

Sister Aliya through IWCNZ appreciates the opportunity given to her by FIANZ to attend this summit and looks forward to using the knowledge and contacts gained at the summit for the benefit of Muslim women and New Zealand as a whole.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth Facilities

International Muslim Association of New Zealand (IMAN) has been looking at various options to provide recreational facilities for youth at its Kilbirnie property. After many discussions, they are close to agreeing on a concept which will satisfy the youths as well as preserving flexibility for future mosque expansion, according to IMAN. According to IMAN they will update the community soon with details. Funds will need to be raised for the project, says IMAN.

IMAN's Brand New Kindergarten

International Muslim Association of New Zealand (IMAN) is opening a brand new kindergarten at Lower Hutt. The name of the kindergarten is "Haleema Kindergarten". It will be open for children from 19 July 2010. There will be a community open day on Saturday 10 July 2010. All Muslims from throughout New Zealand are invited to attend the open day. IMAN is also inviting Muslims to make donations towards the kindergarten, to give it a good 'kickstart'. To make a donation, you can email akoya@xtra.co.nz or phone Br Asif Koya on 021 181 4951.

Australia Comes of Age

The President of Muslims Australia- AFIC, Mr Ikebal Patel in congratulating the first female Australian Prime Minister Hon Julia Gillard commented that Australia has come of age. Mr Patel said, Australia has followed leading countries who have embraced female leaders, notable amongst the list is Australia's closest neighbour, New Zealand, Indonesia, and the Philippines, also India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Germany including the United Kingdom.

Mr Patel further stated, "It is now Australia's turn to be proud of its demonstrated gender equality - we now have the position of Prime Minister joining the list of State Premiers and Governor General as remarkable women in leadership positions".

Islam Awareness Week to be launched in August

The Islam Awareness Week organized by the Federation of the Islamic Associations of New Zealand, will be held in August 2010. With the mission "To increase awareness about Islam and Muslim New Zealanders", the IAW has proposed several activities which include interfaith panel discussions, cultural fairs and arts workshops at Masajid among several others.

Following are some key information about the IAW:

Mission

"To increase awareness about Islam and Muslim New Zealanders".

Theme 2010

"Cultivating Positive Emotions for a Healthy Society"

Islam seeks to improve our well-being by teaching us how to develop positive emotions and avoid negative ones. People with positive emotions tend to be happier, healthier and better members of the society. Islamic teachings will contribute tremendously in this regards.

Proposed Activities

1. IAW Launch in Wellington

We hope to invite The Hon John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand, to officially launch the IAW 2010 in Wellington on Monday, 2 August 2010 at 10.30 am at the Wellington Islamic Centre.

The Launch will feature a recitation from the Holy Qur'an, opening remarks from President of FIANZ, Minister of Ethnic Affairs and Human Rights Commissioner for Race Relations and a keynote address by The Prime Minister.

We also hope to organise an Interfaith Panel Lectures on creating healthy and vibrant societies with strong religious reinforcement.

The "Harmony" Awards will recognise efforts to improve understanding and harmony between Muslims and non-Muslims and thereby encourage this outcome. The award categories will correspond to the target audiences and there will be local and national awards for non-Muslims. This will be followed by a sumptuous lunch.

The distinguished guests will then be given a tour of an exhibition of the Islamic arts and culture on display.

2. Interfaith Panel Discussions

Throughout the Islam Awareness Week (2-8 August 2010), there will be interfaith panel discussions held at the various Masajid (Mosques) and Islamic Centres in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

These discussions would reflect this year's theme: "Cultivating Positive Emotions for a Healthy Society".

3. Academic dinners hosted by University/ Polytechnic/Wanaga/Muslim Students' Associations

To be held at Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Each MSA will invite faculty members from their institution to attend a dinner that will enable them to meet and interact with Muslim students and learn more about them and their experiences. Other activities will also be organised on campuses to coincide with the dinners or on separate days. FIANZ will contribute \$500 to each MSA that participates in this year's IAW activities on campus.

4. Cultural Fairs and Arts Workshops at Masajid

The simultaneous Masajid Open Days, featuring static displays, seminars and tours, have been a successful feature of previous Islam Awareness Weeks and are worthy of greater resources. This will be continued this year.

5. Other activities

Each centre can add other flavours to the activities it is organising as it sees fit. If any centre comes up with a creative activity that other centres can benefit from, the idea should be shared.

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 to fianz@xtra.co.nz

FIANZ/RMDT Social Services Forum to be held on 17th July

The Muslim Communities in New Zealand are part and parcel of the wider society. The implications of this are that even as we have social issues and problems peculiar to our communities we are also afflicted by some of the maladies confronting wider New Zealand society.

A FIANZ/RMDT Social Services Forum is organised for 17th July in Ponsonby mosque, Auckland where social issues facing Muslim communities will be discussed by various experts from the community as well as relevant agencies. It is hoped the forum will lead to better understanding of such social issues facing Muslim communities as well as ways of overcoming them.

Speakers include Sheikh Amjad Ali, Sheikh Shafee, Imam Afroz Ali, Dr Tahira Malika, Dr Safiya Akhtar, Umma Trust, Fatimah Foundation, Women Empowerment Foundation, Police, Ministry of Social Development etc.

SOCIAL SERVICES FORUM

**BRINGING TOGETHER THOSE
WHO CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

INCLUDES

- > *Service providers:* Fatimah Foundation, Ummah Trust, Women's Empowerment Foundation, Cross-Cultural Counselling, WTG, RMDT etc.
- > *FIANZ Commitment:* Dr Anwar Ghani
- > *NZ Govt reps on their contribution:* Ministry of Social Development, NZ Police
- > *Personal networking for organisations*
- > *Imams qualified in social services:* Sh Amjad Ali, Sh Shafee on the role of Imams & support needed
- > *Presentation: Australian Experience:* Islam, Ethics & Social Services: Imam Afroz Ali
- > *Qualified Facilitators:* Dr Muhammed Musa, Dr Tahira Malik, Imam Afroz Ali and Dr Anwar Ghani

***A forum for ALL Imams,
Religious workers,
community leaders and
community workers***

- Experienced workers and experts presenting on a range of real life issues
- Large representation of community social service providers

PONSONBY MOSQUE
17 Vermont St, Ponsonby

SATURDAY 17TH JULY
9am to 4pm

To reserve a time for your service / organisation
please contact **Subaie** at **021 062 8156**

RMDT
RASHED MEMORIAL DAWAH TRUST



Islam is the new religion in Chiapas

More and more Mayan and Tzotzil people in the Mexican state Chiapas are becoming Muslims. It's fifteen years since the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas and the region has undergone some profound changes. One of them is the emergence of Islam as a new religion in the state. The Muslim community, dominated by converted Mayans and Tzotzils, is slowly gaining ground.

Molino de los Arcos is one of the poorest neighbourhoods of San Cristóbal de las Casas, the second largest city in Chiapas and popular with tourists for its colonial beauty. The barrio is ethnically almost entirely indigenous, with Tzotzil Mayan as the dominant language. On Fridays, though, you can hear the slow, monotonous Arab chants of Muslim prayer. In a wooden shack, painted with Arab religious phrases, some twenty Tzotzil Muslim families have established a small place of worship.

"This is where we cleanse our spirits and pray to Allah. Not everyone came today, some people have to work," Imam Salvador Lopez Lopez smiles. "But we are doing well. Our community is still small, we are maybe two hundred, but little by little we're growing."

Lopez converted to Islam in 1995 and adopted the Arab name of Muhammad Amin. He was one of the first Tzotzils to embrace the religion. He describes his conversion as a tough, two-year period of soul searching. "There is a lot of ignorance in Chiapas about Islam. Nobody really knew what it was and at first I myself wasn't sure it was the thing for me. My family didn't agree with it either at first. It was hard."

There have always been Muslims in Mexico, but they were usually immigrants from Muslim countries in Africa and the Middle East. It wasn't until 1995, when

Spanish Muslims led by Aureliano Pérez left for Mexico to spread the word of Allah, that Mexicans themselves started converting to Islam.

The arrival of the Spanish can be seen in direct relation to the uprising of the Zapatista rebels in Chiapas, in 1994. They saw the impoverished state as fertile ground for the principles of Islam. Indigenous Mayans and Tzotzils have led marginalised lives ever



Imam Salvador Lopez Lopez, or Muhammad Amin, praying

since the Spanish conquest in the 16th century. They live in extreme poverty, suffer exploitation by corrupt governments and racism by white and mestizo Mexicans (people with mixed European and Native American racial origin). Alcoholism among indigenous Mexicans is rampant.

The Mayans and Tzotzils belong to the Murabitun movement within Sunni Islam, which upholds a strict ban on the use of alcohol and profits made on money lending. It has proven to be attractive to indigenous Chiapanecos as a viable alternative to capitalism. Yet Muhammad Amin stresses that Islam is not just for indigenous Chiapanecos: "Allah makes no distinction between race. We welcome everyone."

The social component in

Chiapaneco Islam did present itself in its early days though, when the Muslims under Nafia offered to support the Zapatista rebels of Subcomandante Marcos. Many Zapatista rebels, who fight for indigenous rights and land reform, are Tzotzils. A number of them did convert, even though Marcos was hesitant at first. The Mexican government was alarmed and started monitoring the presence of Islam. Former president Vicente

Fox even accused them of having links with Al-Qaeda, although solid proof was never presented.

Muhammad Amin chuckles when he refers to these accusations. "We have no links whatsoever with any foreign group of Muslims, and we have no problem with any other religion here. Islam means peace, we respect everyone around us."

That doesn't mean that Christians responded positively to their new competitors. Andrés Ferrer, who now goes by

the Arab name of Muyahid, converted to Islam in 1998. He's had to overcome a lot of

prejudice:

"Many people reacted badly, because they have no idea what Islam is. Some of them even called us terrorists. My own family called me crazy!"

Despite the opposition Islam is doing well in Chiapas. The Muslims have opened a madrasah or Qur'an school, an Islamic mission, a carpenter's shop and a pizza restaurant. They teach Arabic to new converts and even organize the hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca, which many indigenous Muslims have already undertaken. Islam is growing slowly but surely, says Imam Lopez:

"In this particular mosque there are seventeen Islamic families now. Gradually more people are opening themselves up to the word of Allah. Yes, I think we are here to stay!" -- Source: <http://www.rnw.nl>

Israel must avoid further violations of international law in East Jerusalem: UN

GENEVA, June 29 -- UN Special Rapporteur Richard Falk urged Israel on Tuesday to prevent further violations of international law in East Jerusalem, most urgently in relation to the situation of four Palestinians threatened with the loss of their right of residence and the Mayor of Jerusalem's plan to demolish 22 buildings, representing 89 Palestinian homes, in the Silwan area of East Jerusalem.

"These actions, if carried out, would violate international law, with certain actions potentially amounting to war crimes under international humanitarian law," warned the independent expert designated by the UN Human Rights Council to monitor the situation of human rights in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, "It is disturbing that Israel is considering revoking the residency permits of Muhammad Abu-Teir, Ahmad Attoun, Muhammad Totah, and Khaled Abu Arafah, all current or former members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and long-time residents of East Jerusalem, especially since the Israeli High Court of Justice is scheduled to consider their case on 6 September," the Special Rapporteur noted.

"What is particularly shocking is that Israel appears ready to forcibly transfer these individuals based on their supposed lack of loyalty to the State of Israel," Mr. Falk said. "Israel, as an occupying Power, is prohibited from transferring civilian persons from East Jerusalem,

“Those responsible could be liable for war crimes for forcibly transferring these persons, as well as for violations of a wide range of international human rights, rights that protect the family and family life, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, non-discrimination, and political participation.”

and is prohibited from forcing Palestinians to swear allegiance or otherwise affirm their loyalty to the State of Israel."

The UN independent expert warned that population transfers in or from occupied territory are war crimes under both the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and customary international law.

"Those responsible could be liable for war crimes for forcibly transferring these persons, as well as for violations of a wide range of international human rights, rights that protect the family and family life, freedom of expression, freedom

of assembly and association, non-discrimination, and political participation."

"Forcibly transferring these individuals would constitute serious violations of Israel's legal obligations. At the same time, the current threats should be viewed as part of a larger, extremely worrying pattern of Israeli efforts to drive Palestinians out of East Jerusalem - all of which are illegal under international law," stated the Special Rapporteur.

"This situation should be seen within the context of Israel's persistent, systematic approach to driving Palestinians out of East Jerusalem," Mr. Falk added, "including by denying them permission to construct homes, declaring their homes illegal, forcibly removing families, and then destroying their homes - all to make way for Israeli settlements."—Source: KUNA

Muslim Converts Programme

Continued from Page 1

The programme will aim to be inclusive of any of those organisations not currently under the FIANZ umbrella in an effort to cater for the needs of all Converts, not only those who belong to FIANZ Constituent Associations.

Along with the full support of FIANZ, it is hoped that the launch of this programme will gain the attention and support required of such an initiative from among many international Muslim organisations, communities and support agencies.

Progress in Data collection on Hajj and history of the Two Holy Mosques

Riyadh, June 26 -- Working teams for building a data base for the project of Hajj and the Two Holy Mosques Encyclopedia are steadily working under the supervision of King Abdul-Aziz Foundation for Research and Archives for the completion of the project within three years.

The working teams are collecting data from historical sources from all Muslim countries and the rest of the world about Hajj and the history of the Two Holy Mosques from the pre-Islamic era up to the current time.

Workshops were held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Malaysia for this purpose.

Dr Fahd Al-Samari, the Secretary General of King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives, said work is underway for the implementation of the project under the supervision of Prince Salman ibn Abdulaziz, the Governor of Riyadh Province and Chairman of the Board of Directors of King Abdul-Aziz Foundation for Research and Archives. Dr Al-Samari pointed out to the existing cooperation between the Foundation and other governmental authorities like the Institute of the Two Holy Mosques for Hajj research, an affiliate of Ummal Qura University, and the Higher Education Ministry for carrying out the project.--Source: SPA