

FIANZ EXCO Newsletter Issue # 1 November 2003



FIANZ Community Out Reach

Br. Javed Khan, President of FIANZ, is currently meeting representatives of different Muslim community groups to discuss their needs and assess their views on how FIANZ could become more useful to meet the needs of the entire community. A meeting with representatives of the Somali community in central Auckland in the presence of NZMA established an urgent need to have a Madrasa for the 350 young children. A meeting also took place on the North Shore to discuss the needs of the 300 Muslim families living there. Br. Javed asked the management to look for a suitable place for their centre. Meetings with other Muslim Trusts have also been scheduled to conclude with a general meeting where all will be invited to discuss how all can work together to meet the needs of the community.

FIANZ EXCO members are also reaching out to communities within their local Associations. With more than 17,000

Muslims living in Auckland alone, Auckland is posing the greatest challenge.

FIANZ Development Policy

As a community we should put all our resources together to identify our needs so that we would contribute to the development and progress of our community. The most difficult part of the development plan will be to establish trust between all the different groups in our community. To achieve such a goal it is very essential to become transparent in all our dealings and transactions. Every member of the Muslim community has the right to know what FIANZ is up to. The current FIANZ EXCO is seriously looking into this issue and wants to remedy this situation.

Another urgent need is the lack of proper education for Muslims in an Islamic environment: As Islamically orientated schools are a necessity, the FIANZ EXCO wants to solve the educational need of the community, inshallah. FIANZ wishes to conduct a feasibility study with estimated costs of having pre-schools in each of the following NZ cities:

1. Auckland 5 to 7 preschools
2. Hamilton 2 to 3 preschools
3. Palmerston North 1 preschool
4. Wellington 2 to 3 preschools
5. Christchurch 2 to 3 preschools
6. Dunedin 1 preschool

Other projects of interest to the Muslim community are:

- **Youth recreational centres:** There are no facilities that provide leisure activities within the bounds of Islam, to keep our youth away from other places that will damage their character and principles.
- **Community Database:** A Muslim history and community database must be set up. This will help estimate the future growth and needs of the community. This will also assist with the future planning of the community.
- **Community Awareness:** It is very significant to establish a means of communication between the FIANZ office and the community. A Website is a very cost effective method. At present the FIANZ website can be visited at www.fianz.co.nz. An email list will also be set up for the community. This would enable the community to receive weekly announcement of FIANZ's various activities.

This community out reach programme will be followed up with greater liaison with the government to discuss strategies of solving the community's needs and also to help integrate the Muslim community into New Zealand Society.

The FIANZ office welcomes any feedback and suggestions. It also encourages the community to exchange ideas in Dawaa, Business and Social development.

FIANZ has two full time employees at the Wellington office (Br. Qaiser and Br. Ishraq). Br. Qaiser is responsible for developing and maintaining the Halal certification side of FIANZ administration. Br. Ishraq has experience in carrying out feasibility (viability) studies for various projects.

FIANZ EXCO Activities

The Secretary General is planning to hold meetings with Child Youth and Family, Work and Income and the Corrections Department, to discuss future co-operation concerning Muslim families, unemployment and helping brothers and sisters who are in prison. FIANZ is looking for volunteers - both brothers and sisters - who can become contact persons in their local area to liaise with FIANZ Secretary General.

NZ Muslim Business Directory

Our community has a number of well educated, talented and professional people. There is a need to identify these people and make their services available to the rest of the community. In order to benefit from their expertise there is need to set up a Business/Professional Directory which will be a very useful tool for establishing links between the professionals and the rest. FIANZ will publish a Muslim Business Directory on the Website as well as make a hard copy available. Those who own businesses in medical care, Halal butchers, dairies, computer/IT, etc., or have professional expertise to offer are asked to kindly send your business card to FIANZ

office: PO Box 1415, Wellington, or alternatively contact them by email. Inshallah within three months of this announcement and with your support, a website business directory will be established. This would also help FIANZ promote our community overseas.

This Business Directory can lead to the establishment of a Muslim Chamber of Commerce as well as create opportunities for employment both here and overseas. FIANZ can appeal to overseas countries to support our community by providing them with jobs or business opportunities.

The benefit of the business directory will have a very positive impact on the whole Muslim community as well as the New Zealand economy. The Muslim community has the potential to become positive contributors to the New Zealand economy.

FIANZ will contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Ministry of Economic Development to discuss the plans of establishing a NZ Muslim Chamber of Commerce and NZ Muslim business Directory.

At this stage all brothers and sisters are invited to direct their feedback, suggestions and business ideas to the FIANZ office. Inshallah in return FIANZ will provide you with a reply and ensure you of their full co-operation.

Muslim Women's Conference

Between 19 and 21 September the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand (IWCNZ - an affiliate organisation of the Federation) held its annual national conference at the Wellington Jamii mosque. The conference was very well attended with approximately 150 participants from across the country. The theme of this year's conference was "Balance" and was taken from Ayat 1-9 of Surah 55: Ar-Rahman. The aim of the event was to provide a forum for Muslim women, to facilitate the discussion of pertinent issues, and to promote the spiritual and intellectual values of Islam.

There were several organised lectures and presentations, including a guest speaker from Malaysia, Sister Dr Hajjar Kamr Oniah Kamaruzaman, a doctoral graduate from the international Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur. The highlight of the event was the ever popular Qu'ran competition which saw a very high standard of recitation this year.

The participating sisters offered heartfelt thanks to all the brothers and sisters who made the conference such a glowing success. In particular the IWCNZ was grateful to the FIANZ Secretary-General and office personnel, and to the Imam of the Wellington mosque, Imam Mohammed Amir for his outstanding support and spiritual guidance.

- Sister Rehanna Ali