Gateway-IIIFC

The Istanbul Masterclasses

19 November 2019
Hilton Istanbul Kozyatagi Hotel
Kadiköy
WELCOME

Dear conference delegates

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Gateway-IIFC Islamic Economy Conference 2019.

We meet at a time of great uncertainty – both in the global economy and the Islamic sector. More than ten years have passed since the global economic collapse of 2007/8, yet it is still difficult to discern consistent patterns of behaviour that will shape the landscape of global commerce in the years to come. We will not dwell too much on Trumpism, EU-fragmentation, geopolitics in the Gulf region or the increasing economic dominance of China, suffice to acknowledge that each has, in its own way, an impact that will filter down to the Islamic sector.

In many ways, the Islamic economy stands at a crossroad – some may say a precipice. It needs to get a grip of itself and start taking some tough decisions. From my perspective, there are four key themes that will dictate the future dynamic:

Firstly, the undeniable deficiency that exists in the present Islamic banking model. Put simply, is banking the correct method of delivering Islamic finance? Banking is intrinsically a business predicated on receiving deposits (as secured funds) from the public and lending that money out with interest. How does such a model fit within the constraints of Islamic finance – and how do relatively undercapitalised Islamic banks satisfy the capital adequacy requirements imposed by Basel III?

Secondly, the growing global trend for the ‘privatisation’ of personal money. Long gone is the era when one’s earnings and savings were unquestionably handed-over to the neighbourhood bank. The competition to attract money is now enormous. The proliferation of new banks, financiers, managers, funds, platforms, family offices and intermediaries of all kinds, continually challenges the status quo. The choice is unparalleled, but so are the risks.

Thirdly, and related to the above point, is the tremendous growth of interest and take-up in financial technologies. Nearly every new financial initiative we encounter at our firm nowadays has, as its core, an enhance delivery system based on perceived technological superiority. And the pace of technological advance is considerable. If the iPhone prepared the way for privatisation of money, the fin-tech designers will undoubtedly take it to a new level in the years ahead.

The fourth, and final theme, is simply the response of the halal trading sector to the above changes. The great irony of our modern Islamic sector is the misplacement of finance above the role of trade. Trade should have come before finance. Once active markets of willing buyers and sellers are created, halal finance should appear to lubricate the resulting trade. Instead, we rushed forth with Islamic finance – only to realise 25 years down the line that there was not much halal trade to fund!

Let us see if we can re-order that balance. Let us see if we can promote an active Islamic economy where trade and finance complement each other and work hand-in-hand for each other’s benefit. This conference is a great opportunity to address this issue and I greatly appreciate your participation.

I conclude by wishing you an informative and enjoyable day at the conference!

Ashley Freeman

Chairman, Gateway Global LLP

Join the conversation on Twitter
@gateway_llp | @iifc_en

#Istanbul2019
www.theistanbulconference.com
ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Gateway is an international and multidisciplinary professional services firm that provides ethical and responsible advice and is exclusively devoted to the halal economy and its underlying principles. Headquartered in London, Gateway works seamlessly across four continents and currently has partners and consultants in the United Kingdom, United States, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Turkey, Morocco, Malaysia, Pakistan, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Switzerland and East Africa.

Gateway was established, first, to offer an end-to-end Islamic professional services firm and, second, because modern challenges call for harmonious, integrated, and systemic approaches. Gateway’s professionals have years of collective experience in numerous disciplines including banking, financial and commercial matters, law and compliance, management consultancy, private equity, accountancy, fintech, central banking, public relations, financial regulation, technology and entrepreneurship; bringing their experience to bear by creating a rare multidisciplinary approach to the halal economy.

Istanbul Islamic Finance Consultancy is a comprehensive professional services firm headquartered in the heart of the financial district in Istanbul in close proximity to the proposed Istanbul International Financial Center. IIFC recognises that the success of Islamic finance is conditional on satisfying a number of challenges, regardless of jurisdiction. In the absence of a uniform approach to meeting these challenges, we provide tailored solutions to engage stakeholder groups.

IIFC provides a broad range of services across four key business disciplines; Banking and finance; Legal; Shari’a; Executive Training and Capacity Building.

To support clients in meeting global challenges, Gateway and IIFC launched a partnership to optimise halal trade and participation finance frameworks the world over.

Gateway's and IIFC’s senior leadership team are a group of international professionals with outstanding academic credentials and extensive industry experience. The partners have worked for many of the most prominent banking, accounting, consulting, and legal institutions in the world, including international banks and financial institutions. The team includes recognised experts in the areas of Islamic banking and finance, the regulation of financial products and services, crisis management, stakeholder relations, financial technology, Shari’a auditing and accounting standards, governance, real estate, business succession planning, social responsibility and impact investing, labour and employment, and investment transactions. They have designed legal and regulatory frameworks, structured cutting-edge products, and established forward thinking precedents.

Gateway Global LLP  [www.gatewaylp.com](http://www.gatewaylp.com)

Istanbul Islamic Finance Consultancy  [www.iifconsultancy.com](http://www.iifconsultancy.com)
THE ISTANBUL CONFERENCE MASTERCLASSES OVERVIEW – 19 NOVEMBER 2019

The availability of participation banking products and financing techniques is steadily increasing globally, as regulators continue to enact changes in legislation and policy to create a level playing field, using participation finance as a tool to attract foreign direct investment, finance large-scale infrastructure projects and meet financial inclusion targets.

From a commercial lens there are many participation banks offering finance, and deposit and investment facilities however the desired objective to bridge economic inequalities, create gender balance and tackle climate change are far from being met. Some advocate for a blended approach where private finance is merged with philanthropic endeavours to meet socio-economic goals. This approach can be compounded, thus having greater impact, by the surge in disruptive technologies that are transforming the traditional banking landscape, creating opportunities for many and providing greater access to finance for entrepreneurs, women and rural communities.

Our masterclasses are designed, developed and delivered by leading practitioners and industry experts, providing practical insights and case studies. Each session has been specially formulated to deepen understanding of how participation principles can be applied across a number of disciplines.

Our masterclasses are run by the conveners on a not-for-profit basis and attract a small attendance fee ranging from 25€ to 50€. We have limited the number of spaces in each session to ensure balanced discussion and equal opportunities for all to get involved.

Registration

Registration for this event is mandatory. For more details about the topics or conveners, and to reserve your place, please visit www.theistanbulconference.com.

AGENDA

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Convener</th>
<th>Attendance Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>1: How lawyers review and draft Islamic finance documents</td>
<td>Ashley Freeman</td>
<td>40 €</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>3: How the institution of Waqf can support growth in the Islamic economy</td>
<td>Muna Al Mannai</td>
<td>25 €</td>
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<td>12:30</td>
<td>4: Bitcoin v Libra: Sharia’h compliance issues with cryptocurrencies</td>
<td>Harris Irfan</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>5: Our Duty of Care: Why is Social Inclusion important</td>
<td>Daud Vicary Abdullah</td>
<td>25 €</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>6: The relevance of SDG’s 1-5 in building the Islamic economy</td>
<td>Rahma Hersi</td>
<td>30 €</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>7: Investors: How to make higher returns in VC, PE and Real Estate investments</td>
<td>Suhail Ahmad &amp; Sherif Hampton</td>
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NOTE

Masterclasses are interactive sessions between expert and attendees where topics can be examined in detail and Q&A can be exchanged back and forth. Places on Masterclasses are strictly limited and offered subject to availability.

Attendees who participate in 7 masterclasses will be awarded an Islamic Finance & Economy Foundation Course Certificate.

MASTERCLASS CONVENERS

Ashley Freeman  
@ashfreedom

Mr. Ashley Freeman is an internationally recognised leader in Islamic banking and finance, having worked on many of its earliest frameworks, bodies, and products.

Mr. Freeman served as Head of Legal at Gulf International Bank (then the state-owned bank of the six GCC countries) but quickly gained global recognition as General Counsel of the Central Bank of Bahrain, the leading financial regulator in the MENA region. There, he was responsible for many of the Kingdom’s banking & financial services laws and regulations, including drafting the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law, the Financial Trusts Law, the collective investment scheme rules, and guiding the registration of several hundred funds and the authorisation of their managers, operators, administrators, custodians, and investment advisers. In addition, Mr. Freeman led numerous bank re-organisations, including some of the first Islamic bank mergers, acquisitions, and conversions. He is widely recognised as an expert on financial rescues in the GCC region having presided over the legal team for the Central Bank of Bahrain and largest creditor of the world’s biggest Islamic bank restructuring and the first carried out under Chapter 11 US bankruptcy proceedings. Furthermore, he advised the Ministry of Finance on its capital market initiatives, including every international sovereign sukuk issuance of the Kingdom during his 13-year tenure.

Among other ground-breaking efforts, Mr. Freeman was a member of the small working parties that designed and established the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), a global regulator of the Islamic finance industry, International Islamic Financial Market (IIFM), a global standardisation body in Islamic finance, and Bahrain’s highly-acclaimed Waqf Fund.
Ms. Saeeda Ahmed is a thought leader and entrepreneur successfully spanning over 20 years of solution driven projects which benefit the economy, society and industry. What drives her passion is lasting, sustainable change for society and the economy. She has designed successful labour market programmes which meets the needs of industry, the economy and society. Extensively networked and solution driven with proven results.

Ms. Ahmed is involved on a global level on the development and growth of the halal economy from an ethical and socially responsible model perspective. She has extensive contacts with British and European businesses and networks in halal supply chains. This includes food and drink, cosmetics, fashion, pharmaceutical, consultancy and financial services. Ms. Ahmed will be co-launching existing/ new products and services with international industry and education partners. This includes the launching of ground-breaking global programmes and initiatives to be launched in Jan 2018.

Ms. Ahmed has spearheaded a global partnership with key Malaysian industry and educational institutions and British partners to create a win-win solution. These programmes will not only benefit the British and Malaysian economies, industries and education sector but also provide considerable global opportunities for to export to the rest of the world. Ms. Ahmed is facilitating the creation of a profitable and ethical global gateway to halal products and services which will benefit both economies and beyond.

Fiona Kirubi is an international finance practitioner and has vast experience of advising in strategic planning, business development, marketing insurance, wealth and asset management for high net worth clients in the GCC, Europe and. Fiona has led and organized tailored training for Islamic banks in Kenya as well as spearheaded international training programmes in Malaysia.

For nearly 20 years, Umar has advised on a variety of corporate, financial, and commercial transactions and provided regulatory insights. Umar began his career in the New York office of White & Case LLP and then King and Spalding LLP, and as a partner in the Dubai office of the UK-based international law firm Stephenson Harwood. He has represented clients in the financial services, energy, healthcare, technology, real estate, transport and logistics, retail, and business services sectors across North America, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and East Asia. His clients have included financial institutions, fund sponsors, government entities, start-up ventures, family offices and a variety of investors.

Umar has designed the framework for a variety of funds and pooled investment vehicles, structured private equity and venture capital transactions, including leveraged buy-outs and growth equity investments, advised on real estate investments and projects throughout the world, and developed international joint ventures and strategic alliances. In addition to advising on the equity side of transactions, Umar’s work has also encompassed complex U.S. domestic and cross-border secured and unsecured financings in a variety of asset classes.

Umar particularly enjoys representing investors and businesses focused on creating positive social and environmental impact. He is Lecturer in Law at the University of Connecticut School of Law, where he teaches Islamic finance online, and an adjunct faculty member at Michigan State Law School, where he teaches an online course in Halal food. He is the author of *A Socially Responsible Islamic Finance: Character and the Common Good* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2017). Umar serves on the Board of Trustees of Hartford Seminary, a graduate interfaith educational institution.
Umar earned his J.D. from Temple University and his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been admitted to practice law in the States of New York, Connecticut, and Texas.

Dr. Muna Al Mannai

Dr. Muna Al Mannai has nearly 15 years of experience in the field of finance and regulatory compliance. Dr. Al Mannai initially joined the Bahrain Bourse in 1997 and quickly became Head of its Financial Analysis and Information Unit. After joining the Central Bank of Bahrain, Dr. Al Mannai was appointed Head of Issuance, Corporate Restructuring, and Investor Protection within the Capital Markets Supervision Directorate, a position she held for nearly a decade. As such, Dr. Al Mannai was responsible for supervising the applications of offerings by public companies, for private placements, and ensuring regulatory compliance for listed companies.

Dr. Al Mannai later led the Investigation and Enforcement Department at the Central Bank of Bahrain with responsibility for surveillance, non-compliance by market participants, investigations, and enforcement action implementation. Dr. Al Mannai has also designed a number of workshops for financial institutions, listed companies, and other industry participants to educate them regarding regulatory requirements, frameworks, and best practices. Dr. Al Mannai was also appointed as important member of the Corporate Governance Committee established by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for drawing up the “Corporate Governance Code” for the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Raised in Qatar, Dr. Al Mannai obtained her BA from the University of Buckingham and started her career at the treasury department of one of the major banks in Qatar. Dr. Al Mannai recently completed her PhD at Durham University in the field of Islamic finance, where she researched the relationships between investors and Islamic private equity institutions across the GCC with regards to issues related to transparency, Shari’a, and regulation.

Harris Irfan

Harris Irfan is Head of Strategy and the Banking & Finance team at Gateway. Harris is recognised internationally as a leading authority on Islamic finance and is Chairman of the UK Islamic FinTech Panel. He is an investment banker with 25 years’ experience in London and the Middle East, and the author of Heaven’s Bankers: Inside the Hidden World of Islamic Finance. Harris co-founded Deutsche Bank’s world leading Islamic finance team where he led some of the most ground-breaking deals in the industry. He was then appointed CEO of Deutsche’s Islamic finance think tank, which he successfully restructured and turned around during the financial crisis. He was subsequently appointed global head of Islamic finance at Barclays.

Most recently, Harris was Head of Investment Banking and a member of the Executive Management Committee at European Islamic Investment Bank/Rasmala plc, overseeing the cross-border acquisition of Rasmala and its conversion to Shari’a compliance.

Harris holds a degree in Physics from the University of Oxford.

Daud Vicary Abdullah

Mr. Daud Vicary Abdullah is the Managing Director of DVA Consulting Sdn. Bhd and the former President and Chief Executive Officer of INCEIF, The Global University of Islamic Finance. He has been in the finance and consulting industry for over 44 years, with significant experience in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Since 2002, he has focused exclusively on Islamic finance where he has contributed to a number of books on the subject and has co-authored a book on Islamic finance entitled “Islamic Finance: Why it makes sense.” He is also a frequent speaker and commentator on matters relating to Islamic finance.
Prior to INCEIF, Mr. Abdullah was the Global Islamic Finance Leader with Deloitte. He was also previously Acting CEO of Asian Finance Bank, an Islamic bank based in Malaysia, and was the first Managing Director of Hong Leong Islamic Bank. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Islamic Finance (CIIF), a Distinguished Fellow of the Islamic Banking and Finance Institute of Malaysia (IBFIM) and a former Board member (2003 – 2007) of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI).

Currently, Mr. Abdullah is a member of the Global Group in Islamic Finance & Investment (Global IFIG), under the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, UK; a member of the Steering Committee for The Royal Awards for Islamic Finance (RAIF), a member of the Islamic Finance Committee at the Malaysia Institute of Accountants (MIA) and remains as a Special Advisor to INCEIF.

Sherif Hampton

Sherif Hampton is Deputy CEO of Gateway. Sherif qualified as a Solicitor in Scotland, and has worked as a corporate and international finance lawyer in the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Cayman Islands. He has advised on numerous multi-million dollar regional and cross border transactions for governments, central banks, Islamic banks, conventional banks, investment funds and HNW investors. Sherif has worked for some of the world’s largest law firms, including Ashurst and Jones Day, as well as in-house for Kuwait Finance House. Sherif holds a degree in Law and DLP from the University of Aberdeen.

Rahma Hersi

Rahma Hersi is one of the leading Islamic finance advisors in East Africa. She plays a critical role in the development of Islamic finance not only in Kenya but its neighbouring countries. She presently serves, for instance, as an Islamic finance expert to the Technical Working Groups advising on Kenya’s Capital Markets 10 Year Master Plan for the development of Kenya’s financial sectors. Whilst working as lead counsel at the first Shari’a compliant bank in Kenya, Rahma advised on a number of products, transactions, and bank regulatory affairs. Notably, she advised on the first Islamic mortgage contract between the Bank and National Oil of Kenya.

As a regulatory expert, Rahma has drafted a number of frameworks, such as the Islamic Banking Rules for the Central Bank of Oman, including its modules on Shari’a and Corporate Governance, Powers of Supervision and Control and General Obligations. She has also created policy and procedure product manuals for various Islamic financial institutions across both the GCC and Africa, such as the first Islamic micro-finance institution in Ethiopia. She has also been instrumental in structuring Islamic micro-finance products for women and youth in Muslim minority cities within Kenya, and thoughtfully empowering them.

Rahma is a Shari’a-trained lawyer with an LLB Hons. in Shari’a and Law from the International Islamic University of Islamabad, a Master in Laws in International Comparative Law from the Robert McKinney School of Law in the U.S., and a Diploma in Islamic Finance Arbitration from INCEIF. Rahma is fluent in several languages including Arabic, English, Somali, Swahili, and a working knowledge of Urdu.

Suhail Ahmad

Suhail Ahmad is a Partner and Head of Digital and FinTech at Gateway. Suhail has over 20 years’ experience in financial services and technology. He has held senior manager and director level positions in investment banking and private equity, including RBC Financial and Ittihad Securities Inc., as well as co-founding financial technology startups including FinancialGuide.com. Suhail is the Founder and CEO of Advisory Direct, a blockchain based financial advisory firm. Suhail holds a degree in Economics from University of Calgary, an MBA with Distinction from Edinburgh Business School, and is a qualified Chartered Investment Manager (CIM) accredited by the Canadian Securities Institute.
OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

SAVAS&SAVAS

Since its establishment in 2002, Savas&Savas has sought to build a structure merging experience with dynamism and has a proven track record in meeting customer satisfaction, quality, professionalism and efficiency. This approach has been instrumental in shaping the firm’s HR and business development policies, which are at the very core of the Savas&Savas’ workflow.

The highest morals, integrity, honesty and professional ethics constitute the foundation of operations at Savas&Savas, which prioritises long-term interests of its clients over its short-term gains and acts appropriately in the development of proposals and strategies.

EDB BAHRAIN

Bahrain EDB is the first point of contact for investors looking to establish their businesses in the Kingdom.

The purpose of the Economic Development Board is to guide each new or expanding company, small or large, through every step of the investment journey. The EDB team is ready to help each entrepreneur or company pursue local, regional or global business opportunities in Bahrain. Bahrain EDB can help companies benefit from business infrastructure, find a location to operate the business, discover talent, navigate any legal requirements and more.

The Kingdom of Bahrain may be geographically compact, but the growing economy offers exciting investment opportunities within a supportive business environment designed to help companies flourish. The economy of Bahrain is the most diversified in the region, with particular strengths in financial services, technology sectors and related industries. Careful management of business policies and laws gives even small businesses the opportunity to thrive. There are many reasons to do business in Bahrain, including its central Gulf location with unrivalled entry to neighbouring countries by road, air, and sea, low cost of operations, a Bahraini population that makes up a talented workforce, and stable economy.

Bahrain EDB — the Bahrain Economic Development Board — is here to provide the information and assistance needed to give a strong foothold in the Bahrain economy.

EIGER

Eiger Trading Advisors Ltd. is a UK-FCA regulated asset-trading company specialising in the facilitation of Shari’ah-compliant financial products and services across the globe. Since forming in 2008, Eiger’s goal has been to deliver technology-driven solutions to the industry, drawing from expertise in Islamic finance, IT software development and physical commodity trading.

Eiger Trading generates value through its network of relationships within physical commodities markets and Islamic finance as well as its drive to provide the best services using the very latest in Information Technology. The Eiger Trading Platform is a customised online commodity trading platform and sophisticated document and inventory management system that is tailored for the Islamic and Commodity marketplaces.

With a truly global reach, Eiger acts as a key market intermediary for over 100 institutional and corporate clients in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Australia and South East Asia.
Since 2014, IslamicMarkets have been working on creating a gateway for the global Islamic economy. Islamic markets are not easily accessible - information is not always available and economies remain disconnected. This restricts the opportunities for investors and firms to grow, create jobs, and spur innovation.

Today, over 250,000 people are using the IslamicMarkets Platform as we become a reference point for Islamic financial markets, supporting the wider needs of OIC and non-OIC countries, addressing barriers to sustainable economic growth, trade and connecting Islamic economies to each other and the world.

Al-Hamad Legal Group is a leading international law firm located in Kuwait’s premiere luxury business centre and beacon of Kuwait’s business district—Al-Hamra Tower. The Firm has a longstanding working relationship with leading white shoe and magic circle firms across the globe and benefits from a vast network of global contacts comprised of esteemed academics, accountants and other professionals.

The Firm is spearheaded by the principal partner and founder, Rana Al-Hamad, and is comprised of a respected group of attorneys and legal consultants which collectively hold over 80 years of legal practice experience. The attorneys and legal consultants at the Firm have extensive experience with mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, government contracts and international transactions from all phases including due diligence, deal structuring, management of the investments and final liquidation and exit. The Firm is familiar with the many aspects of foreign joint ventures including their creation, management and disposition. The Firm has been involved in the creation and acquisitions of subsidiaries and joint ventures in most of the Gulf Cooperation Council (“GCC”) states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman, and the Firm has continued affiliations with one or more attorneys in these countries.

Roberts Moghul & Partners LLC help overcome the complex and rare challenges our clients encounter on the way to building new opportunities, develop exciting ventures and solve seemingly intractable problems through thoughtful, tailored approach enables us to understand, first and foremost, each client’s concerns and goals. Roberts Moghul & Partners then create commercially sensible solutions, innovate novel products and frameworks, and carry principles to their intended objectives.

Roberts Moghul & Partners devote skill and significant problem-solving experience to the implementation of shared visions in a sustainable and personalised manner, advising global financial institutions, real economy initiatives, and serial entrepreneurs as well as start-up enterprises. In addition, Roberts Moghul & Partners help managers and capital providers create and support investment opportunities across a breadth of asset classes. We create breakthroughs in emerging markets, help clients develop and acquire real assets globally, and establish partnerships across diverse communities and markets. Roberts Moghul & Partners counsel impact investors and socially responsible businesses in designing and implementing principles-based markets and technologies, address inter-generational business and wealth-transfer questions and create tax-efficient structures to implement values and preserve capital.

Cordoba Capital was originally set up in the UAE in 2011 as a boutique Islamic finance consulting firm. It was subsequently acquired by the Rasmala group, a London-headquartered financial services firm that operates across the Middle East, to provide both in-house and external Islamic finance advice and audit services. In 2017, Cordoba Capital relocated to the UK as an independent corporate finance, Islamic finance and Islamic fintech advisory boutique.
Headquartered in London, DDCAP Group™ (DDCAP) is a market intermediary and financial technology solutions provider connecting the global Islamic financial market responsibly. Established in 1998, DDCAP has over 20 years’ experience providing award-winning asset facilitation services to institutional clients. Working with conventional and Islamic banks, DDCAP facilitates to over 300 financial sector clients worldwide across a diverse range of Sharia’a compliant products, asset classes and instruments in both the primary and secondary markets.

The Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), established in 1991 and based in the Kingdom of Bahrain, is the leading international not-for-profit organization primarily responsible for protecting and enhancing the integrity of the Islamic banking & finance industry through the development and issuance of standards in the areas of Shari’ah, Accounting, Auditing, Governance, and Ethics. Thus far, 110 standards have been issued in total while several key standards are being developed on ongoing basis.

AAOIFI standards are adopted by central banks, regulatory authorities, and Islamic financial institutions in a number of countries, either on a mandatory basis or as basis of guidelines, across the world and which has, over the years, introduced a progressive degree of harmonisation of international Islamic finance practices.

Albaraka Türk Katılım Bankası A.Ş. was founded in 1984 in Istanbul, Turkey by the Bahraini Al Baraka Banking Group and commenced its commercial activities in 1985 as Albaraka Türk Özel Finans Kurumu. It is known as the first Participation Bank in Turkey. Albaraka Türk provides a range of banking and financial services include Retail banking, which offers personal financing, credit cards, bank cards and other banking services, and Commercial/Corporate banking, which includes credits, cash management, foreign trade, business card and insurance services, as well as current and participation accounts, and operates through a network of 122 domestic branches.

In addition to Albaraka Türk offering financial services to its customers through its branches, they also act as Anadolu Sigorta and Anadolu Hayat Emeklilik agencies, selling Insurance Policies, Private Pension Plans and other services related to their domain. Recently Albaraka Türk in cooperation with Anadolu Hayat Emeklilik announced that they will offer Private Pension Plans in which the funds collected will be used in Sharia compliant non-interest Financial Instruments. This product especially aims towards the more sensitive Islamic customers.