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**GUEST EDITORS: ISLAMIC EDUCATION AS THE CORE FOR THE
FORMATION OF *BARAKAH* CAMPUS**

Editor Tamu: Pendidikan Islam Nadi Pembentukan Kampus Barakah

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This special issue of Islamic Education as the Core for Formation of *Barakah* Campus brings together 10 selected articles presented at 2018 International Conference on Islamic Higher Education (SeIPTI) which was held on 25 & 26 November. The conference was organized by Faculty of Leadership and Management, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM). The topics presented discussed on knowledge integration and learning process among Malaysian University graduates, including a special discussion on Muslim gifted and talented students. This special issue also highlighted topics on academics' working satisfaction towards co-worker, as well as the relationship between Muslim and the non-Muslim according to the perspective of *Maqasid Syariah* in Malaysia, as well as the importance of *barakah* (Allah's blessings) in building a nation. In addition, an article on measuring the effectiveness of University programs gave emphasis to the use of meta-analysis and systematic review of various evaluation models.

The concepts of knowledge in Islam consist of spiritual and sensory knowledge and logic observation. Islam also emphasizes the blessing (*barakah*) of knowledge that enables it to bring humanity to the application of the resources of the universe for the purpose of good. Kamali (2013) explains that the concept of blessed (*barakah*) knowledge is clearly illustrated in the holy Al-Quran, which it should be the foundation for any education institution. This concept, which apply the practice in Islam as the basis in all aspect of life serves good values from the Islamic perspectives to the educators, students and even the management level of academic institutions.

Barakah is important in order to earn blessing from Allah especially in the process of gaining the knowledge. Muslims believed blessing from Allah enhance their level of religiosity, uplift their livelihood and motivate them as well as promoting them a comfortable life (Maهران & Nur Ain, 2014). As an academic institution, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) has offered academic and non-academic programmes that are based on pure Islamic studies to public. Nurol Halimatulwara and Lily Suzana (2018) in their article, *Publicising Knowledge to Evolve Barakah (Blessed) Campus: The Experience of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA)* explores the efforts and initiatives done by this university to build human capital in serving back the *ummah* (society) through programmes they offered. UNISSA's aims are to become a centre for the spread of Islam in the region and to cater as many Islamic leaders as possible for *ummah*. Thus, the university integrates the knowledge of *Naqli*, sourced from the Quran and the Sunnah, and *Aqli* (conventional knowledge) to get the blessing from Allah, so that their aim to produce world-class students is achieved.

Alike UNISSA, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) has the same initiative to build a *barakah* campus. USIM is known with the knowledge integration of *Naqli* and *Aqli* (INAQ) and it becomes the uniqueness of this university. The author in the next article, Mohd Rushdan (2018) explains the needs of INAQ agenda, definition and INAQ concept and the relationship of *Tawheed* in INAQ framework specifically in the course of knowledge conception from the perspective of *Tawheed* through the simple content analysis technique employed upon the literatures referenced from the great Muslims' contemporary scholars such as Fazlur Rahman, Al-Faruqi, Syed Naquib Al-Attas, Sayyed Hossien Nasr and Osman Bakar. Therefore, article titled *The Conceptual Framework of Integration of Naqli and Aqli (INAQ) Knowledge in Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia* is worth to read in order to have inclusive meaning of INAQ.

Additionally, study on the challenges in knowledge and education become more extensive when Amir and Mohd Shukri (2018) discuss the element of *Qalbu*-based education approach in their article, *Application of the Qalbu-Based Education Approach in 21st Century Learning: Challenges and Hopes*. *Qalbu*-based education stresses on the need to assimilate or apply five elements, namely love, understanding students' needs, practicing the *Sunnah*, a pure soul and the blessings of knowledge in the teaching and learning process. This article concludes that *Qalbu*-based education should be taken to be the main agenda of national education as this approach can be integrated into the teaching and learning process as a holistic way to achieve *barakah* from Allah Almighty.

The following article entitled *A Note On The Cognitive Abilities Toward Natural Ecosystem Of Gifted And Talented Muslim Students* expands the study on knowledge and learning process by exploring how different natural ecosystem affect the cognitive ability of the gifted and talented Muslim students, specifically students of Kolej Genius Insan (previously known as Kolej Permata Insan). This article by Rosita, Hasya Amalia, ‘Ainnur Farhana, Siti Nurafiqah Aida, Nur Fazidah, Amirah, and Ahmad Faiz (2018) discuss an interesting connection between students’ cognitive abilities and the best natural ecosystem as mentioned in the Holy Quran, which includes forest, river and lake that stimulate gifted and talented students’ brain functions. In conclusion, this article underlines how different natural ecosystem provides different landscape, noise, scents and surrounding, hence it also will affect the brain function differently.

Apart from featuring an article on cognitive abilities among Muslim gifted and talented students’, this special edition also highlights a study on correlation between learning style and multiple intelligence among these students. Amirah, Afiqah, Amira Aisha, Abdul Razzak Khan, and Ahmad Faiz (2018) in their article give specific attention in investigating the most dominant learning style and the most dominant intelligence practiced by these gifted and talented students. Using the Multiple Intelligence Self Inventory (MISI) and Malay Version of Visual Aural Read or write and Kinesthetics (VARK) instruments, this article concluded there is insignificant correlation between Multiple Intelligence and learning style among Muslim gifted and talented. This article is also worth for us to understand that the diversity and exposure given to these Muslim gifted and talented students has broadened the way they discover and adapting knowledge in their learning process. Moving on from discussions on knowledge and learning style among Muslim gifted and talented students, this edition also gives emphasis on issue of community relations between Muslim and Non-Muslim in Malaysia from the perspective of *Maqasid Syariah*. An article (in Malay) entitled *Hubungan Kemasyarakatan Muslim Dengan Non-Muslim Mengikut Perspektif Maqasid Syariah Di Malaysia* by Nur Mohammad Hadi, Meryem Abous, and Ahmad Syukran (2018) highlights the significance of tolerance in Islam which enables social relations to be well established, hence allows us to connect with people from all walks of life. The *Maqasid Shariah* in this context refers to principles of Islam and shari’a, including preserving religion, life, intellect, wealth and lineage for the betterment of ummah. For example, in the verse of Quran (surah Al-Kafirun: 6), Allah mentioned, “For you is your religion, and for me is my religion.” This verse, in relation to the article, underlines that religious differences are not a problem, and Islam always values harmony and never prevented the non-Muslim from practicing their faith and belief. Research to enhance the quality of education continues to develop for both *Naqli* and *Aqli* perspectives. Apart from the study of Islamic elements in education, there

are also studies done in analyzing university programme based on different evaluation models. Ranita, Norziah, Siti Nurashidah, Khairunnisa and Aimi Fadzirul (2018) in their article focused an extensive review and meta-analysis of twenty-eight studies of university programmes and wrote a very good article based on the analysis. Primary sources published between year 2008 to 2018 from online database were used. Ranita, et al. (2018) in this article explore on Context Input Process Product (CIPP) model and the Kirkpatrick models in measuring the effectiveness of the programmes. They discovered that the effectiveness of the programmes needs to be improved to enhance the quality of programmes and the employability among the students.

Knowledge in the tertiary level of education that has been discussed in this special edition widely covers various aspects including the employability skills among graduates. The article written by Fariza, Suzannah, Muzhafar, Ramiaida, Hazlina, Noor Saazai and Norhaili (2018), *Enhancing the Quality of Life Using Multiliteracies Project Approach to Augment Employability Skills among Malaysian University Graduates* touched on how multiliteracies project approach (MPA) can increase students' marketability. In this article, the authors have successfully proven that MPA especially in English Language classroom resulted positively especially on students' communication skills and technological competence. The result shows that in order to deliver *barakah* knowledge to students, university needs to apply *Naqli* and *Aqli* soft skills for their students to be attractive to potential employers.

Speaking about attracting employers, the next article discusses about job satisfaction particularly in higher education institutions. An article by Khairunneezam, Siti Suriani, Muhamad Zaki, Safiyah, and Kalsom (2018) entitled *The Effect Of Gender, Age And Tenure On Satisfaction Towards Co-Workers Among Academics In Malaysian Public Universities* points out that it is essential to understand the connection between job satisfaction and workers behavior at the workplace. While the job satisfaction in the Malaysian context may differs based on demographic backgrounds, this article also correlates satisfaction in working life and finding happiness from Islamic perspective. The concept of *ridha bi al-qadha'*, or being content with our lot in life enable individual to work with others and build a feeling of part of a larger group. Hence, it gives a sense of security and safety in facing up with occasions of happiness and hardships at the workplace, and ultimately to find *barakah* in life.

The discussion on *barakah* is not limited on knowledge but it has been expanded in all aspect of Muslims' life. As mentioned by Maheran and Nur Ain (2014), Muslims need Allah's blessing to have a *barakah* live in their routine such as in economic and political. In order to get His blessing in daily routine, Masuriyati (2018) in the next article, *Barakah in the Zikr Nation Context Towards baldah Tayyibah Wa Rabb*

Ghafur explored how by constantly mention and remembrance of Allah (*zikr*) can build the *Zikr* state which a reflection of a nation that upholds the teachings of Islam. The concept of *Zikr* state is a conceptual thought that aims to make Brunei Darussalam a developed nation oriented towards building memorable relations and human compliance with the blessings of the Creator based on Islamic governance, economics, and other aspects. This article gives a clear understanding and appreciation of internal environments in order to maintain a *barakah* lives so that the country will always in a good, safe and prosperous.

In summary, this collection of articles presents various aspects related to knowledge and learning process, job satisfaction in organization, as well as building a *barakah* nation. They are not only relevant but also will contribute different insights to the general readers and researchers.