



Islamic Finance Review
Where Theory Meets Practice

GLOBAL ETHICAL FINANCE CONFERENCE 2025



Organised by
ISLAMIC FINANCE REVIEW – IFR

Venue:
OXFORD PRESTIGE COLLEGE

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GLOBAL ETHICAL FINANCE CONFERENCE 2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Editors

Dr Faiza Raza (Director, Islamic Finance Review - IFR)

Rabia Raza (Co-Founder, Islamic Finance Review)

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WELCOME NOTE

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Global Ethical Finance Conference (GEFC) 2025, hosted in London and delivered in a hybrid format to bridge continents, disciplines, and perspectives. This conference is more than a scholarly event—it is a global platform for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation in the realms of Islamic finance, ethical investment, sustainability, and digital transformation.

In a world facing unprecedented economic, environmental, and ethical challenges, the role of finance has gone beyond profitability. Today, it must be responsible, inclusive, and transformative. The convergence of Islamic finance with ethical, sustainable, and socially responsible practices presents a powerful framework for addressing these global challenges—rooted in equity, transparency, compassion, and long-term societal welfare.

GEFC 2025 brings together distinguished academics, Shariah scholars, policymakers, industry practitioners, economists, technologists, and emerging researchers from over 15 countries to exchange research, debate policy direction, and explore practical solutions. The diversity of our speakers—from Indonesia and Oman to the UK, USA, Pakistan, Ghana, and Bahrain—reflects our commitment to advancing a truly global, inclusive, and knowledge-driven discourse.

This conference is also a space for meaningful partnerships. Whether academic, professional, or research-led, we hope GEFC 2025 becomes a catalyst for collaboration and thought leadership, helping shape our journals, policy exhibitions, teaching initiatives, and future conferences under the IFR umbrella.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our speakers, presenters, partners, volunteers, and participants who have contributed to making this event a success. A special appreciation goes to Oxford Prestige College for their collaboration and to our media and academic partners for amplifying our collective vision.

I hope you find this conference intellectually enriching, professionally rewarding, and personally inspiring. Together, let us contribute to building financial systems that are ethical, inclusive, resilient, and fit for the challenges of tomorrow.

Welcome to GEFC 2025 — Where Knowledge Meets Impact.

Warm regards,

Dr. Faiza Raza

Founder – Islamic Finance Review (IFR)

Editor-in-Chief – JIBEP

Conference Chair – GEFC 2025



CO-FOUNDER'S NOTE

It is a privilege to welcome you to the Global Ethical Finance Conference (GEFC) 2025 as Co-Founder of Islamic Finance Review (IFR). This conference is not only a gathering of experts; it is the visible outcome of a journey that began with a simple idea – that ethical, Islamic and sustainable finance deserve a dedicated, independent platform where knowledge can be turned into real impact.

Behind every session, partnership and presentation at GEFC 2025 lies months of quiet work: designing the programme, coordinating time zones, supporting speakers, and ensuring that our participants – whether in person or online – feel included, respected and able to contribute. For me, this conference represents the spirit of IFR: collaborative, resilient, and firmly rooted in service to the wider community.

I am especially proud of the way GEFC 2025 has involved students, early-career researchers and volunteers, giving them a chance to work alongside established scholars and practitioners. Their energy and commitment remind us that ethical finance is not only about products and policies, but also about nurturing the next generation of leaders who will carry this work forward.

My sincere thanks go to our venue partner, Oxford Prestige College, our collaborating institutions, media and academic partners, and to every member of the organising team whose effort often remained behind the scenes. Your trust in IFR has allowed us to build a conference that reflects diversity of geography, discipline and perspective, while remaining anchored in shared values.

I hope GEFC 2025 inspires you to form new collaborations, ask difficult questions, and explore fresh solutions for a financial system that is more just, transparent and inclusive. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Warm regards,

Rabia Raza

Co-Founder – Islamic Finance Review (IFR)

Conference Co-Lead – GEFC 2025

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SPONSORS AND COLLABORATING PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors, partners, and collaborators for their invaluable support in making the Global Ethical Finance Conference 2025 a reality.

This event would not have been possible without the collective vision, commitment, and generosity of our partners who share our mission of promoting Islamic finance, ethical investment, sustainability, and global knowledge exchange.

Our special appreciation goes to our Collaborating Institutions, Academic Partners, and Supporting Organisations, whose contributions helped strengthen the impact and reach of this conference.

To our Venue Sponsors, **Oxford Prestige College**, we are deeply grateful for your trust and partnership. Your generous support has enabled us to offer an inclusive, hybrid platform that brings together scholars, industry leaders, policymakers, and students from across the world. Your dedication to ethical and sustainable finance continues to inspire and empower positive change.

A special thanks to the **Journal of Islamic Banking, Economics and Policy (JIBEP)** for their valuable collaboration in offering 60% publication fee discounts for selected research paper presentations, supporting academic engagement and knowledge dissemination.

We extend special thanks to our Media Partners, **AlHuda CIBE** for amplifying our message globally and facilitating academic dissemination through research, digital platforms, and journal networks.

Finally, we acknowledge the efforts of our volunteers, student ambassadors, and technical teams, whose hard work and dedication have contributed significantly to the seamless execution of GEFC 2025.

Together, we are shaping the future of Ethical, Islamic, and Sustainable Finance.



JIBEP
Journal of Islamic
Banking, Economics
and Policy



OXFORD PRESTIGE COLLEGE
Rediscover : Empower : Transform

CONFERENCE AGENDA

9:30am - 10:00am

Registration & Welcome Tea/Coffee

Quran Recitation

10:05am - 10:15am

Opening Keynote: Dr. Faiza Raza, IFR Founder & Conference Chair

10:15am - 10:35am

Prof. Maged Mamdouh Kamel Shebaita – Legal Hurdles in the Implementation of Islamic Finance in the UK

10:35am - 10:55am

Dr. Hasan Alaali – Dynamic Financial Applied Meta-Science (DFAS): AI-Driven Ethical Finance & Policy Intelligence

10:55am – 11:10am

Dr. David Wallace Hare - The Ihsan agile facilitator: A new role for embedding Islamic Ethics in organisational delivery

11:10am – 11:25am

Tea/ Coffee Break

11:25am - 11:40am

Dr. Farah Yasser – Social Finance for Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Akhuwat Model

11:40pm - 11:55pm

Dr. Esraa Alharasis – Transparency in Islamic Finance: Regulatory Challenges & Roadmaps

11:55pm - 12:10pm

Dr. Saba Iqbal – The effects of adopting Sustainable Development Goals on the Financial Performance of Islamic and Conventional banks

12:10pm - 12:30pm

Mustafa Alnaeebi – Innovation in Financial Technology within the Islamic Financial Industry: An Analytical Study of the Current Situation and Future Prospects (From a Sharia perspective)

12:30am - 1:45pm

Lunch/Jummah & Extended Networking

CONFERENCE AGENDA

1:45pm - 2:00pm

Mufti Amjad Mohammed – Driving Change: How Islamic Auto Finance accelerates the UN Sustainable development Goals

2:00pm - 2:15pm

Fitri Lenniwati – Impact of Sukuk Issuance on Firm Performance & Capital Structure (2015–2024)

2:15pm - 2:30pm

Prof. Hossein Mombeini – ED DAO University – Ethical & Inclusive Financial Education

2:30pm - 2:45pm

Dr. Shaibu Attaullah – Ghana's emerging non-interest finance landscape: Progress, Challenges and Policy Direction

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Tea/ Coffee Break

3:00pm - 3:20pm

Miss Brooke Thompson – Zakat Legal Uncertainty & Barriers to Financial Inclusion

3:20pm - 3:35pm

Dr. Akhmad Affandi Mehfudz - Waqf Sukuk as Islamic Finance Tool to achieve Sustainable development Goals

3:35pm - 3:55pm

Dr. Christian Chaliid Hainsch – Islamic Leadership & Business Ethics

3:55pm - 4:05pm

Closing Reflections & Vote of Thanks

IFR / GEFC Organising Committee

4:05pm - 4:30pm

Certificate Distribution, Group Photography & Networking



SPEAKER PROFILES

Prof. Maged Mamdouh Kamel Shebaita

Prof. Maged Shebaita is a highly distinguished legal scholar and Chief Justice at the Egyptian Administrative Court of Appeal, with more than two decades of judicial and arbitration experience. He currently serves as a Research Associate at SOAS University of London and is affiliated with the Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law. His extensive career spans roles as Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Managing Director of Transnational Law Academy LLP (London), and Senior Legal Consultant at GSC Law Firm (London). Holding three PhDs in Comparative Law, Comparative Islamic Law, and Comparative Constitutional Law, along with an LLM in International Dispute Resolution from UCL, Prof. Shebaita's scholarship bridges Shari'a, international law, and global legal reform. He is also a respected Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Islamic Banking, Economics and Policy (JIBEP).

Presentation Title: The Legal Hurdles in the Implementation of Islamic Finance in the UK

The regulatory and legal challenges facing the growth and implementation of Islamic finance in the United Kingdom, one of the most advanced Western jurisdictions engaged in ethical and Sharia-compliant financial development. The speaker will explore the gaps within existing UK financial legislation, taxation frameworks, dispute resolution mechanisms, and Sharia governance structures that affect the full-scale integration of Islamic banking, Sukuk issuance, and Takaful operations.



SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Hasan Alaali

Dr. Hasan Alaali is the Founder of Dynamic Financial Applied Science (DFAS), a pioneering doctrine integrating AI, ethics, and financial governance into a unified applied science. A Chartered Accountant and Fellow Member of AIA, ICPAP, and IPA. Alaali has authored numerous financial models under the Alaali Financial Models Meta-Framework (AFMF), redefining valuation, risk, and policy intelligence. His research focuses on dynamic simulations, ESG integration, and AI-driven financial resilience. Through DFAS, Alaali advances a new era of ethical and intelligent finance aimed at reshaping institutional policy, sustainable governance, and global economic systems.

Presentation Title: Dynamic Financial Applied Science (DFAS): AI-Driven Ethical Finance and Policy Intelligence

Abstract: Dynamic Financial Applied Science (DFAS) represents a new scientific doctrine that redefines how ethics, intelligence, and finance interact in the age of artificial intelligence. Moving beyond traditional economic models, DFAS establishes a dynamic and adaptive architecture that links AI-driven simulations with ethical governance and policy-based financial systems. This presentation introduces DFAS as a multidisciplinary applied science designed to forecast, regulate, and sustain financial behavior under conditions of uncertainty, volatility, and systemic risk.

Through the integration of algorithmic learning, moral intelligence, and policy feedback loops, DFAS enables institutions and central banks to transition from static decision-making to real-time, evidence-based governance. The model demonstrates how ethical prosperity can be achieved through AI-enhanced transparency, behavioral accountability, and institutional resilience. By bridging theoretical finance, digital ethics, and regulatory innovation, DFAS provides a foundation for the next generation of sustainable financial intelligence and responsible economic governance.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. David Wallace-Hare

Dr David Wallace-Hare is the Director of IFOMN CIC (Islamic Finance Options for Muslim Non-profits (<https://ifomn.org>)), a UK non-profit working to strengthen Islamic financial infrastructure for third sector organisations in riba-based economies. He holds a PhD in Classics from the University of Toronto, an MSc in Charity Marketing and Fundraising from Bayes Business School, City St. George's, University of London and a Professional Certificate in Islamic Finance (Shariah) from INCEIF. His research is focused on addressing the de-banking crisis of Muslim non-profits in the UK and other riba-based economies through Islamic finance products and services.



Presentation Title: The Ihsan Agile Facilitator: A New Role for Embedding Islamic Ethics in Organizational Delivery

Abstract: Ihsan Agile is a framework that overlays Islamic ethical principles, drawn from the Qur'an and Sunnah, onto established Agile methodologies (Scrum, Kanban, SAFe), transforming everyday organisational work into a form of ibadah (worship) through embedded niyyah (intention), ihsan (excellence with God-consciousness), and shūrā (consultation). Its novelty lies not in replacing existing management frameworks but in providing practical mechanisms that operationalise Islamic values within the daily rhythms of teams, addressing a critical gap between high-level ethical commitments and ground-level practice in Muslim organisations and Islamic financial institutions. Drawing from the concept of ihsan, "to worship Allah as though you see Him," the IAF reconceptualises ethical compliance not as periodic audit but as continuous presence. The facilitator anchors planning sessions in niyyah check-ins that clarify higher purpose beyond output metrics, transforms retrospectives into muhāsabah (ethical self-reflection) sessions, ensures Definition of Done includes justice and stewardship criteria, and conducts Stakeholder Barakah Reviews that assess outcomes for uplift, fairness, and unintended harms. The paper examines the IAF's responsibilities across organisational scales, from team-level facilitation of sustainable pace (mizān) and waste reduction as acts of amānah and khalifah (stewardship), to programme-level support of consultative decision-making (shūrā), to portfolio-level alignment of strategic initiatives with maslahah (public good) and the maqāṣid al-sharī'ah. Case examples demonstrate how IAFs help Islamic financial institutions move beyond values statements to operationalized ethics, creating visible decision logs, ethical completion checklists, and purpose-aligned metrics that serve falah (true prosperity) rather than velocity alone. This work proposes a certification pathway (Certified Ihsan Agile Facilitator) and argues that such specialised roles are essential for Islamic organisations seeking authentic integration of faith-based values into contemporary management practice—treating teams not merely as resources but as amīnūn (trustworthy custodians) and khulafā' al-ard (vicegerents of the earth).

Keywords: Ihsan Agile Facilitator, Islamic organizational ethics, ethical facilitation, values-based leadership, Islamic finance governance, operational Shariah compliance, maqāṣid al-sharī'ah, continuous ethical reflection



SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Esraa Alharasis

Dr. Esraa Alharasis is an Assistant Professor at Mutah University, Jordan, specialising in International Accounting Standards, with over four years of teaching experience and more than nine years of research experience. She earned her PhD in International Accounting Standards from Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia, in 2021.

She is a multiple award-winning scholar, having received the Best Talk and Research Article Award at the VU HDR Conference 2020 (Melbourne, Australia), as well as Best Paper Awards at both the 6th International Conference on Accounting, Business and Economics and the 10th International Management & Accounting Conference.

Dr. Alharasis has published widely in highly ranked journals, including Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal, Asian Review of Accounting, Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting, Journal of Family Business Management, Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management, International Journal of Law and Management, and Journal of Organizational Change Management.

Her research interests span IFRS, IAS, ISA, Fair Value Accounting, Blockchain in Accounting and Auditing, ESG, Digital Innovation, AIS, and FinTech.

Presentation Title: Digital Transformation and Ethical Finance: Creating Sustainable and Ethical Financial Systems

The rapid digitalization is transforming the financial world. As much as new technologies build upon efficiency and accessibility, they also raise complicated issues of ethics on matters concern fairness, privacy and accountability. The ethical finance and Islamic finance have a common ground of religious beliefs in issues of social welfare and justice, something that can be enhanced by responsible technology utilization. But, unless the digital transformation is supported by a strong ethical consideration, it might not challenge inequalities and strengthen trust. This proposal covers the way of how the institutions can use the tools of technology to promote the socially responsible finance particularly in the emerging markets. It further focuses on the potential to have digital ethics to follow financial innovation to meet the goal of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Farah Yasser

Dr. Farah Yasser is a passionate educator with over twenty years of experience in accounting, finance, and Islamic finance. Known for her approachable yet intellectually engaging teaching style, she has designed and taught courses across diverse programs, including BBA, BS Accounting & Finance, MBA, M.Com, ACCA, ICMA, and PhD.

A Fellow of ICMAP and a PhD in Islamic Banking & Finance, Dr. Farah bridges academic rigor with real-world perspective, creating meaningful learning experiences that inspire curiosity and critical thinking.

Her passion extends beyond teaching—she actively mentors students and emerging finance professionals, helping them navigate both conventional and ethical dimensions of finance with confidence and purpose. For her, education is a lifelong dialogue that fuels growth, reflection, and impact.

Presentation Title: Social Finance for Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Akhuwat Model

This presentation examines the Akhuwat Model as a pioneering example of Islamic social finance, based on the principles of brotherhood (Muwakhat), equity, and compassion. It explores how Akhuwat's interest-free microfinance system promotes financial inclusion, poverty alleviation, and community empowerment through trust-based lending and mosque-based distribution networks.

The speaker highlights how the Akhuwat approach directly supports several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. The session demonstrates how Islamic social finance can be scaled and replicated globally to create inclusive, ethical, and sustainable development models.



SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Saba Iqbal

Lecturer, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Pakistan

Dr. Saba Iqbal is a Lecturer at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Lahore, and a PhD in Banking and Finance at the University of Management and Technology (UMT), Pakistan. With over six years of academic and research experience, her work focuses on Islamic banking, financial performance, and sustainability integration. She has actively contributed to the fields of Islamic finance and banking education, with a particular interest in the impact of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on financial institutions. Her academic journey combines teaching, research, and industry-focused scholarship.

Presentation Title: The effect of adopting Sustainable Development Goals on the financial performance of Islamic and conventional banks

Abstract: Purpose – This paper aims to comprehensively compare how Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) adoption affects Islamic and conventional banks' financial performance. Design/methodology/approach – The study uses an ESE index to measure the SDGs. The ordinary least square regression and two-step system GMM techniques are used extensively to analyze the panel data, which is analyzed using Stata software. The annual reports of Islamic and conventional banks are used to collect data. Findings – The findings reveal that SDGs adoption is positively and significantly related to the financial performance of Islamic banks while negatively to conventional banks. This distinction results from Islamic finance's innate moral and social tenets that are compatible with sustainability objectives. The findings significantly add to our understanding of the financial dynamics of Islamic and conventional banking and the conversation about the financial institutions' role in promoting sustainable development. These findings have ramifications that provide stakeholders, financial institutions and legislators with a foundation upon which to think when incorporating sustainable practices into banking processes. Originality/value – This research first measures and then compares the impact of SDGs on the returns of Islamic and conventional banks. The ESE index is generated to capture the variations of the sustainability performance of Islamic and conventional banks.

Keywords: Sustainable development goals, Financial performance, Islamic banks, Conventional banks, ESE index

SPEAKER PROFILES



Mustafa bin Nasser Al-Naabi

Mustafa bin Nasser Al-Naabi is a researcher and practitioner in Islamic finance and banking. He currently serves as the Deputy Manager of Sharia Training at Bank Nizwa, the first Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman. He has authored several research papers and articles in the field of Islamic finance and is currently pursuing his PhD at the University of Malaya in Malaysia. His work bridges academic research and practical application, with a focus on innovation in financial technology and promoting development based on Islamic values and principles.

Presentation Title: Social Finance for Sustainable Development: Lessons from the Akhuwat Model

The transformative role of financial technology (FinTech) within the Islamic financial industry, analysing how digital innovation is reshaping Sharia-compliant banking, investment, and ethical financial services. It examines the current landscape of Islamic FinTech highlighting tools such as blockchain-based smart contracts, digital Sukuk platforms, AI-driven Sharia compliance screening, crowdfunding, robo-advisory (Robo-Murabaha), and digital Waqf management systems.

From a Shariah perspective, the session critically evaluates the compatibility of these innovations with Islamic legal principles such as prohibition of riba (interest), gharar (excessive uncertainty), and maysir (speculation), while emphasising the importance of social justice, transparency, and financial inclusion. It further explores regulatory challenges, future prospects, and the potential for Islamic FinTech to contribute effectively to global ethical finance, ESG, and SDGs-driven development.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Mufti Amjad M Mohammed

Chief Shariah Officer | Principal Jurisconsult, Markaz al-Iftā' wa'l-Qaḍā'

Mufti Amjad Mohammed is a distinguished Islamic scholar and jurist, widely respected for his expertise in Shariah law, Islamic finance, and governance. He serves as Chief Shariah Officer for several financial institutions and as Principal Jurisconsult at Markaz al-Iftā' wa'l-Qaḍā', where he provides legal opinions on ethics, finance, and social matters. He also chairs Wifaqul Ulama, guiding Muslim minority communities in the UK.

Uniquely bridging traditional scholarship and modern innovation, he has contributed to global industries with patented research in chemistry, demonstrating impactful leadership in both Islamic jurisprudence and applied sciences.

Presentation Title: Driving Change: How Islamic Auto Finance Accelerates the UN Sustainable Development Goals

This presentation explores how Islamic auto finance, when structured according to Shariah principles, can play a significant role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By promoting ethical lending, financial inclusion, and responsible consumption, Islamic auto finance supports sustainable mobility, empowers individuals and small businesses, and stimulates local economic growth without compromising social justice.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Fitri Lenniwati

Graduate Researcher, National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST), Taiwan

Fitri Lenniwati is an MBA researcher at NKUST, Taiwan, specializing in Islamic finance with a focus on Sukuk development and sustainability in emerging economies. Prior to her studies, she worked with a non-governmental organization in Indonesia supporting women and children, which shaped her interest in ethical, inclusive, and socially responsible financial systems. Her research aims to advance Sharia-compliant financial practices that contribute to community empowerment and sustainable economic growth in Muslim-majority regions.

Presentation Title: Impact of Sukuk Issuance on Firm Performance & Capital Structure (2015-2024)

Abstract: This study examines whether Sukuk issuance contributes to financial sustainability among Indonesian corporations. As a Sharia-compliant financing instrument grounded in ethical and asset-backed principles, Sukuk is expected to strengthen firms' long-term financial stability rather than merely enhance short-term profitability. Using a panel dataset of 58 firms that issued Sukuk between 2015 and 2024, this study employs the Feasible Generalized Least Squares (FGLS) estimator to analyze the effects of Sukuk issuance frequency and Sukuk amount on firm performance and capital structure. The empirical results reveal that both Sukuk issuance frequency and Sukuk amount exert insignificant or negative effects on profitability indicators—Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE)—but significantly reduce leverage (Debt-to-Equity Ratio) and increase equity ratios, indicating improved financial resilience. Furthermore, the moderating effects of Sukuk rating, firm type, and Sukuk structure reinforce the stabilizing function of Sukuk in corporate finance. The findings suggested that Sukuk encourages sustainable financial systems by increasing firms' capital, enhancing transparency, and building ethical credibility, in accordance with the primary goals of sustainable finance that prioritize sustainability and responsible investment over short-term profit maximization. This study combines Islamic finance with corporate sustainability frameworks, providing practical insights for policymakers, regulators, and investors aiming to promote stable and equitable growth in emerging nations.

Keywords: Sukuk issuance; financial sustainability; Islamic finance; capital structure; Company resilience.





SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Shaibu Ali

Dr. Shaibu Ali is a seasoned banking and finance professional with extensive expertise in Corporate Finance, Corporate Governance, Non-Interest (Islamic) Banking, and Financial Management. He currently serves as the Director General of the Islamic Finance Research Institute of Ghana (IFRIG), the leading Islamic finance institution in Ghana and the institution that has been championing the introduction and promotion of Islamic finance in the country over the past decade. Under his leadership, IFRIG has become a recognized force in advancing Islamic finance, ethical banking, and financial inclusion across Africa. With over a decade of professional and academic experience, Dr. Ali has played a pioneering role in promoting financial inclusion and developing non-interest banking frameworks within Ghana and the broader sub-Saharan region. His leadership has been instrumental in the formulation of regulatory frameworks, training programs, and policy initiatives supporting sustainable finance and ethical investment. Dr. Ali holds a PhD in Management Science and Engineering (Finance & Economics) from Jiangsu University, China, an MBA in Finance from the University of Education, Winneba, and a BBA in Banking and Finance from the Islamic University College, Ghana. He is also a Chartered Islamic Finance Professional (CIFP) and a Certified Islamic Banking and Finance Professional (CIBFP), with additional certifications in Shari'ah governance and corporate ethics.

Presentation Title: Ghana's Emerging Non-Interest Finance Landscape: Progress, Challenges, and Policy Direction.

This presentation offers an in-depth exploration of Ghana's growing non-interest finance sector, highlighting its progress, current challenges, and strategic policy directions. It examines how Islamic finance through instruments such as Murabaha, Sukuk, and Takaful can contribute to financial inclusion, entrepreneurship development, and socio-economic resilience in Ghana, particularly among underserved communities.

SPEAKER PROFILES



Dr. Brooke Thompson

Dr. Brooke Thompson is an External Research Fellow at the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law at the University of Queensland, Australia, and a Senior Associate at Jasper Fogerty Lawyers. She holds a PhD from the University of Queensland, where her dissertation examined Islamic inheritance law in Australia's secular legal framework. Dr. Thompson is a qualified solicitor admitted to the Supreme Court of Queensland and High Court of Australia.

Her research focuses on legal pluralism, comparative law, and women and law in plural regimes. She has published in peer-reviewed journals including the University of New South Wales Law Journal and University of Queensland Law Journal, with expertise in Islamic succession law and its intersection with Australian legal systems. Dr. Thompson has presented her research at international conferences, acted as an expert witness in Australian family law disputes, and has been recognised in Doyle's Guide. Her work aims to bridge academic scholarship with practical legal experience.

Presentation Title: Zakat and Muslim Financial Inclusion in Australia

Abstract: Financial inclusion requires that individuals be able to access appropriate financial services aligned with their values and circumstances. For Muslim communities in non-Muslim majority countries, religious obligations can create barriers to formal financial system participation. The case of *Re Estate of Ahmed Abou-Khalid* [2024] NSWSC 253 represents the first comprehensive judicial analysis in Australia of Muslims' zakat obligations and their enforceability in testamentary instruments. While the case considered zakat in a testamentary context, the decision illuminates broader challenges Muslims face in fulfilling their zakat obligations within Australia's secular legal and financial frameworks. This paper examines how theological-legal tensions, along with other interconnected practical challenges, including institutional fragmentation, calculation uncertainties and community diversity, manifest as concrete barriers to Muslim financial inclusion. Rather than systemic legal reform, the paper argues that enhanced financial inclusion emerges from capacity-building across three stakeholder groups: individual Muslims through targeted education; legal and financial professionals through cultural competency training; and zakat institutions through enhanced transparency and coordination.

Keywords: Islamic finance, zakat, financial inclusion, legal uncertainty, Australia, comparative law



SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Akhmad Affandi Mahfudz

Dr. Akhmad Affandi Mahfudz is a dynamic and experienced Shariah compliance expert with over 10 years of experience in Islamic financial industry local and abroad. Subject Matter expert for the government regulation on Shariah compliance products (bank and non-bank). Teaching Fiqh Muamalat Maliyah and Islamic bank subjects for postgraduate students since 2019. Appointed as Visiting Professor in Islamic finance at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University Kazakhstan since 2021. Expertise includes Shariah research with proven track record of publication in reputable journals. Eager to leverage unique skills and insights to contribute effectively to Shariah compliance sector, driving operational excellence and strategic growth. Fluent in English and Arabic with some professional certificates in Islamic finance.

Presentation Title: Waqf Sukuk as Islamic Finance Tool to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

The innovative integration of Waqf (endowment) and Sukuk (Islamic bond) structures as a powerful financial instrument to promote sustainable socio-economic development. By combining the perpetual charitable nature of Waqf with the capital-raising capabilities of Sukuk, this model offers a Shariah-compliant mechanism to fund projects aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as poverty alleviation, quality education, healthcare access, clean water, and sustainable infrastructure. The session highlights real-world applications, governance frameworks, and policy considerations, demonstrating how Waqf Sukuk can serve as a scalable, ethical, and inclusive finance tool for social impact and sustainable economic growth.



SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Christian Chalid Hainsch

Dr. Christian Chalid Hainsch is an advisor, lecturer, and researcher specializing in ethics, leadership, sustainability, and Islamic finance. He earned his Ph.D. in Islamic Sciences from the University Novi Pazar – Faculty of Islamic Studies and a Master's degree in Economics. He currently serves as Ethics Advisor at Dr. Hainsch Ethics Advisory and Shariah Advisor at Noor Shariah Solutions in Dubai, where he develops governance frameworks, conducts Shariah audits, and trains executives on ethical and compliant leadership. He is lecture for Fiqhul-mu'aamalaat and contemporary Islamic studies at the Islamologic Institute Vienna and the Faculty of Islamic Studies Novi Pazar. He also lectures on leadership, governance, and Islamic finance at the Hayford Integrated Training Institute and has taught management and cross-cultural studies at various institutions in Europe and Asia.

With over 15 years of experience as Managing Director of HorizonP Coaching & Training in Munich, Dr. Hainsch combines academic insight with global consulting practice. His research includes the development of the "Muslim&Beyond" learning platform, promoting sustainable and ethical lifestyles in the ASEAN region. Proficient in German, English, Arabic, and Indonesian, he works across cultures to advance ethical and sustainable leadership.

Presentation Title: Islamic Leadership & Business Ethics

The Ethical Framework and Guidelines for Muslim Leaders and Entrepreneurs. The ethical system of Islam is all-encompassing and applies to every area of life. For Muslims, it is important to know which ethical and moral standards apply in these areas. In the world of work and business in particular, this is unfortunately often forgotten, and we base our actions on false values.

THANK YOU & CLOSING NOTE

Thank you for being part of the Global Ethical Finance Conference 2025. Your participation, insights, and contributions have helped build a meaningful platform for advancing Islamic, ethical, and sustainable finance.

We look forward to welcoming you again at
GEFC 2026 – Where Knowledge Meets Impact
London | Hybrid
November 2026

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