IFESDC 2026

International Islamic Economics and Finance Conference for Sustainable Development

Theme: "Forging Shared Prosperity: Advancing Digital Islamic Economics and Finance through Inclusive Services and Ethical Practices"

Venue And Date | The World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC
Wednesday-Thursday, July, 15-16 2026

Term of Reference

International Islamic Economics and Finance Conference for Sustainable Development (IFESDC) 2026

Theme: ***"Forging Shared Prosperity: Advancing Digital Islamic Economics and Finance through Inclusive Services and Ethical Practices"***

Date	:	July 15-16, 2026
Venue	:	The World Bank Headquarters, Washington DC
Co-organized by	:	IMAAM, Maryland, USA, Tazkia University & Sakinah Finance, the Office of Executive Director for the Southeast Asia Voting Group (EDS16), The World Bank Group

Event Overview

International Islamic Economics and Finance Conference for Sustainable Development (IFESDC) 2026 is a pioneering initiative that marks among the first gatherings of its kind dedicated to the topics on Islamic economics and finance among various stakeholders in Washington, D.C., USA. This conference will serve as a strategic platform for fostering collaboration, dialogue, and knowledge exchange among academic leaders, researchers, regulators, and practitioners from Indonesia, the USA and the rest of the world including World Bank EDS16 countries (Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, and Vietnam). By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the conference aims to address shared challenges, promote innovative solutions, and explore strategic opportunities to enhance the management, development, and impact of Islamic economics and finance.

The core focus areas of the conference include regulatory and policy discussion, advancing research, enhancing business practices, and promoting community engagement initiatives in the fields of Islamic economics and finance. Through a series of high-level discussions, keynote presentations, and expert panel sessions, participants will engage in in-depth exploration of best practices, policy frameworks, and case studies to inform future strategies and collaborations.

This landmark event will serve as a catalyst for building strategic alliances and institutional partnerships aimed at leveraging the collective expertise from the universities and industries to address the pressing Islamic economic and finance challenges. Participants will include university rectors, deans, researchers, policymakers, and thought industry leaders, ensuring a comprehensive and impactful dialogue.

1. Objectives

A. **Regulatory and Policy Discussion:** Discuss the principles of Islamic economics and finance and their implementation in the current innovative regulations which determine its development and impacts.

B. **Highlight Innovations:** Showcase cutting-edge research and programmatic innovations in Islamic economics and finance from leading universities in the USA, Indonesia, and the rest of OIC member countries;

C. **Share Best Practices:** Discuss industrial and academic best practices in Islamic economics and finance research, innovations, and implementation;
D. **Identify Areas for Collaboration:** Determine common focus areas for collaborative initiatives and the potential for mutual recognition of academic programs in Islamic economics and finance including halal industry.

2. Conference Subthemes

The conference invites submissions on the following key topics:

A. Streaming Digital Transformation in Islamic Finance. Exploring the impact of digital technologies on Islamic financial products and services, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovations that promote accessibility and efficiency.
B. Building Trust and Security in Financial Transactions. Discussing the importance of trust, regulatory frameworks, and cybersecurity measures in bolstering the integrity of digital Islamic finance.
C. Promoting Inclusive Economic Growth. Addressing challenges and opportunities in creating equitable access to financial services for underserved populations, particularly women, youth, and people with disabilities.
D. Integrating Sustainable Practices in Islamic Finance. Examining how Islamic economics and finance can contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eco-friendly business models within the Islamic digital economy.
E. Collaboration Between Stakeholders. Encouraging strategic partnerships among stakeholders, including governments, financial and non-financial institutions, academia, and civil society, to share best practices and foster innovation in Islamic economics and finance.
F. Setting Regulatory and Policy Frameworks. Analyzing the role of regulation and policy in promoting a secure and inclusive digital Islamic finance within the Islamic economics ecosystem and ethics.
G. **Developing Innovative Sharia-Compliant Products and Services**. Identifying emerging trends and technologies that will shape the future of Islamic finance and economics with a focus on adaptability and resilience in a rapidly changing economic landscape.

3. Sessions Overview

The event will be held for two days with two main sessions: (1) Panel Sessions comprising CEOs, regulators, and academia, (2) research paper presentations.

CEOs' Talk and Regulators' Talk

This session will bring together industry practitioners and policymakers to discuss best practices in Islamic economics and finance. The focus will be on 1. Exploring the impact of digital technologies on Islamic financial products and services, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovations that promote accessibility and efficiency; 2. Discussing the importance of trust, regulatory frameworks, and cybersecurity measures in bolstering the integrity of digital Islamic finance; 3. Analyzing the role of regulation and policy in promoting a secure and inclusive digital Islamic finance within the Islamic economics ecosystem.

Academics/Rectors' Talk

This session will be a strategic view presentation and dialogue among participating academia to identify common focus areas for Islamic economics and finance. The focus will be: 1. Addressing challenges and opportunities in creating equitable access to financial services for underserved populations, particularly women, youth, and people with disabilities; 2. Encouraging partnerships among stakeholders, including governments, financial institutions, academia, and civil society, to share best practices and foster innovation in Islamic finance.

Research Paper Presentation

Objective

This session will give representatives from academia and business practitioners the opportunity to present their latest innovations, research, and programmatic developments in Islamic finance and economics. The focus will be: 1. Examining how Islamic finance and economics can contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eco-friendly business models within the Islamic digital economy; 2. Identifying emerging trends and technologies that will shape the future of Islamic finance and economics such as halal industry sectors with a focus on adaptability and resilience in a rapidly changing economic landscape.

- **Key Themes:**
  - Innovative academic and research in Islamic finance and economics
  - Opportunities for curriculum development and joint research initiatives
  - University-community engagement in Islamic economics and finance
  - Digital transformation and technology adoption in Islamic economics and finance development.
- **Expected Outcome:**

  Identification of potential areas for joint research and capacity-building initiatives.

4. Target Audience (200+ local and international participants)

- Governments, policy makers and regulators in halal/ethical industry sectors
- Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and other development agencies
- Industry practitioners in Islamic economics and finance
- Representatives from universities
- Academic researchers in Islamic economics and finance

5. Format and Methodology

- Each session will include a combination of keynote presentations, panel discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions.
- Research paper presentation sessions will present and discuss papers with their latest innovations, research, and programmatic developments in Islamic economics and finance.
- Moderated by experts in Islamic economics and finance, the sessions will focus on actionable insights and practical strategies for collaboration.

6. Follow-Up and Expected Deliverables

- **Session Reports:** Each session will have a dedicated report summarizing key points, discussions, and recommendations.

- **Resolution Draft:** The final session will include a draft of a resolution for programmatic collaboration and mutual recognition among the participating universities.

7. Organizing Committee

List of IFESDC 2026 Organizing Committee

Steering Committee:

- Mr. Firdaus Kadir, Chairman, Board of Trustees of IMAAM, Maryland, USA
- Dr. Wempi Saputra, Executive Director of The Southeast Asia Voting Group, The World Bank Group, Washington DC, USA
- Prof. Dr. Murniati Mukhlisin, Founder of Sakinah Finance/Former Rector of Tazkia University, Bogor, Indonesia

Conference Chairperson: Mr. Arif Mustofa, President of IMAAM, Maryland, USA

Deputy: Dr. Priyo Pujiwasono, Board of Trustees Member, IMAAM, Maryland, USA

Secretary: Dr. Haryadi, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the Southeast Asia Voting Group, The World Bank Group, Washington DC, USA

Treasurer: Mr. Firdaus Kadir, Chairman, Board of Trustees of IMAAM, Maryland, USA

Head of Secretariat: Dr. Fitri Hastuti, IMAAM, Maryland, USA

IT Support:

H. Mr. Oscar Zaky, IMAAM, Maryland, USA

Fundrising Committee

- Mrs. Nina Marliani, Sakinah Finance, Bogor, Indonesia

Scientific Committee

- Dr. Grandis Imama Hendra, M.Sc. Acc (SAS), Tazkia University, Bogor, Indonesia

Registration

USA:

- Mrs. Mira Ariefiani, IMAAM, Maryland, USA
- Dr. Fitri Hastuti, IMAAM, Maryland, USA

Indonesia:

- Dr. Grandis Imama Hendra, MSc. Acc (SAS)
- Mrs. Nina Marliani, Sakinah Finance, Bogor, Indonesia

Administration:

- Mrs. Lathifa Hapsari, Sakinah Finance, Bogor, Indonesia
- Mr. Muhammad Alif Ramadhan, Sakinah Finance, Bogor, Indonesia

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IFESDC 2026 Conference Tentative Schedule
July 15-16, 2026
The World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C., USA
"Forging Shared Prosperity: Advancing Digital Islamic Economics and Finance through Inclusive Services and Ethical Practices"

Time	Program	Details
Day One – Wednesday, July 15, 2026		
Theme: Exploring Innovations and Opportunities in Islamic Finance		
9.30–10:00 AM	Registration	
10:00–10.05 AM	Opening	
10.05–10.10 AM (5')	**Opening Remarks** IFESDC Co-Organizer/President, IMAAM **Firdaus Kadir**	
10.10-10.15 AM (5')	**Opening Remarks** IFESDC Co-Organizer/Alternate Executive Director-EDS16 **Nakhafi Hassan**	
10.15-10.25 AM (10')	**Welcoming Remarks** Practice Manager for the Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice in Europe and Central Asia - World Bank **Ilias Skamnelos**	
10.25-10.35 AM (10')	**Opening Remarks** Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the U.S. **H.E. Indroyono Soesilo**	
10.35-11.50 AM (75')	**Panel Session 1. Digital Platforms for Inclusive Service Delivery: Pathways for Islamic Economy and Finance** **Reviewer & Moderator: Murniati Mukhlisin,** (Former Rector, Tazkia University/Founder of Sakinah Finance) 1. *Recent Global and Regional Economic Development: Driver of Growth* (**Franziska Ohnsorge**, Chief Economist for Asia, World Bank) 2. *Leveraging Digital for Financial Inclusion* (**Rafi-uddin Shikoh**, CEO & Managing Partner, DinarStandard) 3. *Islamic House Financing and Financial Inclusion Strategy,* (**Khaled Elsayed**- CEO, Guidance Residential, Guidance Financial Group) 4. *Islamic Financing Projects for Shared Prosperity and Growth* **Arief Subekti,** Executive Vice President - Head of Sharia Business – PT. Sarana Multi Infrastruktur (Persero)	Presentation: 10' for each speaker
12.00-1.30 PM (90')	Lunch break & networking	

1:30 PM –1.50 PM (20’)	**Special Guest Lecture** *Maqashid Sharia* Principles and Implementation in Islamic Economics and Finance: Evaluation and Future Direction **Michael J.T. McMillen, JD, MD.** Professor of Law (Columbia University) and Partner at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP	
1.50 PM – 3.05 PM (75’)	**Panel Session 2. Regulatory and Policy Framework for Building Trust and Security in Digital Financial Transactions** **Reviewer & Moderator: Fitri Hastuti,** Lecturer, Universitas Padjajaran/Scholar of ISEFID Indonesia 1. **Michael J.T. McMillen, JD, MD.** Partner at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP 2. *Trends of Digital in Business and Financial Transactions: Past, Present, and Future (*(**Oya Pinar Ardic Alper**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank) 3. *Harmonizing Different Regulatory Regimes Ensure the Security and Integrity of Business and Financial Transactions in Digital Era* (**Kamal Solaiman,** CEO and Managing Partner of Sinbad Capital) 4. *Striking the Balance Between Trust and Strict Regulation in Digital Financial Transactions (*(**José-Luis Guerrero-Cusumano**, Associate Professor of Operations at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business)	Presentation: 10’ for each speaker
3.05 PM – 3.20 PM (15’)	Coffee break	
3:20 PM – 4:35 PM (75’)	**Panel Session 3. Promoting Shared Prosperity and Inclusive Growth: Moving Forward** **Reviewer & Moderator: Arif Mustofa**, Chairman of IMAAM Board of Trustee 1. *Global Market for Inclusive Growth Opportunity: Halal Food and Agribusiness Industries of Thailand* (**Thaweelap Rittapirom**, Islamic Bank of Thailand). 2. *Future Directions of Islamic Economics and Financial Industry in the Philippines* (**Saleha Pangarungan Sacar**, Director IV of Bureau of Muslim Economic Affairs, National Commission of Muslim Filipinos) 3. *Social Finance Practices for Sharing Prosperity* (**Ahmad Juwaini**, Dompet Dhuafa Indonesia)	Presentation: 10’ for each speaker

5.30 PM - 8.00 PM	Welcoming Dinner (invitation only) Hosted By: Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the U.S. **H.E. Indroyono Soesilo**	At Indonesian Ambassador Residence

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Time	Program	Details
Day Two – Thursday, July 16, 2026 Location: The World Bank Headquarters		
Theme: "Forging Shared Prosperity: Advancing Digital Islamic Economics and Finance through Inclusive Services and Ethical Practices"		
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Arrival and Networking	
9:00 AM - 9:05 AM (5')	Opening	
9.00 AM – 10.30 AM (90')	**Paper Presentations 1 (Innovation & Digital Transformation)** **Reviewer & Moderator: Priyo Pujiwasono,** Member of IMAAM Board of Trustee ● AI-Powered Islamic Investment Tool: A Three-Dimensional Framework **Eyyup Yakup Gedikli** ● Global Sharia Creative Economy Innovation Ecosystem (GSCEIE) Potential Collaboration between Indonesia dan the United States in Promoting GSCIE **Edrida Pulungan** ● Religious Authority as Trust Infrastructure in Digital Islamic Finance **Yijian Lyu** ● Digital Islamic Finance for Inclusive and Sustainable Development: Opportunities, Ethical Challenges, and Policy Frameworks **Iqra**	

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (90’)	**Paper Presentations 2 (Islamic Finance & Sustainability)** **Reviewer & Moderator: Karim D. Crow**, Professor, The Catholic University of America ● The Paradox of Islamic Banking Financing and Carbon Emissions: Empirical Evidence from OIC Member Countries. **Muhammad Bintang Awangsyah** ● Gastrodiplomacy, Halal Products, And Difficulties To Reach Islamic Financial Inclusion: The Case Study Of Artharini, An Indonesian Restaurant In The USA **Trihandoyo Indroyono Soesilo, Nining Sri Astuti Indroyono Soesilo** ● Regulatory Harmonization of Public Financial Management and Sharia Contracts in The Government Accounting System: Case In Indonesia **Muhammad Gunawan Yasni**	
12.00 PM – 01.00 PM (60’)	Lunch break	
1.00 PM - 2.30 PM (90’)	**Paper Presentations 3 (Economic Growth and Law)** **Reviewer & Moderator: Iip Ichsanudin,** Education Attaché, Indonesian Embassy ● The Role of Trust & Governance in Enhancing Economic Growth Through Sovereign Sukuk **Ebi Junaidi, Ahmad Muzakki Aldi Pratama, Nugroho Bhanuaji Susanto** ● From Cooperatives to Corporations: Islamic Finance and Inclusive Economic Growth at the Pesantren Sidogiri **Ninasapti Triaswati, A. Hanief** ● Integrating Sustainable Practices in Islamic Finance: Synergizing Zakat with SDGs and Eco-Friendly Business Models **Sanaullah Ansari**	
2.30 PM - 2.45 PM (15’)	*Coffee Break*	
2.45 PM - 4.00 PM (75’)	**Paper Presentations 4 (Islamic Micro and Family Finance)**	

	Reviewer & Moderator: **Aamir A. Rehman,** Chair, Innate Capital Partners and Associate Professor, Columbia Business School ● Empowering Micro And Small Enterprises (Mses) Through Halal Tourism Development Strategy (Case Study Indonesia And Japan). **Gemala Dewi, Waspada Santing** ● Mawarith Takaful: A Faith-Based Mutual Protection Model for Muslim Communities **Oscar Zaky** ● A Value First Approach to Building Financial Stewardship in Muslim American Women: Evidence from The RAIYA Pilot Program **Eaman Shebley, Nada Wafa** ● Asset-backed Shariah-Compliant Financing for Inclusive SME Growth: Empirical Evidence from a Digital Marketplace **Muhammad Nabeel, Abida Zanib**	
4.00 PM – 4.15 PM (15’)	Announcement of Best Papers **Murniati Mukhlisin,** (Former Rector, Tazkia University/Founder of Sakinah Finance)	
4.15 PM 4.30 PM (15’)	Closing Remarks & Resolutions **Wempi Saputra,** Executive Director of The Southeast Asia Voting Group, The World Bank Group, Washington DC, USA	

Key Dates:

- **Call for Papers:**
  - Abstract Submission Deadline: April 30, 2026
  - Notification of Acceptance: May 15, 2026
  - Full Paper Submission Deadline: July 5, 2026
- **Conference**
  For Local Participants not presenting (USA, Canada):
  - Registration open until June 30, 2026

  For International Participants not presenting:
  - Registration open until Jule 10, 2026