

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that we present this **Special Issue of the Journal of Islamic Economics and Finance Research (IJIEFER)** on the theme “**Maqasid al-Shariah, Sustainability, and Regulatory Perspectives in Islamic Finance.**” This issue brings together five scholarly papers that collectively demonstrate how the objectives of Shariah can guide the development of sustainable, inclusive, and well-regulated financial systems.

The first paper by **Hendra Syahputra and Syafruddin Kamal** examines the drivers of employee performance in Islamic banks in Aceh, highlighting the significance of organizational culture, motivation, and discipline rooted in Shariah values. Their findings show that internalizing Islamic principles in work ethics and motivation systems can meaningfully enhance institutional efficiency and sustainability.

In the second paper, **Lailatis Syarifah, Romzie Rosman, Atiqi Chollisni Nasution, and Syarah Syahira Mohd Yusoff** conduct a bibliometric investigation into research trends on *Maqasid al-Shariah* and Islamic rural banks. Their analysis reveals an increasing shift from conceptual discourse to practical applications, emphasizing the role of Maqasid in driving financial inclusion, governance, and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The third contribution by **Fahd Al-Shaghdari, Tijjani Muhammad, and Osamah Hashem** focuses on the acceptance of Islamic credit cards in Malaysia, establishing Shariah compliance as a pivotal mediating factor in customer behaviour. The results underscore that beyond product features, perceptions of Shariah adherence play a decisive role in building trust and encouraging adoption of Islamic financial instruments.

Good governance in waqf institutions is the subject of the fourth paper by **Rusni Hassan and Fatimah Mohamad Noor**, which offers an empirical assessment of corporate waqf practices in Malaysia through the case of Waqf An-Nur Corporation. The study highlights governance mechanisms such as board composition, monitoring, transparency, and reporting, offering important lessons for strengthening waqf as a tool for sustainable socio-economic development.

The final paper by **Asep Saepul Hamdi and Noor Aimi Mohamad Puad** examines consumer protection in Indonesia’s fast-growing e-commerce sector. Framed within the objectives of Maqasid al-Shariah, the study identifies regulatory gaps in addressing fraud, data misuse, and cross-border disputes, and calls for reforms that embed justice, trust, and wealth preservation into digital marketplace regulations.

Together, these papers reflect the breadth and depth of contemporary scholarship on Islamic finance. They reaffirm the centrality of *Maqasid al-Shariah* in addressing emerging challenges while providing valuable insights for regulators, policymakers, and practitioners committed to advancing a sustainable and ethical financial ecosystem.

Guest Editors

Prof. Datin Dr. Rusni Hassan

Prof. Dr. Hafas Furqani

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Magda Ismail Abdel Mohsin

Prof. Dr. Romzie Rosman

Dr. Noor Aimi Mohd Puad