



The Chancellory



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USIM'S AIMS TO PRODUCE MUSLIMPRENEURS

Poverty and backwardness that are observed in many Muslim countries is not because the countries are poor in resources. The main cause is the lack of efficient resource and enterprise management. In overcoming the problems, entrepreneurship could become the catalyst for economic growth by providing more employment opportunities and enhancing output expansion.

Therefore many countries have emphasized on entrepreneurship development. Master plans with clear visions and directions have been formulated to forge economic growth. Malaysia is also planning its development corridors which will take place in three regions namely the NCER, ECER and IDR. Entrepreneurship opportunities in targeted industries abound. For example the newly launched ECER by the the Prime Minister promotes tourism, agropolis, manufacturing, oil, gas and petrochemical and education.

Entrepreneurship is a noble carrier. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w in a Hadith said that nine out of ten sources of 'rezeki' are derived from business activities (translation). The Faculty of Economics and Muamalat under Prof Dr. Hajah Mustafa has formulated a practical approach in preparing students for the business environment by equipping them with entrepreneurship skills. Students are encouraged to set up practical business activities. They need to prepare a business plan, implement it in order to get some insights on how to set up and run a business. The entrepreneurship lecturers, instead of giving orthodox lectures, act as business consultants to assist and facilitate the students' business growth.

In addition, economics students organize an annual event called **Convention of Islamic Entrepreneurship (ICEPS)** (<http://www.usim.edu.my/iceps2008>)

as a platform for students to gain experience on event management. A seminar on **Islamic Entrepreneurship** is one of the activities organized during this convention. This seminar is a platform for interaction, sharing of insights, ideas and experiences. It also opens business opportunities among Muslim entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs and academician are invited to present their working papers at this convention scheduled from the 16th to 17th of February 2008.

USIM's Entrepreneurship Secretariat (under Student Affairs) has been established with the aims to promote the entrepreneurship culture among students and to provide entrepreneurship training in collaboration with Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Cooperative Development (MeCD). The Secretariat is coordinated by Mr. Mohd Zohdi Mohd Amin. It has 15 trainers (lecturers) with varied backgrounds and 11 student helpers. The Secretariat conducts two entrepreneurship modules viz. Basic Entrepreneurship Course (*Kursus Asas Kusahawanan* (KAKS)) and Student Entrepreneurship Training (*Latihan Keusahawanan Siswa* (LKS)). Prof Dr. Mohamed Asin Dollah, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) commented that the training modules are expected to produce more successful Muslimpreneurs. Prof Dr. Muhamad Muda, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Internationalisation) echoed a similar assessment. He said, "USIM on the other hand, specialized in producing quality Muslimpreneurs".

USIM continues to keep track of our graduates to assess the effectiveness of our training programmes. In particular the Alumni Unit of Student Affairs keeps in touch with graduates who have ventured into business. For example 7 graduates have become successful entrepreneurs. They have ventured into telecommunication, nursery, book distribution, stationery, advertising and bakery businesses. The following are some highlights.

Fadhilah Mat Aris, a USIM alumni, ventured into stationery business with a capital of RM25,000 in January 2008. She has managed to get a return of RM30,000.00 in the 11 months of business. "USIM entrepreneurship activities are meaningful and beneficial for me especially on how to handle my business cash flows. It really helps me a lot", says Fadhilah.

Kang Zaid @ Muhammad Zaidi Bin Dalami is another USIM's former student. He had ventured into book distribution business. He started with a capital of RM3,000 in July 2006 and currently employs a staff to assist him. He nets about RM2,500 per month. "My vision is to have one branch in every state", says Kang Zaid with confidence. His motivation to be in this business is to help Muslims to seek knowledge.

Another example is Muhammad Zarihi Nubhan Bin Abd Rahman. He is the managing director of Roseameys Consultant. The company's core businesses: offers consultations in printing services, catering, event management and PA system.

The success story will not end here. USIM will continue to incubate Muslimpreneurs' with potential to be catalysts for economic growth.

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or contact Pn. Mazlina Mohamad Tamjid at Tel No. 06-798 8126 for further enquiries.

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