

USIM

NEWSLETTER

Issue 5 : May 2025



Inside this Issue

- **Renowned Syariah Scholar Appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of USIM**
- **Malaysia Champions Islamic Finance Innovation with New Publication at PBAKL 2025**
- **Strengthening Southeast Asia's Higher Education: USIM and UNISSA Forge Strategic Ties on Residential Leadership**
- **USIM and Lobachevsky University Strengthen Legal and Technological Research Partnership**
- **USIM Strengthens Military Talent Through 2025 Shooting Training**
- **USIM Partners with Nozoly Food Industry to Boost Graduate Employability and Industry Readiness**



Renowned Syariah Scholar

Appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of USIM

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) announces the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mushaddad Hasbullah as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student and Alumni Affairs) by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), effective from May 13, 2025, to May 12, 2027, replacing Prof. Dato' Dr. Adnan Mohamed Yusoff whose term ended on February 15.

He is also actively involved in research, scholarly writing, and the development of modules and policy frameworks related to Islamic estate management.

He is recognized for his active participation as a speaker and presenter at various national and international seminars, conferences, and forums in his field of expertise.

Awards such as the Gold Medal in learning innovation competitions and honours from the State Governments of Kelantan and Negeri Sembilan also acknowledge his contributions to academia and society.

His appointment as USIM's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student and Alumni Affairs) is expected to further strengthen the university's role in nurturing holistic students and expanding a dynamic and competitive alumni network.



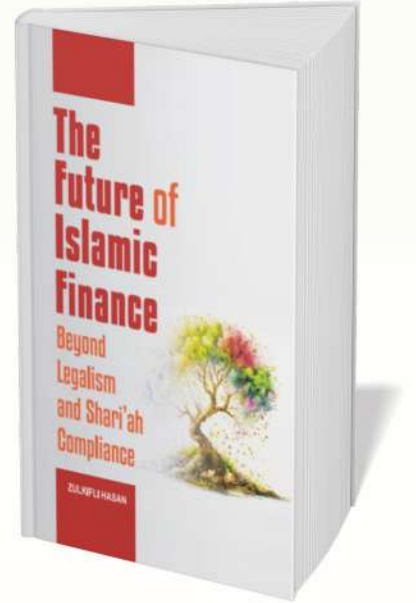
His official appointment was marked by a symbolic staff card handover ceremony for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (HEPA) position at the USIM Chancellery Lobby. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mushaddad is a senior academic from USIM's Faculty of Syariah and Law (FSU) with extensive experience in the field of Syariah, particularly Islamic Family Law, Faraid, and Estate Management. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Fiqh and Usul Fiqh from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in 2012.

Throughout his service, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mushaddad has played a significant role in academic and university administrative development, including previously serving as Director of the Centre for Waqf and Zakat (PWZ), USIM.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mushaddad is a senior academic with extensive experience in the field of Syariah, particularly Islamic Family Law, Faraid, and Estate Management.

Malaysia Champions Islamic Finance Innovation with New Publication at **PBAKL 2025**



The Book Launch and “Let the Book Speak” segment: *The Future of Islamic Finance: Beyond Legalism and Shari’ah Compliance* took place vibrantly at the Main Stage, World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur (WTCKL) on May 29, 2025, in conjunction with the Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair (PBAKL) 2025.

This scholarly book, authored by YB Senator Dr. Zulkifli Hasan, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Religious Affairs), presents a new approach to Islamic finance that goes beyond legalism and literal Shari’ah compliance. The work invites readers to re-examine the direction of Islamic finance more deeply, grounded in maqasid and true Islamic values.

YB Senator Dr. Zulkifli Hasan is a well-known figure in Islamic finance. With a

background as an advocate and solicitor, he also served as an in-house legal advisor at Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad, demonstrating expertise not only in academia but also in the corporate and financial sectors.

USIM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato’ Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, in his welcoming speech, stated, “The future of Islamic finance is no longer just about contractual forms or technical compliance, but about how the system can contribute to social justice, economic inclusivity, and sustainable development. This book calls on us to place values, ethics, and maqasid at the core of every Islamic finance practice.”

He also expressed appreciation to USIM Press, the official publisher of the book, and Affin Islamic Bank for their support and contributions to the development of Islamic finance knowledge and research.

Symbolically, a contribution from Affin Islamic Bank was presented by Ustaz Lokmanulhakim Hussain to the USIM Vice-Chancellor, representing

industry support for academic-industry collaboration.

This program also supports the aspirations of Leap 7 of the Malaysian Education Development Plan (Higher Education) 2015–2025, emphasizing an innovation ecosystem through the Quintuple Helix approach which is the cooperation between government, academia, industry, community, and the environment.

The event was officiated by Dato’ Prof. Dr. Ashraf Md Hashim, Chairman of the Shariah Advisory Council of Bank Negara Malaysia, and was attended by various segments of society including students, industry practitioners, researchers, and book enthusiasts.



Strengthening Southeast Asia's Higher Education: **USIM and UNISSA** Forge Strategic Ties on Residential Leadership

USIM, through the Student Housing Centre (PRUPEL), continues to drive its international visibility and influence by welcoming a courtesy visit from the Student Housing Unit of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Brunei Darussalam. This historic visit, held on May 13, 2025, at USIM, saw active participation from residential college leadership of both institutions, including the Student Residence Manager of UNISSA and the USIM Student Representative Council.

One of the program's highlights was the Student Empowerment Forum: Residential Colleges as Sites of Leadership and Knowledge, a strategic discussion platform on the role of residential colleges in shaping

student leadership. The forum also involved the Residential College Representative Council (MPKK) and USIM's Student Representative Council (MPP), making this program a meaningful bilateral engagement.

Throughout the program, participants joined benchmarking visits and shared best practices on residential college management at USIM. Comprehensive briefings on college operations, student governance, and leadership character development approaches were among the key focuses shared.

According to PRUPEL Director, Puan Raja Mariam Raja Mohd Esa, programs like this are expected to serve as effective platforms for exchanging ideas, strategic sharing,

and strengthening institutional ties, especially across the Malay Archipelago.

"With this two-way dialogue, participants can enrich their experiences and explore the best approaches in residential college management. The sustainability of this program can be achieved through continued collaboration, documentation of discussions, and implementation of discussed initiatives so the benefits are felt in the long term," she said.

The close ties between Malaysia and Brunei in education also encourage such collaborations to ensure balanced sustainability and growth in the educational ecosystems of both countries.



USIM and Lobachevsky University

Strengthen Legal and Technological Research Partnership

The Faculty of Syariah and Law (FSU), USIM, through its International Law Unit (ILU), was honoured to welcome Assoc. Prof. Dr. Irina Filipova from Lobachevsky University, Russia, for a research attachment at the faculty from March 9 to 23, 2025. Under the supervision of Dr. Noor Dzuhaidah Osman and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Syahirah Abdul Shukor, this visit marks a significant milestone in ILU's efforts to strengthen international academic cooperation.

One highlight was the iftar with the Russian Embassy in Malaysia, reflecting the spirit of hospitality and cultural exchange at the heart of USIM's international academic relationships.

Dr. Filipova also met with USIM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Prof. Dato' Dr. Nik Salida Suhaila, to discuss the direction of academic cooperation between USIM and Lobachevsky University. This meeting not only opened new opportunities for joint research but also strengthened USIM's international network in law and technology.

Dr. Filipova was warmly received by FSU Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mushaddad Hasbullah, who delivered welcoming remarks to kick off a series of scholarly discussions throughout the program. One of the main meetings during this visit was a session with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Prof. Dato' Dr. Tauffik Mohd Noor, discussing potential research collaborations in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) regulation in ASEAN countries.

Guided by Dr. Noor Dzuhaidah and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Syahirah, Dr. Filipova participated in various roundtable discussion sessions with experts from USIM's FSU, the Faculty of Law and International Relations (FUHA) UniSZA, the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) UKM, and the Faculty of AI at UTM Kuala Lumpur. These sessions helped deepen understanding of the AI legal landscape in ASEAN and identified challenges and opportunities for future research.

This research attachment is the first in FSU USIM's history, making Dr. Filipova the first international lecturer to undergo a research attachment at the faculty. The ILU coordination team, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Hazmi Mohd Rusli, played a crucial role in ensuring the visit was smooth and meaningful.



Beyond academic activities, Dr. Filipova had the opportunity to experience Malaysia's culture and natural beauty by visiting several historic sites such as the State Museum in Seremban, Putrajaya, Melaka, and Kuala Terengganu. Her visit also included seeing iconic landmarks in Kuala Lumpur such

as the Petronas Twin Towers and Sultan Abdul Samad Building. This experience provided her with a comprehensive view of Malaysia's cultural heritage, societal diversity, and scenic landscapes.

Dr. Filipova's visit left a deep impression on USIM's academic community, sparking inspiration for more international collaborations in the future. Her presence highlighted ILU's success in positioning USIM on the global

academic stage. With each international academic visit, ILU continues to strengthen its reputation as a centre of excellence in international legal education.

Through strategic partnerships, high-quality programs, and outstanding academic initiatives, ILU not only creates impact but also sets new benchmarks in international legal education and thought leadership.

USIM Strengthens Military Talent

Through 2025 Shooting Training

USIM's PALAPES conducted Individual and Support Weapons Shooting Training and an Educational Visit at the Land Combat Training Centre (PULADA), Ulu Tiram Camp from May 12 to 16, 2025. This Continuous Training involved 2 officers and 11 permanent members as well as 19 junior officers and 139 cadet officers. Also present was USIM Vice-Chancellor, Colonel (K) Prof. Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin bin Md Shaarani, who serves as Commandant of USIM PALAPES.

The training and tests were led by Major Noor Efendy Hj Samih with full support from nearby units, including PULADA, the 6th Battalion of the Royal Ranger Regiment, and the 501st Regiment of the Territorial Army.



According to Major Noor Efendy Hj Samih, the objective of this training was to assess the level of knowledge of personal weapons, shooting skills of permanent members and cadet officers, and to blend tactical knowledge, battlefield skills, and weapon handling proficiency. At the end of the training, it serves as a benchmark for the Chief Instructor to evaluate and take steps to address identified weaknesses.

This activity involved the use of M4, M16, M203, LMG HK A1, LMG NATO, and MGKA weapons. Night shooting training was also conducted, providing valuable experience for cadet officers in understanding the use of the assigned weapons.

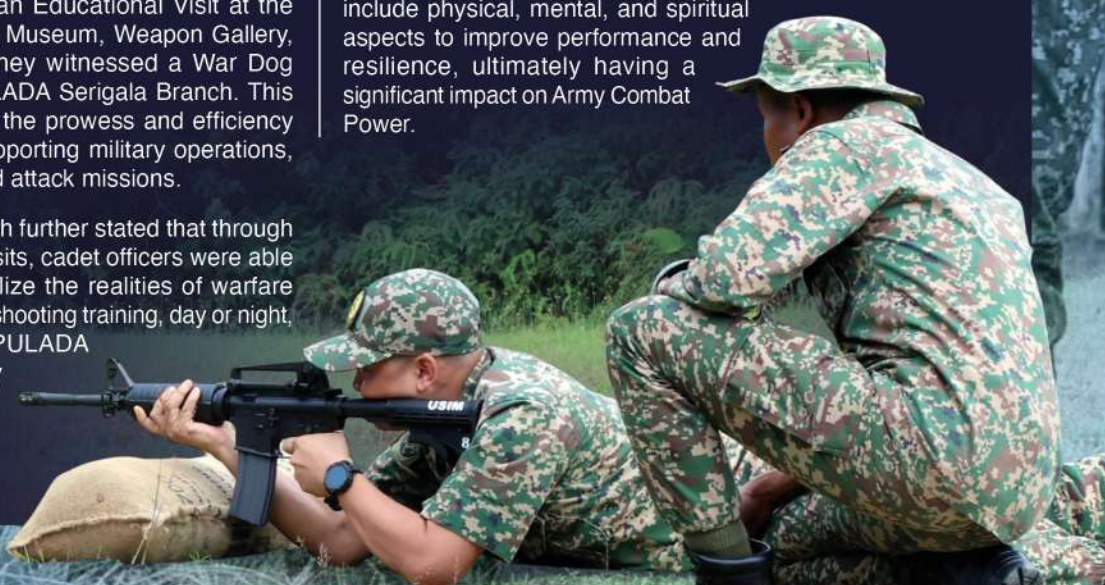
In addition to Individual and Support Weapons Shooting Training, PALAPES USIM cadet officers also had the opportunity to undertake an Educational Visit at the Serigala Branch, PULADA Museum, Weapon Gallery, and Battlefield Gallery. They witnessed a War Dog Demonstration by the PULADA Serigala Branch. This demonstration showcased the prowess and efficiency of the War Dog Unit in supporting military operations, particularly in detection and attack missions.

Major Noor Efendy Hj Samih further stated that through the planned training and visits, cadet officers were able to understand and internalize the realities of warfare situations when conducting shooting training, day or night, and the functions of the PULADA Serigala Branch in military operations.

"This effort aligns with USIM Vice-Chancellor's Fourth Target Mandate, namely the Enabling Ecosystem and Talent Development, by strengthening the Competency-Based Leadership Talent Development Model that integrates Naqli and Aqli Knowledge (INAQ)."

"It also aligns with the vision of the 24th Army Training Commander's First Command Order through the Warrior Ethos concept, which emphasizes the need to train and produce well-trained, competent, highly confident leaders with professionalism and self-esteem, thus becoming role models for the corps," he added.

This initiative also indirectly strengthens the implementation of the 30th Army Chief's First Command Order through Pillar 1: Human Resources (Warrior Ethos Awareness), which stresses that training strategies must include physical, mental, and spiritual aspects to improve performance and resilience, ultimately having a significant impact on Army Combat Power.



USIM Partners with Nozoly Food Industry

to Boost Graduate Employability and Industry



USIM has further strengthened its graduate employability agenda through a strategic collaboration with Nozoly Food Industry Sdn. Bhd. (NFI) via the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held in an official ceremony at the Level 6 Lounge, Chancellery Building on May 8, 2025.

This collaboration includes several key initiatives, such as providing industrial training opportunities, job placements, and involvement in industry-related development projects at the faculty level. Among the fields of study prioritized by NFI are accounting, marketing, and electronic engineering, in line with the growing needs of the food industry. Nevertheless, opportunities are also open to students from other relevant fields, thus encouraging active participation from USIM students, lecturers, and alumni.

USIM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, stated that this partnership is also a proactive step by USIM towards producing holistic and competitive graduates, enhancing USIM graduates' employability in the future, while strengthening strategic networks between the university and stakeholders.

"This aligns with USIM's goal of supporting the aspirations of the Malaysian Education Development Plan by strengthening university-industry relations so that graduates remain relevant and ready to enter both local and global job markets," he said.

NFI is a fully Bumiputera-owned company established in 2013 and based in Seremban, active in delivering high-quality food solutions and committed to expanding its market internationally while opening opportunities for collaboration in graduate employability development. Thus, this collaboration with NFI will help realize USIM's aspiration to prepare students for the increasingly dynamic world of work.



USIM-JKSM Partnership Produces Certified Sole Mediators for Malaysia's Legal and Syariah Ecosystem

USIM, through the Faculty of Syariah and Law (FSU), in collaboration with the Department of Syariah Judiciary Malaysia (JKSM) and the Legal Aid Department (JBG) Malaysia, organized the Appreciation Ceremony and Certificate Presentation for the Professional Certification of Sulh-Mediation Skills at the Main Hall, Faculty of Major Language Studies (FPBU), USIM.

The ceremony, held on May 5, 2025, celebrated 33 participants, including 29 JBG officers and four invited participants who successfully completed the five-day course and passed the final assessment. This course qualifies them to be accredited as Sole Mediators (Private Mediators).

The event was officiated by USIM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, and attended by the Director-General of JKSM, Yang Amat Arif Dato' Haji Mohd Amran Mat Zain, as well as the Director-General of JBG, Dato' Norazmi Mohd Narawi. Also present were USIM's top management and prominent legal figures in the country.

"It is time for society to be encouraged that amicable dispute resolution methods such as sulh-mediation should be promoted as the primary approach and not merely as an alternative. This method saves time, cost, and ensures more harmonious relationships," said Prof. Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin, who also expressed appreciation for the commitment of all parties in making this program a success.

"This program is the fifth series since it was introduced, and it is implemented using modules developed by USIM researchers in collaboration with JKSM. The course emphasizes experiential learning and practical training through simulations, group work, interactive games, and expert lectures from civil and syariah legal institutions," he added.

Meanwhile, the Program Director and Head of the Sulh-Mediation Certification Project, Associate Professor Dr. Hendun Abd Rahman Shah, said the course not only strengthens technical mediation skills but also builds a synergy network

among agencies and institutions involved in out-of-court conflict resolution.

"The course emphasizes experiential learning and practical training through simulations, group work, interactive games, and expert lectures from civil and syariah legal institutions"

The strategic cooperation between higher education institutions such as USIM and government agencies like JKSM and JBG clearly demonstrates the success of this certification program in contributing towards societal well-being and the development of a more efficient dispute resolution ecosystem in Malaysia.



USIM and University of Anbar, Iraq

Forge International Academic Collaboration through MoU

The Faculty of Quranic and Sunnah Studies (FPQS), USIM, has expanded its network of international strategic partners with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Anbar, Iraq.

The MoU signing ceremony was officiated by USIM, represented by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dato' Ts Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, while the University of Anbar was represented by its President, Prof. Dr. Mushtaq Talib Al Nada.

FPQS, which will spearhead the implementation of this MoU at USIM, will take the lead in developing a comprehensive framework of cooperation between the two institutions. Through this MoU, FPQS aims to introduce and strengthen the faculty's and USIM's presence among higher education institutions in the Middle East.

According to FPQS Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Zohdi Mohd Amin, the scope of collaboration with the University of Anbar will include academic exchange programs involving staff and students, joint research, collaborative publications, curriculum development particularly in Islamic Studies, Quran and Sunnah, and Arabic Language.

"Other areas of cooperation to be explored include cultural exchange and capacity building in academic and administrative aspects. The immediate next step is for FPQS to arrange a special discussion with the Vice-Chancellor and faculty deans. The goal is to prepare a comprehensive cooperation proposal paper to be submitted to the University of Anbar within a month," he said.

"Previously, we received a delegation from the University

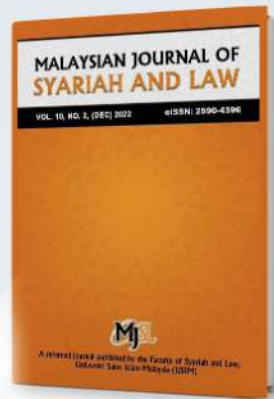
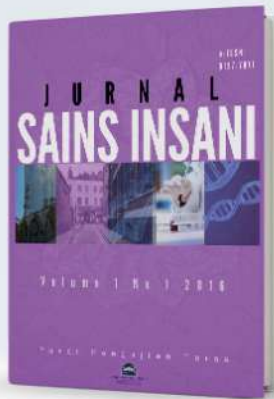
of Anbar who visited our faculty and were impressed with the capabilities and strengths of FPQS and USIM. Alhamdulillah, today we formalize the FPQS-USIM and University of Anbar relationship through this MoU, as I see many potentials that we can explore together in the future," he added.

This collaboration aligns with both universities' shared mission to elevate the status of the Quran, Hadith, and Islam, in line with the trust given by Allah SWT. The MoU also reflects USIM's aspiration to become a global reference in Islamic scholarship through impactful international cooperation and to lead the integration of Naqli and Aqli knowledge by 2025.

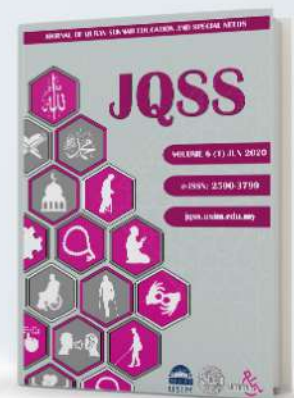
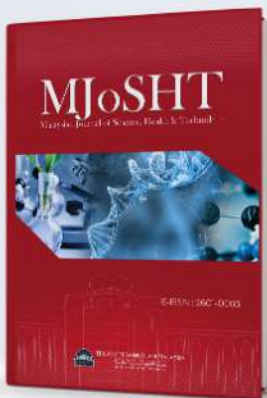
In conjunction with the MoU signing, a roundtable discussion session was also held between USIM faculty representatives and the University of Anbar delegation to explore other potential synergies leveraging USIM's diverse academic expertise. Additionally, the delegation was taken on a tour of FPQS research lab facilities.

USIM hopes this partnership will yield meaningful results and significantly impact the development of Islamic knowledge at the international level.





Our Journals



IKLA

Imtihan Al-Kafaah Li Al-Lughah Al-Arabiyyah

IKLA is made up of **Four (4)** competencies

- Listening Skill
- Reading Skill
- Writing Skill
- Speaking Skill

REGISTER NOW

- IKLA test registration closing date: **5 May 2025 (Monday)**
- Date for IKLA test: **21 May 2025 (Wednesday)**

For more information about IKLA, visit <https://admission.usim.edu.my/ikla/>

For any inquiries, please email zumaiahhisam@usim.edu.my or contact **067980292** or **Whatsapp 011-1317 6773**

