PRESS RELEASE

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ISLAMIC FINANCE (BDIF) SYMPOSIUM 2026

Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Bandar Seri Begawan
Wednesday, 8 Jamadilakhir 1448, corresponding to 18 November 2026

1. Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB), in collaboration with Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), INCEIF University and Perbanas Institute as the co-organisers for the third Brunei Darussalam Islamic Finance (BDIF) Call-for-Papers (CFP) initiative and Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance (BILIF) as the Symposium Event Partner, organised the BDIF Symposium 2026, themed "Innovating Sukuk for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth".

2. The symposium served as a platform for meaningful dialogue on the evolving landscape of Islamic finance, highlighting key developments, challenges and opportunities for the industry. It also sought to strengthen collaboration among industry practitioners, academia, and the public sector by fostering knowledge exchange, advancing academic research and providing avenues for research, publication, and peer recognition.

3. The event brought together more than 200 participants, comprising government officials, financial industry practitioners, academicians, and students from local and international higher education institutions.

4. Present at the event were Yang Mulia Associate Professor Dr Awang Abdul Nasir bin Haji Abdul Rani, Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, members of BDCB's Board of Directors and the Syariah Financial Supervisory Board (SFSB), senior government officials, senior executives of BDCB and financial institutions, as well as CFP participants.

5. The event commenced with the recitation of verses from the Al-Quran by Yang Mulia Ustaz Ahmad Zulwaqar bin Haji Suhaili, Tarannum Education Officer, Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

6. This was followed by opening remarks delivered by Yang Mulia Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Sabtu, Managing Director of BDCB. In her remarks, she highlighted the continued growth of Brunei Darussalam's Islamic finance sector and the important role of sukuk in supporting productive investments and sustainable economic development. She also underscored BDCB's ongoing efforts to strengthen the domestic capital market, including measures to facilitate corporate sukuk issuance, while highlighting the potential of retail sukuk and digital innovation to broaden investor participation and improve market accessibility. She further welcomed the growing international participation in the BDIF CFP, with full-paper submissions increasing from 29 in 2025 to 43 in 2026.

7. Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Sabtu, together with Associate Professor Dr Awang Abdul Nasir bin Haji Abdul Rani, subsequently officiated the launch of the 3rd Edition of the Islamic Economics International Refereed Journal, published as a special issue (Vol. 4, No. 1, November 2026) featuring selected papers from the 2026 CFP initiative. The journal showcases research contributions from academics, industry practitioners and students on key developments in Islamic finance, underscoring the importance of research and knowledge exchange in advancing the industry.

8. The symposium also recognised outstanding research contributions through the Best Paper Awards. The Best Paper Award (Professional Category) was presented to Yang Mulia Assistant Professor Ima Dwitawati from Indonesia for her paper titled "Digital Halal Ecosystem as a Foundation for Sustainable Sukuk Innovation and MSMEs Inclusivity". Meanwhile, Yang Mulia Ratu Shaima binti Yumni from Malaysia received the Best Paper Award (Students Category) for her paper titled "Mobilising Shariah-Compliant Capital for Carbon Capture: A Maqasid-Based Framework for Transition Finance in Hydrocarbon-Dependent Emerging Markets". The symposium also featured presentations of the top three papers from each category, giving participants a platform to share their research findings and insights.

9. Another key highlight of the symposium was a keynote presentation delivered by Yang Mulia Associate Professor Dr Ziyaad Mahomed, Lead Researcher for the Centre of Excellence in Social Finance and Head of Online Programs, INCEIF University, Malaysia, on "Positioning Sukuk as a Strategic Enabler of Islamic Finance Development".

10. The symposium also featured a panel discussion on "The Evolving Sukuk Market: International *Insights and Opportunities for Brunei Darussalam*", moderated by Yang Mulia Hajah Nurhuaida Fakhriah binti Haji Damit, Head of Economy & Surveillance, BDCB. The session brought together distinguished panellists comprising Yang Mulia Dr Azrul Azlan Iskandar Mirza, Deputy Director (Islamic Capital Market), Head of the Shariah Department, Securities Commission Malaysia, Dr Ayaz Ismail, Director, Islamic Wholesale Banking, CIMB Islamic Bank, Malaysia, Yang Mulia Jason Wong, Managing Director of BIBD Securities Sdn Bhd; and Yang Mulia Associate Professor Dr Ziyaad Mahomed. The panellists provided diverse perspectives on the future of sukuk, regional market developments and opportunities for Brunei Darussalam, including the regulatory, market, and ecosystem readiness needed to support a vibrant sukuk market.

11. In line with the theme of the symposium, parallel sessions for the full papers will be held in the afternoon of 18 November 2026 and continue on 19 November 2026, offering participants deeper insights and engagement on key areas in Islamic finance.

Brunei Darussalam Central Bank
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