# **Connecting Universities along the eSilk Road**



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## Introduction

- Interest in Islamic banking is growing worldwide especially in Switzerland and UK.
- In UK, there are Islamic banks. The UK-and London in particular-has already become a center for Islamic finance. More than a dozen banks deliver Islamic finance transactions.
- Faisal Islamic Bank in Switzerland.
- Conferences on Islamic banking and financing are becoming very popular.
- Islamic wealth management events.
- Dow Jones Islamic Index.
- More Islamic finance activities expected in Africa over the medium-term.
- Training programs on Islamic banking.

## Introduction

- The UK has been providing Islamic Financial Services for over 30 years and Government policy over the last decade has created a fiscal and regulatory framework that encourages the growth of Islamic finance.
- The global market for Islamic finance at the end of last year was worth around US\$1.3 trillion.
- The total value of Sharia compliant
   assets has grown by 150 percent since 2006.

   The UK is the leading western country and Europe's
   premier center for Islamic finance with US \$19 billion
   of reported assets

# Background:

- Why e-silk road countries?
- Most of Silk Road countries are Islamic:
- Tajikistan to pass Islamic banking low by the end of July 2014.
- With over 70m Muslims, the Commonwealth of Independent States might yet be the next frontier for Islamic finance. At present, six Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirgizstan and Tajikistan are members of the CIS.

# **Background:**

- Azerbaijan's largest lender, International Bank of Azerbaijan (IBA), is working with national authorities on a draft Islamic banking law and a final version could be presented to parliament in 2014, a senior executive said.
- Islamic <u>finance</u> has developed slowly in the former Soviet state, where an estimated 93 percent of the 9 million people are Muslim. But IBA's Islamic banking <u>business</u> is now growing strongly, which is encouraging authorities to take action.

#### • Why Umm Al-Qura University?

 It has the first department of Islamic Economics all over the world, established in 1978.

## **Aims of Study**

 To describe an online collaborative project in which Islamic Banking and Finance instructors from several eSilk Road countries and Saudi Arabia and their undergraduate students participated.

## **Aims of Project**

To share knowledge and expertise in Islamic banking and finance by instructors and students at universities in eSilk Road countries.

#### **Participants**

(1) **Countries:** S. Arabia, .....

(2) Universities: Umm Al-Qura University, ......

(3) Instructors: Mohammad Al-Jarf, .....

(4) **Students**: Junior.

# Islamic Banking and Finance Course Outline

Sample topics to be taught:

- 1. What is Islamic banking and finance.
- 2. What are the principles of Islamic banking and finance.
- 3. What is the difference between Islamic banking and non-Islamic banking.

- Sample Assignments:
- Sample discussions topics:
- Sample links:
- Sample documents:
- Sample references:

#### Procedures

- An online course with Nicenet (<u>www.nicenet.org</u>) was created.
- Students are given the class key and are asked to enroll themselves.
- All instructors serve as course administrators.
- Students can access the online course from home or computer lab.
- Prior experience in online instruction by students is not necessary.
- Elementary experience with online instruction by instructors is necessary.

- Posted questions and discussion threads in "Conferencing".
- Added vocabulary websites in "Link Sharing".
- The students checked links & responded to the questions and threads.
- They could add websites & post any topic.

# **Online Instruction**

- Each week, we can post questions and a discussion thread related to the topics taught that week in "Conferencing".
- Add websites related to the topic taught that week in "Link Sharing".
- The students check the links & respond to the questions and threads.
- They can add websites & post discussion topics documents or questions related to the topic under study.

- Before instruction, all the students can be given a pre-test in Islamic banking and finance.
- At the end of the semester, they can all be given the same posttest.
- They can also respond to a post-treatment questionnaire and to give their views of their experience with online instruction.
- Instructors can discuss difficulties that they had and how those can be overcome in later courses.

#### Instructors' Role

- Before instruction starts, all the instructors sharing the course can agree upon the topics to be covered over the whole semester and each week.
- The online course can be used as a supplement to inclass instruction.
- Use online course asynchronously.
- Instructors provide students with training in using Nicenet.
- They select and post discussion threads, documents and external links.
- They brainstorm discussion threads before and after the students post messages.

## Instructor's Role

- Serve as a facilitator.
- Provide help and technical support.
- Send private and group messages
- Respond to students' needs.
- React to students' posts
- Give extra credit for participating.
- They provide students with feedback.
- They post responses to the discussion threads.





New Users Start Here

Current Users Log In

[Forgot Your Password?]

Students: » Join A Class

Teachers:

Username:

Password:

Log in

» Create a Class



#### The Classroom Is Not a Marketplace.

Nicenet's Internet Classroom Assistant (ICA) allows virtually any classroom, even those with modest resources, access to powerful tools. Everything in Nicenet is offered free for public use, and Nicenet makes no profits from your participation.

**Main Page** 

#### Our Philosophy | About the ICA | Contact Us |

#### **Current News**

#### NOVEMBER 4, 2003 NICENET FILES FOR NON-PROFIT STATUS!

Nicenet is pleased to announce that successful culmination of our fundraising drive to raise funds for incorporation. We have filed our incorporation papers with the state of California and have now submitted the forms to the IRS to attain 501(c)(3) non-profit status. The new legal status will dramatically expand Nicenet's ability to raise funds and other resources and is the first step to a host of improvements to our service we will be making over the next year.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our fundraiser! It would not have been possible without your contributions.

#### Internet Classroom Assistant Traffic Report

In the last 10 minutes 81 users have used the ICA.

In the last 24 hours 6,413 users have signed on.

In the last week 21,918 users have signed on, and 4,090 classes have been used.

In the last month 49,581 users have signed on, and 7,675 classes have been used.

Since January, 1998 a total of 639,978 users have used the ICA.

Nicenet is a non-profit organization of Internet professionals who give their time to provide services to the education community.

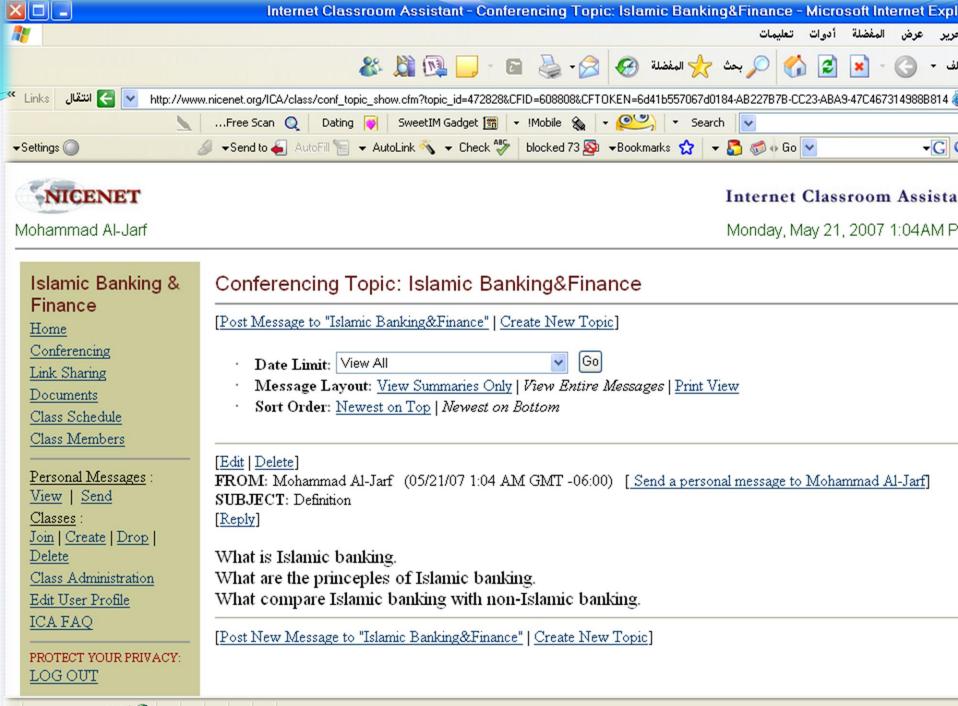
For more information send your request to questions@nicenet.org.

Hosting of Nicenet's server provided by **The California Community Colocation Project** Nicenet runs on a donated version of **Macromedia** ColdFusion Nicenet was founded by **Nathan Dintenfass** and **Ben Archibald** If you are interested in becoming a Nicenet sponsor **visit our sponsorship information page**. If you would like to make a donation **visit our donations page**. Copyright 1996, 1997, 1998, 2003 by Nicenet.

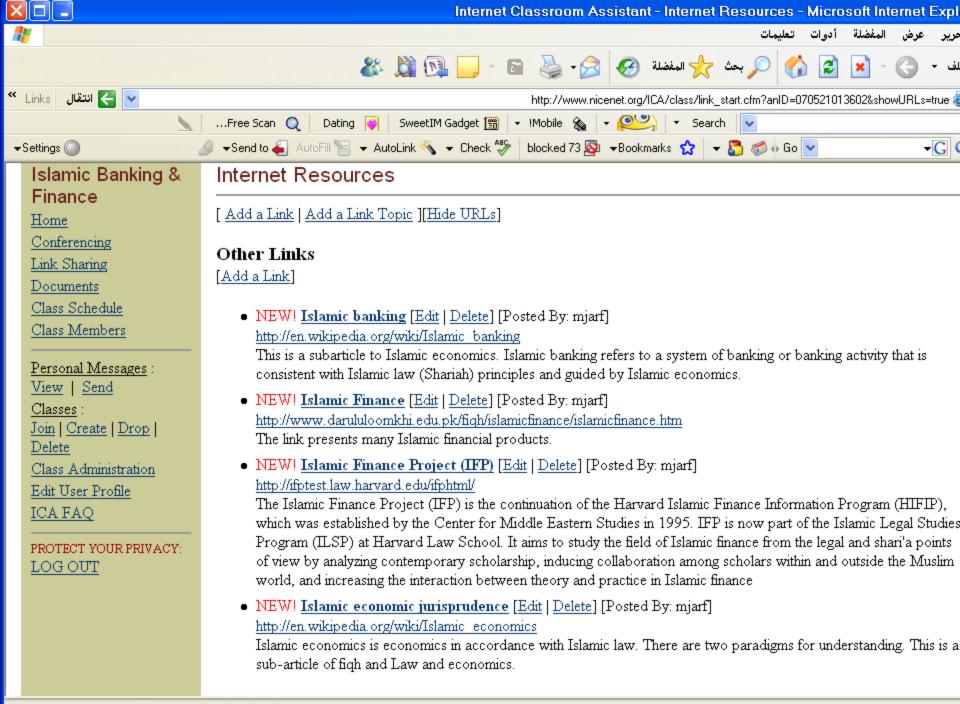
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#### **Online Course Tools**

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PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY: LOG OUT	No new links have been posted.     [View Links   New Link]			_
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Edit User Profile	6) The Nature of the Capital.			
ICA FAQ	7) Management of Musharakah.			
	8) Termination of Musharakah. Islamic Finance			
PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY: LOG OUT				
	'Musharakah' is a word of Arabic origin which literally means sharing. In the context of business and			

# hanks for your Attention