



## **Thematic Workshop on Enhancing Poor's Capability and Financial Inclusion From Islamic Perspective: Islamabad Pakistan**

**11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Being Organized by  
Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI)  
International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI)**

### **Background**

Islamic Research and Training Institute, a member of Islamic Development Bank Group (IRTI/IDB) and International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) are partners and have joined hands, in recent past, in a number of international conferences, symposia, and seminars having bearing on Islamic economics and finance. In a current endeavor, both the organizations are jointly organizing a Thematic Workshop on Enhancing Poor's Capability And Financial Inclusion From Islamic Perspective from 11th to 12th December, 2017.

Despite exemplary growth of Islamic finance over the past decades, already reaching USD 2.00 trillion mark, neither the poor segments of the societies have been duly attended to nor the common masses have been offered with adequate chance to benefit from Islamic financial services. The corporate sector has virtually become the major beneficiary of this development since the Islamic financial institutions have ignored the objective of value orientation pertaining to Islamic finance. Therefore, the financial exclusion has been the core issue needed to be duly addressed.

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has initiated a number of programs focusing development of micro and small enterprises in member countries, the latest being Youth Employment Support Programs to address the unemployment issues of educated youth by developing entrepreneurial capacity and providing financial resources through Islamic financial instruments. However, to reach the appropriate scale, the effort and will of the political governments is required to pave the ways and means to address the issue.

In many developing countries, the majority of population lives in rural areas while financial institutions concentrate in urban centers. Consequently, they remain underserved in terms of access to financial services. This situation requires the governments and the societies to play catalytic role by supporting an inclusive financial sector and country level policy framework should be developed with a clear vision to face the challenge of devising well thought out action plan.

Financial inclusion has achieved significance in formulation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new development architecture that succeeds the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, a significant prominence was accorded to this subject at the United Nations Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015. At the Group of Twenty (G-20), financial inclusion has been given due importance in the reform and development agendas (World Bank, 2014).

SDGs require that extreme poverty be eradicated by 2030 and reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions. The goals also require that by 2030, all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, should have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

The worldwide research has also indicated low access to economic opportunity by the people of limited means. Women in this context even lag behind men in terms of access to financial services. The gender gap varies widely across economies and regions, South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa exhibit the largest gender gaps where women are about 40 per cent less likely than men to have a formal account.

The workshop has been planned keeping these considerations in view, which is expected to bring together the multilateral institutions, practitioners, academicians, microfinance networks/forums, regulators, and development activists. The workshop is also expected to bring forth recommendations that will help in devising sustainable strategy for enhancing financial inclusion and capability of the poor to benefit from economic and social resources.

## Submission of Papers

IRTI/IsDB and IIUI invite to submit the papers covering but not limited to the following thematic areas related to the subject of the workshop:

- Addressing SGD in Islamic framework to include the poor and disadvantaged segments of the society
- Global challenge of poverty and potential for Islamic finance
- Raising women participation in economic and social opportunities
- Innovation in Islamic finance in model and product development perspective to help increasing inclusion
- Integrating micro and small enterprise development with mainstream Islamic finance sector
- Islamic insurance and financial inclusion
- The role of zakat and waqf institutions in eradicating poverty and enhancing inclusion of the poor
- The role of Islamic banks to enhance financial inclusion
- Inclusive growth through financial inclusion
- Role of central banks to enhance inclusion through Islamic finance
- Regulatory and supervisory concerns in promoting Islamic financial inclusion
- Country experiences and case studies in improving access to financial services
- Financial literacy as a tool to increase inclusiveness

Full papers must be submitted via online submission system

- Step 1 Click on Log in (For existing ConfBay Account User) and go for Online Submission or Register (First time as ConfBay User) on the following link: <http://submit.confbay.com/conf/twoepc2017> and go for Online Submission
- Step 2 Click on Registration for first time Confbay Account Users
- Step 3 Click on "My Submission" and follow the instruction
- Full Paper must be in Microsoft Word format (doc, docx). Please do not submit ZIP files*

## Important Dates

Receipt of full papers	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Notification of selected papers	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Workshop	11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017

## Language of the Workshop

The language of the Workshop will be 'English'. A limited number of papers will be allowed to be presented in Arabic through an arrangement of translation from Arabic to English.

## **Venue of the Workshop**

International Islamic University [Faisal Mosque Campus] Islamabad Pakistan

## **The Participants**

The participants, amongst others, will include academicians, practitioners, think tanks, graduate students pursuing research in Islamic finance, regulators and other industry representatives.

## **Sponsorship**

Keynote speakers and authors of the selected papers, travelling from outside (outside from Pakistan and Islamabad), will be provided sponsorship in respect of following:

- Round trip economy class air ticket from home city to Islamabad and back
- Hotel accommodation in Islamabad
- Visa processing fee, if applicable

## **Registration Fee**

The participants from Pakistan are required to pay the registration and attendance fee as under:

- Participants (other than university students): Rs. 5,000
- University Students: Rs. 1,000

The fee will cover the lunches and tea of the workshop days.

## **Proceedings/Publication**

The papers presented at the workshop will be reviewed for consideration to be published by IRTI in the book of proceedings.

## **Academic Contact**

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## **Organizers**

- Islamic Research and Training Institute, Islamic Development Bank (IRTI/IDB)
- International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI)