

National and Islamic Works, Contributions, and Services of Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed





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Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed

Republic of Maldives

Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed has rendered distinguished and sustained service to Islam through a combination of scholarly contribution, institutional leadership, public policy reform, educational development, and international Islamic engagement. His work reflects a rare integration of intellectual, administrative, and community-oriented service, with measurable impact on the religious, educational, and social advancement of Muslim communities.

His contributions extend across a broad range of fields, including Islamic governance, zakat and waqf administration, Qur'anic education and development, Islamic higher education, Islamic finance, religious awareness, social welfare, humanitarian service, and international scholarly cooperation. Through these initiatives, he has played a significant role in strengthening Islamic institutions, expanding access to Islamic knowledge, promoting moderation and informed religious understanding, and developing sustainable mechanisms for the service of Islam at both national and global community.

The following achievements and initiatives represent the principal works, initiatives, and achievements, reflecting his pioneering role in serving Islam and Muslims through diverse programmes, institutions, publications, and public service contributions.

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1. Institutional Development of Zakat Governance in the Maldives

Established Zakat Trust Fund

Date: 3 February 2010

Played a leading role in the establishment of the Zakat Fund, created under the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and administered by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. This initiative marked a significant institutional reform in the Maldives by introducing, for the first time, a structured and nationally coordinated mechanism for the systematic collection, management, and distribution of zakat in accordance with Shariah principles.

Under this framework, the Zakat Fund has supported a wide range of humanitarian, religious, and community development initiatives. The fund provides financial assistance for medical treatment to needy individuals, including support for vulnerable patients requiring urgent healthcare services. It also provides support for persons with disabilities, economically vulnerable households, and individuals burdened with court-verified debts, thereby addressing critical socio-economic challenges within the community through Islamic social finance mechanisms. The fund supports Qur'an memorization programmes, Quran competitions, and religious awareness activities, while also financing capacity-building programmes for Quran teachers, Islamic educators, funeral service practitioners, Imams, and Khateebis across the Maldives. These initiatives have contributed significantly to strengthening religious knowledge, institutional capacity, and community-based Islamic services nationwide.

The Zakat Fund also contributes to the development and maintenance of religious infrastructure, including mosques, prayer facilities in schools and public institutions, graveyards, and other community religious facilities. Furthermore, the fund provides assistance to individuals affected by natural disasters or emergencies and extends support to Maldivian citizens facing crises abroad, thereby expanding the scope of zakat as a mechanism for national solidarity and humanitarian assistance.

Establishment of the Maldives Zakat House

Date: 18 December 2023

Under the direction and guidance of H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, Dr. Shaheem led the establishment of the Maldives Zakat House, marking a historic institutional reform in the administration of zakat in the Republic of Maldives. The establishment of the Maldives Zakat House strengthened the national zakat governance framework by introducing a centralized institutional authority responsible for the strategic management, collection, distribution, and development of zakat resources in accordance with Shariah principles. The initiative introduced structured mechanisms for zakat collection and distribution, ensuring improved transparency, accountability, and effective allocation of resources to eligible beneficiaries. In addition, Dr. Shaheem led the introduction of Shariah-compliant investment strategies designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of zakat funds, thereby enabling zakat resources to generate continuous social impact rather than functioning solely as short-term relief mechanisms.

Formulation and Implementation of the Zakat Act (Act No. 27/2025)

Date: 06th December 2025

Building upon the institutional development of the Maldives Zakat House, Dr. Shaheem played a central role in the formulation and initiation of the Zakat Act (Act No. 27/2025) under the direction and guidance of H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu.

This legislation introduced, for the first time in Maldivian history, a comprehensive legal framework governing zakat administration, institutional governance, regulatory compliance, and financial accountability. The Act formalized the operational mandate of zakat institutions and established clear legal standards for zakat management, ensuring transparency, governance oversight, and adherence to Shariah principles. The enactment of the Zakat Act significantly strengthened the legal and regulatory foundations of Islamic social finance in the Maldives, providing a sustainable framework for the administration and long-term development of zakat resources.

Establishment of Zakat-Funded Higher Education Scholarship Programme

Year: 2025

Dr. Shaheem also led the establishment of zakat-funded scholarship initiatives aimed at expanding access to higher education in Islamic and related academic fields. This initiative utilizes zakat resources to support the development of future Islamic scholars, educators, and professionals who will contribute to religious leadership and Islamic knowledge dissemination in the Maldives. The programme provides structured financial assistance to eligible students pursuing higher education in fields related to Islamic studies and public service. In 2025, a total of 25 scholarships were awarded, enabling students to pursue advanced academic training and strengthening the national capacity for Islamic scholarship and religious leadership. This initiative reflects a strategic approach to zakat utilization by investing in human capital development and long-term intellectual growth within the Muslim community.

Expansion of Zakat Utilization for Bone Marrow Transplant

Year: 2025

Dr. Shaheem also the use of zakat funds for life-saving medical treatment, including bone marrow transplant procedures for patients suffering from thalassemia, a serious hereditary blood disorder. This initiative expanded the social welfare scope of zakat in the Maldives by ensuring that zakat resources could support critical healthcare needs for vulnerable individuals, thereby reflecting the Islamic principle of preserving human life (*hifz al-nafs*) as one of the higher objectives of Shariah (*Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah*).

Digital Transformation of Zakat Medical Welfare Services

Date: 4 November 2024

Recognizing the importance of digital governance in improving service delivery, Dr. Shaheem led the integration of Zakat Medical Welfare Services with the national OneGov digital platform.

This initiative enabled citizens to submit zakat assistance applications electronically, monitor the progress of their applications, and receive updates through a transparent digital interface. The integration significantly improved accessibility, operational efficiency, and transparency in the delivery of zakat-funded welfare services.

Securing International Support for Zakat Digital Infrastructure

Year: 2014

Dr. Shaheem further strengthened the modernization of zakat administration by successfully securing grant funding from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to support the development of a national zakat management software system to ensure that zakat resources are managed efficiently, transparently, and in accordance with international best practices in Islamic financial governance.

2. Development and Modernization of Hajj and Umrah Services

Established the Maldives Hajj Corporation Limited

Date: 16 May 2013

Dr. Shaheem contributed to the establishment of the Maldives Hajj Corporation Limited, a government-owned institution created to provide reliable, affordable, and professionally managed Hajj and Umrah services for Maldivian citizens. The institution was established to strengthen the national framework for pilgrimage administration and to ensure that Maldivian pilgrims receive structured logistical, financial, and religious guidance throughout their pilgrimage journey. The corporation introduced a range of integrated services designed to facilitate pilgrimage preparation and participation, including structured Hajj savings schemes aimed at encouraging early financial planning for pilgrimage.

Inclusion of the Maldives in the Makkah Route Initiative

National Launch Date: 26 May 2025

Dr. Shaheem played a leading role in facilitating the inclusion of the Republic of Maldives in the Makkah Route Initiative, a flagship pilgrimage facilitation program of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia designed to streamline the travel procedures of Hajj pilgrims from participating countries. The initiative was officially launched in the Maldives on 26 May 2025, enabling Maldivian pilgrims to complete immigration and pilgrimage-related procedures prior to departure from the Maldives, thereby significantly reducing administrative processes upon arrival in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Through this coordinated international collaboration, the program has improved operational efficiency, enhanced the travel experience of pilgrims, and strengthened bilateral cooperation between the Maldives and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the facilitation of Hajj services.

Development of the “Haji MV” Digital Application for Pilgrimage Guidance

Date: 22 June 2025

In order to enhance public access to reliable religious guidance, Dr. Shaheem led the development and official launch of the “Haji MV” Mobile Application on 22 June 2025. This comprehensive digital platform provides pilgrims with step-by-step guidance on the performance of Hajj and Umrah rituals, including instructional videos, supplications (duas), zikr resources, and explanatory materials designed to assist pilgrims in understanding the spiritual and practical dimensions of pilgrimage. The mobile application represents an important step in the digital transformation of religious guidance services, enabling Maldivian pilgrims to access authenticated Islamic knowledge conveniently through mobile technology.

Development of Legislative Frameworks for Hajj Governance

Dr. Shaheem contributed to the drafting of comprehensive legislative frameworks governing pilgrimage services, including the formulation of the Hajj Bill aimed at strengthening governance, regulatory oversight, accountability, and sustainable institutional management of Hajj operations in the Maldives. These legislative initiatives provide a structured regulatory foundation for the administration of pilgrimage services, ensuring that Hajj and Umrah operations are conducted in accordance with national regulatory standards and Islamic principles.

Establishment and Strategic Leadership of Qibla Hajj and Umrah Pvt. Ltd.

Date: 20th July 2020

Contributed to the development of Qibla Hajj and Umrah Pvt. Ltd. (Maldives) in 2019, a licensed Umrah service provider formally registered with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments of the Republic of Maldives. The organization was established to provide structured and professionally managed pilgrimage services for Maldivian Muslims undertaking Umrah, combining logistical facilitation with religious guidance to ensure that pilgrims perform their religious obligations in accordance with authentic Islamic teachings. The company is recognized as a Saudi Arabia–approved Umrah visa travel agent and an IATA-recognized travel agency, enabling it to operate within international pilgrimage travel frameworks while maintaining compliance with regulatory standards governing Hajj and Umrah operations.

- He served as Chief Adviser in 2019, providing strategic guidance during the formative phase of the institution. He later assumed the role of Chairman and Director in 2022, where he contributed to strengthening institutional governance, operational planning, and compliance with both Islamic ethical standards and national regulatory frameworks governing pilgrimage services.
- Between 2019 and 2023, Dr. Shaheem led multiple Umrah delegations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, serving as the religious leader for Maldivian pilgrimage groups. In this role, he provided continuous religious guidance to Umrah pilgrims, delivering lectures at Makkah and Madinah, counseling, and educational sessions, ensuring that pilgrims were

able to perform the rituals of Umrah with clarity, spiritual awareness, and adherence to Islamic jurisprudential guidance.

- Authored an Umrah Dua Guidebook, a practical religious reference designed to assist Maldivian pilgrims in performing the rites of Umrah correctly. The guide provides structured supplications, explanations of rituals, and practical instructions that support pilgrims throughout their pilgrimage journey. The booklet continues to be widely utilized by Maldivian pilgrims, serving as an accessible spiritual guide that enhances their understanding of the religious and devotional aspects of Umrah.

3. International Institutional Leadership and Governance in Global Islamic Organizations

Dr. Shaheem has played an influential role in international Islamic governance, jurisprudential development, and Islamic financial institutions through his participation in several prominent global organizations. His appointments to leading Islamic institutions reflect international recognition of his expertise in Islamic jurisprudence, Islamic finance, and institutional leadership, contributing to policy dialogue, scholarly deliberation, and strategic initiatives that impact Muslim communities globally.

Member of International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2024 – Present

Appointed as a Member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) under the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 2024, contributing to one of the world's most authoritative international bodies dedicated to contemporary Islamic jurisprudence. The Academy brings together leading scholars and experts from across the 57 OIC member states to deliberate on emerging legal, economic, and social issues affecting Muslim societies.

Member of the Supreme Council, Muslim World League (MWL), Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2024 – Present

Serves as a Member of the Supreme Council of the Muslim World League (MWL), one of the most influential global Islamic organizations dedicated to strengthening Islamic solidarity, promoting moderation, and supporting humanitarian initiatives across Muslim communities worldwide.

Alternate Governor to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) from the Maldives, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
2023 – Present

Appointed as Alternate Governor representing the Republic of Maldives to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in 2023, contributing to policy dialogue and strategic cooperation between the Maldives and one of the leading multilateral development institutions serving the Muslim world. The Islamic Development Bank Group, with 57 member countries, finances development initiatives across sectors including education, infrastructure, poverty reduction, Islamic finance, and economic development. Through this role, Dr. Shaheem contributes to strengthening development partnerships and expanding opportunities for Islamic finance and development cooperation in the Maldives.

Governor to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) from the Maldives, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
2009 – 2010 | 2010 – 2015

Previously served as Governor to the Islamic Development Bank representing the Republic of Maldives, contributing to strategic decision-making at the highest governance level of the institution. During this period, he participated in policy deliberations concerning development financing, Islamic financial instruments, and economic cooperation among member states. His tenure supported the strengthening of development partnerships between the Maldives and the IsDB, facilitating engagement with development programs aligned with Islamic financial principles.

Shariah Board Member – Amana Takaful PLC, Sri Lanka
2009 – 2014

Served as a Shariah Board Member of Amana Takaful PLC, one of the leading Islamic insurance (Takaful) institutions in South Asia. In this capacity, Dr. Shaheem provided Shariah advisory oversight on Islamic financial and insurance products, ensuring compliance with Islamic jurisprudential principles in financial operations and governance. His role contributed to strengthening the credibility and integrity of Shariah-compliant financial services while supporting the development of Islamic finance frameworks in the region.

4. International Leadership in Promoting Islamic Dialogue, Moderation, and Strategic Communication at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Adviser at the Cabinet of the Secretary General, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2019 – 2021)

In-Charge, The Voice of Wisdom Centre (Sawt Al-Hikma), OIC (2019 – 2020)

Supervisor, Dialogue and Communications Department, OIC (2019 – 2021)

- Served as Adviser at the Cabinet of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), contributing to strategic policy discussions and institutional initiatives within one of the world's largest intergovernmental organizations representing 57 member states across the Muslim world.
- Led the development of the “Voice of Wisdom Centre (Sawt Al-Hikma)”, a strategic initiative of the OIC designed to promote balanced Islamic discourse, counter extremist narratives, and strengthen intellectual engagement on issues affecting Muslim societies. The Centre was established as a platform for scholarly dialogue, strategic communication, and research on contemporary ideological challenges facing Muslim communities globally.
- Served as In-Charge of the Voice of Wisdom Centre, overseeing program development, international outreach, and collaboration with scholars, researchers, and communication specialists to produce analytical content and policy-relevant discussions aimed at promoting Islamic moderation, coexistence, and intellectual resilience.
- Supervised initiatives within the Dialogue and Communications Department of the OIC, contributing to international dialogue efforts aimed at strengthening intercultural understanding, peaceful coexistence, and constructive engagement between Muslim societies and the wider international community.
- Actively participated in international conferences, global policy forums, and academic dialogue platforms, representing the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and delivering presentations on Islamic moderation, balanced religious discourse, and the role of Islamic institutions in addressing contemporary global challenges.
- Contributed to strengthening the global narrative on Islam as a religion of peace, tolerance, and intellectual tradition, while supporting OIC initiatives that promote dialogue, communication strategies, and scholarly engagement to counter misinformation and ideological extremism.

International Scholarly Contribution on International Islamic Encyclopedia of Tolerance

Published Year: 2022

Led the implementation and publication of the scholarly work “Coexistence and Acquaintance in Islam: Simplified Concepts” (2022) as part of the International Islamic Encyclopedia of Tolerance, a major multilingual scholarly initiative supervised by the Sawt Al-Hikma Center under the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The project involved approximately fifty prominent scholars and intellectuals from across the Islamic world, collectively contributing to a comprehensive academic effort aimed at promoting Islamic principles of moderation, tolerance, and balanced religious understanding. The publication provides accessible, yet academically grounded perspectives based on Qur’anic teachings and classical Islamic scholarship, addressing contemporary challenges such as extremism, terrorism, radicalization, and misconceptions about Islam. Produced in both print and digital formats, the work serves as a reference resource for students, scholars, policymakers, and Muslim youth, contributing to global intellectual discourse on peaceful coexistence within Islamic civilization.

5. Development of Islamic Financial Institutions and Fiqh Academy

Established the Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Maldives

Year: 2008

Led the establishment of the Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Maldives in 2008, creating a national scholarly institution dedicated to providing authoritative Islamic jurisprudential guidance on contemporary issues affecting Maldivian society. The Academy was established as a central scholarly body composed of qualified Islamic scholars specializing in diverse fields of Islamic jurisprudence. The Academy was mandated to serve as a national authority for issuing fatwas and providing religious and legal opinions to the Government of the Maldives, state institutions, and the general public, particularly on emerging fiqh issues, including family law, taxation, social ethics, financial transactions, and complex contemporary issues requiring Islamic legal analysis. As of 2026, the Islamic Fiqh Academy has contributed to strengthening public access to authoritative Islamic rulings through the publication of three official booklets compiling fatwas issued and have been made publicly accessible through the Council’s official website, enhancing transparency, scholarly accessibility, and public understanding of Islamic legal guidance in the Maldives.

Contributed to Establishment of Maldives Islamic Bank PLC

Bank Operationalized Date: 07th March 2011

Contributed to the advancement of Islamic finance in the Maldives through his engagement in the establishment and development of Maldives Islamic Bank PLC (MIB), which commenced operations on 07th March 2011 as the country’s first and only fully-fledged Shariah-compliant banking institution. The establishment of MIB marked a major milestone in the development of Islamic financial infrastructure in the Maldives, providing Shariah-compliant financial services

that enable individuals and businesses to conduct financial transactions in accordance with Islamic ethical and legal principles. The bank introduced a range of Islamic financial products and services based on recognized Shariah contracts such as Murabaha, Ijara, Musharakah, and other Shariah-compliant financing mechanisms. Dr. Shaheem supported institutional capacity-building efforts and strategic development initiatives aimed at strengthening the operational and governance framework of Islamic finance in the country.

6. Development of Islamic Education Institutions

Establishment and Development of the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM)

Established Date: 21 February 2014

Institution: Islamic University of Maldives, Republic of Maldives

Vice Chancellor: 2015–2016

Chancellor: 2016–2018

Part-Time Lecturer: 2015–2018

Served as Chairman of the Presidential Committee appointed by H.E. President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom while serving as Minister of Islamic Affairs, leading the historic transformation of the College of Islamic Studies into the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM), which was officially established on 21 February 2014 as the first Islamic university in the Republic of Maldives. This transformation marked a major milestone in the country's higher education landscape by creating a dedicated national institution for advanced Islamic scholarship, research, and professional education.

Dr. Shaheem played a pioneering role in the academic development, and institutional strengthening of the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM), serving as the founding Vice Chancellor (2015–2016) and later as Chancellor (2016–2018) of the university. Under his leadership, IUM expanded its academic and research capacity while integrating Islamic scholarship with contemporary national priorities in governance, socio-economic development, and public policy. One of his most significant academic achievements was the development and introduction of the first Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes in the Maldives in the field of Islamic Judicial Sciences and Legislative Policy, marking a historic milestone in the country's higher education system. In addition to executive leadership roles, Dr. Shaheem also served as a Part-Time Lecturer at IUM from 2015 to 2018, contributing directly to teaching and academic mentoring while supporting the development of Islamic scholarship at postgraduate and advanced levels.

- Under the leadership of Dr. Shaheem and through a collaborative team-based approach, led the formulation and implementation of the inaugural Strategic Plan (2015–2020) and Annual Action Plan (2015) of the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM), establishing the University's first comprehensive institutional planning framework following its formation as the Maldives' first Islamic university. The Strategic Plan provided a structured roadmap for academic excellence, research development, governance, quality assurance, international collaboration, institutional growth, and community engagement, ensuring that

IUM's development was aligned with national educational priorities and Islamic scholarly values. This initiative laid a strong administrative and academic foundation for the long-term growth of IUM, strengthening its role as a national centre for Islamic higher education, scholarship, leadership development, and service to the Muslim community.

- Led the formulation of the core governance framework of the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM) through a collaborative teamwork following its establishment, developing the institutional policies, procedures, standard operating procedures, rules, and regulations required to operationalize and administer the University effectively. This initiative established the foundation for sound university governance, academic administration, quality assurance, regulatory compliance, and institutional accountability during IUM's formative years. By creating a structured administrative and governance system, the initiative strengthened IUM's capacity to function as the first Islamic university in the Maldives, supporting its long-term mission of advancing Islamic higher education, scholarship, and service to the Muslim community.
- Led the formation of a multidisciplinary academic development team at the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM), bringing together religious scholars and technical experts educated in Egypt, Malaysia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and the United States to support the development of modern academic programmes in Islamic studies and related fields. Through collaborative leadership, the team formulated and introduced several contemporary degree and master's programmes, including Bachelor of Imamship and Local Governance, Master of Fiqh and Usul al-Fiqh, Master of Islamic Judicial Sciences and Shari'ah Policy, Master of Qirā'ath, Master of Islamic Revealed Knowledge, Leadership and Administration, Master of Aqidah and Islamic Thought, Master of Education in Leadership and Administration, and Master of Arts in Journalism and Media Communications, along with other Arabic and Islamic studies courses. These programmes strengthened academic specialization and professional capacity in fields essential to modern Islamic service, including imamship, Shariah governance, Islamic jurisprudence, Qur'anic studies, religious administration, education leadership, and media communication, thereby contributing to the development of qualified scholars, educators, religious leaders, and professionals for the Muslim community.
- Provided strategic leadership in strengthening the institutional framework of the IUM, enhancing its academic programme development, research capacity and scholarly publication, international academic collaboration, and community engagement, while integrating Islamic scholarship with contemporary socio-economic and governance priorities at both national and international levels.
- Spearheaded the introduction and institutionalization of structured academic programmes in Islamic Finance, including Advanced Certificate in Islamic Finance, Diploma in Islamic Finance, Bachelor of Islamic Banking and Finance, and positioning IUM the first higher education institution in the Maldives to offer specialized academic qualifications in this field; contributing to the development of national expertise in Shariah-compliant finance and ethical financial governance supporting the emerging Islamic finance sector in the Maldives.

- Initiated and established IUM Holdings Pvt Ltd in September 2017 as a strategic institutional enterprise designed to generate sustainable revenue for the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM). The company was structured with 99% ownership held by IUM and 1% by the IUM Student Union, creating a hybrid institutional holding model aimed at strengthening financial sustainability and reducing long-term dependence on state funding. The company was mandated to undertake commercial, consultancy, and professional training activities, enabling the university to diversify its income sources while supporting the advancement of Islamic higher education in the Maldives.
- Led the planning and development of the IUM Sanabil Office Complex, the first major infrastructure and waqf investment initiative of the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM) following the acquisition of land in Hulhumalé. The project was designed as a seven-storey office building to generate sustainable rental income for financing the University's academic programmes, institutional development, and long-term strategic initiatives. Inspired by Surah Al-Baqarah (2:261), the project was named "Sanabil" (ears of grain), symbolizing multiplied blessings through charitable investment and sustainable growth. The groundbreaking ceremony for the IUM Sanabil Office Complex on Plot No. 11528, Hulhumalé, was held on 7 March 2018, marking a significant milestone in strengthening the University's financial sustainability through the Islamic waqf model.
- Led the development of the IUM iCampus (Innovative Campus) Master Plan, a strategic USD 20 million initiative to establish a modern, integrated university campus in Hulhumalé that would consolidate all faculties and central administrative offices of the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM) within a single purpose-built campus. The project was designed to strengthen institutional capacity and transform IUM into an internationally competitive centre for Islamic higher education capable of attracting both Maldivian and international students. In 2018, the Master Plan was presented to several Arab and Islamic countries to seek strategic partnerships, financial support, and investment for its implementation.
- Developed and submitted a strategic proposal in 2017 to place the Arabic School under the administration of the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM) with the objective of modernizing the institution, enhancing the quality of education, and elevating its academic standards. The proposal envisioned strengthening the school's academic and institutional development through the leadership, governance, and expertise of a specialized Islamic higher education institution, thereby establishing a stronger foundation for excellence in Arabic language and Islamic education in the Maldives.
- Led the publication of the Arabic language teaching book series "*Silsilathul Maaldif Li Thauleemul Luqathul Arabiyyah*" (The Maldives Series for Teaching the Arabic Language) through the Islamic University of Maldives in 2016, under the leadership of Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed and a dedicated IUM academic team. The series was adapted from the Yemen Institute for Arabic Language (YIAL) curriculum and developed to strengthen

structured Arabic language learning in the Maldives. Under this initiative, 32 books out of the planned 43-book series were successfully published with funding from the Zakat Fund administered by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. The series supported specialized diploma-level Arabic language pathways, including Arabic for Diplomatic Purposes, Arabic for Commercial Purposes, Arabic for Media Purposes, Arabic for Tourism Purposes, and Arabic for Religious Purposes. This initiative significantly contributed to enhancing Arabic language proficiency, access to Islamic scholarship, professional communication skills, and institutional Arabic education capacity in the Maldives, thereby strengthening the foundation for Islamic studies, diplomacy, media, tourism, and religious service.

- Led the development of the Islamic University of Maldives' international academic cooperation framework by negotiating and concluding strategic Memorandum of Understanding with leading international institutions, including the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), the Islamic University of Madinah, the International Islamic University Islamabad, and the Apex Modern American University of Science and Technology. These partnerships strengthened global collaboration in academic exchange, joint research, curriculum development, faculty and student capacity-building, scholarly mobility, and the co-organization of international conferences and academic programmes. This initiative significantly enhanced the international profile of the Islamic University of Maldives, advanced Islamic higher education and scholarly excellence, and created stronger pathways for knowledge exchange between the Maldives and leading Islamic academic institutions worldwide.
- Led the initiative to strengthen advanced Arabic language education at the Islamic University of Maldives by recruiting qualified professors from Arab countries to teach Arabic language courses within master's degree programmes, marking the first time such specialized instruction was introduced at the University. The initiative enhanced the quality of postgraduate Islamic education by providing students with direct instruction from native Arabic-speaking scholars, thereby strengthening Arabic language proficiency and enabling deeper engagement with classical and contemporary Islamic sources. This contribution significantly strengthened the University's academic capacity in Arabic language studies, improved access to authentic Islamic scholarship, and supported the development of future Islamic scholars, researchers, educators, and professionals capable of contributing effectively to Islamic education and service.
- Initiated PhD scholarship programmes for lecturers at the IUM, enabling academic staff to pursue advanced doctoral studies and strengthen the university's research and teaching capacity. These initiatives contributed to developing a new generation of highly qualified Maldivian scholars in Islamic studies and related academic disciplines, thereby enhancing the intellectual foundation of Islamic higher education in the country.
- Developed international academic cooperation frameworks by facilitating agreements between the IUM and foreign institutions, strengthening global collaboration in areas including academic exchange, research cooperation, and higher education development. These partnerships enhanced opportunities for scholarly engagement and institutional

capacity-building while integrating the Maldivian Islamic higher education system with international academic networks.

- To support academic research and professional training in Islamic finance, Dr. Shaheem led the establishment of the largest Islamic Finance library in the Maldives at the Islamic University of Maldives, enhancing academic research capacity, academic resources, and industry-oriented scholarship in the field of Islamic Finance.
- Organized and led the International Conference on Islamic Awakening (ICIA) in 2016 and 2017, bringing together more than 300 international scholars, industry leaders, policymakers, and researchers which followed the first International Conference on Islamic Finance ever organized in the Maldives. The conferences focused on sustainable and resilient growth of the Islamic finance industry, emphasizing innovation in Islamic financial instruments, innovation in Islamic financial instruments and strategic policy frameworks for the development of Islamic finance.
- Dedicated a special issue of the international multidisciplinary journal *Al-Manhaj* to research in Islamic finance. This initiative enhanced the dissemination of peer-reviewed research, scholarly dialogue, and evidence-based policy discussions, contributing to the intellectual development of the Islamic finance sector both nationally and internationally.
- Contributed to the international recognition of IUM for its contributions to Islamic finance education. In 2017, the university received the Silver Award for “Education Provider of the Year” at the Islamic Finance Forum of South Asia (IFFSA), recognizing the institution’s leadership in advancing Islamic finance education and research.
- Introduced University Core modules across all levels, from Pre-University to Doctorate programmes, aligning institutional curricula with Islamic values, ethical frameworks, and national educational objectives.
- Initiated and produced national religious awareness media programmes broadcasted during Ramadan 1438H and 1439H, aimed at strengthening public understanding of Islam and promoting moderation which contributed significantly to enhancing public religious literacy, promoting balanced Islamic understanding, and strengthening social cohesion within Maldivian society.
 - “Prophet of Mercy” – a 30-episode television series
 - “Ulul-Azm” – a 5-episode educational series
- Led and institutionalized research-driven and community engagement initiatives at the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM) in strategic collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Center of the Maldives and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), contributing to evidence-based policy dialogue, academic research, and capacity-building programmes aimed at preventing extremism and strengthening social resilience within the Maldivian community. In recognition of these contributions, the Maldives National Defence Force formally recognized the Islamic University of Maldives in 2018

for its efforts in promoting moderation, national security awareness, and counter-extremism initiatives.

Foundational Leadership in the Establishment of the Faculty of Shariah and Islamic Studies

Dean: 2011 – 2012

Part-Time Lecturer: 2010 – 2013

Institution: Villa College, Republic of Maldives

Dr. Shaheem played a pioneering role in strengthening Islamic higher education in the Maldives through his leadership and academic contributions at Villa College, one of the country's leading private higher education institutions. Between 2011 and 2012, he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Shariah and Islamic Studies, where he provided foundational academic leadership during the formative stage of the faculty. He played a central role in establishing the governance structures, institutional and academic framework for structured Islamic higher education programmes within the college. His leadership contributed to laying the foundation for what later evolved into the Faculty of Shariah and Law, thereby strengthening the faculty's academic credibility and reputation within the national higher education landscape.

- Dr. Shaheem also served as a Part-Time Lecturer from 2010 to 2013, contributing directly to the advancement of Islamic studies through teaching, academic mentoring, and scholarly engagement with students pursuing Shariah disciplines. His academic contributions supported the development of students' understanding of Islamic jurisprudence, legal reasoning, and the ethical foundations of Islamic scholarship.
- Led the design and development of comprehensive academic programmes and course modules, overseeing curriculum formulation through extensive consultation with respected Islamic scholars and collaboration with reputable international Islamic universities to ensure academic quality, relevance, and alignment with global standards in Islamic education.

Development of the Al-Madheena Investment Pvt. Ltd.

Established Date: 14th October 2021

Chairman / Director: 2021 – 2023

Institution: Al-Madheena Investment Pvt. Ltd, Republic of Maldives

Co-founded Al-Madheena Investment Pvt. Ltd., an educational investment initiative established to promote quality education grounded in Islamic values, ethical principles, and knowledge development in the Maldives. Serving as Chairman and Director from 2021 to 2023, he provided strategic leadership in shaping the organization's mission of strengthening the national education landscape by integrating academic excellence with Islamic ethical principles, ensuring that education remains accessible and beneficial to learners regardless of age or gender.

- Provided strategic leadership in developing Islamic-oriented educational institutions under the organization's umbrella, including the ILM Institute for Islamic Studies in 2021, which focuses on higher and adult Islamic education, and Kokkomen Preschool in 2017, an early childhood education institution integrating foundational learning with Islamic moral development. Through this initiative, contributed to expanding structured Islamic education opportunities across different stages of learning.
- Advanced a long-term vision to establish a comprehensive Islamic education ecosystem, positioning Al-Madheena Investment to support institutions ranging from early childhood education to higher education and specialized Islamic studies, thereby strengthening human capital development and promoting Islamic values within the Maldivian education system.
- Led the initiative to establish Madina International School as part of a long-term vision to expand Islamic educational services in the Maldives, creating an institution that integrates academic education with Islamic studies from pre-school to Grade 10, with English as the medium of instruction. The project incorporates a purpose-built mosque within the school campus to facilitate congregational worship, Qur'anic education, Islamic learning, and character development as integral components of the educational environment. The mosque groundbreaking ceremony was held on 5 March 2024, followed by the Madina International School groundbreaking ceremony on 3 April 2026, marking significant milestones in the realization of the project. Guided by the philosophy of building people before structures, the initiative was designed to nurture students through the inculcation of Islamic values, sound Aqidah based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah, Qur'an memorization and recitation, Arabic language proficiency, leadership development, academic excellence, and moral character. The project aims to develop a new generation of Muslims distinguished by strong Islamic identity, intellectual competence, ethical leadership, and personal resilience, while contributing to the long-term advancement of Islamic education and human capital development in the Maldives.

Establishment and Development of the Kokkomen Preschool

Established Date: 02nd November 2021

Founder and Chairman: 2021 – 2023

Institution: Kokkomen Preschool, Republic of Maldives

Founded Kokkomen Preschool, an early childhood education institution established in 2017 and registered with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Maldives, as part of his broader vision to expand Islamic-based educational institutions in the Maldives. He later served as Chairman of the institution from 2021 to 2023, providing strategic leadership in institutional development and educational programming.

Kokkomen Preschool was established to create a nurturing and academically stimulating learning environment for children aged 18 months to 6 years, integrating the national preschool curriculum with structured programmes focused on Islamic values, ethics, and character

development. The institution emphasizes the development of moral values, social responsibility, and foundational Islamic knowledge while maintaining internationally recognized early childhood education practices such as play-based learning and child-centered pedagogical approaches.

- The preschool currently serves more than 300 students, demonstrating strong community engagement and demand for Islamic-oriented early childhood education. In addition, the institution operates a dedicated Qur'an Centre supporting over 200 learners, providing structured programmes for Qur'anic recitation and early memorization, thereby strengthening children's engagement with the Qur'an from a young age.
- Under Dr. Shaheem's leadership, the institution implemented several key initiatives including, The systemization of Islamic-integrated preschool curricula, The development of Islamic educational booksets and learning materials and the introduction of technology-enabled communication platforms to strengthen engagement between educators and parents.
- Led initiatives to strengthen the professional capacity of early childhood educators, recognizing the importance of qualified teachers in delivering Islamic-integrated education. Through institutional partnerships, Dr. Shaheem facilitated international teacher training programmes, enabling educators to receive professional training in early childhood and Islamic education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Türkiye.

Establishment and Development of the ILM Institute for Islamic Studies

Established Date: 28 October 2021

Director General: 2020 – 2023

Institution: ILM Institute for Islamic Studies, Republic of Maldives

- Founded the ILM Institute for Islamic Studies to address the shortage of structured and advanced Islamic education in the Maldives, establishing an academic institution dedicated to strengthening specialization in key fields of Islamic knowledge including Qur'anic Sciences, Hadith Sciences, Islamic Jurisprudence (Fiqh), Islamic Theology (Aqidah), and Islamic ethical values, thereby contributing to the development of qualified Islamic scholars, educators, and community leaders in the Maldives.
- Promoted Arabic language proficiency as a strategic academic priority, recognizing Arabic as the essential medium for accessing the vast body of classical Islamic scholarship developed over fourteen centuries. The Institute introduced structured Arabic language programmes to help Maldivian students overcome linguistic barriers and gain direct access to primary Islamic sources and scholarly literature.
- Established a national Qur'an memorization initiative under the Institute's academic framework aimed at developing 100 qualified Huffāz, while expanding broader Qur'anic education opportunities across the country. The programme currently supports more than

600 active students enrolled in structured memorization programmes, strengthening Qur’anic literacy and scholarship within the Maldivian community.

- Expanded institutional presence by establishing ILM Institute campuses in Malé City and Hulhumalé, improving access to Islamic education and scholarly development opportunities for students within the capital region and supporting broader community engagement in religious education.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive range of Maldives Qualifications Authority (MQA) approved academic programmes to strengthen Islamic education and professional capacity within the Maldives. These include Certificate Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 in Arabic Language, as well as a structured Arabic Language Programme for children aged 7–16 designed to build early linguistic proficiency.
- Introduced structured programmes in Qur’anic studies including Certificate Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 in Qirā’ath (Qur’an Recitation) alongside a Hifz Development Programme aimed at training 100 qualified Huffāz. These programmes strengthen the national capacity for Qur’anic education and religious leadership.
- Pioneered specialized professional education in Islamic institutional management by introducing the first Diploma in Zakat Management and Sciences in the Maldives, as well as programmes including Diploma in Imams and Mosque Management and Diploma in Arabic Language and Islamic Studies, thereby creating structured academic pathways for Islamic scholarship, mosque administration, and religious service leadership.
- Led the academic design and formulation of curriculum frameworks and module outlines for Arabic language studies, Islamic studies programmes, Qirā’ath certification courses, Imam and mosque management training, and Zakat management specialization programmes, ensuring academically robust and professionally structured course delivery.
- ILM collaborated with the Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC) Think Tank to develop Islamic educational booksets for early childhood learning designed for students from Nursery to UKG level, strengthening foundational Islamic education from the earliest stages of learning. Oversaw the publication of the Baby Nursery Islamic Activity Book, released on 12 June 2022, an educational resource designed to introduce foundational Islamic values through age-appropriate activities suitable for both classroom and home learning environments. Facilitated nationwide accessibility of Islamic educational materials, ensuring that educational resources produced by the Institute are distributed at affordable prices to students across atolls and islands throughout the Maldives, thereby strengthening equitable access to early Islamic education and promoting religious literacy at the foundational stages of learning.
- Led the development and publication of the Maldives’ first comprehensive Islamic-integrated preschool book series through the ILM Institute for Islamic Studies, in collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC). Initiated in 2021 and officially launched on 4 July 2026, the project represents a pioneering contribution to early childhood Islamic education in the Maldives. The series comprises 65

educational books covering the full Foundation Studies stage, including Baby Nursery, Nursery, Lower Kindergarten (LKG), and Upper Kindergarten (UKG). It integrates the Maldives National Curriculum with Arabic Language, Islamic Values, and Ethics, creating a holistic educational framework that nurtures children's intellectual, moral, and spiritual development from the earliest years. Developed under Dr. Shaheem's direct supervision, the books underwent academic and educational review to ensure quality, relevance, and suitability for preschool learners. The first 16 Baby Nursery books were officially launched, while the remaining 49 titles have been completed and prepared for publication. This initiative established the first preschool educational series of its kind in the Maldives, strengthening access to structured Islamic early childhood learning materials and supporting the development of a generation grounded in Islamic values, Arabic language exposure, and sound moral formation.

Development of Specialized Islamic Judicial Education at Avid College

Advisor: 2020 – 2021

Institution: Avid College, Republic of Maldives

Served as Advisor to Avid College, providing strategic guidance on institutional development and the advancement of Islamic higher education programmes, with a particular focus on strengthening academic specialization in Islamic jurisprudence and judicial studies within the Maldivian higher education sector.

- Led the design and development of Islamic curriculum frameworks, including the formulation and establishment of the Master of Science in Islamic Judicial Practice programme, a specialized postgraduate programme designed to enhance professional competency in Islamic jurisprudence, judicial procedures, legal reasoning, and Shariah-based adjudication.
- Served as a Part-Time Lecturer within the Master of Science in Islamic Judicial Practice programme, delivering postgraduate-level instruction in Islamic legal reasoning, judicial processes, and the practical application of Shariah principles within modern legal and institutional contexts.

7. Strategic Development of Islamic Endowment (Waqf) Sector in the Maldives

Led the strategic development and institutional strengthening of the Waqf sector in the Maldives, introducing a modernized governance and financial management framework for Islamic endowments under the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments. This initiative positioned Waqf as a sustainable Islamic financial instrument to support religious services, Islamic education, social welfare, and community development, while aligning traditional endowment practices with contemporary financial and institutional governance models.

Introduced Cash Waqf mechanisms and real estate-based Waqf property development models, enabling the creation of sustainable income-generating endowment assets designed to finance long-term Islamic educational, religious, and community service initiatives throughout the Maldives.

Contributions made by Dr. Shaheem has significantly strengthened the institutional foundations of the Waqf sector in the Maldives, transforming traditional endowment practices into a modern and sustainable system of Islamic social finance.

National Waqf Infrastructure Development Projects

- Introduced the Maldives' first structured real estate-based Waqf development project, "Dar Al-Eiman," a 10-storey Waqf building operationalized on 31 December 2016. The project established a sustainable revenue-generating endowment asset designed to finance mosque development, Islamic education initiatives, and broader religious service programmes across the country.
- Initiated the Darul Salaam Waqf Building Project in Hulhumalé, a major 12-storey, 20,000-square-foot Waqf development, with the official groundbreaking ceremony held on 26 November 2025. The project is designed as a multifunctional endowment complex incorporating commercial outlets, office spaces, meeting rooms, multi-purpose halls, a daycare centre, reception facilities, basement parking, and a rooftop terrace, ensuring sustainable revenue generation to finance Islamic affairs programmes and community services.
- Advanced the national Waqf infrastructure through the Darul Arqam Waqf Building Project in Malé, with the groundbreaking ceremony held on 20 November 2025. This project forms part of a broader strategic initiative aimed at strengthening the financial sustainability and institutional self-sufficiency of Islamic affairs institutions, while gradually reducing reliance on state budget allocations.
- In October 2025, launched the Atoll and City Waqf Project Framework, a decentralized national initiative designed to establish regionally based Waqf funds across atolls and cities. The framework aims to create locally managed endowment funds capable of

generating sustainable income to support Islamic affairs, mosque maintenance, religious education, and community service initiatives within each region.

Development of the Hulhumalé Iconic Grand Mosque and Sustainable Waqf Infrastructure

Memorandum of Understanding Signed: 31 March 2026

- Led the strategic initiative to secure international financing for the Hulhumalé Iconic Grand Mosque Project, culminating in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Al Rajhi Company on 31 March 2026. This landmark agreement advanced one of the Maldives' most significant Islamic infrastructure projects, scheduled to commence in conjunction with the 900th anniversary of the Maldives' embrace of Islam on 13 September 2026, in accordance with the national vision announced by H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu.
- Provided strategic leadership in conceptualizing the project as a comprehensive Islamic religious, educational, cultural, and waqf development, rather than solely a place of worship. The master plan incorporates a grand mosque, Qur'an Museum, commercial complex, hotel, residential and commercial facilities, parking infrastructure, and essential public service amenities, creating an integrated Islamic landmark designed to serve both religious and community needs.
- Introduced a sustainable waqf-based financing model for the project, ensuring that income generated from the commercial and endowment components will provide continuous financial support for Islamic affairs, mosque development, religious education, Qur'anic programmes, and community services throughout the Maldives. This initiative represents a pioneering model linking major Islamic infrastructure development with long-term institutional sustainability and self-reliance.
- Advanced international cooperation in support of Islamic development by facilitating strategic collaboration between the Government of the Maldives and a leading Saudi Islamic institution, strengthening bilateral partnership while mobilizing international expertise and investment for one of the country's largest Islamic endowment projects.
- Upon completion, the Hulhumalé Iconic Grand Mosque is expected to become one of the largest mosques in the Maldives, serving as a national centre for worship, Islamic education, cultural preservation, scholarly engagement, and community development, while standing as a lasting symbol of the Maldives' Islamic heritage and its continued commitment to the advancement of Islam.

Establishment of Mosque Waqf Trust Fund

Date: 3 February 2010

- Led the establishment of the Mosque Waqf Fund under the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, administered by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, creating a sustainable endowment mechanism dedicated to supporting mosque construction, renovation, and the provision of essential facilities and assets. The waqf trust fund supports the construction and refurbishment of mosques nationwide, as well as the establishment of prayer spaces and ablution facilities in schools, government institutions, and public spaces, thereby strengthening religious infrastructure and accessibility for Muslim communities throughout the Maldives.
- Organized and led a national telethon fundraising campaign on 18 June 2012 in collaboration with television channels, radio stations, and online media platforms to support the Mosque Waqf Fund. The campaign successfully raised over MVR 2 million (approximately USD 129,702). The funds raised through this initiative were allocated in accordance with established regulations to support mosque construction, renovation projects, and the procurement of essential mosque equipment nationwide, particularly in preparation for the Ramadan period, thereby strengthening community participation in Islamic charitable initiatives.

Establishment of the Religious Waqf Fund

Date: 3 February 2010

Led the establishment of the Religious Waqf Fund, also administered by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, creating a sustainable national endowment mechanism dedicated to supporting Islamic religious services, public religious education, and Da'wah initiatives across the Maldives.

The fund supports a wide range of religious initiatives including:

- Organization of religious symposiums, seminars, workshops, and scholarly forums
- Engagement of local and international Islamic scholars for public religious outreach
- Publication and dissemination of religious literature, including Friday sermons, translations of Islamic texts, books, and educational materials
- Sponsorship of Qur'an memorization programmes and national Qur'an competitions
- Development of religious awareness campaigns and educational initiatives
- Strengthening human resource development in Islamic scholarship, supporting local and international training programmes for Islamic scholars, Imams, and religious leaders.
- It supports the establishment and operation of Islamic Studio production facilities, procurement of broadcasting equipment, and the production of educational media content including documentaries, religious programmes, and instructional videos, expanding the reach of Islamic education through digital and broadcast media.
- Provides financial support for the expansion of Quran education programmes through the National Centre for the Holy Quran and private sector initiatives across the islands.

Establishment of the Islamic Waqf Fund

Date: 14th April 2025

Led the formulation and institutionalization of the Islamic Waqf Fund (IWF), integrating the Religious Waqf Trust Fund and the Mosque Waqf Trust Fund under a unified national endowment framework administered by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. The Islamic Waqf Fund was established as a comprehensive national endowment mechanism designed to promote Islamic affairs, Da'wah activities, religious education, and the preservation and advancement of Islamic civilization in the Maldives.

- The fund provides financial support for initiatives including:
 - Mosque construction and maintenance
 - Development of prayer facilities
 - Islamic education scholarships
 - Establishment of Islamic libraries
 - Qur'an memorization programmes
 - Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities
 - Healthcare assistance and broader community welfare initiatives aligned with Islamic values, expanding the role of Waqf as a comprehensive Islamic social finance mechanism.
- Introduced a sustainable Shariah-compliant investment framework for the Islamic Waqf Fund, designed to ensure long-term financial sustainability and growth of endowment assets. The framework includes investments in income-generating real estate Waqf assets, Shariah-compliant financial instruments such as Sukuk, and halal investment funds and ethical business ventures that align with Islamic principles. Through a structured reinvestment strategy and sustainable endowment management practices, the initiative aims to create a self-sustaining financial ecosystem capable of continuously supporting religious, educational, and community development programmes across the Maldives.

Development of Legislative Frameworks for Waqf Governance

Drafted the Awqaf Bill, a comprehensive legislative framework designed to establish a structured regulatory system for the governance, administration, and sustainable management of Islamic endowments in the Maldives. The proposed legislation aims to strengthen institutional oversight, transparency, and accountability in the management of Waqf assets while aligning national endowment practices with internationally recognized principles of Islamic philanthropic governance. By formalizing legal and institutional standards for Awqaf administration, the bill seeks to enhance public trust, safeguard charitable assets, and enable Waqf to function as a strategic instrument for financing religious services, Islamic education, social welfare programmes, and community development initiatives across the Maldives.

8. Development of Huffaz and Qur’anic Education in the Maldives

- Launched the “500 Hafiz Development Project” in 2012, a national strategic initiative designed to expand Qur’an memorization capacity and nurture future generations of Huffaz across the Republic of Maldives. The project was developed to strengthen the institutional framework for Qur’anic education, improve access to structured memorization programmes, and cultivate a generation of Qur’an memorizers capable of serving as religious leaders, educators, and role models within the Muslim community. Through sustained institutional support and nationwide educational initiatives, the programme has contributed significantly to the growth of Qur’anic memorization in the Maldives. As of February 2026, the Maldives records 301 certified Huffaz, while 1,873 students are actively engaged in structured Qur’an memorization programmes across the country, reflecting a substantial expansion in national Qur’anic education capacity.
- To strengthen the quality and accessibility of Hifz education at the island level, facilitated the deployment of qualified international Hifz instructors to 17 islands across the Maldives, enabling the establishment of structured memorization classes for children and community learners. This initiative helped address the shortage of qualified Qur’an instructors and ensured the delivery of standardized and academically structured memorization programmes.
- Successfully implemented the enhancement of the Government of Maldives’ national recognition scheme for Qur’an memorizers, strengthening the state’s support framework for religious scholarship under the direction and guidance of H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. In 2025, the monthly lifetime allowance provided to certified Huffaz was increased from MVR 2,000 to MVR 4,000, reflecting a significant policy commitment to recognizing the scholarly achievement of Qur’an memorizers and encouraging continued excellence in Qur’anic learning.
- Introduced recognition-based religious incentive programmes by facilitating opportunities for certified Huffaz of the Holy Qur’an to undertake Umrah pilgrimages, serving both as an honor bestowed upon Qur’an memorizers and as a motivational initiative encouraging greater participation in Qur’an memorization programmes nationwide.

9. Development of Qur’anic Education in the Maldives

Publication of the “Mushaf Maaldif”, First National Qur’an for the Maldives

Project Initiated: 05th October 2014

Led the initiative and publication of “Mushaf Maaldif,” the first Qur’an Mushaf specifically prepared for the Republic of Maldives in collaboration with Bahrain Quran Care Society, implemented as a national religious and cultural initiative aimed at providing every Maldivian citizen with access to the Holy Qur’an.

The Mushaf was designed to reflect Maldivian Islamic identity and cultural heritage, incorporating artistic elements inspired by the historic Malé Friday Mosque (Hukuru Miskiy), including traditional Maldivian craftsmanship motifs integrated into the cover design, internal illustrations, and layout structure. The project served both as a religious educational initiative and a cultural preservation effort, standardizing Qur’anic publication within the Maldives while embedding elements of national Islamic heritage.

Funding for the publication was secured through a national collaborative campaign, supported by government-owned enterprises, private sector organizations, and individual citizens, demonstrating strong national participation in the promotion of Qur’anic literacy. The initiative also received international support, with the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), Jeddah, contributing USD 50,000 toward the production and distribution of the Mushaf.

Advancing Nationwide Access to Qur’anic Education Through E-Learning Initiatives

Year: 2012

Led the introduction of distance learning and E-learning programmes at the National Centre for the Holy Qur’an, expanding access to Qur’anic education through digital platforms. This initiative enabled students from geographically dispersed islands to participate in structured Qur’an learning programmes, strengthening educational inclusion and bridging geographic barriers within the Maldivian archipelago.

Promoting Inclusive Access to Qur’anic Education

Donated a Braille edition of the Holy Qur’an to the National Centre for the Holy Qur’an, supporting the expansion of inclusive religious education for visually impaired individuals. This initiative contributed to ensuring that Qur’anic learning remains accessible to all members of society regardless of physical limitations, reinforcing the Islamic principle of inclusivity in religious knowledge and education.

10. Established the Halal Certification Sector in the Maldives

Initiative Introduced: 20 April 2014

Led the introduction of the Maldives Halal Certification System, establishing the first nationally coordinated regulatory framework governing halal certification in the Republic of Maldives. The initiative was implemented under the Regulation for Issuing Halal Certificates (Regulation No. 1632-R/2013), creating an institutional mechanism to ensure that products and services comply with internationally recognized Shariah standards for halal production and trade.

- Developed and institutionalized a national halal certification body under Ministry of Islamic Affairs and regulatory framework, enabling the verification, monitoring, and certification of food products and related industries in accordance with Islamic dietary laws and internationally accepted halal compliance procedures.
- Strengthened the Maldives' position within the global halal economy by facilitating internationally recognized halal certification for Maldivian fish products, which represents one of the country's most significant export industries. Achieved international recognition of the Maldivian Halal logo in August 2014, when it was formally recognized by the Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (MUIS), one of the leading halal certification authorities in Southeast Asia. This recognition significantly enhanced the credibility of Maldivian halal certification within international markets especially among Muslim consumers worldwide. Subsequently secured recognition from the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), one of the most globally respected halal certification bodies, thereby strengthening the international acceptance and regulatory legitimacy of Maldivian halal-certified products.
- Through the establishment of the Maldives Halal Certification System, strengthened the integration of Islamic ethical standards within national economic policy, contributing to the promotion of halal integrity, consumer protection, and the expansion of Shariah-compliant trade within the global halal market.

11. Scholarly Contributions and Religious Publications

Dr. Shaheem has played a significant role in advancing Islamic scholarship and intellectual discourse through extensive academic writing, research publications, public religious guidance, and scholarly supervision. His scholarly contributions encompass more than twenty books, peer-reviewed research publications, academic articles, and religious guidance materials written in Arabic, Dhivehi, and English, addressing contemporary issues in Islamic jurisprudence, theology, governance, Zakat, Hajj, extremism, Qur'anic issues, education, ethics, and social development. His works have contributed to strengthening Islamic knowledge, promoting moderation, and addressing emerging legal and social challenges affecting Muslim communities both nationally and internationally.

Development of National Friday Sermons (Khutbah) for the Maldives

Contributed to the preparation, drafting, scholarly review, and approval of national Friday sermons (Khutbah) delivered weekly in mosques across the Republic of Maldives. These sermons serve as a centralized religious guidance mechanism, ensuring that Islamic teachings communicated to the public are aligned with authentic Islamic scholarship, national priorities, and contemporary social challenges.

Authored more than 40 official Khutbahs, addressing a wide range of topics including Islamic jurisprudence and ethical conduct, family values and social responsibility, national unity and community cohesion and contemporary global issues affecting the Muslim Ummah. Through this initiative, contributed to strengthening religious literacy, ethical awareness, and social cohesion within the Maldivian Muslim community.

1. Fitr Eid and Eid-Al Adha sermons
2. Supremacy and Perfection of the Shariah of Almighty Allah
3. Promotion of Moral Conduct and Prevention of Sinful Practices
4. Providing Islamic education in the upbringing of children
5. Acts of misconduct directed toward individuals who adhere to religious practices
6. The Mitigation of Worldly Consequences Resulting from Sins
7. Being grateful
8. The Role of Leadership in Societal Reform and Development
9. Mutual advice and counsel among individuals constitute a fundamental pillar of social cohesion and collective responsibility
10. The Prohibition and Ethical Implications of Giving and Receiving Bribes
11. The Reality of Islamic Jihad and the Contemporary World
12. Maintaining Good Health
13. Freedom of Expression
14. Islam as a Religion of Purity and Cleanliness
15. The Blessing of Intellect
16. The Role of Women in Building a Virtuous and Ethical Society
17. Ramadan is a month that serves as a foundation for strengthening faith and performing righteous deeds
18. Seek the Blessed Night of Laylat al-Qadr.
19. Reforming and Strengthening Society is a Collective Responsibility of All
20. Integrity and Trustworthiness
21. Implementation and Upholding of the Divine Commands of Allah
22. Establishing Justice and Fairness in the Upbringing and Treatment of Children
23. Commemoration of the Islamic (Hijri) New Year
24. Establishing the commandments of Allah brings prosperity, vitality, and well-being to your community
25. Promotion of National Unity and Social Cohesion
26. Establishment of a Harmonious and Reconciled Community
27. Associating partners with Allah (Shirk)

28. Affirmation of the Oneness of Allah
 29. Faith in the Angels
 30. Commencement of the New Academic Year
 31. Islam as the Symbol of Freedom
 32. Children as a Divine Blessing
 33. Protecting Society from the Dangers of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS
 34. Palestine: The Responsibility of the Islamic Ummah
 35. Accomplishment to Gaza
- Initiated the translation of national Friday sermons (Khutbah) into English and Bengali, enhancing inclusivity and accessibility of religious guidance for foreign Muslim residents in the Maldives and for wider international audiences.
 - Introduced English subtitle integration for the live broadcast of Friday sermons on 29 August 2024, enabling multilingual access across television and digital platforms, including Facebook and YouTube live streams, thereby strengthening public engagement and understanding through expanded global religious outreach.

Major Books and Scholarly Publications by Dr. Shaheem

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2026 | <p><i>“Zakat Nerumai Behumugai Amalukurane Gothuge Sharuee Asaasthakai Mingandu Thah” - Shari’ah Principles and Standards for the Collection and Distribution of Zakat 2026</i></p> <p><i>Chaired to compile the publication with extensive research on Zakat</i></p> <p><i>Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives</i></p> <p><i>Language: Dhivehi</i></p> |
| 2024 | <p><i>“Thanfeezee Nazarakun Islamee Shariathuge Maqsadhuthah” -An Applied Perspective on the Objectives of Islamic Sharī‘ah (Maqāṣid al-Sharī‘ah)</i></p> <p><i>Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives</i></p> <p><i>Language: Dhivehi</i></p> |
| 2023 | <p><i>“Islamee Nazariyyathu” – Islamic Perspectives</i></p> <p><i>Book Published by: The Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC) – IOCC Publisher, Maldives</i></p> <p><i>Language: Dhivehi</i></p> |
| 2022 | <p><i>“Zakat aai Gulhey Zamanee Fiqhy Usoolthakai Qaanoonuge Thasa’vuru” - Contemporary Jurisprudential Principles and Legal Perspectives of Zakat</i></p> |

- Book Published by: The Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC) – IOCC Publisher, Maldives*
Language: Dhivehi
- 2022** **“اصلاح نظام الزكاة في جمهورية المالديف – مشاكل وحلول” - Reform of the Zakat System in the Republic of Maldives - Problems & Solutions**
Book Published by: The Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC) – IOCC Publisher, Maldives
Language: Arabic
- 2022** **“Li‘ān Mahsalaigai DNAge Huh’jiyyath” - The Admissibility of DNA Evidence in Li‘ān Cases**
Book Published by: The Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC) – IOCC Publisher, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2022** **“البصمة الوراثية وأثرها على أحكام اللعان” - DNA Fingerprinting and Its Impact on the Legal Rulings of Li‘ān**
Book Published by: The Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC) – IOCC Publisher, Maldives
Language: Arabic
- 2022** **“Nabee Kaleygefaanuge Hayaipulhun” - Life of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)**
Book Published by: The Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC) – IOCC Publisher, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2019 - 2020** **Academic Research Articles**
Published by: Avas Website, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2019** **Umrah Dua Booklet**
Published by: Qibla Hajj and Umrah, Maldives
Language: Arabic and Dhivehi
- 2016** **“Malaikathunah Emanvun” - Belief in the Angels**
Book Published by: Rahma Research & Publication, Jamiyyathu Rahma, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi

- 2016** **“Allah Ah Shareeku Kurun” - Associating Partners with Allah (Shirk)**
Book Published by: Rahma Research & Publication, Jamiyyathu Rahma, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2016** **“Allah ge Eykauvanthakan” - The Oneness of Allah (Tawḥīd)**
Book Published by: Rahma Research & Publication, Jamiyyathu Rahma, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2015** ***The Role of Women in Civilization***
Research Magazine by: LexisNexix, Shariah Law Reports, Malaysia
Language: English
- 2015** ***The Philosophy of Jihad in Islam***
Research Magazine by: LexisNexix, Shariah Law Reports, Malaysia
Language: English
- 2012** **“Islamee Nazarakun Aniyaverikan” - An Islamic Perspective on Violence**
Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2010** **“Islamee Tharubiyathu Dheyn Dhaskuramatho” - Pedagogical Approaches to Islamic Education**
Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2010** **“Dhuniyeygai Azaab Dheyyumakee Haqeeqathey Heyyeve” – Is Infliction of Worldly Punishment a Reality?**
Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2010** **“Dheeney Harukashi Hiyalai Sababu adhi Ekamuge Hallu” - Religious Extremist Ideology: Its Causes and Solutions**
Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2010** **“Islamdheenaki Terrorismge Dheeney Nun” - Islam Is Not a Religion of Terrorism**
Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi

- 2010** **“Dheeny Harukashi Visnun Mafhoomai Sababuthakai Hallu” - Religious Extremism: Conceptual Understanding, Causes, and Solutions**
Research Published by: Adhadhu News, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2009** **“Sunnathuge Meezaanugai Qunut” - Qunūt in the Light of the Sunnah**
Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2009** **“Namadhugai Adu harukoh Bismikiyumakee Sunnatha Dhurugothey Heyyeve?” - Is the Audible Recitation of ‘Bismillah’ in Prayer Contrary to the Sunnah?**
Book Published by: Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2008** **“البصمة الوراثية وأثرها على أحكام اللعان” - DNA Fingerprinting and Its Impact on the Legal Rulings of Li‘ān**
Research Published by: International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Malaysia
Language: Arabic
- 2008** **“Islam dheenai Democracy” - Islam and Democracy**
Book Published by: Novelty Press, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 2006** **“Lobuvethi U’khtu” - The Beloved Sister**
Book Published by: Novelty Press, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi
- 1998** **“Fikuree Hangurama” - The Ideological Conflict**
Book Published by: Novelty Press, Maldives
Language: Dhivehi

Reviewed Translated Publications

Contributed to the scholarly review and quality assurance of Dhivehi translations of classical Islamic governance texts published by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, ensuring academic accuracy and fidelity to the original Arabic sources. This work supports the accessibility of foundational Islamic political and governance scholarship for Dhivehi-speaking audiences, thereby strengthening the dissemination of classical Islamic thought on governance, public administration, and statecraft within the Maldives.

- 2026** ***“Keerithi Quran Aai Sunnathuge Aliga Hajjaai Umrahge Alhukan Adhakurane Gothai Al-Masjid Al-Nabawi Ah Ziyaraikurun”***
Performing the Acts of Worship of Hajj and Umrah, and Visiting Al-Masjid an-Nabawi, in Accordance with the Holy Qur’an and the Sunnah
 Written by The Council of Islamic Enlightenment in Hajj of Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Da’wah and Guidance of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 2026** ***“Al-Turuq al-Hukmiyyah fi al-Siyasah al-Shar’iyyah”***
 Written by Imam Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah
- 2026** ***“Al-Siyasa al-Shar’iyya fi Islah al-Ra’i wa al-Ra’iyya”***
 Written by Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah

12. Longstanding Scholarly Service and Religious Guidance to the Muslim Community

Since 2005, Dr. Shaheem has served continuously as a religious scholar for over twenty-one years, making sustained contributions to Islamic scholarship, religious guidance, and community development in the Republic of Maldives and internationally. Throughout this period, he has actively delivered religious lectures, scholarly presentations, and public guidance sessions across a wide range of platforms, including mosques, island and city councils, schools, government institutions, private organizations, academic symposiums, public forums, workshops, conferences, and panel discussions. Beyond national outreach, Dr. Shaheem has also contributed to international scholarly dialogue and religious engagement, delivering lectures and participating in conferences and academic forums in countries including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, the State of Qatar, Jordan, Bahrain, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, Libya, Azerbaijan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, India, and Bangladesh. Through these engagements, he has strengthened intellectual cooperation between the Maldives and international Islamic institutions, while promoting moderation, religious literacy, and ethical values within Muslim communities. The sustained nature of this scholarly service has played an important role in enhancing public religious awareness, supporting community guidance, and strengthening the intellectual foundations of Islamic discourse both nationally and internationally.

Broadcasting Islamic Knowledge Through Television and Radio

Led and contributed to the promotion of Islamic knowledge and religious awareness through broadcast media, including the production and dissemination of several educational programmes on national and private television and radio networks in the Maldives. These media productions reached nationwide audiences through television and radio broadcasts, contributing to increased religious literacy, ethical awareness, and appreciation of Islamic intellectual heritage among the Maldivian public.

- Produced a 30-episode television series on Islamic Civilization for VTV, designed to enhance public understanding of the historical development of Islamic civilization, cultural heritage, and the intellectual contributions of Muslim scholars throughout history.
- Produced and presented the 30-episode television programme “Rahmathuge Nabiyya” (The Prophet of Mercy) for the national broadcaster Television Maldives (TVM). The programme explored the life, character, leadership, and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), strengthening public awareness of prophetic values such as mercy, justice, compassion, and moral responsibility.

Dissemination of Religious Guidance Through Digital Platforms

Utilized digital platforms and social media networks to disseminate Islamic teachings, provide religious guidance, and address contemporary religious questions raised by the public. Through these digital engagements, contributed to expanding access to credible Islamic knowledge, enabling broader audiences particularly youth and younger generations to engage with Islamic scholarship through modern communication platforms.

Development of a Digital Knowledge Platform for Islamic Scholarship and Public Religious Education

Developed and launched the personal digital platform “DrShaheem.com”, established as a centralized online repository for Islamic scholarship, religious publications, and educational resources. The platform was created to provide the public with structured and accessible access to Islamic knowledge and scholarly contributions through a dedicated digital knowledge hub.

- Curated and published scholarly articles and religious writings in both Dhivehi and Arabic, addressing a wide range of theological, social, and ethical topics. These publications aim to strengthen public understanding of Islamic teachings and encourage informed religious discourse within the Maldivian community and among broader audiences.
- Digitally archived and disseminated religious publications and educational materials, including authored books, recorded Juz ‘Amma recitations, and multimedia resources designed to support Qur’anic learning and religious awareness among students, educators, and the wider public.
- Integrated multimedia educational resources, including photo and video galleries documenting religious initiatives, lectures, and community outreach programmes, thereby strengthening public engagement and transparency regarding ongoing Islamic service initiatives.
- Utilized the platform as a digital outreach and knowledge dissemination tool, promoting Islamic scholarship and making authentic religious resources accessible to local and international audiences through the website <https://drshaheem.com>, thereby contributing to the broader digital accessibility of Islamic knowledge and religious education.

Developed National Religious Awareness Framework: The Risalath Program
Launched Date: 03rd January 2024

Conceptualized and implemented the “Risalath Program,” a nationwide religious awareness initiative designed to strengthen understanding of core Islamic teachings among diverse segments of society. The programme focuses on in-depth learning of the pillars of Islam, on prayer, Zakat, fasting, Hajj pilgrimage and faith. Target groups include students, youth, women, educators, and the wider community, with the programme emphasizing the promotion of social harmony, peaceful coexistence, ethical responsibility, and civic engagement in accordance with Islamic values. Through lectures, seminars, and community-based programmes conducted across the Maldives, the initiative contributed to strengthening religious education and community awareness at the national level.

Developed Youth Religious Engagement Initiative: “The Message” Series

Initiated and institutionalized “The Message Series,” a structured youth-focused religious awareness programme designed to promote Islamic values, moral responsibility, and positive civic engagement among young people. The programme features monthly public lectures delivered by distinguished international scholars, facilitating intellectual dialogue and exposing Maldivian youth to diverse scholarly perspectives within the global Islamic academic community. By promoting engagement between local audiences and internationally recognized scholars, the initiative strengthens global scholarly exchange while fostering informed and balanced religious understanding among young Muslims in the Maldives.

**Promotion of Islamic Scholarship and Public Religious Education through the
“Hidayathuge Ali” Magazine**
Launched Date: 12 October 2012

Initiated and led the publication of the Islamic scholarly magazine “*Hidayathuge Ali*” under the auspices of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, with the first edition released on 12 October 2012. The magazine was established as a structured intellectual platform to disseminate authentic Islamic knowledge, strengthen religious literacy, and promote scholarly discourse within the Maldivian Muslim community. The publication features scholarly articles and research-based writings by Maldivian Islamic scholars, covering key areas such as Qur’anic interpretation (Tafsir), Islamic jurisprudence (Fiqh), Hadith studies, Islamic ethics, and contemporary social and religious issues.

The magazine is digitally archived and publicly accessible through the official website of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments and preserved in Islamic libraries nationwide, thereby ensuring sustained access to Islamic scholarly resources. As of March 2026, a total of 31 editions has been published, reflecting a continued institutional commitment to promoting Islamic intellectual development and strengthening public understanding of Islamic teachings in the Maldives.

13. Young Khateeb Development Initiative for Future Religious Leadership

Date: 26 June 2024

Designed and launched the Young Khateeb Development Initiative targeted to train 1,000 Young Khateeb within a five-year period, is a structured national youth training programme aimed at developing future religious leaders and strengthening mosque-based religious services across the Maldives. The initiative was introduced to address the imam capacity gaps at mosques and growing need for qualified Khateeb (Friday sermon preachers). By engaging youth at an early stage and equipping them with religious knowledge, leadership skills, and practical experience in sermon delivery, the initiative plays a critical role in cultivating future Islamic scholars, community leaders, and mosque-based religious educators, thereby ensuring continuity in Islamic learning and strengthening the religious and moral foundations of the Muslim community in the Maldives.

The programme specifically targets students in Grades 10–12 and youth under the age of 18, providing structured training in Khutbah preparation, Qur’anic recitation, Islamic jurisprudence, public speaking, religious leadership, and ethical conduct, thereby nurturing a new generation of knowledgeable and confident young Khateeb capable of delivering sermons and contributing to community religious life. As of 2026, the programme has successfully trained 510 Young Khateeb, representing significant progress toward the national target and contributing to strengthening religious leadership capacity across multiple islands.

14. Capacity Building and Professional Development of Imams in the Maldives

Led comprehensive capacity-building and professional development initiatives for Maldivian Imams, aimed at strengthening theological knowledge, religious leadership, and professional competency within mosques across the Republic of Maldives. These initiatives addressed the capacity gaps in mosque leadership while ensuring that Imams possess the scholarly and practical skills required to guide Muslim communities effectively.

- Facilitated structured international training and scholarly exchange programmes in collaboration with reputable Islamic institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia, enabling Maldivian Imams to benefit from advanced learning environments and exposure to diverse scholarly traditions within the Muslim world. Through these international programmes, 93 Maldivian Imams received specialized training by 2026, strengthening their expertise in Islamic jurisprudence, Qur’anic sciences, Hadith studies, mosque administration, and religious outreach.
- Implemented a nationwide Imam Refresher Programme, designed to enhance the continuous professional development of mosque leaders across the country. The programme successfully trained over 1,029 Imams throughout the Maldives, covering

key areas including Tafsir, Fiqh, Hadith, Aqidah, Tajweed, mosque leadership, management, communication skills, and personal development.

- Coordinated a specialized Arabic language training programme for 33 Imams in collaboration with the Al-Azhar Mission in the Maldives, aimed at strengthening linguistic competency and enabling Imams to engage directly with Arabic sources of Islamic scholarship.

15. Leadership in Establishing National and International Islamic Conferences for Institutional Development and Community Engagement

- Initiated and led the first Fatwa Conference in the Maldives, organized by the Supreme Council for Islamic Fatwa as a pioneering scholarly platform bringing together leading Islamic jurists, religious scholars, and institutional representatives to deliberate on the evolving role of *fatwas* (Islamic legal edicts) in contemporary society. The conference addressed key thematic areas including the ethical foundations of issuing fatwas, the impact of fatwas in shaping social reform, the historical highlights of major religious edicts, and the application of technology in contemporary Islamic jurisprudence. By facilitating structured scholarly debate and knowledge exchange, the conference strengthened institutional frameworks for Islamic legal reasoning and contributed to improving public understanding of responsible religious guidance within modern societal contexts.
- Conceptualized and led the Hajj and Umrah Conference, an institutional platform designed to strengthen governance, coordination, and service quality within the pilgrimage sector. The conference incorporated keynote addresses, expert panel discussions, and technical sessions involving representatives from Hajj and Umrah service providers, government agencies, and religious scholars. Discussions focused on improving pilgrimage administration, strengthening regulatory compliance, enhancing pilgrim welfare, and addressing emerging operational challenges within the sector. The conference also hosted the Hajj and Umrah Exhibition, which provided the public with access to information on pilgrimage services, travel arrangements, and religious guidance, thereby strengthening transparency, consumer awareness, and sector-wide collaboration.
- Led the first International Zakat Conference (INZAC) in 2024 and 2025, organized by the Maldives Zakat House, bringing together local and international Zakat Experts, policymakers, and zakat management experts to advance modern approaches to Islamic social finance. The conference explored critical themes including digital transformation of zakat systems, modernization of zakat governance frameworks, legal and Sharia considerations relating to emerging financial technologies such as blockchain and cryptocurrency, and strategies for strengthening poverty alleviation through zakat institutions. The conference included participation from Maldivian and Malaysian experts in zakat governance, facilitating international collaboration and knowledge exchange

aimed at improving the efficiency, transparency, and impact of zakat management in addressing social welfare challenges.

- Organized and led the first-ever Imam Conference in the Maldives, convening over 500 Imams from across the country to deliberate on professional challenges, mosque administration, and the evolving role of religious leadership in community development. The conference served as a major milestone in strengthening the institutional recognition and professional development of Imams. As part of the broader national initiative announced during the conference, a strategic plan was introduced to facilitate international training opportunities for 500 Maldivian Imams over a five-year period, aimed at enhancing theological expertise, leadership capacity, and community engagement across mosques nationwide.
- Initiated and facilitated the National Religious NGOs Conference, bringing together 98 representatives from 70 registered religious non-governmental organizations to strengthen collaboration between civil society and religious institutions in addressing contemporary societal challenges. The conference served as a platform to discuss issues affecting modern Muslim communities, promote coordinated religious awareness initiatives, and reinforce Islamic values in social development.

16. Establishment of Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC) to advance Islamic Education and Global Intellectual Engagement

Established Date: 21 September 2021

Founder and President: 2021 – 2023

Founded and served as President of Islamic Organization for Culture and Civilization (IOCC), as an international educational and intellectual platform dedicated to advancing Islamic scholarship, civilizational dialogue, and knowledge dissemination. The organization strengthened Islamic intellectual traditions, supported youth education and leadership development, and promoted collaboration with international academic and policy institutions in addressing contemporary challenges facing Muslim societies in the Maldives and beyond.

- Established IOCC Publisher and knowledge dissemination initiatives, producing scholarly publications and religious awareness books in collaboration with the IOCC Islamic Social Fund (IISF). These publications address contemporary Islamic thought, jurisprudence, and prophetic studies. Key titles include Islamic Perspectives, Contemporary Jurisprudential Principles and Legal Perspectives Related to Zakat, Islahu Nizamul Zakat Fi Jumhooriyathul Maaldif, The Admissibility of DNA Evidence in Li‘ān Cases, DNA Fingerprinting and Its Impact on the Legal Rulings of Li‘ān, and The Prophetic Life (Sīrah) of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). All revenue generated from IOCC publications is allocated as Waqf, supporting educational and charitable initiatives.

- Promoted international academic collaboration and scholarly exchange, including the donation of IOCC publications to the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) Library.
- Represented IOCC in international conferences and scholarly forums, delivering keynote addresses and lectures on Islamic civilization, governance, and contemporary global challenges. Through these engagements, contributed to strengthening academic and institutional collaboration between the Maldives and leading international Islamic institutions, while promoting intellectual exchange within the global Muslim scholarly community.
- Established the IOCC Study Scholarship Scheme, offering financial assistance and academic support to qualified students seeking to pursue higher education in local and international universities, contributing to the development of future scholars and professionals committed to advancing Islamic knowledge and societal development.
- Launched the IOCC International Scholarship Initiative, facilitating opportunities for Maldivian students to pursue advanced higher education. In partnership with Jamiyyathu Rahma, the program awarded 11 PhD scholarships to Maldivian scholars at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) on 6 December 2022, strengthening national academic capacity in Islamic studies and related fields.
- Established the IOCC Islamic Social Fund, an independent Shariah-governed social finance mechanism supporting humanitarian and educational initiatives. The fund mobilizes resources through zakat, sadaqah, infaq, qard hasan, and cash waqf, ensuring transparent governance and adherence to Shariah principles in managing Islamic social finance instruments.
- Developed the IOCC Think Tank, a research and policy platform dedicated to producing academic publications, policy studies, and hosting conferences, seminars, and workshops. The Think Tank works closely with scholars, policymakers, and community leaders to bridge knowledge gaps on contemporary social and religious issues, including regular intellectual forums, discussions, and scholarly engagements.
- Established the IOCC Publication House, focusing on producing and distributing high-quality Islamic research and scholarly publications at accessible prices. The initiative provides a platform for academics and practitioners to publish research and contributes to strengthening intellectual discourse and public awareness on Islamic knowledge.
- Formed the IOCC Islamic Advisory Council, composed of distinguished Shariah scholars who provide authoritative religious guidance and advisory opinions to address emerging religious issues and support informed decision-making within the community.

- Created the Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque Awareness Special Unit, aimed at educating the public on the historical, religious, and geopolitical significance of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque, promoting awareness and solidarity within the broader Muslim community.
- Produced educational television programs on Islamic themes, developing and overseeing media content aimed at enhancing religious awareness, strengthening understanding of Islamic teachings, and promoting ethical values among the wider community. These programs addressed a range of topics including Islamic jurisprudence, prophetic traditions, moral guidance, and contemporary issues affecting Muslim societies, contributing to accessible religious education through broadcast media.

17. Co-Founding and Strategic Development of Jamiyyathu Rahma: Advancing Humanitarian Service, Islamic Education, and Community Empowerment

Established Date: 2 March 2015

Co-Founder and Advisor: 2015 – 2023

Co-founded and serves as Advisor to Jamiyyathu Rahma, a humanitarian and educational non-governmental charitable organization established on 2 March 2015 and registered under Law No. 1/2003 with the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Maldives. The organization is recognized as a charitable institution by the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) and is internationally endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, enabling the organization to mobilize humanitarian and educational assistance initiatives in compliance with national regulations.

- Provided strategic leadership and advisory guidance in advancing the organization's mission of humanitarian service, educational development, and community empowerment. Jamiyyathu Rahma focuses on supporting public welfare initiatives including the renovation and development of health centres, preschools, schools, and educational institutions, while facilitating higher education opportunities, academic research initiatives, and public awareness programmes.
- Promoted the dissemination of Islamic knowledge through digital and print media, including the production and publication of Juz 'Amma recitation recordings released on 21 August 2015, which were distributed through digital platforms such as YouTube, expanding access to Qur'anic learning resources for students and the wider community.
- Led the publication and distribution of Islamic educational literature, strengthening religious literacy and access to authentic Islamic scholarship. These publications included works on Islamic creed, prophetic traditions, and religious practices, such as *The Reality of Narratives Concerning the Marriages of the Prophet (peace be upon him)*, *The Creed of Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamā'ah*, *The Obligation of Following the Sunnah*, *Derive Your Creed*

from the Qur'an and Sunnah, Learning How to Perform the Prayer, and the Dhivehi translation of Al-Aqeedah Al-Wasitiyyah by Sheikh Muhammad Khalil Harras.

- Led and supported the organization of the ILM Talk Conference, an international religious awareness programme organized by Jamiyyathu Rahma that hosted renowned Islamic scholar Mufti Ismail Menk in the Maldives to deliver public lectures. The programme strengthened public religious awareness, moral values, and spiritual development among large audiences across the country.
- Facilitated nationwide Ramadan humanitarian initiatives, including the distribution of Iftar meals across multiple islands, providing assistance to vulnerable communities while promoting the Islamic values of charity, compassion, and social solidarity during the holy month of Ramadan.
- Established educational assistance programmes providing financial support to university and college students, enabling access to higher education while also supporting Qur'an classes and Qur'an competitions, thereby promoting Qur'anic learning and religious scholarship among youth.
- Organized community-based religious service initiatives, including mosque cleaning campaigns, encouraging volunteerism and strengthening community engagement in maintaining religious spaces.
- Implemented educational and awareness workshops, including the ILM Awareness Workshop, youth strategic planning workshops, and round-table discussions aimed at encouraging intellectual dialogue, leadership development, and youth participation in community development initiatives.
- Conducted professional development programmes for educators, including training workshops for teachers and lecturers, strengthening instructional capacity and improving the quality of both religious and academic education.
- Developed specialized outreach programmes for women and children, including the "Ideal Muslimah" programme, focusing on Islamic values, character development, and empowerment of women, and "My Beloved Child," a programme designed to nurture Islamic ethics, spiritual awareness, and character development among children.
- Launched the "Smile Campaign," a humanitarian hospital visitation initiative providing emotional and social support to patients and their families while promoting compassion, empathy, and community care as fundamental Islamic values.

18. International Capacity Building Initiatives for Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments Personnel

Facilitated international capacity-building initiatives for staff members and religious scholars of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, strengthening institutional expertise, professional competency, and international scholarly engagement in the administration of Islamic affairs and religious services in the Maldives. These initiatives were implemented through fully funded study tours, professional exchange programmes, and institutional collaboration with foreign governments and international Islamic institutions, providing opportunities for Maldivian scholars and technical staff to gain exposure to international best practices in Islamic administration, religious outreach, media production, and heritage management.

- In 2024, facilitated the participation of six Maldivian religious scholars in a study visit to the People's Republic of China, focusing on Islamic heritage preservation, institutional management practices, and intercultural engagement, enabling scholars to broaden their understanding of Islamic heritage management within diverse global contexts.
- In 2025, coordinated a professional exchange programme hosted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan, through which five staff members of the Islamic Studio of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs received specialized training in religious media production, broadcasting techniques, and digital content development, strengthening the Ministry's capacity to produce high-quality Islamic educational media.
- Through collaboration with institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, facilitated international study tours and training programmes for Ministry personnel, including 42 female staff members between 2024 and 2025, and 20 male staff members, enabling them to participate in specialized training programmes focused on Islamic scholarship, religious administration, and institutional leadership.

19. Digital Transformation of Islamic Charitable Contributions and Waqf Donations

- Established a digital charitable contribution mechanism through the Bandeyri Pay platform on 27 August 2024, introducing a modern digital payment system that enables the public to contribute conveniently to charitable and endowment initiatives administered by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. The platform allows seamless donations to eight designated Islamic charitable categories, including mosque construction and maintenance, Islamic educational initiatives, Qur'an memorization programmes, Hafiz Umrah sponsorships, Islamic library development, Umrah pilgrimage assistance, and higher education scholarships in Islamic studies. This initiative strengthened public participation in Islamic philanthropy while improving transparency and efficiency in charitable giving.
- Facilitated the establishment of an integrated digital donation mechanism through the VaaruPay platform in collaboration with the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA)

on 22 March 2025, further advancing the digital transformation of Islamic charitable services. The system enables citizens and residents to contribute electronically to digital cash waqf, khairat (charitable giving), Quran Centre development, mosque construction, and mosque renovation projects. By integrating charitable contributions within a secure national digital payment infrastructure, the initiative enhances accessibility, accountability, and operational efficiency in the management of charitable and endowment funds while encouraging broader public engagement in Islamic social finance initiatives.

20. Enhancing Access to Islamic Knowledge Through Islamic Libraries and Educational Centres

Establishment of Islamic Libraries across the nation

Implementation Year: 2025 - Ongoing

- Initiated and implemented a nationwide programme for the development of Islamic libraries within Islamic Centres across the Maldives, aimed at strengthening public access to Islamic knowledge, scholarly literature, and religious learning resources. As part of this initiative, Islamic libraries were successfully established at the King Salman Mosque in Malé and the Ha. Dhidhoo Islamic Centre, creating dedicated spaces for research, study, and community-based religious education.
- Through strategic international academic collaboration, Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) contributed 64,000 Islamic books to Islamic libraries across the Maldives on 8 September 2025, significantly expanding the country's Islamic knowledge infrastructure. The donated collections include Islamic scholarship, Qur'anic sciences, Hadith literature, Islamic jurisprudence, Arabic language resources, and contemporary Islamic research, thereby supporting the intellectual development of students, scholars, religious leaders, and community learners; strengthening religious literacy, scholarly engagement, and preservation of Islamic intellectual heritage, while also fostering international academic cooperation between Maldivian Islamic institutions and leading universities in the Muslim world.
- Led initiatives to enhance Islamic library resources across Islamic Centres in Malé City and the atolls, strengthening access to specialized knowledge in Islamic Banking, Islamic finance and economics. Through international academic collaboration, INCEIF University of Malaysia provided the complete ISRA Corner standard library books on 29 September 2025 for selected locations, including Gdh. Thinadhoo Islamic Centre, Ha. Dhidhoo Islamic Centre, R. Ungoofaaruu Islamic Centre, and the Islamic Library at the King Salman Mosque. This contributed to the development of academic resources in Islamic banking, finance, and economics and supporting research and professional learning in these fields within the Maldives.

Decentralization of Higher Islamic Education Through Regional Islamic Centres

Year: 2023

Strategically utilized the R. Ungoofaaru Islamic Centre and Gdh. Thinadhoo Islamic Centre as regional hubs for Islamic higher education, supporting the decentralization of advanced religious studies beyond the capital region. Through collaboration with the Islamic University of Maldives (IUM), these centres began facilitating accredited academic programmes in Islamic studies, enabling students from northern and southern atolls to access higher Islamic education without relocating to Malé. By decentralizing higher Islamic education, this initiative strengthened regional educational accessibility, scholarly development, and institutional collaboration, while supporting the long-term goal of building a nationally distributed network of Islamic educational institutions.

Expansion of Islamic Centres and Religious Infrastructure Nationwide

Led initiatives to expand Islamic Centres beyond the capital city of Malé, to serve as multifunctional religious and community institutions, supporting mosque services, Qur'anic education, Islamic scholarship, community gatherings, and public religious awareness programmes. Facilitated the development and establishment of modern Islamic Centres across multiple regions of the Maldives, strengthening religious infrastructure, improving community access to Islamic education, and promoting structured religious learning across the Maldivian archipelago.

21. Strengthening Mosque Leadership, Religious Services, and Mosque Governance

Religious Leadership in Congregational Worship

- Served as an Imam leading congregational prayers at the Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Baz Mosque (Islamic University of Madinah Mosque), demonstrating recognized proficiency in Qur'anic recitation (Tilāwah) and contributing to the spiritual life of one of the prominent religious institutions associated with the Islamic University of Madinah. This role involved guiding congregational worship and promoting disciplined Islamic practices within an academic and religious environment known for its scholarly tradition.
- Since 2011, has regularly served as an Imam leading congregational Friday (Jumu'ah) and Eid prayers, providing spiritual leadership and religious instruction to the public across various mosques in the Maldives. Played an active role in leading major congregational prayers during the holy month of Ramadan, including Taraweeh prayers at the Islamic Centre in Malé and other mosques across the Maldives, thereby strengthening community participation in collective worship. Additionally led Tahajjud prayers during the last ten nights of Ramadan at the Islamic Centre, the largest mosque in the Maldives, contributing to the spiritual engagement of large congregations during the holy month.

Establishment of the National Mosque Majlis

Date: 28 December 2023

Led the establishment and operationalization of the National Mosque Majlis, a national governance body designed to strengthen institutional oversight and coordination of mosque administration across the Maldives. The National Mosque Majlis was officially launched on 28 December 2023, with members formally appointed on 25 February 2024, followed by the issuance of the governing regulatory framework on 01 August 2024. The establishment of this institutional body enhanced policy coordination, governance standards, and administrative oversight of mosques nationwide, contributing to improved management of mosque operations, religious services, and community engagement initiatives.

Executed National Policy to Assign Two Imams to Mosque

Year: 2025

Initiated the Implementation of a national policy of the Government to assign two Imams to every mosque across all inhabited islands of the Maldives, ensuring continuity and stability in the delivery of religious services. This policy addressed operational challenges associated with reliance on a single Imam and strengthened the capacity of mosques to maintain regular congregational prayers, and community guidance services.

Digital Transformation of Mosque Administration

Date: 22nd February 2024

Launched the Masjid Management Portal, a centralized digital platform designed to modernize the administration and operational management of mosques across the Maldives. The platform provides real-time operational oversight of mosque infrastructure and services, including maintenance tracking, repair management, and administrative information relating to Imams and mosque operations. By introducing a centralized digital management system, the initiative strengthened institutional efficiency, transparency, and data-driven management of mosque services, supporting improved planning, resource allocation, and service delivery across the national mosque network.

22. Establishment of the Islamic Studio for Religious Media Production

Year: 2015

Facilitated the establishment of a fully equipped Islamic Studio within the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, designed to strengthen the production and dissemination of high-quality Islamic educational media in the Maldives. The studio was developed as a specialized media facility to support structured religious awareness programs and enhance the Ministry's capacity to deliver credible Islamic knowledge through modern broadcasting technologies. Through the establishment of this studio, the Ministry significantly strengthened its ability to produce professional religious media, expand public access to Islamic educational content, and engage

younger generations through digital platforms, thereby supporting the promotion of Islamic values, religious literacy, and informed understanding of Islamic teachings across the Maldivian community.

- The facility was equipped with green-screen virtual production capabilities, enabling the creation of visually enhanced religious educational programs, lectures, documentaries, and instructional content designed for television and digital distribution.
- The Islamic Studio produces structured religious awareness television programs and educational series, which are distributed to registered national broadcasters to ensure wide public reach and accessibility across the country.
- The studio publishes digital educational content through official social media platforms, including Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), enabling broader engagement with diverse audience groups.

23. Leadership in Sharia-Compliant Legal Consultancy and Ethical Business Advisory

Organization: H & S Consultancy Law Firm LLP, Maldives

Established Date: 31 October 2021

Managing Partner: 2021 – 2023

Served as Managing Partner of H & S Consultancy Law Firm LLP, providing strategic leadership in strengthening the firm's capacity to deliver integrated legal, Sharia compliance, and business advisory services within the evolving commercial and regulatory environment of the Maldives.

- Led the institutional development and strategic direction of the firm, positioning it as a multidisciplinary consultancy capable of addressing complex legal, commercial, and ethical matters in accordance with national legal frameworks and Islamic principles.
- Facilitated collaboration between legal professionals and Sharia scholars, establishing a structured advisory platform to support local and international investors in navigating contractual obligations, regulatory compliance, and commercial dispute resolution while ensuring adherence to Islamic ethical and legal standards.
- Strengthened the firm's professional advisory portfolio, overseeing the provision of services including legal consultancy, Sharia compliance advisory, business and management consultancy, project proposal development, and financial advisory support, thereby integrating Islamic governance principles into modern business practice.
- Guided clients through various stages of business establishment and institutional development, including company formation, preparation of legal and financial

documentation, development of feasibility studies and project reports, and facilitation of financing arrangements with local and international financial institutions.

- Contributed to the expansion of the firm’s professional reach beyond national borders, supporting international advisory services for clients requiring expertise in Islamic legal principles, ethical governance, and Sharia-compliant commercial practices.
- Promoted a vision of professional excellence and ethical legal practice, strengthening the Sharia-compliant legal consultancy landscape in the Maldives while supporting responsible investment, regulatory compliance, and sustainable business development aligned with Islamic values.

24. Establishment of Maaldif Online and International Promotion of the Maldives Through Media

Established Date: 20 July 2020

Chief Editor: Maaldif Online (2020 – 2023)

Chairman: Maaldif Group Pvt. Ltd. (2020 – 2023)

Founded and led Maaldif Group Pvt. Ltd., a marketing and public relations initiative established to promote the Maldives internationally, with a particular strategic focus on strengthening engagement with the Arab and Gulf tourism markets. The initiative was designed to enhance the Maldives’ global visibility, support tourism development, and foster cross-cultural and economic collaboration between the Maldives and Arabic-speaking countries. Through this media and outreach initiative, contributed to strengthening economic and cultural relations between the Maldives and the Arab world, while promoting mutual understanding, tourism development, and international cooperation.

- On 20 July 2020, launched “Maaldif Online,” a bilingual Arabic–English digital media platform, dedicated to promoting the Maldives internationally through the publication of tourism news, analytical reports, feature stories, and multimedia content. The platform primarily publishes Arabic-language content, enabling direct communication with audiences across the Middle East and North Africa and strengthening the Maldives’ visibility among Arabic-speaking communities.
- Served as Chief Editor of Maaldif Online, overseeing editorial strategy, content development, and digital outreach initiatives. Through consistent publication of tourism-related news, investment opportunities, and cultural features, the platform contributed to improving international awareness of the Maldives as a premier global tourism destination.
- Implemented digital marketing strategies and social media outreach initiatives, utilizing modern communication channels to reach international audiences and strengthen tourism promotion through targeted engagement with travel professionals, investors, and the wider public in Arab and Gulf countries.

- Facilitated connections between international investors and local stakeholders, including tourism entrepreneurs, start-ups, and local councils, contributing to the promotion of investment opportunities and collaborative economic initiatives within the Maldives.

25. International Recognition and Distinguished Awards for Leadership and Service to Islam

Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed's visionary leadership, scholarly contributions, and dedicated service to the Muslim community have received significant international recognition from prominent academic and Islamic institutions. His contributions to Islamic scholarship, institutional development, and public service have been acknowledged through several prestigious awards and honours.

- **Administrative Leadership Award – The 500 Most Influential Muslims (Since 2010)**

Dr. Shaheem has been recognized with the Administrative Leadership Award by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre (RISSC), Amman, Jordan, through its globally recognized publication *The 500 Most Influential Muslims*. This recognition has been conferred for fifteen consecutive years since 2010, acknowledging his sustained leadership, policy contributions, and impact in strengthening Islamic institutions, promoting religious scholarship, and advancing community development within the Maldives and the wider Muslim world.

- **Alumni Leadership Award – Islamic University of Madinah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and distinguished contributions to Islamic service, Dr. Shaheem was honoured with the Alumni Leadership Award from the Islamic University of Madinah on 2022. The award was formally presented by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Governor of Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah Province, during a special ceremony held at the Islamic University of Madinah. The award recognizes distinguished alumni who have made significant contributions to Islamic scholarship, leadership, and public service at national and international levels.

- **Alumni Leadership Award – International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)**

Dr. Shaheem has also been honoured with the Alumni Leadership Award from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) on 2021 in recognition of his exceptional achievements in advancing Islamic knowledge, strengthening academic institutions, and contributing to the intellectual development of the Muslim community. The award acknowledges his sustained engagement in Islamic scholarship, leadership in public service, and contributions to strengthening collaboration between international Islamic academic institutions.

These international recognitions reflect Dr. Shaheem's enduring commitment to Islamic leadership, scholarly advancement, and institutional development, as well as his influential role in promoting Islamic values, intellectual discourse, and community service across both national and international platforms.