

Developing future leaders of Islamic finance for the world

Kuala Lumpur, 4 November 2017 – At the 9th convocation of INCEIF, a record number of 253 students graduated, representing the university's largest since the university welcomed its first batch of 32 graduates in 2009. The top 3 countries of origin for graduates are Malaysia, Bangladesh and Somalia. They are joined by graduates from over 30 countries including from Africa, Central Asia and Europe. Today's graduation takes the number of INCEIF alumni to a total of 1,585.

The increasing diversity of INCEIF students is a source of pride for the university. It affirms INCEIF's role in developing world-class talent for the global Islamic financial services industry and reinforces Malaysia's position as the global hub for the industry.

The graduates received their scrolls from INCEIF Chancellor, Tan Sri Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz at the convocation ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur today.

Of the 253 graduates, 25 received PhD in Islamic Finance; 1, Masters in Islamic Finance, 58 MSc in Islamic Finance, 115 Masters in Islamic Finance Practice and 41 Chartered Islamic Finance Professionals. Joining the ceremony today were 10 participants of the Professional Certificate in Islamic Finance, a programme developed to cater for industry professionals who wish to gain knowledge in certain areas of practice, in concise yet thorough curriculums. The INCEIF academic programmes are customised to meet the changing demands of business, offering practical work experience and classroom-based theory at every level, up to scholars of international standing at PhD level.

In acknowledgment of their academic excellence, the recipients for the President's Award are:

1. Mr Ruslan Nagayev of Kazakhstan, for PhD in Islamic Finance
2. Mr Muhammad 'Arif Mohd Hodori of Malaysia, for MSc in Islamic Finance
3. Ms Waleedha Abdul Rahman of Maldives, for Masters in Islamic Finance Practice

In his speech at the convocation ceremony, INCEIF President & CEO Dato'Mohd Azmi Omar said INCEIF was working with the Alumni who are the university's Ambassadors working together to push the Islamic finance agenda in the region, the Gulf, Africa and even in far-flung places such as Kazan in the Republic of Tartastan.

The continuing success of these students is a reflection of INCEIF's on-going journey to be a globally recognised university of high repute for postgraduate studies in Islamic finance. Since the inaugural convocation in 2009, a number of INCEIF alumni have been singled out to participate in or lead Islamic finance initiatives such as the USD1.5-billion dual-tranche Malaysian Government sukuk.

INCEIF has also successfully secured over RM2 million in research grants this year from various government agencies and private institutions in Malaysia and abroad. With INCEIF's increased emphasis on applied research, the university has identified social finance, sustainable developments and renewable energy as key areas of research focus.

The support for INCEIF is visible through the presence of corporate leaders, policy makers and regulators who have contributed to the promotion and development of Islamic finance locally and globally at the convocation ceremony.

Dato'Azmi said: "A special word of thanks goes to BNP Paribas - INCEIF Centre for Islamic Asset and Wealth Management, Yayasan Khazanah, Affin Bank, Maybank Islamic, RHB Group, MasterCard and Majlis Amanah Rakyat; all of which are represented today to see their sponsored students or staff receive their scrolls. MARA in particular today celebrates the graduation of 18 of its staff as MIFP graduates."

He reaffirmed INCEIF's commitment to improve continuously on its industry focus, global reach and the quality of the academic programmes and research.

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About INCEIF

INCEIF was set up by Bank Negara Malaysia in 2005 to develop human capital and knowledge leadership for the global Islamic finance industry. Apart from its academic programmes, which are Masters of Islamic Finance Practice, MSc in Islamic Finance and PhD in Islamic Finance, INCEIF also offers customised executive training programmes and industry-focused applied research in line with its vision to be the knowledge and thought leader in Islamic finance. Since 2015, INCEIF's research has been ranked 1st in Malaysia among the higher education institutions in the Research Papers in Economics (RePec) rankings. We are also the only institution to have the research of five professors recognised by RePec, among the top 30 academics in Malaysia. We are ranked 40th in Asia as a university. Within the Financial Economics & Finance Department category, defined by REPEC, we are ranked 30th in the world.

INCEIF's curriculum, developed from its research and with practical subject expertise from industry players, is used and adopted worldwide by various academic institutions. INCEIF faculty members, who are globally respected among the Islamic finance academia and industry, have a combined wealth of experience and diversity.

For more information, visit www.inceif.org

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