Global Islamic Finance – A Driver for a more Inclusive & Sustainable Financial Order: A Primer

by

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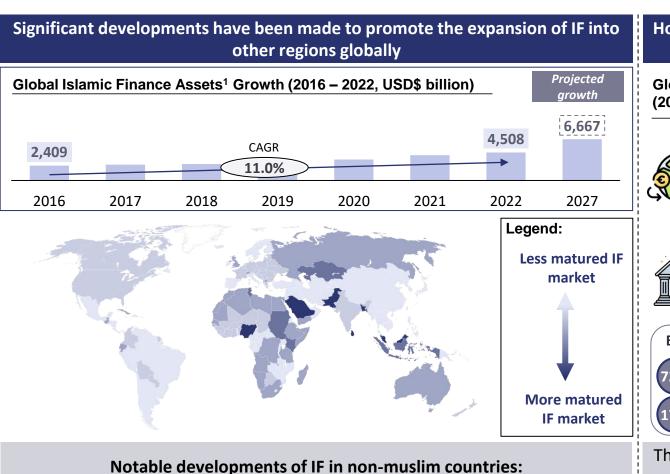
Asian Financial Forum, Hong Kong 25 January 2024



A Journey of Driving Sustainable Growth over the last 40 years

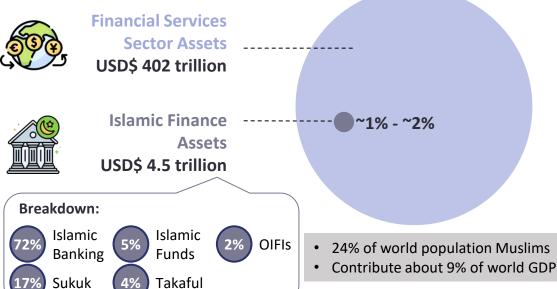


Global Islamic finance has made significant advancement with an estimated USD4.5 trillion market, going at 11% CAGR, double by 2030



However, IF activities on a global scale remain small in comparison to conventional finance

Global Financial Services Sector & Islamic Finance Assets (2022, USD\$ trillion)



London Stock Exchange listed >USD\$ 50 bil sukuk

Luxembourg's Central Bank became the first European Central Bank to join the

Australia licensed its first Islamic bank

Thus, there is an opportunity for IF to gradually evolve and expand its presence and impact on a global scale due to:



Rise of challenges faced in the Western financial system (e.g. collapse of Western financial institutions such as Silicon Valley Bank)

Fundamentals of Islamic finance

Islamic finance ecosystem must remain anchored on Shariah principles – aimed at realising a vision of economic growth that is balanced, progressive, sustainable and inclusive





- Prevention of harm and attainment of benefits
- 2 Fairness and attainment of excellence (*ihsan*)





Prohibition of riba, gharar and exploitation



accepting, bearing and sharing risk



Money is only a store value and medium of exchange



Wealth creation must be balanced with wealth transfer and circulation



Deliver Magasid Shariah (the objectives of Shariah)

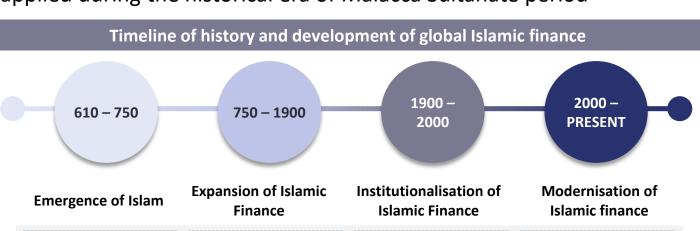
- Protection of deen (way of life)
- Protection of life
- Protection of intellect
- Protection of lineage
- Protection of property

Shariah compliance

Context: Evolution of Islamic Finance



The practice of Islamic finance dates back to the emergence of Islam in 610 AD, and it has been applied during the historical era of Malacca Sultanate period



- Islamic finance based on Quran and Sunnah
- Establishment of **Baitulmal**
- Primary sources of revenue from zakat, land tax, custom duties, donations. unclaimed property and estates

- Advancement in trade
- Global influence of **Islamic** economics
- Evolution of Islamic finance products (e.g. sukuk, saftija, bai al-wafa, and bai al-nuqud)

- Establishment of a **hajj pilgrims** fund board
- Establishment of Islamic banks. interest-free 'windows' & subsidiaries of conventional banks
- Establishment of Takaful operators
- Introduction of **Islamic Capital** Market

- Development of robust regulatory framework and infrastructure
- · Recognition of international standard-setting and benchmarking institutions





In the Malaysian context, Islamic finance has been in practice, primarily through early business dealings



Prohibition of *riba* (usury) in the code of laws of the Malay kingdom of Malacca, Undangundang Melaka

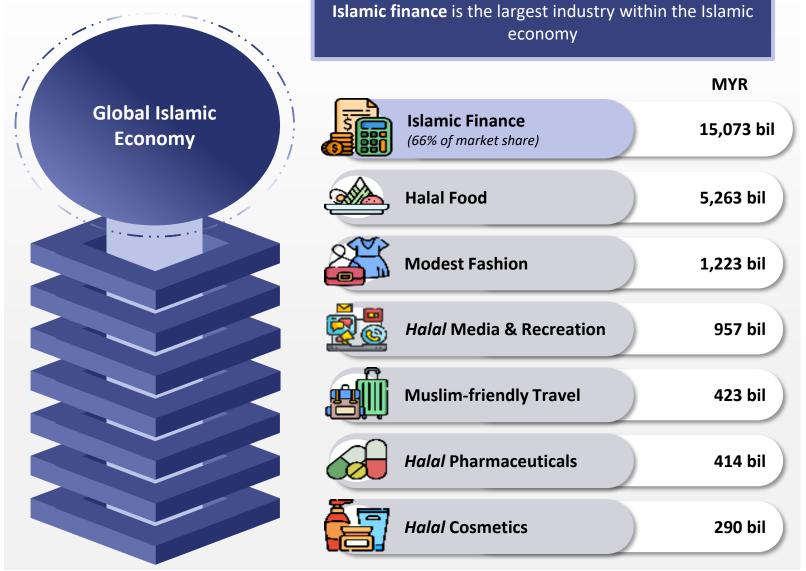


Practice of riba-free capital transactions (e.g. bai al-wafa by paddy farmers in Kedah, Perlis, Perak, and Kelantan)

Context: Global Islamic Economy

The global Islamic finance market is part of a bigger global Islamic economy





Islamic Finance in Malaysia: A Comprehensive Landscape





Solid position of banking, takaful and Islamic capital market



Islamic banking

Market share of Islamic banking system by total financing



Takaful

Market share of takaful sector by total net contributions



Islamic capital market

Market share of Islamic capital market



64%

2022

Spearheading sustainability objectives



VBI-aligned initiatives since introduction of VBI strategy

Distributed by Islamic social finance tools (Oct 2020 - Sept 2021)

Key achievements and ecosystem



Diverse players offering Islamic financial services

operators





operators



financial

institutions



Islamic fund

managers

>68 Training

and education

entities

Ancillary services (e.g. legal,

Shariah firms)

>60



Innovative financial solutions in meeting socio-economic objectives.

VBI and Social finance initiative

World's first SDG sukuk, SRI and green sukuk

SRI Sukuk and SRI fund frameworks

Shariah-compliant SRI equity fund



Malaysia consistently topped global indicators for nine consecutive years

- ► Ranked 1st Islamic Financial Development Indicator 2022
- ► Ranked 1st Global Islamic Economy Indicator 2021/22

Malaysia as a Leading Center of Islamic Finance





Top performance in Islamic finance led by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Southeast Asian (SEA) countries

Overall ranking in Islamic finance, as per the Islamic Finance Development Indicator (IFDI)

Malaysia Saudi Arabia Indonesia Bahrain Kuwait

1 2 3 4 5



Malaysia Moving to the Next Stage of Islamic Finance







KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 27 (Bernama) – Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) and the Securities Commission (SC) have been taking steps to ensure the sustainability and Effectiveness of the Islamic finance system by raising the standards to not only *halal* (permissable), but also *Halalan Thoyyiban* (permissible and impactful).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said BNM and the SC have charted the course towards halalan thoyyiban via the Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre through collaborations with the industry and the Islamic finance ecosystem, including zakat and waqf boards, the banking system, Islamic stock market and sukuk.

"Insya-Allah (God willing), these efforts will help to enhance the Islamic financial system in Malaysia and further strengthen our position as a leader in the global Islamic economy," he said at the launch of the Madani Economy: Empowering the People, here, today.

"A holistic and Madani national development effort cannot be achieved without a financial system that is fair, just and based on Maqasid Sharia (the objectives and purposes behind Islamic rulings)," he said.

Spearheading more Impactful Islamic Finance – Halal to Tayyib







Chairman Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar said the council is working on mapping out the whole Islamic finance ecosystem for better understanding and creating solutions on how to address the challenges in the system.

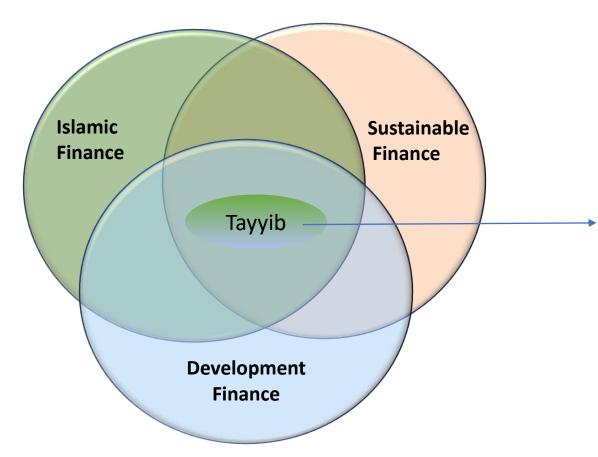
Eventually, we will land on 10 impact projects that will be rolled out within three to five years period so that the public and the market will see how to address sustainability and inequality in the system using Islamic finance principal and products," he told Bernama on the sideline of Sasana Symposium 2023 organised by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) here today....

Additionally, he said the council is working on enhancing the current framework involving Islamic finance that has been put in place, which would need some intervention.

"For example, how to scale up the investment account. The framework is already there, however, we will need to work with industry players and regulators on some of the problems," he said.

The Convergence to Fulfilment - to achieve Tayyib/ **Sustainable Impact**





Source: Sustainable Finance Discussion - 2023, the Centre for Sustainable Finance SOAS University of London, 7th March 2023 – Presentation by MIFC Leadership Council

Tayyib - meaning being pure and wholesome and closer to the ideals of the purpose or Magasid Shariah of Islamic law, which is to ultimately establish social justice in this world.

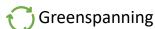
Common pursuit, among others:

- Serve the real economy
- Profits with purpose
- Impact investing
- Addressing inequality
- Promotes social justice
- Protects biodiversity and nature

Three strong headwinds:









Scaling the Sustainability Mountain: Moving from Halal to Tayyib1: Integrating Islamic Finance & the SDGs – UK Islamic Finance Council in conjunction with the UN and IsDB Islamic Finance and the SDGs virtual global summit on 28 September 2021

Thank You

For more information, please contact or visit:

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Malaysia International Islamic Finance Centre (MIFC) https://www.mifc.com/

> Securities Commission Malaysia https://www.sc.com.my/





Appendix 1 - Form to Fulfilment - From Good to Great, Halal to **Tayyib: A Case for 7 transitions**





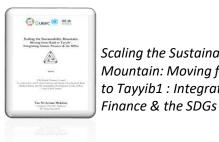
In business, to migrate from an axiom of a shareholder economy to a stakeholder economy, from only profits to profits with purpose, or even to profits through purpose.

In finance, to migrate, indeed to return to a notion that finance is there to serve the real economy, which is then, in turn, to ultimately serve a better society.

In investing, to migrate from being merely compliant to more responsible investing and along the continuum to more sustainable investing and ultimately, impact investing.

Halal

Note: Move from a predominantly Halal paradigm (that is to say being permissible and lawful according to Islamic law and jurisprudence) to Tayyib (meaning being pure and wholesome and closer to the ideals of the purpose or Magasid Shariah of Islamic law, which is to ultimately establish social justice in this world). The Holy Quran making reference to the word Tayyib



no less than 40 times.

Scaling the Sustainability Mountain: Moving from Halal to Tayyib1: Integrating Islamic

In climate action and the environment, to make the urgent transition to net zero carbon, but to also drive greater awareness and action on the other aspect of the environment, that is better outcomes on biodiversity and nature.

In human development, in all its multifaceted forms; to continue the war against poverty, to heal the immediate regress arising out of the pandemic, and to narrow the significant and widening inequalities within and between nations.

In implementing the 17 SDGs by 2030, to migrate to a deeper and broader conception of implementation; of bringing a whole-of-society approach, using the full suite of levers from governments, multilaterals, businesses, finance sector and philanthropy and civil society.

In Islamic finance, the time has come where, after more than four decades, the excuse of the mitigating circumstances of darurah (emergency) is wearing thin, and to accelerate the process of moving from being merely of halal form to the ideal of a more tayyib substance.

Appendix 2 - A call to action: Some practical examples and aspirations towards Tayyib





Move into such **equity-based structures and vehicles** like Islamic private equity, venture capital and crowdfunding. Islamic Finance is heavily skewed towards murabaha financing, while its structure is technically halal it is often criticized as being more debt-like features rather than equity/ participatory characteristics such as ijara & musyarakah.

Convert or **carve out large portions of Sovereign Wealth Funds in many resource rich Islamic countries** to become Sovereign Development Funds, - targeted outcomes to be multidimensional covering economic, strategic & societal outcomes¹.

Sharpen the use of social impact sukuks to fund both commercial and more developmental outcomes such as the Khazanah Sukuk Ihsan (2017) that financed a not for profit public education Trust School project.

Use Islamic Social Finance levers such as waqaf, zakat and sadaqah to not just address needy asnaf² but to also build capacity for the needy – for example in build schools and education centres for digital skills, hospitals and clinics and deploying blended finance and technology into the mix³.

Increase **financial inclusion to the unbanked and underbanked through more cost efficient platforms** of digital banks. This platform could be used to better develop entrepreneurship especially among the micro enterprise and SME sector.

Implement social protection insurance schemes that extend to informal and gig sector workers

Develop **crypto stable coins based on Islamic financial tenets**, anchored on underlying e.g.gold, a digital gold dinar etc.

Develop a halal and tayyib affordable housing sector and supply chain, encompassing sustainable building materials such as carbon neutral cement and steel, deploying equity based risk sharing financing and working in partnership with federal and state governments for land and related infrastructure⁴.

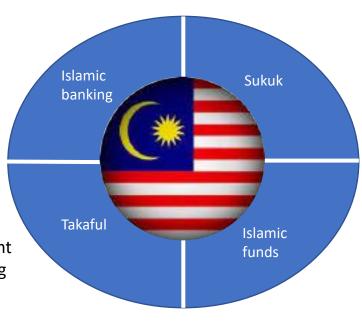
- 1. Khazanah Nasional in Malaysia between 2004 and 2018 developed an investment style as a SDF. Malaysia recently reinforced a more developmental role for sovereign funds through the Perkukuh program.
- 2. Asnaf is the permissible recipients of zakat (alms) money, for e.g. the poor and destitute
- 3. Some examples include KPJ Wagaf hospitals and clinics in Malaysia and the Myanmar Muslim wagaf hospital in Yangon.
- A reference business model is 8990, a company Khazanah invested in that is a builder of affordable housing in the Philippines where more than 90% of the customer base are from the unbanked

Appendix 3 - Key milestones in driving sustainability agenda – evident across all Islamic finance business segments in Malaysia



- Value-based Intermediation (VBI) concept introduced towards realising the objectives of Sharīah. RM146.6 billion in financing, investments and deposits were intermediated in VBI-related between 2020 and 2021.
- Deploying blended capital using social impact investment, donation, waqf and zakat e.g. iTEKAD

- Takaful industry issued the Value-based
 Intermediation Takaful Roadmap a commitment
 to creating value for takaful stakeholders including
 society
- INCEIF and MTA is currently pioneering industrydriven research to develop a Maqasid-based scorecard for the Malaysian Takaful industry



- Launched SRI-linked Sukuk Framework and SRI Sukuk and Bond Grant Scheme
- Malaysia issued the world's first green SRI sukuk in 2017
- As at Q3 2022, there were 21 SRI sukuk issued under the SC's SRI sukuk framework.

- Launched the Guidelines on SRI Funds in 2021
- To date, there are **16 Islamic SRI funds** under the Guidelines

Source: BNM, SC, AIBI VBI Report 2021

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Appendix 3 - Value-based Intermediation (VBI): An effort towards Tayyib

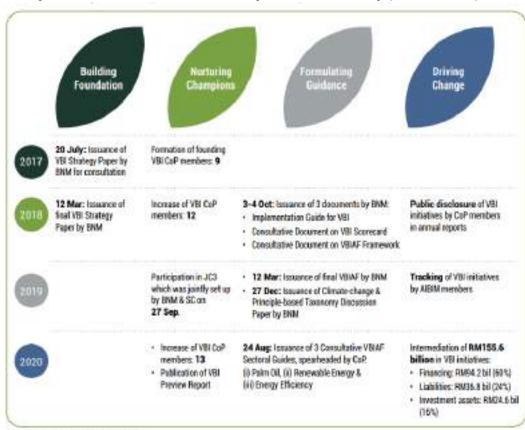


What is Value-Based Intermediation (VBI)?

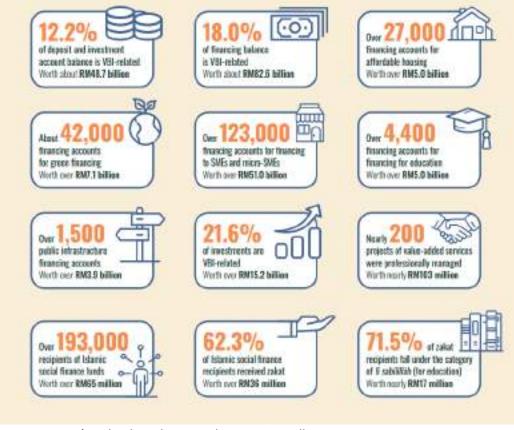
Source: Adapted from AIBIM (2020)

A concept launched by BNM in 2017, aimed to re-orient Islamic finance business models towards realising the objectives of Sharī'ah in order to generate a more positive and sustainable impact on the economy, community and environment through the practices, processes, offerings and conduct of the industry players.

Key Achievements of the Four-year VBI Journey (2017-2020)



A snapshot of VBI outcomes in Malaysia



Source: AIBIM's Value-based Intermediation 2021 Full Report