Aston Business School
Birmingham

# Islamic**Business**
## The Way Forward

## Birmingham as a second city for Islamic Business: The Way Forward

Tuesday 2nd June 2009, 9.00am - 1.30pm

Islamic Business is now one of the most innovative financial service sectors in the UK and it is estimated the industry will be worth £789 billion by 2010.

Representatives of Birmingham's professional and financial services as well as the academic community are invited to attend a half day conference at Aston Business School to discuss the potential for Islamic Business in the West Midlands.

As the second largest city in the UK, Birmingham is already providing an international centre of excellence for the growing Islamic Financial and legal services. A range of international speakers will look at where we are and the way forward in the difficult economic times.

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**Introduction:** This half day seminar and networking event will focus on key areas within the Islamic business sector. The event will look at the global credit crisis and lessons that can be learnt by bringing together leading experts from within the region and beyond as well as community leaders. As one of the fastest growing areas in the UK, this event will provide delegates with an exciting opportunity to discuss ideas and explore opportunities and developments across the board.

**Chair and Organiser:** Dr Omneya Abdelsalam
**Cost:** Free of charge
**Venue:** Aston Business School, Aston Triangle
**Places:** 50

## Agenda

| TIME | TOPIC AND SPEAKER |
|---|---|
| 8.45 – 9.00 | **Registration and tea** |
| 9.00 - 9.10 | **Welcome by the Chair & the Executive Dean of Aston Business School**<br>Dr. Omneya Abdelsalam, Aston Business School<br>Prof. Mike West, Aston Business School |
| 9.10 - 9.25 | **Introduction to Islamic Business**<br>Dr. Seif Tag el-Din, Acting Director of Markfield Institute in Higher Education & lecturer in Islamic Banking & Finance |
| 9.25 - 9.45 | **Islamic Banking Developments in the Domestic UK market: implications for Birmingham**<br>Mr. Keith Leach, Head of alburaq (Arab Banking Corporation) |
| 9.45 - 10.05 | **Discussions & Feedback from tables** |
| 10.05 - 10.25 | **Islamic Funds & Investments: opportunities for Birmingham**<br>Mr. Omar Skaikh, Private Equity & Islamic Finance, Ernst & Young |
| 10.25 - 10.45 | **The response of Islamic Finance to the recession: the value of Islamic finance to businesses in Birmingham.**<br>Ms. Farmida Bi, Partner – Norton Rose |
| 10.45 - 11.05 | **Global Financial Crisis: Lessons for Islamic Finance: implications for local businesses**<br>Professor Habib Ahmed, Sharjah Chair in Islamic Law & Finance, School of Government & International Affairs, Durham University |
| 11.05 - 11.30 | **Discussions & Feedback from tables** |
| 11.30 - 12.30 | **Birmingham as a second city for Islamic Business: The way forward Panel presentation & discussion session**<br>Mike Loftus: Locate Birmingham<br>Sultan Choudhury: Islamic Bank of Britain<br>Chair: Mohammed Nazir: Nazir Associates |
| 12.30 - 1.30 | **Lunch** |

**Car parking:** Although car parking on campus is limited we will endeavour to book a space, please contact Patricia Bradshaw on **p.bradshaw@aston.ac.uk** or telephone 0121 204 3297.

Alternatively Pay and Display parking in conveniently available at:
Millennium Point **(www.millenniumpoint.org.uk)** and
Aston Science Park, Faraday Wharf **www.astonsciencepark.co.uk/map-and-directions.html)**

If you would like further information on this event, please contact the Chair and Organiser
Dr Omneya Abdelsalam on **o.h.abd-elsalam@aston.ac.uk**

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