

Edited with an Introduction by Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim Rafikul Islam

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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES:

CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Edited with an Introduction by

Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim Rafikul Islam



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Introduction

Nearly a billion Muslims in masses had struggled for independence from colonial rule with the hopes and aspirations for a better quality of life and dignity. With the end of the first decade of the 21st century, most of the countries in the Muslim world have completed nearly half a century of their independence and sovereign identity in the post colonial period. During the same 50 years, countries like China, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan have achieved a remarkable economic development, prosperity and respectable standards of management resulting in better education, health facilities and living conditions for their masses.

Despite the fact that the Muslim world is blessed with enormous natural resources like fertile lands, water, gold, oil, uranium, minerals and hard working masses, a vast majority of Muslim countries have yet to deliver the goods to their people. During the post colonial period, many Muslim countries have received billions of dollars in aid and loans and have even benefited from competent advice offered by foreign experts in the areas where they lacked expertise. The irony is that in skills and professional manpower we are not totally handicapped as we have many among our own people who are highly qualified professionals, but more often than not such Muslim experts end up serving in the West due to the obstacles and predicaments they face in their own home countries. It is for these reasons that the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), represented by the International Institute for Muslim Unity (IIMU) and the Kulliyyah of Economics and Management Sciences (KENMS), organized during the period 4-6August, 2009 an international conference that focused on resource management in the Muslim world. It critically examined our performance in this area in the hope that appropriate recommendations will be made to meet the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st century.

The conference explored issues pertaining to the utilisation of resources and identified ways and means to put them into good and efficient use. It is a known fact that these resources, namely, material (e.g.,