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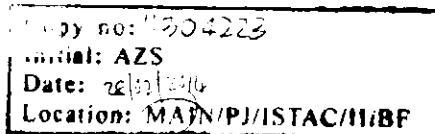
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CHAPTER 10



RELEVANTISATION AND ISLAMISATION: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE KULLIYAH OF ISLAMIC REVEALED KNOWLEDGE AND HUMAN SCIENCES

*Ibrahim M. Zein
Hazizan Md. Noon*

Muslim intelligentsia in Malaya has been aspiring for the establishment of an Islamic University for a long time. The dream became a reality in 1983 with the establishment of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). The spirit behind such an effort was to re-establish “the primacy of Islamic values in all fields of knowledge and the propagation of knowledge in the spirit of submission to God (*tawhīd*)” (Mohd. Kamal Hassan, 2009b: 13). As IIUM celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is perhaps appropriate to reflect on what this “Garden of Knowledge and Virtue” has accomplished in realising its mission of Islamisation of Knowledge.

When IIUM was established in 1983, it was clear that the central objective of the University was to integrate knowledge with Islamic values, norms and worldview. This resulted in the formation of the Centre for Fundamental Knowledge (CFK). It was a non-degree awarding centre responsible for offering courses relating to the Islamic worldview, Islamic creed, ethics, and spirituality. The Centre since its inception up until it has been transformed into the Department of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Heritage (IRKH) offered 38 courses, 14 of which were taught in Arabic. These courses were all service courses to students of Kulliyah of Laws and Kulliyah of Economics and Management. Moreover, the CFK organized both *halaqah* and *Ibādah* Camps as co-curricular activities which were obligatory for all students, with the exception of non-Muslim students. The objective was to create professional Muslims in the law, economics and management professions. However, in 1990 the second Rector of IIUM AbdulHamid AbuSulayman established the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS). The new Kulliyah aimed at integrating the social sciences, humanities and the religious sciences. It may be noted that specialisations in “Islamic studies” and “social sciences” are referred to in IIUM as “Islamic Revealed Knowledge” and “Human Sciences” respectively. Students majoring in IRKH were required to take their minor in one of the human sciences discipline and vice versa.