

Financial Disbursement

MUIS disbursed a total of \$4.9 million to 2,400 poor and needy Muslim families from January - December 2001. This included the year-end additional grants given to them in view of additional expenses incurred during this period. The breakdown of the figures was: \$3.1 million for monthly Financial Assistance, \$1.3 million for Study Grants and \$515,000 for Gharimin. Another \$974,332.25 was spent on Ramadan Aid which included monetary aid, dates for Muslim inmates and poultry to poor and needy Muslims and residents of welfare homes.

Eighteen organisations received the Family Development Grants amounting to more than \$180,000 to run family development programmes. In addition, \$891,700 was disbursed in the form of grants to reach out to low-income families, the disadvantaged and the handicapped, which also included \$97,500 in the form of Fidyah food ration. The grants reached out to an estimated 5,000 individuals.



Zakat Collections

The zakat collection on wealth (Zakat Harta) for 2001 amounted to \$12,035,782 and the Zakat Fitrah collection amounted to \$1,692,795. The total amount collected was \$13,728,577. However, there was a deficit as the total disbursement for the year amounted to \$16,112,417,58. This deficit was filled up with the surpluses from the previous years.

The disbursement of the zakat for 2001 was an increase of 34%. The Asnaf Gharimin saw the highest increase of 294%. The Asnaf Fakir & Miskin increased by 67% while the Fisabilillah recorded an increase of 32%. The increase of Fakir & Miskin and Gharimin distributions is a reflection of the impact of the current economic downturn on the



Muslim community. The number of families under the Fakir Miskin has now increased to 2,400 families.

A total of 43 Muslim organisations and one non-Muslim organisation benefited through the MUIS Annual Grant Religious and Social Services Scheme (MAGRASS). The highest recipient was Dana Madrasah, which received an amount of \$1 million.

Zakat Public Education Programme

For the second year running, MUIS disseminated the zakat message to the Muslim community through a 10-episode television documentary series lasting half an hour each, entitled 'Kau Istimewa II' (You're Special II). MUIS was the main airtime sponsor while MediaCorp,

through Suria channel, commissioned a production house to produce the series. This programme highlighted how zakat funds were disbursed and how the funds had benefited the community.

A 30-second zakat 'Thank You' commercial was launched during the MAGRASS funds disbursement function on 28 April 2001. The commercial was broadcast on television for a two-week duration.

A special zakat collection and exhibition booth was set up during the last 10 days of Ramadan at the Malay Village (Kampung Melayu) at Geylang Serai and CafŽ Warna Ria at Causeway Point. MUIS also participated in the 'Hari Raya Aidilfitri Exhibition' on 24 November - 16 December 2001, organised by the National Heritage Board and Majlis Pusat Pertubuhan-Pertubuhan Budaya Melayu Singapura.



Faraid

A series of public awareness campaign on Hukum Faraid (distribution of the estate of a deceased person according to Islamic law) were held on 15 - 30 June 2001. The focus was to emphasise that every Muslim is involved in community development and to promote a sense of care and concern amongst Muslims. Guest speakers were invited and brochures in English and Malay were distributed during the dialogue sessions. Radio Warna, Berita Harian, mosque management boards, asatizahs and community leaders backed this two-week campaign. The campaign's message reached an estimated 150,000 Muslims. It was very encouraging indeed as more members of the public have approached MUIS for advice on the subject.

Taking the public education programme on faraid a step further, a quiz entitled 'Beyond Classrooms' was jointly organised with Masjid Darul Ghufran. Nine teams of students participated in the preliminaries of which four were selected for the final round. Assistant Mufti, Syed Ahmad Syed Mohd, presented the prizes to winners.

Dana Madrasah

About 12,000 'thank you' cards were mailed to all Dana Madrasah Giro donors, at the same time, requesting them to increase their contributions. More than 100 students came forward to render assistance. The campaign garnered a total of \$76,000 in cash and 369 new Giro contributors. Each Giro contribution is worth \$12.65 hence adding another \$54,685 yearly to the Madrasah Fund. The Friday collection for Dana Madrasah, which saw an increase of 19%, amounted to \$63,208.



Halal Certification

Despite an economic slowdown, there has been an increase in companies applying for Halal Certificates. There were 3,460 certificates issued, an increase of 20% from the previous year. The trend for eating franchise applying for halal certification is on the rise and many are jumping on the bandwagon. Unfortunately, this has also seen the rise of halal offences. There were 23 halal offences in 2001, double that in 2000.

Halal revenue has shown good results with an increase of 64.8%. There was a surplus of \$431,964.23 after deducting expenditure for 2001.

Singapore played host to ASEAN Halal Food Inspectors in March 2001 where the ASEAN Training of Halal Food Inspector Course was conducted. Officers from the Halal Section also participated in local and international conferences and exhibitions such as IMFEX 2001, INHALCON 2001 and the 1st International Islamic Expo in Brunei. Foreign Islamic bodies in the Philippines, Brunei and Surinam (South America) have also indicated their interest to learn from Singapore about halal certification.

Haj Online Application

MUIS received 3,963 applications for haj pilgrimage in 2001. To keep abreast with technology and better serve the community, an online haj registration was introduced in May 2001. Applicants have the option to download the haj application form and submit it via post.



Haj Updates from Saudi Arabia

Regular updates from Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage period were posted on the MUIS' website. The regular information was useful to relatives and friends of the pilgrims in Singapore. A simple template with internet updating made in Saudi Arabia will be introduced to ensure speedier service.

Regional Haj Conference

Hj Shafawi Ahmad, MUIS' Council Member and Chairman of Pilgrimage Committee together with Head (Haj Services), attended the Regional Haj Conference organised by the Saudi Haj Ministry held in Kuala Lumpur on 25 - 29 August 2001. The conference was attended by delegates from Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and China.

Head (Haj Services) made a presentation on haj administration in Singapore and the development of IT-based learning materials for pilgrims.

Appointment of Travel Agents

MUIS introduced a new tender format for Haj Package 2001. Travel agents were invited to attend a briefing before the tender exercise opened on 4 July 2001.

The new format required travel agents to submit a softcopy file of their tender documents. This served to facilitate the retrieval and referral process. The new format also required travel agents to gather a minimum of 100 pilgrims by a stated date. This requirement was drawn up to comply with the guideline set up by the Saudi Haj

transportation agency which would only enter into contract with haj operators which had a minimum of 50 pilgrims.

Travel agents who had fewer than 100 pilgrims were encouraged to merge with agencies or to offer joint packages. A total of 33 travel agents were appointed for Haj 2002.

Haj Mutawwif/Haj Course Presenters

A test was set on 7 January 2001 for haj officials who applied for accreditation as Mutawwif/Haj Course Presenters. Those who failed were allowed to sit for another test on 22 September 2001. Currently, there is a total of 144 accredited Mutawwif/Haj Course Presenters.

Annual Haj Ministerial Meeting

MUIS' Haj Delegation headed by the Senior Minister of State (Environment), Hj Sidek Saniff, MUIS President and Head (Haj Services), visited Saudi Arabia on 16 - 20 October 2001 for the Annual Haj Ministerial meeting. The aim was to secure the 2002 haj quota for Singapore. The Saudi Haj Minister had agreed to consider MUIS' request for a quota of 5,000 for Haj 2002.

Haj Booklets

To help English and Tamil speaking pilgrims, an English language version of the 'Bimbing Haji (Buku Doa-Doa Manasik Haji)' was printed while the 'Soal Jawab Haji' was printed in Tamil. Two Malay language booklets 'Soal Jawab Haji' and 'Panduan Keselamatan, Kesihatan dan Kebajikan' were merged into one, with the aim of reducing cost and minimising the inconvenience of carrying two books.

...in education

Par Excellence in Education

MUIS continues to devote much of its effort in providing an all-round education system that is relevant to today's world. To instill a desire to learn and inspire young minds, MUIS is working towards promoting Islam as a driver for Muslims to excel.



Sharing Goals, Sharpening Skills

The Annual Asatizah Briefing conducted on 2 - 3 February 2001 attracted more than 250 asatizahs from both mosque-madrasah and full-time madrasah. Besides sharing goals and highlighting the year's activities, the event was also a platform for airing views and feedback on issues pertaining to madrasah education. Also included in the briefing was a motivational talk.

To ensure high standards of teaching and quality in lessons, courses were held for asatizahs to better equip them with effective teaching skills. This year, a record high of 628 hours of enrichment courses was provided for asatizahs to upgrade themselves.



Curriculum Development Project

In a further effort to bring madrasah education to a higher level, MUIS initiated a project to develop madrasah curriculum. MUIS has commissioned IQRA' International Education Foundation, a non-profit Islamic organisation in Chicago, USA, to help in the development of the curriculum for madrasahs in Singapore. The development project

involves IQRA' as the consultant, MUIS and local resources. The contract between MUIS and IQRA' was signed on 5 June 2001. The curriculum development project is expected to be completed in 2007. The project is aimed at providing an integrated learning programme for madrasah students to excel as a future Muslim scholar and asatizah.

A Tribute to Asatizahs

On 1 September 2001, 660 asatizahs and guests came together to mark Asatizah Day at the Grand Hyatt Singapore. The celebrations included the presentation of STE and P6 mosque-madrasah awards and a videotape presentation of students' dedications to their teachers, including those from international scholars received via email.



Appraisal Exercises

Appraisal exercises were introduced to full-time madrasah and mosque-madrasahs. The objective was to consistently monitor the performance of the madrasah education system to ensure that lessons were conducted effectively, and that they conformed to the highest standards.



...in image building and
international relations

Promoting Awareness and Understanding

To tackle public misconceptions MUIS embarked on an extensive effort to promote awareness and understanding of Islam.

Tackling the Terrorism Issue

The 11 September tragedy has created different reactions among Muslims in Singapore. While many condemned the attack, the majority felt it was unfair to put Muslims and Islam in a bad light. In order to pre-empt possible backlashes, MUIS took pro-active efforts in controlling the situation and negative sentiments. Some of the efforts included:

- Issuing a statement to the media conveying its grief and clearing the air that the attack was not in line with Islamic teachings. MUIS also called on Singaporeans including the Muslims to refrain from making premature assumptions and unnecessary remarks.
- Conveyed a similar message to the congregation at Friday prayers through sermons, emphasising peace and harmony.
- MUIS encouraged mosques to recite a special doa (prayers) for peace and to protect humankind from major catastrophes such as wars.
- Mufti read out a special doa at the memorial service organised by the American community in Singapore. President and senior staff of MUIS attended the ceremony.
- MUIS sent a letter to MITA to convey Malay/Muslim community's concern on the biased media coverage on the issue.
- MUIS held a meeting-cum-briefing session for all mosques' chairmen to update them on the issue.
- MUIS hosted a media lunch-cum-sharing session where it conveyed its concerns on the biased media coverage and clarified the misrepresentations of Islam. MUIS also circulated the glossary

of Islamic terms.

- MUIS participated in a donation drive for Afghan refugees in support of the Singapore Red Cross Society (SRCS). MUIS encouraged Muslim bodies and employers as well as all the mosques to contribute to the cause. It was a successful campaign with about \$220,000 collected. The cheque was handed to Lt-Gen (Ret'd) Winston Choo of SRCS on 31 Oct 2001. Other organisations such as Mercy Relief, Pergas, Perwanit and Darul Arqam also presented their donations at the ceremony.

Networking with the Media

President of MUIS, hosted a working lunch with the Associate Editor of Lianhe Zaobao on 28 March 2001. As a follow-up, 15 Heads-of-Department and several other officers paid a visit to the Lianhe Zaobao newsroom. It was an educational visit that benefited all and forged closer ties.

Visits to the Berita Harian newsroom and MediaCorp News/MediaCorp Radio were also organised. These visits enabled MUIS officials to develop a better understanding on media organisations and forge closer ties with the senior media editors/producers of the respective newspapers/television and radio channels.

Mufti and Assistant Mufti also held a working lunch with three Berita Harian journalists on 15 August 2001. A wide range of topics such as life sciences and deviant teaching were discussed. The journalists found the session useful in keeping them in touch with the activities conducted by the Office of Mufti.

MUIS' Visitors

MUIS played host to a total of 104 local visitors and 556 foreign visitors in 2001. The purposes of these visits ranged from study visits to establishing stronger ties with MUIS.



Media Relations Training for MMBs

More than 80 mosque leaders attended a one-day media relations training seminar jointly organised by MUIS and Persatuan Wartawan

Melayu Singapura - Taman Bacaan on 20 May 2001. Participants gave positive feedback and suggested that similar courses be conducted for full-time mosque staff.



Mosque Spokespersons Directory

Five hundred copies of 'Mosque Spokespersons Directory' had been printed and distributed to all mosques, government bodies, Malay organisations and the media. The People's Association requested an additional 120 copies to be distributed to all its Community Club managers throughout Singapore. A re-print of 500 more copies had been made for further distribution.

Feedback Sessions

Six feedback sessions on 'Enhancing Effectiveness of Mosques as an Islamic Centre of Excellence' were held. The focus groups invited were artistes/playwrights, Malay community leaders, professionals, youth/undergraduates, non-Malay community leaders/mosque chairmen

and social workers/counselors. The results captured and highlighted the strengths and shortcomings of mosques as well as ways to further improve services provided by mosques.

Senior Officials Meeting for Mabims

The Senior Officials Meeting for Mabims (SOM) was held on 9 - 11 July 2001 at Novotel Apollo Hotel. Attended by delegates from Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia, the meeting was a success. The next SOM in 2002 would be held in Brunei.



International Islamic Expo in Brunei

MUIS participated in the 1st International Islamic Expo held in Brunei on 18 - 31 August 2001. The MUIS' booth received a lot of visitors, including the Sultan of Brunei, senior government officials and other foreign dignitaries. The then Minister in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Mr Abdullah Tarmugi, also visited the booth as he was in Brunei for an official visit. Visitors to the booth were impressed by the exhibits such as the picture of mosques map in Singapore and the book 'Noktah Hitam: Ajaran Sesat di Singapura'.



...in human resource
and technology



Moving Forward with Greater Confidence

MUIS has made a strong presence in the realm of technology. Today, our website boasts an average of 1.2 million hits a month, keeping the Muslim community abreast with the latest developments. MUIS also remains committed to the management and development of our staff.

Staff Movement

Eight new personnel were recruited in 2001 to ensure that MUIS continues to carry out its expanding activities more efficiently and effectively.

A promotion exercise carried out in May 2001 saw five staff promoted to a higher grade and nine promoted within grade (given additional increments).

To fully realise the potential of every staff, three internal postings (transfers) were made while in a separate exercise, 37 staff were affected by the re-organisation of MUIS' structure conducted at the end of 2001.

Training

A target of 100 hours of training per staff, as outlined by the PS21 Central Steering Committee, was set for 2001. Throughout the year, a total of 229 training places were created for the staff. The 80% utilisation rate of these training places was higher than the 75% national target.

The MUIS Performance Management Systems (MPMS) implemented in May 2001 was an effort to continuously improve the performance of the organisation by increasing productivity, improving quality and encouraging positive work attitude. The new system is a more structured and formalised approach to measure staff performance and it encourages constant feedback between staff and their immediate superiors.

MUIS has also taken decisive steps to re-look into staff's career paths by mapping out the appropriate change and development process and recognising best practices in the area of human resource development by embarking on the People Developer Standards (PDS) certification. This initiative will present a more structured and comprehensive people development framework and will get the best out of the staff.

WITS

MUIS also won one Gold and three Silvers at the PS21 WITs Convention 2001. Among the projects that the winning teams came up with were ways to save electricity, improve counter service, efficient use of stationery items and improve the present room-booking system.



Enhancing the Information Gateway

Constant improvements were made to the MUIS website to attract more traffic. The 'Religious Services' webpage was launched in June 2001. Online visitors could now download the weekly khutbahs, request for fatwas and post their questions on issues pertaining to Islam.

The Family Development webpage also received good response from the public after its facelift. The MUIS website has also been beefed up with the inclusion of Warita Kita and an Annual Report.

In a move to furnish the Muslim community with a useful directory on local happenings and contact information, MUIS launched the Interactive Muslim Organisation Guide (i-MOG) in January 2001. The aim was to provide a one-stop information centre for the community. Some of the features found on this site include searches of more than 3,000 company names, Malay/Muslim leaders and personnel, locations of mosques, halal restaurants and others.

For daily updates from Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage periods, Muslims were able to log on to the Haj 2001 webpage. Online Haj registration was also made possible since 1 May 2001. Muslims in Singapore can now register online for the Haj quota as well as make online payments.

i-Zakat

i-Zakat, an online zakat collection system, was introduced on 1 November 2001 to about 30 mosques for the collection of zakat harta.

This centralised Intranet web-based system allows MUIS to manage and administer the zakat collection more effectively. There is greater control and reconciliation, minimising error.

Migration Plan

Under Phase 1 of the Migration Plan, the database containing records of the Muslim population in Singapore, which has been under the MCDS administration since its inception, was successfully transferred to MUIS' server in October 2001. With this new initiative, all MUIS' application software, also known as MUIS' Information Systems (MIS), is now directly connected to this Muslim database, enabling better cross-referencing and updating. Phase 2 of the Plan was targeted at enhancing the database structure to capture more information on Muslims and introducing a new front-end web-based application to complement the data capturing process.

Taking the Lead

MUIS participated as the 'lead agency' for the IDA e-lifestyle programme. Some of the activities under the e-ambassador programme included the Malay Internet Week and Istiqamah IT Day.

IT Infrastructure in Madrasahs

As of January 2001, five madrasahs were equipped with an internet-ready IT infrastructure under Phase 1 of the Madrasah IT Plan (MITP). Phase 2 saw assistance being given to madrasahs to help them infuse the IT culture in the administration and to introduce IT as an extra-curricular activity.

MUIS' Network Infrastructure

MUIS' network infrastructure has undergone strategic expansion, adopting a wide-area-network (WAN) which serves and connects it to mosques, madrasahs and Wisma Indah. It is also linked to the Singapore Government network.

Homepages for Mosques

More than 25 mosques in Singapore have set up their homepages to keep the Muslim community up-to-date with the latest happenings. Most mosques and madrasahs have also received connection to the Internet via MUISNet. This translates to more than 300 email accounts for mosques and their personnel and 200 for the madrasah community. Another achievement is the fully equipped local-area-network (LAN) with direct connection via MUISNet to the Internet made available in six mosques.



...in asset development

Enhancing and Developing Assets

Tasked with overseeing the administration and operations of wakaf development, MUIS continues to redevelop and enhance the properties.

Mosque Building

In moving on with the times, Muslims can now expect 'new generation' mosques which boast modern architecture depicting rich Islamic art and improved facilities. In 2001, designs for two mosques - As-Syafaah and Al-Iman were completed.

Old mosques were upgraded and redeveloped. The proposal for the MBF mosque Phase 4 had been presented to the authority and an announcement should be made soon on the newer MBMF mosques.

Wakaf Development

The effort is ongoing to redevelop and enhance our wakaf properties. This year, three projects at Joo Chiat Road, Upper Dickson Road and Geylang (beside Khatijah Mosque) have been completed. Two more major projects at Bencoolen Street and Chancery Lane are underway.

For the first time this year, MUIS has initiated a collective wakaf participation to jointly acquire a building costing more than \$30 million through the purchase of a single-asset company. The transaction was completed in conjunction with the launch of the first Musharaka Bond to bridge the financing of the purchase. Another bond is expected for the Bencoolen Street project.

MUIS has also successfully completed a wakaf project at Upper Dickson Road through a joint-venture arrangement with Komala Vilas. The tenant financed the project while MUIS provided the technical and management expertise.





Mosque Maintenance Project

A review of the group maintenance project for mosques in the Eastern zone had been carried out and a revised structure would be initiated soon. MUIS intends to work on a collective maintenance programme, acting as a coordinator or managing agent. The initiative is expected to provide quality services and standardise maintenance package for all mosques at relatively low prices. The issues on the overall standard of maintenance and upkeep of mosques are expected to be brought up in the future.

Corporatisation of the Property Department

The Property Department was corporatised at the end of 2001, after a thorough study by several consultants. The announcement was made and the Property Department was finally known as WAREES Investments Pte Ltd as of January 2002.

MAJLIS UGAMA ISLAM SINGAPURA

fitriah account

(Incorporated in Singapore)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2001

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Statement by the Majlis – Fitrah Account

In our opinion, the financial statements set out on pages 40 to 50 are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fitrah Account of the Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura ("Majlis") at 31 December 2001, the results, the changes in funds, and the cash flows of the Fitrah Account of the Majlis for the financial year then ended, and at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Majlis will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

On behalf of the Majlis



HJ MAAROF B HJ SALLEH

President



SYED HAROON ALJUNIED

Secretary

Singapore, 18 June 2002