



**EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER 8:15 PM ON 6 OCTOBER 2018**

**FACT SHEET**  
**6 October 2018**

## **MUIS50 AWARDS 2018**

### **INSPIRING YOUTH RECOGNISED FOR THE FIRST TIME**

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- 1 Every year, the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) presents the Muis Awards to outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the socio-religious life of the Singapore Muslim community and the nation.
- 2 Two types of awards are presented each year:
  - i. The '**Jasa Cemerlang**' (**Outstanding**) **Award** is conferred to an individual honoured for his lifelong achievements and contribution to the community.
  - ii. The '**Jasa Bakti**' (**Service**) **Award** will be conferred to several individuals for their exemplary long service to the community – this year, there are seven awardees.
- 3 In conjunction with Muis' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, Muis is also presenting the Muis50 Distinguished Award and the Muis50 Inspiring Youth Award this year.
  - i. The **Muis50 Distinguished Award** recognises individuals who have contributed to Muis and the wider community in the last 50 years. Their contributions vary from being involved in aspects of religious life such as management of Haj, mosque and wakaf, as well as providing guidance to the community on socio-religious issues.
  - ii. The **Muis50 Inspiring Youth Award** shines the spotlight on youth who have made impactful contributions in the socio-religious field. They have inspired their fellow youth and also the wider community to be model Muslims through their volunteerism, embodying the "Rahmatan Lil Alamin" (Blessings to All) ethos of the Singaporean Muslim community.

4 All seven recipients of the Muis50 Distinguished Award have pledged their monetary award of \$3,000 each for charity. Muis has matched and topped up, bringing the amount to \$50,000, to be given to five charities, namely:

- Ain Society's Serenity Cancer Centre (Enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients)
- CasaRaudha Women Home (Shelter for abused wives and their children)
- Club HEAL (Programmes for mental health and support for patients with mental illness)
- Rainbow Centre (Provides care and services for children and youth with special needs)
- APSN (Association for Person with Special Needs)

## MAJLIS UGAMA ISLAM SINGAPURA



## **ANNEX A: BACKGROUND OF MUIS AWARDS**

Since 1990, Muis has been organising the Muis Awards Ceremony annually. Mosque leaders and outstanding individuals who have contributed significantly to the Singapore Muslim community and the wider community were conferred with the Jasa Cemerlang and Jasa Bakti Awards.

Candidates for the Muis Awards are nominated by members from the mosques fraternity and the Muslim Volunteer Organisations. Muis also identifies nominees who may be considered for the Awards, based on their past contribution and service to the socio-religious sector.

A total of 120 individuals have been conferred with the Muis Awards over the past 28 years.

## **ANNEX B: PROFILE OF JASA CEMERLANG AWARD RECIPIENT**

### **JASA CEMERLANG AWARD RECIPIENT**

Ustazah Sukarti Asmoin



Ustazah Sukarti Asmoin is a highly-respected religious leader in the Islamic education sector, and currently serves as the Vice-President of Pergas. A former student of Madrasah Al-Ma'arif, she had also served as its principal for 20 years (1997 – 2017). She is now Dean of its Islamic Studies Department.

Ustazah Sukarti started her career at Al-Ma'arif, as a teacher for Geography, History, English and Faraidh (basic inheritance knowledge from Islamic jurisprudence). In 1997, she was appointed as the Principal for the madrasah. During her tenure, several major developments were introduced at the madrasah including the construction and the shifting of the madrasah to Lorong 39 in Geylang. She was also instrumental in the preparation and training of teachers and students for PSLE when it was made compulsory in 2003.

Ustazah Sukarti is also admired as an avid learner who sets an example for her students. Since obtaining the Bachelor of Arts from the National University of Singapore and Bachelor of Syari'ah in University of Malaya, she had also gained her Masters in "Leadership, Policy and Change" from Monash University of Australia. She had also pursued her PhD in Philosophy from Ibn Khaldun, University of Indonesia.

Her wealth of academic knowledge, and her career in the religious education sector have served Ustazah Sukarti well in her role as a senior member of Pergas (Singapore Islamic Scholars and Religious Teachers Association) and the Asatizah Recognition Board. Moreover, she provides guidance in ensuring the implementation of Pergas' strategic plan for the professional development of asatizah and their engagement in the madrasah sector. Furthermore, Ustazah Sukarti is also one of the Syariah Court's resource persons to provide guidance to married couples for their marital issues.

Thus, for Ustazah Sukarti's continuous service in the Islamic education sector, and ensuring a continued pool of outstanding religious graduates, Muis awards her the Jasa Cemerlang Award in 2018.

## ANNEX C: PROFILES OF JASA BAKTI AWARD RECIPIENTS

### JASA BAKTI AWARD RECIPIENT

Hj Abu Bakar Omar



Hj Abu Bakar Omar has been an active mosque leader for almost 50 years. His most noteworthy achievements are during his stints in four mosques: Masjid Hasanah (1971 – 1976), Masjid Assyakirin (1981 – 1983; 1988 - 2008), Masjid Al-Mukminin (1983 – 1986) and Masjid Maarof (2013 – present).

Hj Abu Bakar began his involvement as a chairman at Masjid Hasanah in 1971. At Masjid Hasanah, he took upon himself to organise religious classes for the nearby residents. As the treasurer for Masjid Assyakirin (1994 – 1996), he led the welfare unit to help distribute food and zakat (religious tithe) to low-income families.

Hj Abu Bakar also showed his dedication and determination to raise funds for the construction of two mosques. As the chairman of the Mosque Construction Committee, he spearheaded fund-raising projects to raise \$600,000 in the mid-1980s for the infrastructural needs of Masjid Al-Mukminin. His experience had enabled the Masjid Maarof mosque building committee to raise funds for Masjid Maarof, which was opened in 2017. He now serves as one of the Management Board members for Masjid Maarof.

## **JASA BAKTI AWARD RECIPIENT**

Ms Faridah Eryani Pairin



Ms Faridah Eryani Pairin's key contribution is in the field of Islamic family jurisprudence through her role as an Appeal Board member<sup>1</sup>, and a Principal Legal Counsel in the Housing Development Board (HDB).

Ms Faridah was first appointed as an Appeal Board member in 2008, and has presided over complex ancillary issues of Muslim divorce cases. Ms Faridah's professional expertise and experience in property law, have also enabled her to make fair, just and effective decisions on the division of matrimonial assets. Her legal expertise and her well-researched written judgements have contributed to the general development of both the Syari'ah law and Singapore Syariah Appeals Reports<sup>2</sup>.

As a member of the Muis Committee for Inheritance, her legal experience and knowledge in housing matters contribute significantly to the Committee's work. She is also a panel member in the Wakaf Dispute Resolution Committee (2016 – present) which assists Muis to resolve Wakaf disputes. Ms Faridah is also a panel advisor to the Youth Court (2005 – present). Her role involves informing and advising the Court on how best to rehabilitate and re-integrate young offenders with their families and the wider community, as well as ensuring their safety, welfare and best interests.

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the Appeal Board are appointed by the President of Singapore to hear appeals by those who are aggrieved with the decisions of the Syariah Court and Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM). Ms Faridah's appointment was the first time women have been appointed to serve the board, and this has enabled a ruling from the Appeal Board to be enriched with a woman's perspective in Islamic jurisprudence.

<sup>2</sup> This is a law report publication which provides Singapore Muslim law practitioners with a self-contained and comprehensive set of significant Syariah Court and the Appeal Board decisions, contributing towards the development of Syariah Law in Singapore.

## **JASA BAKTI AWARD RECIPIENT**

Ustazah Harinah Abdul Latiff



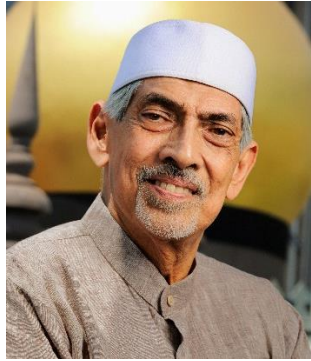
Ustazah Harinah Abdul Latiff contributes to the community and the religious sector through her teaching role at Madrasah Aljunied Al-Islamiah, as well as a member of the Appeal Board (2007 – present) and the Asatizah Recognition Board (ARB) (2011 – present).

Ustazah Harinah is currently a Vice-Principal for Madrasah Aljunied and has served the madrasah for 26 years. Under her stewardship, the madrasah has seen notable achievements. She inculcates positive values and goodwill within the student body via the formation of IHSAN Club in 2009. Through this club, students serve the orphanage, homes and mosques, as well as participating in humanitarian development overseas with the support of the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation. Moreover, under her guidance, the school's Arabic language debate team continues to excel in local and international debate competitions, defeating native speakers from Qatar and Syria.

In addition to her service at Madrasah Aljunied, Ustazah Harinah also contributed as a member in Pergas' Financial Syari'ah Advisory Council (2009 – 2012). In this capacity, she played a major role to promote the socio-economic status of women in Islam, and had enabled the Council's service to include advice on Syari'ah-compliant investment products such as in real estate. Her role as an Appeal Board member (2007 – present), and an ARB member (2011 – present) have enabled her to contribute further to the professional standing of the asatizah fraternity.

## **JASA BAKTI AWARD RECIPIENT**

Hj Mohamed Mohd Salleh Patail



Hj Mohamed Mohd Salleh Patail is a respected figure in the mosque sector, contributing significantly to Masjid Sultan and Masjid Angullia's development.

Hj Mohamed Patail has been an active volunteer at Masjid Sultan since the 1990s. Hj Mohamed Patail presided over the Masjid's recent upgrading project in 2017. At a cost of \$4.3m, this project has provided amenities which are friendly to the needs of the elderly and people with disabilities.

Under Hj Mohamed Patail's leadership, both Masjid Anggulia and Masjid Sultan are efficiently managed. As the Chairman for Masjid Angullia (1984 – 1992), he strengthened the mosque's programmes and financial administration. For Masjid Sultan, the mosque has been awarded with the ISO 9001 certification and an Architectural Heritage Award in 2016. The mosque also has a heritage corner and conducts learning journeys for foreign and local visitors to learn more about Islam in Singapore and enrich their experience.



## **JASA BAKTI AWARD RECIPIENT**

Hj Noordin Abdul Sukor



Hj Noordin Abdul Sukor has provided leadership and contributed significantly to the development of several mosques. These mosques are Masjid Kassim (2003 – 2009), Masjid Al-Firdaus (2010 – present) and Masjid Maarof (2013 – 2016).

Under Hj Noordin's leadership, Masjid Kassim became a hub for Islamic education. A key highlight was the Islamic Book Fair (2002 – 2012) which the mosque collaborated with the private Islamic education centres. The Islamic Book Fair attracted about 3,000 visitors annually. At Masjid Kassim, Hj Noordin also initiated the Bazaar Ramadan which provided an entrepreneurial platform primarily for single parents.

At Masjid Al-Firdaus, and in his capacity of Chairman for the Masjid Maarof's Mosque Construction Committee, Hj Noordin showed his capacity for networking. Through his effort, Masjid Al-Firdaus collaborated with Unity Secondary School to provide transport for the students to perform their Friday prayers and disburse financial assistance to deserving Muslim students. For Masjid Maarof, he presided a team which collaborated with grassroots committees and mosque clusters to raise more than \$4.5m for the mosque's construction. Masjid Maarof was officially opened in 2017.

## **JASA BAKTI AWARD RECIPIENT**

Dr Shaik Ahmad Buhari



Dr Shaik Ahmad Buhari is a senior consultant at the Department of Surgery in the National University Hospital. He is also an Assistant Professor at the Yong Loo Ling School of Medicine in the National University of Singapore.

Dr Shaik contributed his medical expertise for Haj operations. He has been an Honorary Medical Officer for the Singapore Haj Mission since 1989. He is also a member of the Haj Pilgrimage Committee. His major contribution includes training the Haj medical team, assessing the appeals on medical ground made by Haj applicants and providing sound advice to meet the requirements of the Saudi Health authorities.

Dr Shaik's knowledge in medicine is sought not only locally, but also regionally. He was a member of the Muis Fatwa Committee workgroup and was consulted for his views related to the medical field. Regionally, he has been invited to speak at international conferences, teach at medical workshops overseas and written in renowned medical journals. He has also volunteered for various medical expeditions such as for Mercy Relief in Cambodia and other relief missions in Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar. His contribution in the medical sector has also been recognised; his awards include the Public Healthcare Clinical Special Award and the National Excellence Service (EXSA) Gold Award.

**JASA BAKTI AWARD RECIPIENT**  
Ustazah Sumah Fadalee



Ustazah Sumah Fadalee has been an active community servant for more than 40 years with her key contributions most notable in Al-Khair (1998 – 2011) and Darussalam (2011 – present) mosques, as well as her role being a religious teacher (ustazah).

Ustazah Sumah has been an influential figure in encouraging female congregants to participate in socio-religious programmes at the mosque. This is evident in her past role as an Advisor for the Women's Wing in Masjid Al-Khair which she served for 13 years, and her current post as a Vice-Chairperson in Masjid Darussalam. For the latter, she has groomed the next generation of leaders for the mosque's Women's Wing.

Ustazah Sumah has played and continue to play a vital role in imparting religious education. She had conducted religious classes for Muslim women in Clementi and Bukit Timah. She currently teaches weekly religious lessons at Masjid Mujahidin and serves as its Vice-Chairman for the MEQAR programme. These contributions underscore her dedication to enhance the Muslim community's religious knowledge.

## ANNEX D: PROFILES OF MUIS50 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENTS

### MUIS50 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT

**Hj Shafawi Ahmad, BBM, PBS**



Hj Shafawi Ahmad is a highly-respected community leader who has contributed in various capacities and across several institutions and sectors including Muis, madrasah and the mosque sector. He was one of the founding member of Yayasan Mendaki since 1981.

Hj Shafawi's key contributions in Muis are beyond measure. He was first appointed as a Muis Council member in 1986, a role he still serves to this day, making him the current longest-serving member. As a Council member, Hj Shafawi is in a decision-making body responsible for the formulation of policies to be implemented by Muis.

Hj Shafawi's other key contribution was also as a Chairman of the Pilgrimage Committee. In addition, he served as the Head of the Haj delegation for three occasions (1990, 1994 and 2005). In this role, Hj Shafawi led a team of doctors, nurses and welfare officers in providing medical and welfare services to Singapore pilgrims in the holy lands (Mecca and Medina). He represented Muis at various meetings with the Saudi Haj Authorities, ensuring compliance with directives for the welfare, safety and security of Singapore Haj pilgrims.

Hj Shafawi was also a key contributor in the mosque and madrasah sectors. As Chairman of Masjid Al-Muttaqin (1988 – 1991), he ensured that the mosque became a focal point for Islamic learning in the neighbourhood. As Chairman of the Steering Committee for the National Madrasah Education in 2000, Hj Shafawi was critical to ensure that the curriculum and education standards were comparable to national benchmarks. His service to the madrasah continues in his role as a member of the Board of Governors for Madrasah Al-Irsyad Zuhri (2008 – present).

Hj Shafawi also served various Boards and Committees such as in the National Committee against Drug Abuse and Probation Committee. For his meritorious contributions, he was appointed as a Justice of Peace<sup>3</sup> in 1989, and one of his most recent and major appointments included being a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights (1996 – 2011).

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<sup>3</sup> A Justice of Peace is an "outstanding Singaporean who have made significant contributions in their professionalism the public service, social services and the community at large".

**MUIS50 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT**  
**Ustaz Pasuni Maulan, PK, PBM, PBS**



Ustaz Pasuni Maulan is a highly-regarded religious teacher known for his distinguished service to the community. His service spreads across key religious institutions such as Muis, the mosque and madrasah sectors, and the Asatizah Recognition Board (ARB).

As a key figure in the religious sector, Ustaz Pasuni is a Muis Council Member (2004 – present) and the Vice-Chairman of the ARB. He was a catalyst for the establishment of the Asatizah Recognition Scheme in 2005. The scheme aims to enhance the professional standing of religious teachers, thereby making them a credible reference point for the community. In 2017, the scheme was made mandatory for all asatizah in Singapore.

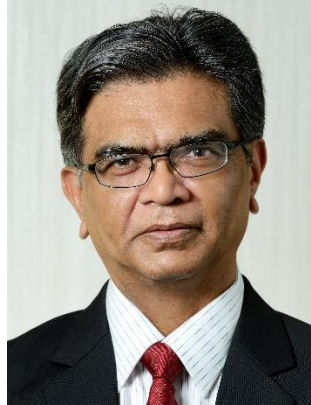
Ustaz Pasuni led several development initiatives for the madrasah sector. As Chairman of Madrasah Aljunied Management Committee, he paved the way for Madrasah Aljunied to be part of the Joint Madrasah System (JMS). He currently sits as a member of the Muis Board of Governors for the madrasah. During these stints, he was supportive of the implementation of the Joint Madrasah System in 2009. This initiative enabled three Madrasahs (Al-Irsyad Zuhri, Aljunied and Al-Arabiah) to specialise in their curriculum offerings and develop multiple educational pathways for students.

Ustaz Pasuni is also a keen advocate for harmony and justice for families. As Chairman for Masjid Tentera-Di-Raja (1998 – present), he introduced programmes which provide guidance to strengthen families. He was a then-National Family Council<sup>4</sup> member (2006 – 2008), and his role involved engaging families and stakeholders to provide feedback on issues and programmes impacting families. In his capacity as the ad-hoc President of the Syariah Court (1999 – 2011), Ustaz Pasuni had also adjudicated numerous family cases.

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<sup>4</sup> It is now called “Families for Life” Council to reflect its evolving approach to connect with Singaporean families.

**MUIS50 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT**  
**Hj Sallim Abdul Kadir, BBM, PBM**



Hj Sallim Abdul Kadir is a Director of Human Capital for CONSISTEL and former Director of Human Resources at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He has devoted 25 years to community service, and is involved at Board and committee-levels in various community and government-based organisations.

In addition to being a Muis Council member (2004 – present), Hj Sallim's other key contribution is his role as a Board Director of Warees Investment Pte Ltd (2005 – present). He oversees Warees Investments' role of managing wakaf properties and development projects. The yields from these wakaf properties serve as a continuous income (perpetuity) for the community's key religious institutions and welfare. Specifically, they help in financing the building and maintenance of mosques and madrasah and contributions to the poor and needy.

Hj Sallim's most notable contribution at the national level is his role as Chairman for the SG50 KITA committee in 2015. He spearheaded activities to coordinate and galvanise the Muslim community to further contribute to society as part of Singapore's Golden Jubilee. A key feature was the Service to the Nation Week where Muslim organisations, youths and madrasah students, as well as members of public, devoted their time within a week to participate in goodwill and community service activities. Through his leadership, the SG50 KITA committee also raised \$7.6m for the Yusof Ishak Professorship in Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore, focusing on areas of study such as civic engagement, ethnicity and community, and religion.

**MUIS50 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT**  
**Hj Abdul Rahim Abdul Jalil, PBM, PBS**



Hj Abdul Rahim Abdul Jalil is a former District Judge who is a respected figure amongst legal practitioners. He has contributed immensely for 30 years to the development of Islamic family jurisprudence through his service to the Syariah Court and the Appeal Board.

Hj Abdul Rahim is an Appeal Board member (1998 – present) whose sound judgement has ensured that complex ancillary issues of Muslim divorces are dealt justly. His well-researched and written grounds of decisions are in the Singapore Syariah Appeals Reports<sup>5</sup>. His contribution had enhanced the quality of the decisions made and raised the standard and status of the Appeal Board among the legal practitioners. As a senior member, he acts a mentor to new Appeal Board members, and he is also a resource person for matters pertaining to the Administration of Muslim Law Act relating to Syariah Court and Appeal Board.

Hj Abdul Rahim's contribution at the national level also includes his role as a Co-Chairman for the Malay Oral History Committee of the Singapore National Archives Board (2016 – present). This committee works closely with heritage centres and community stakeholders to develop Singapore's oral history collection.

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<sup>5</sup>This is a law report publication which provides Singapore Muslim law practitioners with a self-contained and comprehensive set of significant Syariah Court and the Appeal Board decisions, contributing towards the development of Syariah Law in Singapore.

**MUIS50 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT**  
**Ustaz Ali Mohamed, PJG, BBM, PBM**



Ustaz Ali Mohamed is a prominent religious figure known for his commitment in religious rehabilitation and for his service at Masjid Khadijah. Ustaz Ali is also notable for his significant contributions in Muis and asatizah development.

Ustaz Ali is currently the Co-Chairman of the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG), which was founded in 2003 and consists of a voluntary group of religious teachers (asatizah). RRG's initial formation was to rehabilitate detained Jemaah Islamiah members and their members through counselling. It has since broadened its scope to counter any ideological misunderstanding of Islam, especially those promoted by radical Islamists. RRG's work has been lauded locally and internationally. Since its formation, RRG has performed more than 1,500 counselling sessions and has conducted workshops on countering extremist ideology at schools, madrasah and mosques.

Ustaz Ali is also an active volunteer in the mosque sector and inter-faith work. He has been serving the mosque sector for 40 years. Through his leadership at Masjid Khadijah, the mosque published the quarterly magazine "Inabah" which also included articles written by Ustaz Ali himself. Ustaz Ali had also dedicated his time to mentor and teach Islam to former offenders and youth delinquents.

Ustaz Ali's significant contributions in religious development is also evident in Muis and his work towards enhancing the asatizah's standing. Ustaz Ali is a Muis Council Member (2004 – present) and a Fatwa Committee Member (1980 – 1981; 2004 – present). He was part of Committee which passed the religious ruling to enable all Muslims (aged 21 to 60) to being included in the amended Human Organ Transplant Act. He is also the current Chairman for the Asatizah Recognition Board, which has presided over the implementation of the mandatory Asatizah Recognition Scheme that aims to raise the professional standing of the asatizah.



**MUIS50 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT**  
**Ustaz Mohamad Hasbi Hassan, PJG, BBM**



Ustaz Mohamad Hasbi Hassan is a revered religious scholar who has contributed significantly in Islamic education and asatizah (religious scholars and teachers) development, as well as in religious rehabilitation.

Ustaz Hasbi is the current President for Pergas, a non-governmental organisation which he has served since 1986. Pergas (Singapore Islamic Scholars and Religious Teachers Association) aims to raise the quality of Islamic education and welfare of the asatizah. Under his leadership, Pergas' main religious contributions are towards providing Islamic education (diploma, degree and postgraduate programmes available); asatizah training; community outreach with Muslim organisations and student bodies; and research on contemporary socio-religious issues.

Ustaz Hasbi's key contributions in the religious sector includes being a Muis Council Member (1992 – 1998; 2013 – present); a Fatwa Committee Member (1992 – 2001; 2004 – present); and the current Co-Chairman of the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) (2003 – present), which provides counselling for those radicalised and self-radicalised, and provides publications countering radical ideologies.

**MUIS50 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT**  
**Almarhum Syed Abdullah Haroon Aljunied, PBM (Posthumous)**



Almarhum Syed Abdullah Haroon Aljunied is a highly-respected religious scholar who had contributed greatly towards religious development and a leader for the Arab community in Singapore.

Almarhum Syed Abdullah has served as a Fatwa Committee member from 1984 to 1995. As noted by Mufti Dr Fatris Bakaram, his key contributions were in harnessing wakaf as community assets. Almarhum Syed Abdullah has also served as Muis Council member from 1983 to 2004.

Almarhum Syed Abdullah had served in Al-Wehdah Al-Arabiyah Bi Singhafura (The Arabs Association of Singapore). He was its President from 1984 to 1997 and he helped to promote the Association's objective of promoting the use of Arabic language to all Singaporeans, and also inculcating Islamic values. To this end, Al-Wehdah currently offers bursary awards for tertiary education to needy students.

## **ANNEX D: PROFILES OF MUIS50 INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENTS**

### **MUIS50 INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT**

Mr Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad



Mr Abbas Ali Mohamed Irshad is an active youth activist who champions social cohesion through his work in promoting religious and racial harmony.

Mr Irshad is a founder and current President of Roses of Peace (ROP). Established in 2012, it is a non-profit organisation which aims to inspire religious harmony in Singapore by spreading the universal values of peace, love and kindness as espoused by all faith traditions. To this end, ROP reaches out to the general public, learning institutions and key policymakers. It also conducts workshops to participants, enabling them to effectively impart messages of religious harmony. To date, ROP has engaged more than 2,000 youths and engaged more than 40,000 people through its outreach on religious harmony.

Mr Irshad is also a prominent advocate in building the communal spirit through his involvement in various organisations. In 2017, he was appointed by OnePeople.sg as its ambassador and facilitator for the Experiential Conversations programme that aims to discuss issues relating to living in multi-racial and multi-religious Singapore. In the same year, he was also appointed as a Youth Ambassador for REACH Singapore. Here, Mr Irshad has organised several Ministerial forums, and dialogues sessions to engage youths from tertiary institutions to discuss on national policies. Moreover, Mr Irshad is an ambassador for the Singapore Kindness Movement, and an appointed member of the Facebook Community Leadership Global Advisory Board.

Mr Irshad has been appointed as a Nominated Member of Parliament in 2018, and in this role, he aims to speak up on the topics of social cohesion, as well as racial and religious harmony, and youths' contribution towards them.

## **MUIS50 INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT**

Mr Mohksin Mohd Rashid



Mr Mohksin Mohd Rashid is known as an advocate for youth involvement in community development projects.

A co-founder and current CEO of Majulah Community, Mr Mohksin leads a not-for-profit organisation that nurtures ground-up community service projects. These range from engaging the local elderly at their respective activity centres, to embarking on overseas community service projects. Recent expeditions are “Project Peduli Kelantan” for victims of the 2014 flood in Malaysia and “Project Peduli Aceh” for Rohingya refugees in 2015.

Mr Mohksin engages youths to be positive change agents in the community. Through Majulah, he conducts training programmes for youths enabling them to be effective change makers and leaders in community service projects. Two such examples are a sharing session on achieving a positive impact and sustainability for the youths’ projects (2017), and a workshop on project management and design thinking (2018).

Mr Mohksin has also been actively volunteering as a young Mosque Management Board member in Masjid Alkaff Kampung Melayu (2012 – present). He started as an Assistant Secretary before assuming his current post of Vice-Chairman. During his time at the mosque, Mr Mohksin has contributed to enhancing its HR and youth development programmes.

## MUIS50 INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT

Ustaz Muhammad Zahid Mohd Zin



Ustaz Muhammad Zahid Mohd Zin is a well-liked religious teacher, especially amongst the youths. He is also active in social media, with close to 17,000 followers on his Instagram account.

Ustaz Zahid is the current CEO of Muslim Youth Forum (MYF) (2016 – present), a platform which facilitates dialogues on positive socio-religious values and practices for youths. Its Instagram account, which has close to 9,000 followers, posts such dialogues and religious classes. These include the “Heroes Class” conducted weekly by Ustaz Zahid. Started in 2010 with 30 youths, it has now grown to include about 500 youths.

Ustaz Zahid is also known for his outreach efforts in advocating positive religious values. As the Head of Relief in BAPA<sup>6</sup> (2012 – 2016), he has embarked on overseas humanitarian efforts. A key example was the assistance towards the refugees affected by the Syrian conflict in 2016. Another of his outreach effort is via his weekly marriage preparation class called “Diary Tok Kadi (Diary of a Marriage Solemniser)”.

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<sup>6</sup> BAPA is a non-profit organisation formed in 1957. Its initial objective was to uplift the education and economic status of the residence of Radin Mas. Today, it is undertaking a bigger role to participate in various social service missions, as well as providing religious classes for Muslim youths.

## **MUIS50 INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT**

Ustaz Muhammad Tarmizi Abdul Wahid



Ustaz Muhammad Tarmizi Abdul Wahid is one of the most highly-regarded religious teachers by the young Muslim professionals. He has also written a book called, “The Art of Letting God”, which is about learning to be empowered by God, and has been sold in Singapore and Malaysia.

Ustaz Tarmizi is currently the CEO of Safinah Institute, an Islamic learning centre founded by him in 2009. Safinah’s aim is to “break down complex Islamic sciences and terminologies” in their talks so that participants better appreciate the religious values and practices taught. The talks offered in Safinah are also multi-faceted and do not focus solely from a religious ruling. Hence, talks which imbue spiritual upliftment, such as dealing with past trauma and on self-respect, are also conducted and widely-received, particularly by the English-speaking professionals.

Ustaz Tarmizi is also savvy in social media. He maintains an active Twitter account which has close to 2,000 followers. Under his leadership, Safinah has a strong social media presence, with about 14,800 followers in their Instagram account. In recognition of this and his religious qualifications, Ustaz Tarmizi is part of the Asatizah Youth Network. Through this network he provides guidance to Muslim youths in social media and is also one of the first touch-points for youths seeking answers and clarifications on religious issues.

## **MUIS50 INSPIRING YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT**

Ms Nur Khairiana Mohamad Malek



Ms Nur Khairiana Mohamad Malek is a strong advocate that being green is part of being a good Muslim.

Ms Khairiana formed FiTree in 2013, a non-profit group consisting of tertiary students and graduates which aims to raise the awareness of the Muslim community that being environmentally-friendly is an Islamic value. To this end, FiTree first began by running a mosque-centric campaign in 2013 in Ramadan to have “Green Iftars” whereby mosques were encouraged to reduce waste, and use environmentally-better products such as Cornware materials for meals during the break of the fast. The success of the Green Iftar is evident as mosques widely adopt this practice during Ramadan to this day.

In addition to the Green Iftar, another significant contribution of FiTree is to remind Muslim congregants to reduce water during their ablution at mosques. Stickers, highlighting that Muslims can save water, are pasted around the ablution areas and have made a lasting impression. FiTree’s influence here can be seen as today, mosques nationwide have installed water-saving devices at the taps for ablution.