



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
(Islamic Religious Council of Singapore)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITIES OF SUCCESS

Contributing Citizens, Dynamic Institutions

9 - 10 September 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
About ICCOS	5
Programme	8
- Executive Study Programme	
- Conference Panels	
Profiles	23
Attendees Guide	35
- Venue & Travel Advisory	
- Frequently Asked Questions	
About Muis	40

INTRODUCTION

The **Communities of Success** initiative by the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) is a positive and forward-looking articulation of a vision of Islam and Muslim communities that are compatible with the modern world and thrive in and actively contribute to contemporary societies. This vision is especially critical for Muslim communities living in secular political contexts and diverse social environments, as the socio-religious issues and challenges encountered in such contexts are often without much precedence in Islamic history.

In encountering new challenges, Muslim communities are called to proffer their own solutions by drawing on the diverse and complex traditions of Islam and adapting to the needs of their contemporary societies whilst staying rooted to their Islamic values and principles. This is obviously a delicate balance and requires carefully thought-through and well-developed bodies of knowledge and a new narrative of success. We believe that Muslim communities can co-exist harmoniously and respectfully with other communities of their respective nations and the global world, whilst contributing to the prosperity and progress of their societies through their moral and religious conviction, knowledge, and competencies.

For Muslims in Singapore, there are many similar socio-religious challenges as in other Muslim minorities globally. For many decades, the community had embarked on various efforts to develop confident and practicing Muslims with good social and religious values, particularly through the *Singapore Muslim identity (SMI)* initiative and guided by local religious leaders and teachers. The SMI is grounded in various attributes – namely Religious Resilience, Inclusive, Contributive, Adaptive and Progressive, or RICAP – that encourage and guide Muslims to be forward looking, adaptive and inclusive in their religious outlook, and to work with the government and civil society to strengthen social cohesion and promote active citizenry. These efforts have fostered Muslims who contribute to nation-building, becoming important nodes within the national grid. In this regard, the role of government institutions and leaders to work together with faith communities in building trust and confidence is key in nurturing success.

INTRODUCTION

In light of new and complex socio-religious issues and challenges faced by the Singapore Muslim community, Muis has initiated several efforts within the Communities of Success initiative with the aim of shaping progressive religious leadership as well as developing new and contextualised bodies of knowledge, including:

Pre-ICCOS Seminar on Muslim Communities of Success in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic discussed on how various Muslim communities around the world have responded with resilience and confidence in their societies to forge ahead through the COVID-19 crisis, and the critical role of Muslim theology, jurisprudence and ethics in addressing complex challenges in contemporary times.



<https://go.gov.sg/muispreiccos1>

Pre-ICCOS Seminar on Muslim Communities of Success in the Context of Secular Societies discussed the importance of context in interpreting texts and traditions particularly for minority Muslim communities living in modern, secular states and how we can leverage on the resources embedded deep within the Islamic traditions to protect the common space and build on the constructive ethos and common vision to live harmoniously and successfully as a society.



<https://go.gov.sg/muispreiccos2>

Research Programme in the Study of Muslim Communities of Success (RPCS) initiates the development of the contextualised bodies of knowledge by offering a platform for religious scholars and researchers to look into current and future issues impacting the socio-religious life of the Singapore Muslim community. The RPCS focus will be on developing new understanding, interpretations, and applications of Islamic principles, values and traditions to contemporary issues and challenges.



<https://go.gov.sg/muisrpcs>

ABOUT ICCOS

A new vision of, and approach to, Islam needs to be formulated for the purposes of guiding Muslim communities in the contemporary world. We believe that this is achievable with a clear and fresh interpretation of Islam, its history and traditions, that pays heed to our current contexts, and guided by the principles and values as taught by the Prophet (peace be upon him) and embedded within the rich, multifaceted and complex traditions of Islam. However, it is crucial that we begin with the right step, which is to put forth a positive, powerful and compelling narrative that Muslim communities are successful communities when Muslims act as equal citizens and participate actively in nation building and in strengthening both community and national institutions.

In the hope of sharing this vision to the global stage, which can serve as an exemplary model for Muslim communities in contemporary societies, Muis plans to convene the **International Conference on Communities of Success (ICCOS)** as a platform for Muslim minority communities around the world to galvanise around a strong narrative of success founded on the notion of *“Contributing Citizens, Dynamic Institutions”*.



ABOUT ICCOS

ICCOS seeks to present and discuss positive narratives and characteristics of successful communities as inspired by models of peaceful coexistence and impactful contribution of Muslims to the wider society. These will include examples from Islamic history, as well as contemporary models and achievements, whether in minority or majority contexts. These examples underscore the values of honourable character, knowledge and competence, and citizenry.



ICCOS will also discuss the desired form of socio-religious life, and how Muslim communities can look at Muslim traditions as a guide to lead a thriving and successful life as exemplary citizens. In discussing the importance of developing competent Muslim communities in diverse and contemporary communities, the conference will also address the role of educational reforms and social development efforts that can develop resilient and cohesive communities in plural societies. Similarly, the conference aims to examine meaningful collaborative efforts between government agencies and Muslim communities in building robust and resilient institutions that contribute to the strengthening of social cohesion and active citizenry within plural societies and a globalized world.

ABOUT ICCOS

KEY THRUSTS

As new socio-political and religious conditions evolve and present new questions, it is important that we continue to prepare ahead and anticipate these questions so that the Muslim community remains guided in its religious life.

With the theme “*Contributing Citizens, Dynamic Institutions*”, ICCOS will focus on:

- How contextualised religious guidance and progressive religious leadership, supported by competent and efficient institutions, can empower Muslims to live as dignified and contributing citizens.
In particular, it will discuss the concept of citizenry in contemporary contexts and the role Muslims can, and should, play in plural and secular societies
- The important roles that various institutions, including educational, religious, social, cultural, legal and political institutions can play, to develop Muslim communities of success.
In particular, it will discuss the concept of citizenry in contemporary contexts and the role Muslims can, and should, play in plural and secular societies

OUTCOMES

ICCOS seeks to achieve the following:

- Provide a platform for Muslim minority communities from different parts of the world to engage on and enrich positive narratives of successful Muslim communities, characterized by good Character, Competency and Citizenry (3Cs)
- Contribute to the shaping of progressive religious leadership for each community, and towards the development of new and contextualised bodies of knowledge, to guide Muslims in responding effectively to complex socio-religious issues and challenges
- Enhance collaboration among religious scholars and leaders, state officials and community leaders in developing Communities of Success, and share Singapore’s model at the global stage

PROGRAMME

ICCOS 2022 will be held from **9th to 10th September 2022** at the **Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore**. The conference will be held in English and Arabic with simultaneous interpretation.

The 2-day programme will feature speeches and panel discussions by renowned religious scholars and leaders, state officials and community leaders from different parts of the world on the 3Cs of successful Muslim communities – Character, Competency and Citizenry.

DAY 1, 9 SEPTEMBER 2022 (FRIDAY)

Pre-Conference Programme

8.30am - 4.30pm Executive Study Programme

The session is open to all international participants.

The Executive Study Programme (ESP) aims to share lessons from Singapore and our experiences in developing institutions and strengthening community relations, through immersive learning journeys and engagements with religious and community leaders.

Details are available on Page 14.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1, 9 SEPTEMBER 2022 (FRIDAY)

Conference Opening

6.00pm - **Dinner**

7.30pm This session is by invitation only.

6.30pm **Registration**

7.45pm **Opening**

7.55pm **Welcome Remarks**

By Mr. Kadir Maideen, Chief Executive of Muis, Singapore

8.05pm **Keynote Address**

By Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of the Republic of Singapore

8.30pm **Official Launch of Conference**

8.35pm **The Singapore Muslim Community Experience towards a Community of Success**

By Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Mufti of Singapore

9.00pm **Closing**

End of Day 1

PROGRAMME

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY)

Conference Panels

8.15am **Registration**

8.45am **Opening**

9.00am – 11.45am **Panel I: Nurturing Character for Communities of Success**

The panel will discuss the desired form of socio-religious life, and how Muslim communities could draw inspiration from the Muslim traditions to forge a progressive and forward-looking vision of Islam in contemporary contexts.

Speakers in this panel will discuss:

- How we should approach the diverse yet rich textual and lived experiences in our religious traditions (*al-turāth al-Islāmī*) in understanding and interpreting today's environment, in the process of helping Muslim communities address contemporary challenges in a coherent and successful way
- Several important lessons and episodes found within the Muslims traditions that can help develop a progressive socio-religious outlook by drawing the relevant principles and values from such histories
- The concept and principles of citizenry (*al-muwāṭanah*) from the Islamic perspective, as well as the dynamism of the Muslim legal tradition and philosophy that enable Muslims to be adaptable to new circumstances

Details are available on Page 17.

Refreshments are provided at 10.30am.

PROGRAMME

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY)

Conference Panels

11.45am -
3.30pm

Panel II: Developing Competent Muslim Communities in Diverse & Modern Contexts

The panel will examine the role of institutional reforms in the fields of education and social development that are inspired by religious values and principles and can help towards developing resilient and cohesive communities in plural societies.

Speakers in this panel will discuss:

- The role of religious leaders in shaping resilient communities, particularly through reforms in Islamic thought and education, that can guide Muslim communities to effectively address present and future challenges
- How religion and religious traditions have strengthened social cohesion and how can Muslim communities build the necessary competencies to skilfully manage social and religious diversity
- The various ways Muslim religious and educational institutions can collaborate with both the state and the society in strengthening the common good

Details are available on Page 19.

Lunch is provided at 1.15pm.

PROGRAMME

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY)

Conference Panels

3.30pm - 6.30pm Panel III: Enhancing Social Cohesion & Active Citizenry

The panel will examine meaningful collaborative efforts between government agencies (“Public”), private sector (“Private”) and Muslim communities (“People”) (PPP) in building robust and resilient institutions that contribute to the strengthening of social cohesion and active citizenry in plural societies and a globalized world.

Speakers in this panel will discuss:

- Several notable examples of inter-religious/racial participation and contributions made by minority Muslim communities
- The shifting boundaries between the religious and the secular in today’s context, and how both state and religion should negotiate these in the context of increasing diversity and greater assertiveness for individual religious rights
- How current and future global challenges can adversely affect social cohesion and complicate public policy in managing religious diversity, and how Muslim communities can more effectively prepare in dealing with these developments

Details are available on Page 21.

Refreshments are provided at 4.30pm.

PROGRAMME

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY)

Conference Panels

- 6.30pm **Concluding Remarks**
By Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Mufti of Singapore
- 6.45pm **Closing**
End of Day 2

Note:

**The programme is updated as of 31 July 2022 and is subject to change.*

**Participants will be informed of their allocated seating on the Conference day. Due to space limitations, participants may be seated in a different ballroom with a two-way live feed from the main ballroom. We appreciate your kind understanding on the matter.*

PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE STUDY PROGRAMME (ESP)

DAY 1, 9 SEPTEMBER 2022 (FRIDAY), 8.30AM - 4.30PM

The **Executive Study Programme (ESP)** provide participants an opportunity to experience first-hand the manifestation of collaborative efforts by Muslim community organisations in Singapore with the wider society in developing the 3Cs – Character, Competency and Citizenry – within the community to nurture our Community of Success.

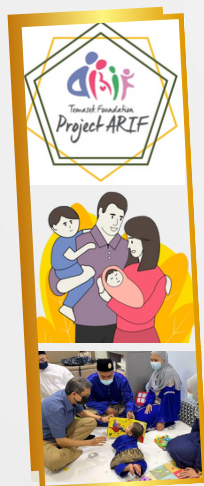
Participants will be invited to attend one of the three itineraries:

#1

Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF)

Building Stronger Communities

The Rahmatan Lil Alamin (RLA) or Blessings to All Committee was set up by Muis in 2005 for the Singaporean Muslim Community to radiate compassion and kindness to poor, needy and victims of disaster regardless of the faith, race or creed. It aims to promote and support activities & programmes that project the Rahmatan Lil' Alamin "Blessings to All" spirit, support capacity building of community leaders, youth leaders and volunteers through skills upgrading and training to undertake RLA projects, and promote better understanding and cultivate stronger bonds amongst people of various faiths in Singapore, so as to strengthen inter-faith understanding and race relations in Singapore through humanitarian & community development work.



Bersamamu and TF-Project ARIF

Strengthening Muslim Families

The Bersamamu (With You) programme, an initiative by the Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM) under the M3{DH(1) framework, was started to inspire strong and stable Muslim marriages. It is a ground-up initiative by the Kadi & Naib Kadi (marriage solemniser) which seeks to support Muslim couples from before solemnisation to throughout the first two years of their marriage. The Temasek Foundation Achieving Resilient & Inspiring Families (TF-Project ARIF), a collaboration between Temasek Foundation, KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) and Muis, was developed in 2021 as part of the Bersamamu programme to provide better support to couples in preparation for marriage and family life, and to optimise maternal wellness and child development.

PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE STUDY PROGRAMME (ESP)

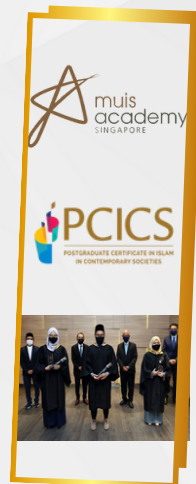
DAY 1, 9 SEPTEMBER 2022 (FRIDAY), 8.30AM - 4.30PM

#2

Postgraduate Certificate in Islam in Contemporary Studies (PCICS)

Developing competent asatizah to lead in the Singapore context

The Postgraduate Certificate in Islam in Contemporary Societies (PCICS), an initiative by Muis, aims to nurture a generation of confident, compassionate, and competent professional asatizah (religious teachers) with the requisite knowledge and skills to provide relevant and contextualised religious guidance in a highly diverse, plural and inter-connected post-modern world. PCICS is based on a holistic curriculum, dedicating ample attention to both religious and the social sciences to develop a critical-creative thinking mindset, alongside equipping our asatizah with relevant 21st century competencies and professional proficiencies.



Harmony Centre

Faith leaders building social cohesion

The Harmony Centre is an effort by Muis to be open and transparent in presenting Muslim life and culture to Singaporeans. It serves as an integrated hub for the promotion of greater understanding and engagement of all faith communities. The Centre showcases exhibits, artifacts and information on Islamic civilisation and lifestyle, and undertakes interfaith programmes along its three key thrusts: training to build capacity in interfaith dialogue and engagement, learning to deepen understanding of the different faiths, and engagements to build bridges and relationships among the faith groups.

PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE STUDY PROGRAMME (ESP)

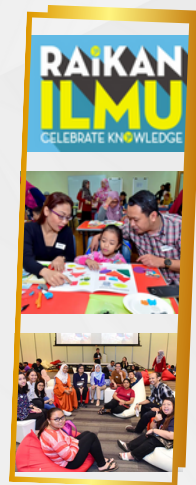
DAY 1, 9 SEPTEMBER 2022 (FRIDAY), 8.30AM - 4.30PM

#3

Youth Mentoring Office (YMO) and Kelas Matematika (KMM)

Building youth leaders / Capacity-building within the community

The Youth Mentoring Office (YMO) was set up within MENDAKI (Council for the Development of Singapore Malay/Muslim Community) in 2019 to spearhead mentoring efforts in the Malay/Muslim community. It aims to build a strong mentoring culture and ecosystem, where youth are connected and actively contributing to the aspiration of a Community of Success. KelasMateMatika@CC (KMM@CC), a collaboration of M3 and supported by the Temasek Foundation since 2018, aims to empower parents with Mediation Learning Experience (MLE) skills, so that they are more confident to teach their children in learning the basic numeracy concepts.



M³ Engagement Coordination Office (ECO)

Collaborative effort between Muis, MESRA and MENDAKI, working with national agencies to serve the community

The M³ Engagement Coordination Office (ECO), a collaboration between Muis, People's Association MESRA (Malay Activity Executive Committees Council), and MENDAKI (Council for the Development of Singapore Malay/Muslim Community) aims to build the capabilities of volunteers in M³@Town, which are platforms for those in the community to volunteer and work together to help residents closer to home. M³ ECO sets up a training framework for volunteers, to equip them with the necessary skills as well as deepen their understanding of relevant national policies and Government schemes to help vulnerable families. It seeks to coordinate and strengthen outreach efforts in partnership with other Government agencies, Malay/Muslim organisations (MMOs) and other community groups to co-create solutions for bridging the gap and meeting the needs of our community.



Note:

**The itineraries will be assigned by the organisers, depending on preference and/or availability. Transportation between the ESP venues and the Fairmont Hotel will be provided.*

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE PANEL I

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY), 9.00AM - 11.45AM

Panel I: Nurturing Character for Communities of Success

Moderated by Ustaz Dr. Mohammad Hannan Hassan, Deputy Mufti, Singapore

9.00am

Approaching Religious Traditions in Contemporary Contexts and Challenges

By Professor Dr. Muhammad Quraish Shihab, Expert on Quranic exegesis and former Minister of Religious Affairs in the Fourth Development Cabinet, Indonesia

This segment will discuss the importance of having a fresh and more contextual interpretations of the Qur'an in helping Muslim communities address contemporary challenges. It will highlight key Quranic verses and discuss how Islamic principles and values can be preserved while making necessary adjustments relevant to contemporary contexts, for Muslims to be able to retain their identity while living harmoniously in plural and secular societies.

9.30am

Islamic Models of Resilient and Contributing Communities

By Sheikh Dr. Hatim bin Arif bin Nasir Al-Shareef, Professor in the Faculty of Da'wah and Fundamentals of Religion at the Umm al-Qura University and General Supervisor of International Committee for the Support of the Final Prophet (ICSFP), Saudi Arabia

This segment will highlight the inspiring models of resilience and impactful contribution to the wider society in Muslim histories such as the Chapter of Madinah (*Ṣaḥīfat al-Madīnah*), the Abyssinian experience and the Hudaybiyah Treaty (*Sulh al-Hudaibiyah*), among others, and draw enduring principles and values that serve as a guide for contemporary Muslim communities in developing a progressive and inclusive socio-religious outlook. It will discuss the challenges and difficulties in overcoming rigid and uncontextualised interpretations of the Prophetic examples unfit for contemporary times.

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE PANEL I

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY), 9.00AM - 11.45AM

Panel I: Nurturing Character for Communities of Success

Moderated by Ustaz Dr. Mohammad Hannan Hassan, Deputy Mufti, Singapore

10.00am

The Concept and Principles of Citizenry in Islam

By Shaykh Dr. 'Amr Mostafa Hassanein Elwardany, Secretary of Egypt's Fatwa Council (Dar al-Iftaa), Egypt

This segment will elaborate on the concept and principles of citizenry from an Islamic legal perspective. It will expand on the principles of peaceful coexistence, human dignity and common good, and discuss the dynamism and relevance of Muslim creative legal traditions and philosophy in ensuring that Muslims continue to be adaptable and nimble, yet remain principle-centred in all spaces and time.

10.30am

Tea Break

11.00am

Panel Q&A

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE PANEL II

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY), 11.45AM - 3.30PM

Panel II: Developing Competent Muslim Communities in Diverse and Modern Communities

Moderated by Ustazah Sharifah Farah Syed Mahamood Aljunied, Director of the Education & Student Development, Muis, Singapore

11.45am

Overcoming Complex Challenges in Religious Thought: Islamic Higher Education

By Professor Abdullah Saeed, Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies and Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne, Australia

This segment will discuss the role of religious leaders and imams in shaping resilient communities. It seeks to address how Muslims can overcome some of the major obstacles in religious thought today, through possible reforms in Islamic higher education, particularly in guiding the Muslim communities to effectively address present and future challenges that are increasingly complex, volatile, and multifaceted.

12.15pm

Embracing Religious Diversity and Interfaith Cooperation

By Professor Mona Siddiqui, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies, Assistant Principal for Religion and Society and Dean International for the Middle East at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland

This segment will discuss the role of religion in strengthening social cohesion for Muslims to continue to flourish and succeed in a diverse social and religious environment. It seeks to identify how religion and religious traditions have strengthened or weakened cohesion and how can Muslim communities build the necessary competencies in strengthening social cohesion, particularly in managing diversity both within and beyond the religion.

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE PANEL II

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY), 11.45AM - 3.30PM

Panel II: Developing Competent Muslim Communities in Diverse and Modern Communities

Moderated by Ustazah Sharifah Farah Syed Mahamood Aljunied, Director of the Education & Student Development, Muis, Singapore

12.45pm

Leadership of Muslim Institutions in Minority Contexts – Reflections from America

By Dr. Khalil Abdur-Rashid, Muslim Chaplain at Harvard University and Co-founder of the Islamic Seminary of America in Dallas, United States

This segment will discuss how Muslim religious and educational institutions collaborate with both the state and the society in strengthening the common good as active citizens and dynamic institutions and bring benefit to all in the American context.

1.15pm

Lunch

2.45pm

Panel Q&A

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE PANEL III

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY), 3.30PM - 6.30PM

Panel III: Enhancing Social Cohesion and Active Citizenry

Moderated by Mr. Esa Masood, Second Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore

3.30pm

Building Resilient Communities ahead of Global Challenges

By Professor Dr. Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions for Peace International

This segment will discuss current and upcoming global challenges that are/will be affecting the religious communities, and how Muslim communities can more effectively respond and better prepare for the increasingly complex, ambiguous and uncertain times, dealing with unprecedented issues and challenges.

4.00pm

Muslims and Nation Building – Lessons of Active Citizenship and Coexistence

By Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, Former Premier of Western Cape and Founder of the World for All Foundation, South Africa

Muslims should remain confident in contributing to nation-building and common good. This segment discusses South African Muslims' active contribution to nationhood through the Transition from Apartheid to Democracy, and through both inter-religious and inter-community co-operation. This active participation is one that is based on the model of common citizenship and integrity-based co-existence for common good and shared humanity.

4.30pm

Tea Break

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE PANEL III

DAY 2, 10 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SATURDAY), 3.30PM - 6.30PM

Panel III: Enhancing Social Cohesion and Active Citizenry

Moderated by Mr. Esa Masood, Second Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore

5.15pm

Religious Communities and the Secular State – The Singapore Story

By Ms. Yeoh Chee Yan, Chairman of National Heritage Board and Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore

This segment will discuss how the secular state can work with religious communities to bring about mutual benefit, secure the common good and enhance social cohesion. It seeks to discuss the shifting boundaries between the religious and the secular, and how we can continue to negotiate this in the context of greater diversity as well as greater assertiveness about religious rights by faith groups.

5.45pm

Panel Q&A

The panel discussions will be joined by Mr. Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mobamad, Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health, and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Singapore.

PROFILES

WELCOME REMARKS SPEAKER



Mr. Kadir Maideen, Chief Executive of Muis, Singapore

Mr. Kadir Maideen was appointed as Chief Executive of Muis in November 2021. He was previously the Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) and helmed three different cluster of the organization, namely the Education, Strategic Engagement and Human Capital cluster. As DCE, Mr. Kadir provided guidance in policy development, execution, as well as coordination efforts for the clusters he currently oversees. He is also involved in stakeholders and community engagement in tandem with the outreach efforts of Muis.

Mr. Kadir spent the last 26 years in the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF). He has risen through the ranks and has held both command and staff appointments, including Commander of SCDF's Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (DART), 2nd SCDF Division and SCDF's National Service Training Institute. Mr Kadir graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering from Nanyang Technological University and has a Master of Science in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management from University of Leicester, United Kingdom.

PROFILES

THE SINGAPORE MUSLIM COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE SPEAKER



Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Mufti of Singapore

Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir was appointed as Mufti of Singapore in January 2020. He joined Muis in 2002 as an Executive in Religious Development, and later in Islamic Education, before joining the Office of the Mufti in 2006. As Mufti, Dr. Nazirudin chairs the Fatwa Committee and takes lead in providing guidance for the Muslim community's religious life.

Prior to this, Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin has served in different areas of work in Muis, such as in part-time Islamic education, fatwa and religious policies and the development of contextual religious curriculum and content. He was instrumental in developing fatwas such as organ donation and joint-tenancy, and in formulating ethical positions on biomedical issues. He also sits on the Bioethics Advisory Committee Singapore.

Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin studied in the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and was conferred D. Phil in the study of Abrahamic religions from University of Oxford, UK. He has published academic work in interreligious studies and regularly speaks in interfaith events.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL I PANELLIST



Professor Dr. Mubammad Quraish Shibab, Expert on Quranic exegesis and former Minister of Religious Affairs in the Fourth Development Cabinet, Indonesia

Professor Dr. Muhammad Quraish Shihab is an Indonesian expert on Qur'anic exegesis who regularly preaches on national television. He is noted as a progressive scholar who teaches Qur'anic exegesis using context and simple language. He is a member of the Muslim Council of Elders, and an author of many Islamic books, including Tafsir Al-Misbah.

Professor Dr. Quraish served as Chairman of the Indonesian Ulama Council since 1984, Director of State Islamic University, Syarif Hidayatullah (1992-1998), and the Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs (1998). He was appointed as The Indonesian Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to Egypt and accredited to Djibouti in Cairo (1999-2002). In 2020, he was awarded a medal for his achievements by Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL I PANELLIST



Sheikh Dr. Hatim bin Arif bin Nasir Al-Shareef, Professor in the Faculty of Da'wah and Fundamentals of Religion at the Umm al-Qura University and General Supervisor of International Committee for the Support of the Final Prophet (ICSFP), Saudi Arabia

Sheikh Dr. Hatim bin Arif bin Nasir Al-Shareef is a Professor in the Faculty of Da'wah and Fundamentals of Religion at the Umm al-Qura University, Saudi Arabia. He is the General Supervisor of International Committee for the Support of the Final Prophet (ICSFP), and has served in a number of academic and political capacities, including the Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia for two separate terms.

Sheikh Dr. Hatim holds a PhD in Islamic Law from Umm Al-Qura University, Mecca, and has a professorship in Islamic Sharia, with a major in Quran and Sunnah. He also writes extensively on rapprochement between Islamic schools of thought, particularly between Salafi and Traditionalist (*Ash'ari* and *Maturidi*) approaches.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL I PANELLIST



***Shaykh Dr. 'Amr Mostafa Hassanein Elwrdany, Secretary of Egypt's
Fatwa Council (Dar al-Iftaa), Egypt***

Shaykh Dr. 'Amr Mostafa Hassanein Elwrdany is the Secretary of Egypt's Fatwa Council (Dar al-Iftaa) in Religious Rulings and Guidance. He has been serving the Fatwa Council since 2004. He is also currently the Director for the Center of Marital Guidance. In 2018, he was appointed as member of the Committee of Legal, Citizenship and Human Rights Culture in Supreme Council of Culture, Ministry of Culture of Egypt.

Shaykh Dr. 'Amr obtained his bachelor's degree from Dar Al-Uloom, Cairo University in 1993. He holds a master's degree in Islamic Jurisprudence from the University and has a PhD in Islamic Jurisprudence and its Principles and was awarded First-Class Honours.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL I

MODERATOR



Ustaz Dr. Mobammad Hannan Hassan, Deputy Mufti, Singapore

Ustaz Dr. Mohammad Hannan Hassan is currently the Deputy Mufti of Singapore, who oversees the development of religious teachers, Islamic discourses, and Muis Academy. He is also the Programme Head for the Postgraduate Certificate in Islam in Contemporary Societies (PCICS). He has held various portfolios in the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis), including the Islamic and Madrasah education. He was the former Deputy Director for Capacity Building and Interfaith Engagement. He specialises in Muslim-Jewish relations, interfaith relations, and the history and philosophy of Islamic law in the Malay Archipelago. He is actively involved in speaking and presenting papers in seminars and conferences, conducting training and workshops, and organising summer schools locally and internationally for youth, teachers, and social activists. His educational contribution extended to countries in North America, Middle East, Australia, and Southeast Asia. He is an active contributor to op-eds, journal essays, commentaries, and chapters of books.

Ustaz Dr. Hannan completed his PhD at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, Canada with a dissertation titled "*Islamic Legal Thought and Practices of Seventeenth Century Aceh: Treating the Others*". He received his MA (Islamic Civilization) from the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), Kuala Lumpur. He holds B.Ed (Hons), First Class with Distinction from Kuwait, majoring in Arabic Language and Islamic education, and was granted Amir of Kuwait Award.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL II PANELLIST



Professor Abdullah Saeed, Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies and Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne, Australia

Professor Abdullah Saeed is currently the Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies and Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne, Australia. He also serves as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities, a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), and an Advisor to the Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Professor Abdullah holds a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Melbourne. His research focuses on contemporary Islamic thought with particular reference to negotiation of text and context, *ijtihad* (independent reasoning) and interpretation. Among his recent publications are: *Contemporary Approaches to the Qur'an and its Interpretation in Iran* (co-author, 2020); *Islam and Human Rights* (2018); *Reading the Qur'an in the Twenty-First Century* (2014); *Islamic Political Thought and Governance* (edited, 2011); and *The Qur'an: An Introduction* (2008).

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL II PANELLIST



Professor Mona Siddiqui, *Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies, Assistant Principal for Religion and Society and Dean International for the Middle East at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland*

Professor Mona Siddiqui is the Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies and Assistant Principal for Religion and Society, and Dean international for the Middle-East at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Amongst her most recent publications are, *Human Struggle: Christian and Muslim Perspectives* based on her 2016 Gifford lectures (CUP, 2021), *Hospitality in Islam: Welcoming in God's Name* (Yale UP, 2015). She focuses primarily on the field of Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*) and ethics and Christian-Muslim relations. She was awarded an OBE for her interfaith work, and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation. She has held visiting professorships at several Dutch and American universities, with the most recent at the Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies, Finland.

Professor Mona is an internationally known public intellectual and speaker on issues around religion, ethics and public life. She was invited by the Home Office to lead an independent review of sharia councils in the UK, and was a member of the Nuffield Council of Bioethics and British Medical Associations' Medical Ethics Committee. She spoke on religion and politics at the World Economic Forum, and was listed in the 2017 Debretts top 500 list of the most influential people in the UK. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, with six honorary doctorates and an honorary fellowship of the Royal Society of Scottish Architects for her contributions to public life. She was elected honorary member and first speaker of the Royal Scottish Academy and Vice-President International for the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL II PANELLIST



Dr. Khalil Abdur-Rashid, Muslim Chaplain at Harvard University and Co-founder of the Islamic Seminary of America in Dallas, United States

Dr. Khalil Abdur-Rashid is the first full-time University Muslim Chaplain at Harvard University, Instructor of Muslim Studies at Harvard Divinity School, and Public Policy Lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He was the first paid Muslim Chaplain for Columbia University and Barnard College in New York City and served as an advisor to the NYPD Police Commissioner. He also served as Imam in New York City and Scholar-in-Residence at a major Islamic Center in North Dallas. He is the co-founder of the Islamic Seminary of America in Dallas, whose work involves capacity-building for the education, training and development of the local Muslim leadership.

Dr. Khalil earned his bachelor's degree in Social Work from Georgia State University and worked for the state of Georgia as a social worker. He holds a Master of Arts in Islamic law and Middle East Studies and a Master of Philosophy in Islamic Law and Middle East Studies from Columbia University in New York City, as well as a master's degree in Comparative Islamic Law and two advanced Islamic seminary doctoral licenses (*ijaza*) in Islamic Sciences from Marmara University in Istanbul.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL II MODERATOR



***Ustazah Sharifah Farah Syed Mahamood Aljunied, Director of the
Education & Student Development, Muis, Singapore***

Ustazah Sharifah Farah Syed Mahamood Aljunied currently oversees student and curriculum development of the Education Cluster. She leads the development and implementation of the revised Joint Madrasah System's (JMS) primary, secondary and pre-university level Islamic Studies Integrated Curriculum; supervises the three JMS madrasahs and the Mosque Based Kindergartens as well as the management and development of Singapore students in Islamic Universities overseas. Due to her experience and strong background in education and early childhood, Ustazah Farah is also actively involved in various Islamic parenting talks and seminars like Islamic Parenting Seminar in 2014, and Parenting IRL: Raising the Snapchat Generation in 2016.

Ustazah Sharifah Farah has a bachelor's degree in Communications and Islamic Revealed Knowledge from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), and a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and Teaching from University of South Australia. She has also attained two MSc in Sociology and Education from The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) respectively.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL III PANELLIST



Professor Dr. Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions for Peace International

Professor Dr. Azza Karam is the first female elected as the Secretary General of Religions for Peace International, where she founded the first Global Women of Faith Network and advises on interfaith development work in Muslim-majority countries. She currently is a member of the United Nations Secretary General's 'High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism'. She served in the United Nations (UNDP and UNFPA), including as a Coordinator of the Arab Human Development Reports, a Senior Advisor on Culture, and Lead Facilitator and Trainer for the UN Strategic Learning Exchanges on Religion, Development and Diplomacy. She was the Founder and Convenor of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development and its Multi-Faith Advisory Council, and has engaged over 500 faith-based organizations worldwide.

Professor Dr. Azza holds a Professorship of Religion and Development at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, Netherlands. She taught and lectured in various academic institutions in Europe, North America and in the Arab region, and has published widely on international political dynamics, including democratization, human rights, gender, and religion and development. She is a recipient of several awards including an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from John Cabot University, Italy.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL III PANELLIST



Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, Former Premier of Western Cape and Founder of the World for All Foundation, South Africa

Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool is the founder of the World for All Foundation, which rethinks intellectual tools for co-operative relations between faiths, cultures and communities at a global level and establishes dignity, inclusion and equity for those marginalised and excluded and acts as a conduit for lessons from the example of Nelson Mandela to the Muslim heartlands. In 2013, he convened a Muslim Minority Leaders' Colloquium in Paris under the banner "Living Where We Don't Make the Rules" (also referencing a book he edited in 2022) to find formulae for co-existence in shared spaces for Muslim minorities. He is an Associate of the Albright Stonebridge Group, Founder of OneAfrica.Org, Council Member of the University of the Western Cape, and serves on the Board of the Maqasid Institute. He was a founder of The Call of Islam, an anti-apartheid Muslim organisation that revolutionised the way Muslims in South Africa thought about democracy, human rights, gender equality, inclusivity, relationships with people of other faiths, ideologies and cultures. He was also instrumental in leading the Interfaith Movement, founded by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, both in the anti-apartheid struggle and through the transition. He convened the National Muslim Conference which defined the future of a Muslim minority in a free and democratic South Africa, as well as two National Interfaith Conferences to help shape the emergent South African Constitution.

Ambassador Rasool was the Former Premier of the Western Cape Province, where he worked towards making it "A Home for All". He was a Member of Parliament in South Africa's National Assembly and Special Advisor to the State President, and South Africa's Ambassador to the United States of America (2010 to 2015). He received various awards, including among others: "Social Services Leader of the Year" Award (1995) from the African Investment Group, the "Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights" by the Kaiser Family Foundation (1998), London Financial Times "Foreign Direct Investment (Africa) Personality of the Year" Award (2005), "Visionary Leadership and Public Good" Award from the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (2008), "Commitment and Leadership in the Fight Against Crime" from Business Against Crime (2009), "Indonesian Diasporan of 2012" Award by the President of Indonesia. He delivered the Panel Remarks at the Faith in Action Breakfast at the US-Africa Leaders' Summit convened by President Obama, the Keynote Address at the British Muslim Council AGM, among others. In 2014, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa*, by the Roosevelt University in Chicago, USA, and the Doctor of Public Service, *Honoris Causa* from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, PA. He is a Senior Fellow at both Georgetown and Rutgers Universities in the USA, and a Council Member at the University of the Western Cape.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL III PANELLIST



Ms. Yeoh Chee Yan, *Chairman of National Heritage Board and Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore*

Ms. Yeoh Chee Yan is the Chairman of the National Heritage Board and Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), Singapore. In 2012, she was appointed Permanent Secretary of MCCY. Under her leadership, MCCY embarked on new strategic plans for sports, heritage and the arts and championed capability building in citizen engagement across the Public Service. She has also led the Ministry in several successful national initiatives, including the coordination of the SG50 celebrations, the establishment of the National Gallery, the inscription of Singapore Botanic Gardens as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the successful hosting of the 28th SEA Games. She chaired the Committee on Citizen Engagement under the PS21 Executive Committee, which provides strategic guidance and coordination on whole-of-government engagement issues.

Ms. Yeoh began her public service career in 1985, and served in various appointments, among them Head of the Scenario Planning Office in the Public Service Division, where her team developed the first set of National Scenarios, Permanent Secretary (Education Development) in the Ministry of Education, Deputy Secretary (Policy) in the Ministry of Defence, and Deputy Secretary (Development) in the Public Service Division, Prime Minister's Office. She received a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Philosophy and Psychology and a Master of Science degree in Social Psychology (with Distinction) from the London School of Economics, University of London, United Kingdom.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL III PANELLIST



Mr. Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health, and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Singapore

Mr. Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad is Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister in-charge-of Muslim Affairs. He entered politics in 2006, after being elected as Member of Parliament for Tampines Group Representation Constituency, and was appointed Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Education. Prior to that, Mr. Masagos Zulkifli was working in Singapore Telecommunications Limited and last held the position of CEO, SingTel Global Offices.

From 2008 to 2014, Mr. Masagos Zulkifli held other positions in the Singapore Government, within the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs. He was appointed Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs in May 2018. From October 2015 to July 2020, he was Minister for the Environment and Water Resources. He took on his current appointment on 27 July 2020.

PROFILES

CONFERENCE PANEL III MODERATOR



Mr. Esa Masood, *Second Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore*

Mr. Esa Masood is currently Second Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Social and Family Development where he oversees policies and programmes related to the areas of family development, early childhood and social sector development. He also serves on the Boards of the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, and the National Council of Social Service, among others, and is a member of the National Wages Council.

Mr. Esa has served for 20 years in the public sector, in various government agencies including the Early Childhood Development Agency, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. In his last appointment from 2019 to 2021, he was the Chief Executive of Muis, a statutory board overseeing the administration of religious affairs for the Singapore Muslim Community, including mosques, Islamic religious schools and the administration of Zakat and Wakaf, among others. He graduated from Massachusetts Institution of Technology, USA in 2002, and holds a Master's and Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

ATTENDEES GUIDE

VENUE & TRAVEL ADVISORY

ICCOS 2022 will take place at the **Raffles City Convention Centre, Level 4**, located at 80 Bras Basah Road, Singapore 189560. You may consider the Fairmont Singapore or Swissotel The Stamford that are within the vicinity, or serviced apartments at Somerset Bencoolen Singapore located nearby.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE



Drive (from Changi International Airport):

- From Changi Airport, take the East Coast Expressway (ECP) and exit at the Rochor Road Exit.
- Turn left onto Beach Road.
- Fairmont Singapore is located at the junction of Beach Road and Bras Basah Road.

Bus

- Buses nearby Raffles City Convention Centre: 10, 75, 106, 131, 502

Train

- City Hall station on the East West Line Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) line and North South MRT Line is connected directly to the Raffles City Convention Centre.

Parking

- Parking facilities are available at Raffles City Shopping Centre's basement areas at prevailing car park fees.

ATTENDEES GUIDE

VENUE & TRAVEL ADVISORY

TRAVEL ADVISORY

Visa

Please check if you require a visa to travel to Singapore:

https://www.ica.gov.sg/enter-depart/entry_requirements/visa_requirements

Conference participants will be responsible for funding and securing the necessary visa and documentation for entry to Singapore. You acknowledge that you will be responsible for visa matters related to your entry to Singapore.

Vaccination Status

Please check the COVID-19 Vaccinated Travel Framework to determine the latest entry and health requirements to travel to Singapore:

<https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg>

You acknowledge that you will be fully vaccinated and will be responsible for preparing the necessary based on the checklist for fully vaccinated travellers.

Travel Insurance

Please ensure that you have purchased a travel insurance prior to your arrival in Singapore. The travel insurance should cover COVID-19 - related medical treatment as well.

ATTENDEES GUIDE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

REGISTRATION

Do I have to pay any fees to attend ICCOS?

No, there will not be any registration fees. However, travel, hospitality and any related COVID-19 tests and protocols required prior to entering Singapore should be borne by the individual (unless stated otherwise).

Where do I check if I am able to attend ICCOS based on my nationality and vaccination status?

You may refer to the COVID-19 Vaccinated Travel Framework: <https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg>

How do I register for the conference?

ICCOS is by invitation only. You may register your interest via <https://go.gov.sg/icc2022-reg> or the QR code below. You will receive a confirmation email within 2 weeks if your registration is successful.



As seats are limited, we apologise for any inconvenience caused to unsuccessful applicants. Should you have any queries, kindly contact us at icc2022@muis.gov.sg

ATTENDEES GUIDE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Will there be transport provided for the Executive Study Programme?

Yes, two-way transportation will be provided from the Fairmont Hotel to the ESP venues. Participants are required to make their own travel arrangements to/from the pick-up/drop-off point at Fairmont Hotel.

If I stay outside of the accommodation options provided by the organiser, will there be travel arrangements to the Conference venue?

No, participants are required to make their own travel arrangements to the Conference Venue.

What are the parking arrangements at the Conference venue?

There are public parking lots within the convention centre, located in basement 1 and 2.

DRESS CODE & MEALS

What is the dress code for the event?

Business casual and religious clothing would be considered appropriate for the event.

Will there be halal, vegetarian and kosher meals served at the event?

Halal meals will be served at the event. Participants can indicate other dietary requirements via the registration form.

Will meals be provided for both conference days?

Meals will be provided during the ESP and Conference Day 2. Participants are required to make their own meal arrangements on Conference Day 1.

ATTENDEES GUIDE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

CONFERENCE

How will I know my seating for the Conference?

Participants will be informed of their allocated seating on the Conference day. Due to space limitations, participants may be seated in a different ballroom with a two-way live feed from the main ballroom. We appreciate your kind understanding on the matter.

Will speaker presentations be available after the event?

Yes, snippets of the speeches and panel sessions will be made available online post-conference. Participants will be informed on how to access these via email after the conference.

Can I ask questions to the speakers during the speeches and plenary sessions?

As a general guideline, participants will be able to ask questions during the panel Q&A segments. Specific guidelines will be communicated during the sessions as needed.

Is photography and videography allowed at the event?

Yes, it is allowed if it is appropriate and does not infringe any individual's rights. Photographs and videos of you may be taken during the event for the purpose of conducting publicity and developing promotional materials. The event is open for coverage, including media reporting.

ABOUT MUIS



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
(Islamic Religious Council of Singapore)

The **Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis)** is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY) and comes under the direct purview of the Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs. Muis' main role is to advise the Singapore Government on all matters pertaining to Islamic affairs in Singapore and to manage all aspects of religious life of the Singapore Muslim Community.

Its aim is to establish a Muslim community of excellence that is religiously profound and socially progressive, and that thrives in a multi-religious society, secular state and globalised world. Its priority is to Set the Islamic Agenda, Shape Religious Life and Forge a Singapore Muslim Identity, is progressive, inclusive, adaptive and contributive. It champions forward-looking discourse in Islam and promotes interfaith understanding through community engagement initiatives to enhance the social cohesion and well-being of the nation.

The **International Conference on Communities of Success (ICCOS)** is part of the Communities of Success initiative by the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis). ICCOS aims to provide a platform for Muslim minority communities around the world to galvanise around a strong narrative of success founded on the notion of “Contributing Citizens, Dynamic Institutions”. The Conference will discuss how contextualised religious guidance and progressive religious leadership can empower Muslims to live as dignified and contributing citizens, as well as the important roles that various institutions can play to develop Muslim communities of success.

To contact us, please email iccos2022@muiss.gov.sg.