

Key Note Speech at the opening of Training Course on "Operations of Islamic Capital Market" jointly organized by CMDA and Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI) of IDB.

By;

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Capital Market Development Authority

Maldives

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِیْنَ ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلٰی نَبِیِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰی اٰلِهِ
وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِیْنَ

Chief Guest, Attorney General, Hon. Abdulla Muizzu, Hon. Minister for Islamic Affairs, and consultant to the Capital Market Shariah Advisory Committee, Dr Abdul Majeed Abdul Bari, Board member of CMDA, Mr. AbdulGhafoor AbdulLatheef, Representative from Islamic Research & Training Institute, Mr. Faisal Slama, Speaker of Today's session, Associate Professor Dr Ashraf Wajdi Dusuki, distinguished guests, Participants of this Training Course Assalamu Alaikum!

Welcome to the “Training Course on Operations of Islamic Capital Market”.

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank the Islamic Research and Training Institute of the Islamic Development Bank Group for giving us the opportunity to organize this important training program.

Brothers and Sisters, today, we are privileged to have with us resource persons who have extensive experience in the area of Islamic Finance. We are honored to have with us, Associate Professor Dr. Ashraf Wajdi, Head of Research Affairs of the International Shari'ah Research Academy for Islamic Finance and Head of Islamic Finance unit of the CMDA, Al-Ustaza Aishath Muneeza.

Brothers & Sisters, Over the recent years, the world has witnessed the increase in demand for Islamic finance. Having understood its advantages and benefits, we have come to realize the need to develop an Islamic Capital Market in the Maldives.

Now let me briefly highlight some initiatives undertaken by CMDA to develop an Islamic Capital Market. In this regard we have developed a strategy with the vision of a fully-fledged Islamic Capital Market. The initial focus of the plan is to develop the legal & regulatory framework favorable for an Islamic Capital Market and capacity building in this field.

Some of the work undertaken by CMDA so far includes the establishment of the Capital Market Shariáh Advisory Committee

and passing the guidelines to regulate Shariáh screening and listing Shariáh compliant securities on the Stock Exchange.

Work has also been undertaken to enhance market awareness and fuse a stronger understanding of Islamic finance principles in the financial sector of Maldives. As such, CMDA has taken many initiatives, to strengthen technical capacity by conducting training and awareness programs in the area of Islamic Capital Market.

To develop expertise on a continuous basis the Capital Market and Corporate Governance Institute of CMDA will work with IRTI and International Centre for Islamic Education and Finance (INCIEF) and other prominent institutes providing Islamic finance trainings to meet the needs of our nascent market.

Brothers & Sisters

With the spark of an Islamic equity market in Maldives, created by the first Shariah compliant listing on the Stock Exchange, we are now moving towards the development of a sukuk market in the Maldives. But there are many challenges facing the development of a sukuk market; and among these challenges include the lack of legal and regulatory infrastructure to facilitate the development of this market.

Among other things, we need to come up with an appropriate legal framework to govern the regulation of special purpose vehicles in the Maldives. We also need trust law and bankruptcy law to be in place for the development of a sukuk market.

Brothers & Sisters

The CMDA will continue to support the development of an Islamic capital market. But ultimately, the pace of development of an Islamic capital market in Maldives will be market-driven.

On behalf of the CMDA, we thank the distinguished speakers who are here with us today in Maldives to conduct this important training program.

Brothers & Sisters

It also gives me immense pleasure to once again extend a warm welcome to all the participants for attending this training program.

We hope that you will be able to gain valuable knowledge to benefit yourselves and your respective organizations.

Thank you.