

26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 | Grand Millennium Muscat

# IFNOMAN FORUM 2021



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09:25 – 09:30 | *Welcome*

09:30 – 09:40 | *Keynote Address*

**H.E. Tahir Salim Al Amri**, Executive President, Central Bank of Oman



**Tahir Salim Abdullah Al Amri** has been the executive president of the Central Bank of Oman since September 2017. He is responsible for providing an overall leadership, direction and control to the bank to maximize the fulfillment of its mission, goals and objectives.

Tahir is an experienced treasury and finance professional with a successful track record in all aspects of treasury and finance functions. He has served as a board member for a number of private and public entities with multimillion dollar turnovers for a variety of businesses, ranging from a leading local bank to sovereign wealth funds, shipping and the oil and gas industry.

Tahir has played leading roles in negotiating financing agreements, writing of articles of association, technical licensing and construction contracts, oil and gas upstream agreements, shareholder agreements, shipping contracts and establishing credit policies, procedures and board audit committees.

Tahir holds a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and accounting from Salford University in the UK.

09:40 – 10:35

## OMAN VISION 2040 AND THE ISLAMIC ECONOMY: IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND CREATING PROSPERITY

*Moderator:*

**Mansoor Jamal Malik**, Senior Partner, Al Buisaidy Mansoor Jamal & Co



**Mansoor Jamal Malik** is AMJ's founder, managing partner and head of the firm's top tier corporate commercial and dispute resolution departments. A UK-qualified barrister, Mansoor has more than 30 years of experience in law and practice in Oman.

Mansoor has advised on complex projects and innovative public-private partnerships and today, he is regarded as the foremost authority on Oman's privatization and utilities sector law. He is also highly regarded as a pioneer in the emergent field of Islamic finance in Oman.

In the dispute resolution arena, Mansoor is a listed Oman Court of Appeal arbitrator and enjoys rights of audience before Oman's Supreme Court.

Mansoor is an associate member of leading commercial law barristers' chambers 3 Verulam Buildings of Gray's Inn in London.

*Panelists:*

**Ali Hassan Moosa**, CEO, Oman Banks Association



In June 2017, **Ali Hassan Moosa** joined the Oman Banks Association, as the first full-time employee of the association, having 24 years of

experience in various fields of banking, such as technology, retail, marketing, operations, credit and recoveries, as well as the private commercial sector, specifically residential and commercial real estate, and tourism development. Ali also lectured at the College of Banking and Financial Studies and was the first author of the section 'Banking & Finance' in the monthly publication Oman Economic Review. Ali holds a Bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Reading and an MBA from Webster University.

**Professor Dr Mohd Azmi Omar**, President and CEO, International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF)



**Professor Dr Mohd Azmi Omar** is the president and CEO of the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) – The Global University of Islamic Finance. Prior to his current position, he served as the director-general at Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), IsDB Group, Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At IRTI, Dr Azmi pioneered and introduced an innovative policy research which culminated in flagship reports such as the IRTI Islamic Social Finance Report and the IsDB-World Bank Global Report on Islamic Finance. Dr Azmi has also provided advice and technical assistance in Islamic finance to several IsDB member countries.

Dr Azmi holds a Bachelor of Science (Finance) degree and an MBA from Northern Illinois University in the US and a PhD in finance from Bangor University, Wales in the UK. He is also a holder of the Chartered Professional in Islamic Finance qualification.

**Khalid Al Kayed**, CEO, Bank Nizwa



**Khalid Al Kayed** is responsible for spearheading Bank Nizwa's overall business growth and 2020 strategies.

He is responsible for driving the execution of the bank's business targets to meet the bank's aspirations and vision for leading the Islamic banking industry in the country. He oversees and ensures a good balance between driving operational excellence and strong governance to deliver sustainable long-term value for shareholders, customers, employees and all other stakeholders.

A financial industry veteran with over 25 years under his belt, Khalid served as acting CEO and CFO in Bank Nizwa and has been associated with the bank since inception. Prior to joining the bank, Khalid held various posts in a host of well-respected financial institutions including deputy CEO and CFO at Jordan Dubai Islamic Bank, CFO at Standard Chartered Bank Jordan and financial controller at the offshore banking unit of Jordan National Bank Cyprus. His expertise ranges from general banking management, financial control, accounting, global markets, credit, investments, risk management and asset liability, among other fields.

Khalid holds a Master's degree in international accounting and finance from Liverpool University. He is also a certified management accountant and certified financial manager from the Institute

of Management Accountants. He is currently completing his executive management program from Columbia Business School.

**Salima Obaid Issa al Marzoqi**, Chief Islamic Banking Officer (CIBO), Muzn Islamic Banking



**Salima Obaid Issa al Marzoqi** is an experienced leader who has played a crucial role in Oman's emerging Islamic banking landscape, with an impeccable track record.

Salima entered the banking industry as a management trainee at the National Bank of Oman and has earned several accolades over the last 24 years. She was the first female Omani regional manager at a local bank and first woman to head an Islamic banking institution in the GCC.

Salima led the growth of Muzn Islamic Banking initially as the first female head of retail banking before being elevated as chief Islamic banking officer. She has been instrumental in moving the bank from the bricks-and-mortar model to digital banking leadership in the Omani Islamic banking industry. She was instrumental in launching many innovative products that cater to the various segments of Omani society. Muzn has recorded consistent growth in business and profitability over the last three years in spite of many challenges. Under her leadership, Muzn has won several awards from reputed global organizations.

Salima holds an MBA from Strathclyde University in the UK as well as a CISI Level 3 Certificate in Islamic Finance from the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.

10:35 – 10:50 | *IFN Oman Awards*

10:50 – 11:15 | *Coffee*

11:15 – 12:15

## GREEN, TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABILITY-LINKED FINANCE, SUKUK AND INVESTMENT FUNDS IN OMAN

*Moderator:*

**Vineeta Tan**, Managing Editor, Islamic Finance news



**Vineeta Tan** is a global Islamic finance journalist with over five years of experience in the journalism and publishing industry working independently and leading a team. She joined REDmoney in 2013 and is responsible for the editorial direction and content of Islamic Finance news (IFN).

Trained in journalism and sociology, Vineeta holds an Islamic Finance Qualification awarded by the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investments in the UK. Prior to joining REDmoney, Vineeta was attached to a research company in the US and was a freelance journalist.



## Panelists:

**Bashar Al Nattoor**, Global Head of Islamic Finance, Fitch Ratings



**Bashar Al Nattoor** is Fitch Ratings's global head of Islamic finance. He is responsible for coordinating all Islamic finance activities across Fitch's sovereign, financial institutions, corporate, structured finance, infrastructure and insurance teams, bringing together dedicated analytical and industry expertise into a centralized and focused Islamic finance group.

Bashar has more than 19 years of experience in the Islamic finance market. Since joining Fitch in 2007, he has overseen Fitch's Sukuk criteria and Islamic finance practices, undertaken research and written numerous published articles on Islamic finance.

Bashar graduated with a Master of Science degree in banking and financial studies from the Arab Academy for Finance and Banking Science and a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and banking from Amman University. Bashir is also a certified bank auditor, a certified risk professional, a chartered market analyst and a certified risk analyst.

**Mohamad Noranuar Sajari**, Head, Shariah Structuring and Compliance, Bank Nizwa



**Mohamad Noranuar Sajari** is the head of Shariah structuring at Bank Nizwa in Oman. He manages the Shariah affairs of the bank as assigned, mainly to supervise and participate in Shariah structuring and advisory activities and severally or partially in post-transaction reviews and to maintain the Shariah authenticity of the bank's products and services. He also provides appropriate Shariah training as well as supporting other Shariah functions within the Shariah Division. He is also an industry advisor contributing to Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman's academic and research activities.

Previously, Mohamad was the head of Shariah at HSBC Amanah in the UAE. He is the lead of the Product Development Task Force where he has completed a corporate Ijarah product program, a corporate forward Ijarah product program and a corporate Wakalah Bi Istithmar product program, to name a few.

**Mohsin Shaik Sehu Mohamed**, Senior Executive Manager and Head of Investment Banking & Capital Market, Maisarah Islamic Banking Services



**Mohsin Shaik Sehu Mohamed** is the senior executive manager and head of investment banking and capital markets in Maisarah Islamic Banking, the Islamic window of Bank Dhofar in Oman. He is responsible for the overall business of investment banking and also investments in the firm. This covers advisory business, Sukuk structuring, private equity and propriety investments for the bank locally and internationally.

Prior to joining Maisarah, Mohsin was the director and head of Islamic finance in Al Madina Investment in Oman. He was responsible for managing private equity, direct investments and corporate finance and at the same time enhancing the firm's offerings in Islamic finance. Throughout his journey in Al Madina Investment, he has successfully engineered deals in the real estate, financial, education and healthcare sectors.

Mohsin is a Chartered Islamic Finance Professional holder. He graduated with a Master of Business (Applied Finance) degree from Queensland University of Technology in Australia and he also holds a Bachelor of Accounting (Hons) degree from University Tenaga Nasional in Malaysia.

**Osama Elshiekh**, Country Manager, UAE, The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit



**Osama Elshiekh** has been part of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)'s UAE office for more than seven years. He is currently the country manager for the UAE, co-heading the corporation's operations out of the UAE. He has had a pivotal role in supporting the corporation's growing support for trade and investments, with total facilitated business of US\$3.3 billion during 2020 from the UAE office alone.

Osama's current responsibilities include managing existing export credit and investment insurance programs, generating new partnerships and opportunities for the corporation as well as spearheading ICIEC UAE's growth plans in the Middle East and North Africa. Key transactions under his portfolio include investment insurance policies for the FIT 2 Solar Project in Egypt; additionally, he has played a major role in structuring trade transactions facilitating bank and exporter finance transactions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Osama is a CFA charterholder and a certified management accountant (US). Prior to joining the ICIEC, he was part of one of the largest conglomerates in Sudan. He holds a Bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Medical Sciences and Technology (Sudan).

**Tariq Khan**, Head of Investment Banking, Alizz Islamic Bank

**Tariq Khan** is a senior investment banker with over 18 years of diversified experience across mergers and acquisitions, privatizations, equity capital markets, debt capital markets, financial advisory and Islamic banking. He currently heads the investment banking business at Alizz Islamic Bank. He has led a number of Sukuk issuances including the debut Omani sovereign Sukuk, the first banking sector Sukuk and the first retail Sukuk in Oman.

Tariq has advised clients, led and managed some of the largest, most complex Islamic finance transactions across multiple industries. He brings a wealth of experience in Islamic capital markets

and structured finance. He holds an MBA from Institute Business Administration in Pakistan and is a CFA charterholder.

12:15 – 13:15

## ISSUES FACING ISLAMIC BANKS AND ISLAMIC FINANCING IN OMAN

### Moderator:

**Asad Qayyum**, Managing Partner, MAQ Legal



**Asad Qayyum** is a highly skilled dual-qualified corporate and commercial lawyer with extensive multi-jurisdiction experience in a number of sectors of the law, including in relation to capital markets, funds, conventional and Islamic finance, mergers and acquisitions, natural resources (oil, gas and mining) and project finance transactions.

Asad is qualified as a solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales, a barrister of England and Wales and an advocate of the High Courts of Pakistan and has over 22 years of experience advising on a broad range of transactions during his time in the UK, Sultanate of Oman and Pakistan.

Asad has particular expertise in advising sovereigns and sovereign-owned companies and listed and private companies with respect to their debt and equity capital market financings (conventional and Islamic), registration of funds (including real estate investment funds, acquisitions and disposals of hydrocarbon assets (onshore and offshore) and negotiating clients' commercial (oil and gas) contracts across the globe (including in the UK, Oman, Canada, the Middle East, Pakistan, Cameroon, Tanzania, Namibia, Burundi, Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria and Kazakhstan).

### Panelists:

**Shargeel Akram**, Treasurer, Oman Air



**Shargeel Akram** is an accomplished treasurer with well-diversified international experience in both accounting and finance. In 2018, he was highly commended at the UK Housing Association National Awards for his work at Housing 21. Shargeel is the treasurer of Oman Air and has a wealth of experience in both conventional and Islamic financing transactions. He has previously enjoyed working for multinational corporations like Honda, Dominos and Harvard International.

Shargeel holds an MBA from the University of Bradford and an associate membership of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and Association of Corporate Treasurers UK. He has keen interest in Islamic finance, political capitalism and contemporary parenting.

**Suleman Muhammad Ali**, Head of Islamic Products and Segments, Muzn Islamic Banking



**Suleman Muhammad Ali** is an experienced Islamic banking professional having a proven track record in leading product innovation, development and Shariah compliance at Islamic financial institutions in Pakistan and the GCC.

Suleman specializes in providing bespoke Shariah compliant financial solutions based on the client's financial needs and business cycle. During his tenure at Meezan Bank in Pakistan, he engaged with various corporate and SME clients to develop short-term financial solutions such as Islamic overdrafts based on Musharakah, bill discounting facilities based on Musawwamah, pre-shipment export financing based on Istisnah, off-balance sheet Murabahah financing for corporates and SMEs, etc.

Suleman is also a reputed Islamic banking trainer, regularly conducting various training sessions, corporate workshops and seminars on the subject and has served as a visiting faculty for Islamic finance at the National Institute of Banking and Finance (Pakistan), College of Banking and Financial Studies (Oman) and Academy of Excellence (Oman).

**Thamer Al Shahry**, Partner, Said Al Shahry & Partners (SASLO)



**Thamer Al Shahry** is a partner and heads SASLO's corporate and commercial practice. He is an Omani lawyer, with significant expertise in banking, corporate finance, capital markets, corporate structures, mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and setting up various types of companies.

Thamer is competent in legal drafting in both English and Arabic particularly in the fields of banking, capital markets, company/commercial matters, M&A, IPP and IWP and Electricity Law. Thamer has been part of teams representing a range of international, Gulf and Omani clients in a variety of corporate and commercial matters.

Thamer has significant know-how in advising bidders, contracting authorities and utilities on structuring and participating in major infrastructure projects in the power, renewable energy, electricity, oil and gas, water, wastewater and infrastructure sectors in the Sultanate of Oman.

13:15 – 14:15

## DISRUPTING AND ENABLING: ISLAMIC FINTECH AND CROWDFUNDING PLATFORMS IN OMAN

*Moderator:*

**Zaineb Sefiani**, Founder, Carrera Learning



**Zaineb Sefiani** is the founder of Carrera Learning, an innovative e-learning platform. Zaineb is also a lecturer at University Paris Dauphine

and at the University of Dubai. Preceding her current roles, she worked as a consultant at the African Development Bank, where she carried out research on the African stock exchanges as well as led an Islamic finance strategic workshop for regulators, policymakers and central banks of Kenya, Mauritius, Senegal, Sudan and Tunisia.

Zaineb was also commissioned by the Ethiopian government to conduct a policy and strategy analysis on interest-free banking. In 2010, she worked for Morningstar Europe in London and was responsible for Morningstar's Islamic mutual funds.

Zaineb holds a Master's degree in investments from the University of Birmingham. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in finance and marketing and participated in an exchange program at Boston College in the US during her undergraduate studies.

*Panelists:*

**Dr Fatin Said Al Zadjali**, Acting Assistant Dean Academic Support and Student Affairs & Head – Islamic Finance, College of Banking and Financial Studies



**Dr Fatin Said Al Zadjali** is the acting assistant dean for academic support and student affairs and the head of Islamic finance at the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS). She began her career as a banker and worked in two of the major banks in Oman in the investment banking divisions. She subsequently joined the CBFS and evolved into a role at the Academic and Training Faculty. She has a Bachelor's degree in business from Australia, a diploma in banking from IBFS, an MBA from the University of Strathclyde in the UK and a PhD in Islamic finance from the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) in Malaysia.

Dr Fatin also has various training-related certifications — she is a certified training professional, has the Creative Train the Trainer certification, NLP for Trainers certification, and is a certified Islamic banker. Her areas of training expertise are behavioral skills, Islamic banking and social and green finance. She has delivered training on the Islamic Finance Qualification – CISI, Islamic finance products and Islamic finance contracts and Shariah issues in Islamic finance.

**Kemal Rizadi Arbi**, Expert/Advisor, Capital Market Authority, Sultanate of Oman



**Kemal Rizadi Arbi** has more than 25 years of global professional experience in the banking and financial industry, both government and private sectors, particularly in investment banking, Islamic finance, corporate finance and as a regulator, policymaker and strategic developer of capital markets, including Islamic capital markets, in the GCC and Asian region.

Kemal is currently involved in driving developmental efforts for the Oman capital market as an advisor at the Capital Market Authority, Sultanate of Oman (Oman CMA) and

has been leading the development of the Islamic capital market in Oman since the introduction of Islamic banking and finance in 2013.

Kemal was awarded a Malaysian government JPA scholarship for top scholars for studies at the University of Iowa in the US where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in actuarial science. He also holds an MBA in finance from International Islamic University Malaysia and the Chartered Islamic Finance Professional Master's degree from the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance or INCEIF in Malaysia.

**Mughees Shaukat**, Islamic Banking Advisor, Bank Nizwa, Oman; Fintech, Digital Banking Specialist, MIT, USA



**Mughees Shaukat** is the pioneer and head of Islamic finance at the College of Banking and Financial Studies in Muscat; the college is an entity under the Central Bank of Oman. He is a global leader, public speaker and a PhD scholar in Islamic economics, banking and finance. He is a fintech specialist from MIT in the US and a member and certified Shariah advisor and auditor of AAOIFI. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Islamic finance, the IFQ certification and a number of other certifications in core areas of Islamic economics and finance.

**Omar Alrasbi**, Managing Director, National Technology Group



**Omar Alrasbi** is an Omani entrepreneur leading the National Technology Group to be the first Omani crowdfunding platform. The objective of the National Technology Group is to advance digital platforms to enable the digital transformation of the target sectors for each platform. Omar has a Bachelor's degree in accounting, an MBA and a Master of Engineering degree in construction engineering.

**Umar Munshi**, Founder, Ethis.co



**Umar Munshi** is a social entrepreneur based in Southeast Asia. He is the co-founder of Ethis.co, a group of pioneer investment and crowdfunding platforms with regulatory approvals in Indonesia, Malaysia and Dubai.

Umar is the strategic advisor of Islamic social finance marketplace Global Sadaqah which manages charity, Zakat and corporate social responsibility programs for companies, foundations and Islamic banks to support religious organizations, charities and social enterprises. Umar also advises IBF Digilabs, a research and technology development start-up that develops solutions for the Islamic economy on blockchain.

Umar is passionate about spreading the opportunity for impactful and sustainable development through fintech and crowdfunding based on Islamic finance principles. He regularly gives masterclasses, presentations and panel sessions at events and webinars. Umar is also the president of the Islamic Fintech Alliance, a group of pioneering founders.