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STRENGTHENING FAITH, CHARACTER AND FINANCIAL WISDOM: PROFESSOR DR. USTAZ ABDUL SOMAD INSPIRES COMMUNITIES THROUGH MAULIDUR RASUL RELIGIOUS TALK

4 September 2026 - In conjunction with the celebration of Maulidur Rasul (PBUH), a special Religious Talk on Akhlak, Barakah and Financial Literacy featuring internationally renowned Islamic scholar Professor Dr. Ustaz Abdul Somad brought together members of the public, community leaders, professionals and youth in a two-day programme centred on faith, character development and responsible financial stewardship.

Organised by Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and its strategic partners, with support from Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD), the religious talk commenced on Thursday, 3 September 2026 at Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolkhiah, and was opened to members of the public. The session provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on the exemplary character of Rasulullah (PBUH) and its relevance in navigating contemporary social and economic challenges.

The talk continued on Friday, 4 September 2026, with a special session for BIBD employees and stakeholders, attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Coordinating Minister for Social Policies and Manpower and Minister of Home Affairs, in his capacity as Chairman of BIBD. Also in attendance were Haji Mohammad Yusri bin Haji Wahsalfelah, Acting Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BIBD, members of the BIBD Board of Directors, the Shariah Advisory Body, senior management, and employees from across the BIBD Group.

Their presence reflected the Bank's continued commitment to fostering a knowledgeable and values-driven workforce guided by the principles of Maqasid Shariah, which seek to safeguard and enhance the well-being of individuals, families and society. Through the talk, participants were reminded of the importance of emulating the noble character and ethics of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in all aspects of life.

The lessons shared encouraged individuals to strengthen their faith, uphold good values and exercise prudence and integrity in their interactions with others, while refraining from actions that may lead to fitnah, affect the dignity and reputation of individuals, or create division within the community.

By upholding the teachings of Islam and the exemplary conduct of the Prophet (PBUH), individuals can cultivate stronger relationships, contribute positively to their communities and strive towards a life blessed with barakah, purpose and lasting well-being.

Speaking on the significance of the programme, Yang Mulia Haji Mohammad Yusri bin Haji Wahsalfelah, Acting Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BIBD, said: *“This Religious Lecture is both timely and meaningful as it reminds us of the importance of strengthening our iman, embracing the exemplary character of Rasulullah SAW, and seeking barakah in all that we do. The Prophet's teachings continue to provide guidance in building resilient individuals, harmonious families and compassionate communities.”*

“As a Partner in Progress, BIBD is committed to supporting initiatives that promote knowledge, personal growth and well-being in line with the aspirations of Maqasid Shariah. We hope the insights shared today will inspire us all to become better individuals, strengthen our relationship with Allah SWT, and contribute positively to our families, workplaces and society.”

Throughout the lecture, Professor Dr. Ustaz Abdul Somad underscored the importance of emulating the noble akhlak of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the foundation for personal excellence, ethical leadership and community well-being. He emphasised that true success extends beyond material wealth and is rooted in the pursuit of barakah through integrity, accountability and responsibility in all aspects of life.

Drawing on Islamic teachings and practical examples from everyday life, the session encouraged participants to adopt prudent financial habits, make informed financial decisions and embrace a balanced approach to wealth management guided by Islamic principles. The discussion also highlighted the role of financial literacy in strengthening family resilience, fostering community prosperity and contributing to long-term societal well-being.

The Religious Talk reflects a shared commitment among UNISSA, its partners and BIBD to promote meaningful discourse on the values exemplified by Rasulullah (PBUH) while addressing contemporary issues affecting individuals and communities. By combining spiritual guidance with practical financial knowledge, the programme sought to inspire participants to lead lives grounded in faith, purpose and responsibility.

The initiative also aligns with BIBD's aspiration to create positive and lasting impact beyond banking, advancing the broader objectives of Maqasid Shariah through education, community empowerment and the promotion of ethical and sustainable living. As Brunei's leading Islamic financial institution and a trusted Partner in Progress, BIBD remains committed to supporting initiatives that strengthen both the spiritual and socio-economic well-being of the communities it serves.

As Brunei Darussalam commemorates the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the Maulidur Rasul Religious Talk on Akhlak, Barakah and Financial Literacy serves as a timely reminder that the values of akhlak, amanah and moderation remain as relevant today as ever. Through knowledge and reflection, individuals are encouraged to cultivate principles that contribute not only to personal success, but also to the collective progress, resilience and prosperity of the nation.

(ENDS)

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About BIBD:

BIBD is Brunei's largest Islamic financial institution, managing assets of over B\$11 billion and serving more than 345,000 customers through 14 branches across all four districts. Headquartered in Bandar Seri Begawan, BIBD operates under the ethos of being "Bruneian at Heart", guided by the principles of Maqasid Shariah to deliver Shariah-compliant, customer-centric financial solutions.

Through the BIBD Group Sustainability Framework, the Bank is committed to driving environmental and social progress while aligning with national goals such as Brunei Vision 2035. BIBD's community-focused initiatives reinforce its role as a key partner in the nation's development and prosperity.

Since 2015, BIBD has maintained an A- (Stable) credit rating from S&P Global and holds ISO 9001:2015 and ISO22301:2019 certification. The Bank has been recognised as the Strongest Bank in Brunei by The Asian Banker (2016-2024), Best Retail Bank (2013-2022), The Banker's Bank of the Year (2023), and Global Finance's Safest Bank in Brunei (2023), among other accolades.

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