معهد المقاصد
MAQASID INSTITUTE

MAQASID INSTITUTE

3rd Annual Report - 2020

Building a Global Maqasid Research Network

Contents

www.maqasid.org

Muharram 1442 / August 2020

2020 Annual Report – The 3 Years Mark
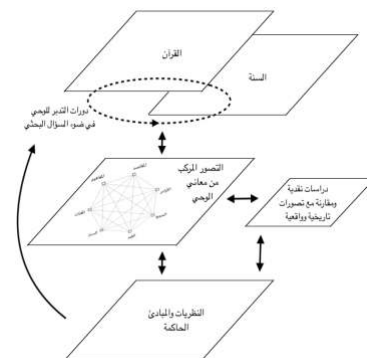
Why Maqasid?

2020 has been a year of immense challenges. We are struggling with a deadly global pandemic, the breakdown of civil societies, the urgency of climate change, and rapidly changing economies which are expediting inequalities of wealth, opportunity and resources. Worse, there is a deep concern by the timid responses to address the root causes of the current numerous crises. Nevertheless, we are in a time perfectly suited to renew our collective focus on a current and holistic methodology to approaching divine guidance for answers. The need could not be clearer.

MI's Story in 2020: Progress & Rapid Growth

In 2020 and by its 3rd anniversary, MI enters the most exciting phase of its operation as the in-house developed methodology starts to drive initiatives and institutions around the world. MI Scholars are on track to delivering two seminal books on a breakthrough methodology and its application by the end of the year. First group of 50 research fellows to be formally trained in this methodology are expected to start in the fall. Also, a research ecosystem project to truly transform MI into a global hub for new breakthrough knowledge and solutions moved from an idea to the drawing board with a generous offer from a software company to build the whole project. Work on other critical components of the ecosystem also started, like the establishment of an academic journal, e-library and e-learning portals with the help of separate dedicated teams of volunteers. At the same time, other long-term strategic objectives are now on a fast track like the launch of a full academic program designed to promote maqasid-based thinking in cooperation with IPSA, the proposed Canadian Islamic College (CIC), and the establishment of the Canadian Fiqh Council (CFC) as the first maqasid-based fatwa body in the world. This rapid growth in scope and depth is fueled by the enthusiasm of MI's highly talented and motivated members who line up for every offered opportunity.

The New Maqasid Methodology (NMM)

MI is on the verge of publishing the groundbreaking work of Dr. Jasser in maqasid research methodology, anchored in holistic understanding of the Quran and Sunnah and challenging the status quo. Dr. Basma's applied maqasid analysis to public policy and the impact of intellectual property rights on global health is also expected to be ready for publication before the end of the year. Several presentations and workshops are planned in the next few months to roll out the methodology and its application.
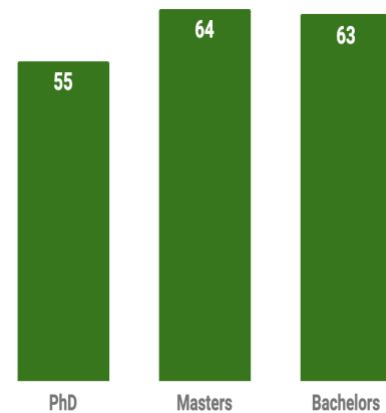
What is The New Maqasid Methodology?
The New Maqasid Methodology (NMM) places the Revelation, i.e., Quran and Sunnah, at the center of the whole enterprise of human knowledge. Its purpose is to renew contemporary Islamic scholarship by reconstructing the definition of Islamic studies, both theoretical and applied. The NMM offers an integrative and comprehensive framework that is based on the revealed knowledge and that aims at achieving its objectives in today's world. The seven elements of this composite framework include objectives, concepts, parties, universal laws, values, proofs and commands. They are complemented with a methodology that enables the construction of multiple, overlapping networks which integrate research, education and organizational projects that aim to achieve any of the numerous objectives that the Creator intends for creation at all levels.
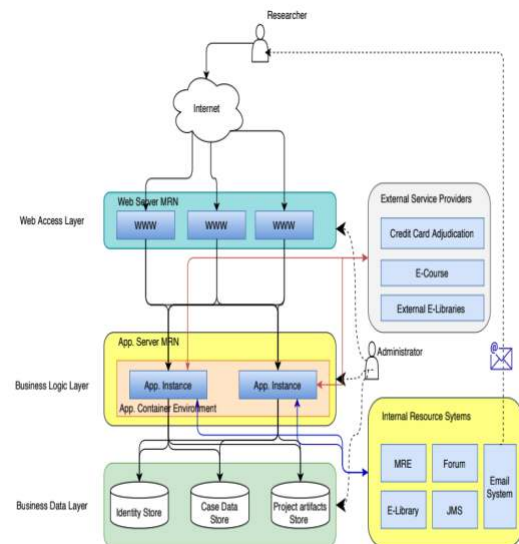
Expanding Network

The dedication of MI's network of researchers (MRN) and readiness to volunteer for the various projects we offer has been truly humbling and a motivating factor to accelerate MI's efforts to mobilize the massive human capital Muslims have towards the maqasidi renewal project. The network experienced a strong growth in the past 6 months with the addition of over 20 new senior researchers at the PhD level. Overall Membership reached 180 researchers and 15 partnering research centers from over 30 countries. Members of the network indicated several ways they are interested to volunteer their talents and knowledge

to further the cause of renewal (tajdeed) via maqasid based thinking and research methodology. Therefore, efforts are underway to organize these researchers by establishing an online scholarly community empowered by a research ecosystem.
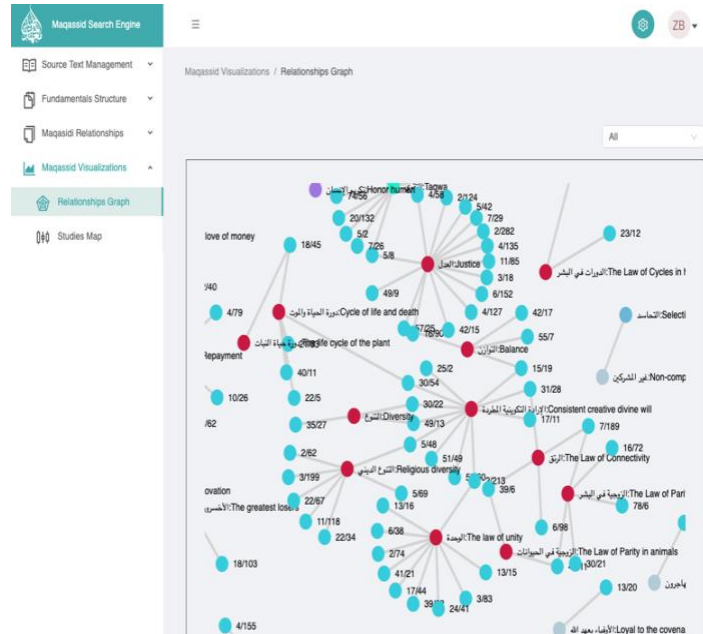
MRN - From Dream to Design

In tandem with progress on publishing a book on MI's breakthrough research methodology, work on the research ecosystem has progressed on multiple fronts. A well-qualified team is designing the overall architect of the Maqasid Research Network (MRN) along with the journey researchers are expected to go through and the final outcome. The team is led by Br. Mohammed Belyamani who was appointed as the Director of Information Technology. Design work is expected to finish in about a month and will be submitted to CloudAI, a software development company, which generously offered to build this pioneering ecosystem. CloudAI is the same company that built the first phase of the Maqasid Research Engine (MRE).

MRE Phase 2

Phase 2 of work on MRE is expected to start in over a month with the goal to produce a version with enough functionality by Nov-Dec for beta users to start testing the engine and grow its knowledge content. Given its central role, Dr. Ildus Rafikov was appointed as the Manager of Research Science & Technology with a chief responsibility for MRE's development, governance, quality, content growth and application of AI functionality in phase 3.
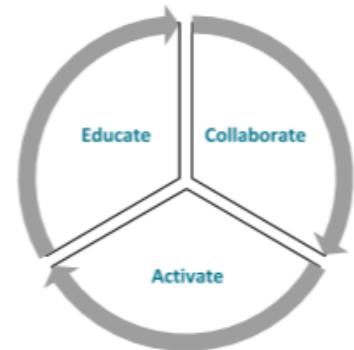

What is Maqasid Research Engine (MRE)?
MRE is a first of its kind, mind-map based research tool for conducting holistic study of Quran and hadith. MRE creates and connects massive webs of meanings and relationships to facilitate discovering holistic views of Quran & Hadith on virtually any question. MRE is also designed to promote multi-disciplinary research by connecting terms and research from all disciplines with each other and with Quran & Hadith. This discovery process then is used to address global phenomena like poverty and sustainable development which are trans-disciplinary in nature and therefore should be addressed holistically as MI advocates.

E-Learning & the First Batch of MI Fellows

As work progresses on developing research methodology, tools and environment, efforts have already started to identify a batch of 50 promising researchers to be introduced to MI's methodology and to be beta users of MRN and MRE. Br. Motaz Al-Thahir has volunteered to lead MI Fellows Program and the plan the e-learning experience and logistics. Sr. Heba Abduljawad will design a curriculum for this program that reflects MI's pedagogic objectives: Educate, Collaborate and Activate. A simple e-learning system will be established to launch MI's online education platform to grow overtime. Over a 6 to 9-month period, the researchers will be guided by MI scholars to learn, collaborate, produce research and showcase the contribution of MI methodology to discovering and valuing divine guidance in human affairs and seeing this guidance impacting human affairs. This project is critical for facilitating fruitful collaboration and research breakthroughs by building a common worldview, methodology and scholarly language among a growing number of researchers from around the world.

Journal of Maqasid Studies (JMS)

Maqasid Institute | Journal of Maqasid Studies

About | **Volumes & issues**

About
    Aims and Objectives
    MI Methodology
    Editorial Board
    Journal Policies
    Publication Frequency

Editorial Policies

Submission form

About | **Volumes & issues**

Volume 2020
    Issue 1   View | Download
    Issue 2   View | Download
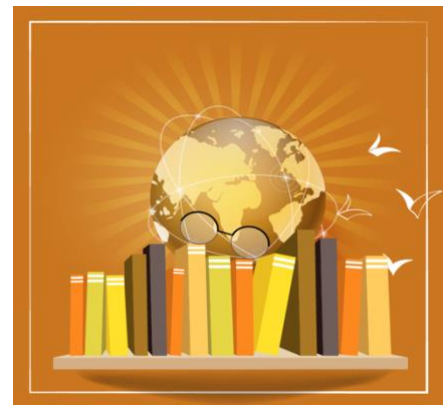Volume 2021
    Issue 1   View | Download
    Issue 2   View | Download

Volume 2020, Issue 1

Another critical component of the MRN ecosystem is the establishment of an outlet for publishing maqasidi based research and sharing it globally. Towards this end, a six members team under the guidance of Dr. Yasser Tarshani was established to prepare the groundwork for launching the Journal of Maqasid Studies. Dr. Methaq AlMaliki and Mouloud Mohadi, two maqasidi researchers, were also appointed as assistant managing editors to carry out the necessary tasks for establishing and managing the journal. Expected timeline for the journal's launch is two months for preparation work and 3 months for publishing the first issue.

e-Library

With The help of another team of volunteers, work also started on properly cataloging the over 5000 critical references identified by MI scholars as crucial for maqasidi based research. The references are categorized by MI's seven elements of research methodology to facilitate research work.

MI's vision: Valuing divine guidance in human affairs.
MI's mission is threefold:
(1) Providing the knowledge and tools that enable scholars in different disciplines to reconstruct thought in their area of specialization via a new maqasid methodology;
(2) Applying the methodology to critical challenges and phenomena impacting our lives and the welfare of the planet;
(3) Facilitating the application of the maqasid methodology in personal and community life through the expertise of Maqasid Research Network (MRN) members.

Outreach

MI scholars continued their heavy engagement with seekers of knowledge and practitioners on the ground to provide guidance and learn from their experiences. As such, MI scholars were engaged in educational activities in Malaysia, Indonesia, South Africa, Nigeria, Turkey, Guyana, the US and Canada. Below are a few examples of MI's global activities in the first half of 2020.

YOUTUBE.COM
Dr Zaid Barzinji - Maqasidi Economic Perspective on the COVID-19 Crisis

YOUTUBE.COM
Dr Azman Hussin Higher Obj of Humanity
Ramadan Maqasid Daurah by Maqasid Institute Ma...

YOUTUBE.COM
Dr Zaid Barzinji Maqasid Research Network
This presentation describes Maqasid Institute's visi...

YOUTUBE.COM
Abdelgafar Revival Of The Individual Ramadan 2020
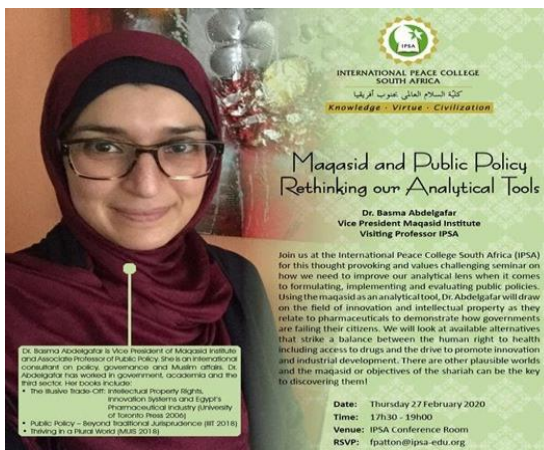

Maqasid Institute Malaysia

Activities in MI Malaysia, as indicated above, increased, especially through collaborating with partner organizations like the Institute for Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), USIM and many other previously established partnerships. MI Indonesia and MI Italy offices continue to play important roles in key research areas like sustainable development, Islamic psychology and interfaith activities.

MI - IPSA Partnership

MI and IPSA partnership were formalized by the end of 2019 and has led to stronger cooperation between the two institutes at multiple levels. The Graduate School at IPSA in South Africa currently has about 40 enrolled students and graduated over 40 students with thesis work that applies maqasid approach and addresses real challenges in the South African context. IPSA

scholars and students are also involved in projects that are part of MI research agenda. These projects represent excellent opportunities for collaboration with the Barzinji project at Shenandoah University (UoS) and other partnerships MI has with other educational and research institutions. IPSA board and MI executives also launched a strategic initiative to evolve IPSA into a university offering accredited PhD degrees.
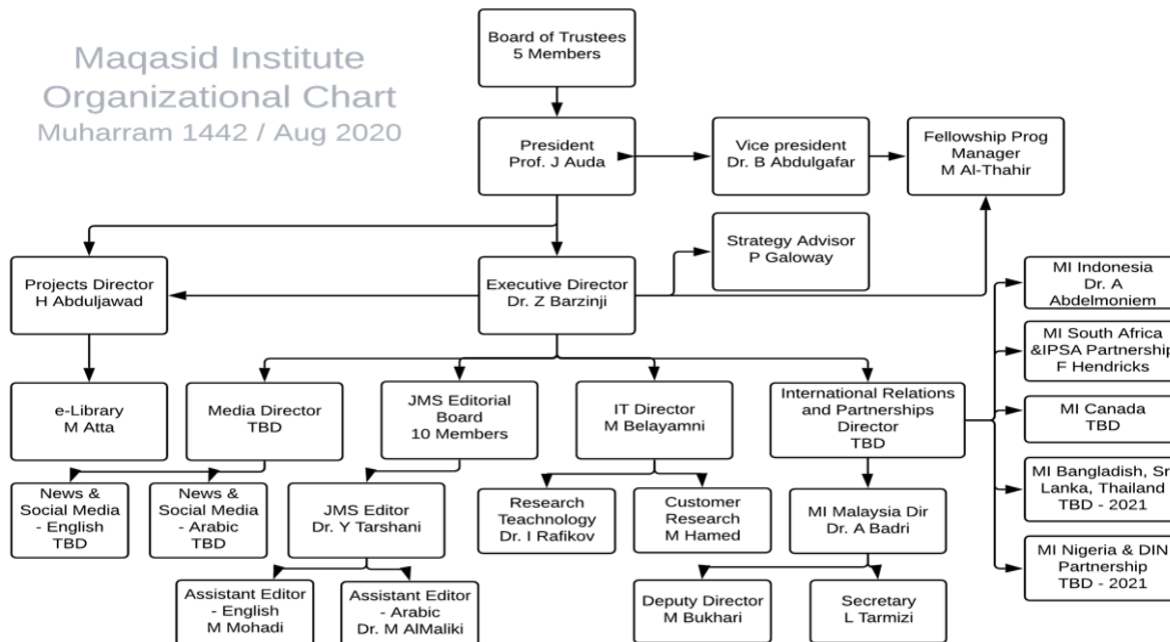
Organizational Strategy 2020-2021

2020 continues to shape up as a momentous year with MI making significant contributions at multiple levels towards restoring Islam's moral and intellectual voice in global affairs, especially in the face of the global challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MI's strategic priorities for the rest of 2020 and 2021 are:

1. Articulating and disseminating the New Maqasid Methodology
2. Training a core group of scholars in the New Maqasid Methodology
3. Identifying, understanding and focusing on a target audience
4. Offering a unique and conducive research & ideas incubation environment
5. Demonstrating the impact of maqasidi ideas on policy and institutional practices by connecting researchers with partners in private, public and non-profit partners
6. Establishing strategic partnerships with several educational institutions to provide academic recognition for MI's educational and research activities
7. Telling stories about our experience, progress and successes
8. Building sustainable finances and operations
9. Maintaining momentum with a focus on our vision and a sound organizational foundation

The above priorities are identified as essential for defining MI, its purpose and success criteria. As such, MI's limited resources will continue to be focused on supporting our priorities and what we consider to be true mission success (falah). It is this focus that enabled MI to grow its active team from 6 to 20 in the first half of the year. The team is expected to reach 30 members by year's end, thus moving MI from a small-time operation to a proper organization with a serious and noticeable role internationally. Below is MI's current organizational chart:

Key Challenges

MI's proper establishment and sustainability as a thinktank requires commitment of its executives to its strategy and the support of an active board of directors. Efforts remain ongoing to find board members who are able to dedicate time and financial resources suitable to the current formative stage of MI and its rapid growth. Efforts of the executive team at fundraising faced major challenges as MI is still working on basic research and doesn't have clear products and focus on the target audience. COVID-19 pandemic also prevented active fundraising and travel to meet prospective donors. However, the nature of MI's unique and promising approach and our scholarly work continue to inspire and generate strong enthusiasm during public engagements worldwide. This is evidenced from a back-log of lecture invitations and the many organizations interested in partnering with MI to introduce our brand of Maqasid based tajdeed/renewal to their institutions and audience. Alhamdulillah's, with basic funding restored for MI to maintain its skeletal staff and with continued support from the two founding family funds for MI on a long-term base, MI management is in a great shape to focus operations on strategy implementation over the coming two years. With MI's novel scholarly work, positive contributions and expanding team, we expect funding levels to increase substantially. Meanwhile, we are exploring the possibility of providing MI dedicated volunteers with appreciation stipends or other expressions of gratitude to recognize their tremendous contributions. To facilitate the above, several fundraising proposals will be developed with expert help to present the case for supporting MI's strategic initiatives.

Budget

Budget for 2020 (in US$)

Cost		Revenue	
Staff	145,000	Grant 1	85,000
Operational Expenses	10,000	Grant 2	55,000
Maqasid Research Network	80,000	CloudAI Services	75,000
e-Learning	10,000	Fundraising	30,000
Journal	5,000	Fees	5,000
Total Cost	**250,000**	**Total Revenue**	**250,000**

May Allah SWT enable us to continue on this path of reform/tajdeed with your dua and support.

Sincerely,

Prof. Jasser Auda, President
Dr. Basma Abdelgafar, Vice President
Dr. Zaid Barzinji, Executive Director, Email: zbarzinji@maqasid.org

Maqasid Institute is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization
(US Federal EIN 81-5384123).

Thank You and Your Feedback is Most Welcome