

Global Association of Islamic Schools' Third Annual Retreat in Malaysia – 30 September to 3 October 2024.

Proposal for 2024 GAIS Retreat	
Retreat dates	30 September to 3 October 2024
Theme	<i>Revival Rooted in Tradition</i>
Venue	Shah Alam, Malaysia
Event Focus	We intend to have three tracks at this event 1. Leadership - School leaders, principals, school owners, administrators, and school board members 2. Academic Researchers in the field of Islamic Education especially K to 12 3. Heads of Islamic Studies – Educators and department/unit leaders focused on the development and teaching of Islamic studies in K-12 schools
Target Audience	Heads of Islamic School Associations from around the world, Heads of Islamic Schools, School Leaders and Management Members of Islamic School Boards, Owners of Islamic Schools and school groups, Heads of Islamic Studies units at K to 12 Islamic schools Researchers and Academics in the field of Islamic education Anyone interested in the field of Islamic School Education
Program	Plenary and workshop sessions, panel discussions, breakaway tracks, school and university visits and networking opportunities.
Pre-sessions	28 September – International Teacher Training conference by ICEE 29 September – Books event by Little Caliphs Sdn Bhd
Programme outline	Kindly click the link below:

1. Retreat venue and accommodations – Our retreat venue shall be **Mardhiyyah Hotel and Suites** located at No 5, Persiaran Perbandaran, Seksyen 14, 40000 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wW9sxm5wj6xhZvUF9>). We have negotiated special rates for retreat participants which are mentioned below:

- Twin Sharing Deluxe Room at RM275.00 per room per night with 02 breakfasts
- Single Deluxe Room at RM250.00 per room per night with 01 breakfast.

For bookings, kindly email the booking team at sales@mardhiyyahhotel.com with the subject “GAIS event”. The prices mentioned above are exclusive of tourism tax of RM10 per room per night for non-Malaysians.

2. Confirmed Guest Speakers



Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Nor Wan Daud is a scholar, educational administrator, intellectual activist, motivator, and poet. He is well known nationally and internationally through his academic writings and activities on various aspects of Islamic education and epistemology. He is the founder and director of the Center for Advanced Studies on Islam, Science and Civilization (CASIS), a post graduate centre of excellence at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Kuala Lumpur. Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Nor has written more 16 books and monographs as well as more than 40 academic articles in local and international journals. Prof. Dr. Wan is also the holder of the prestigious Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas Chair of Islamic Thought.



Dr. Samir Mahmoud is currently Academic Director of Usul Academy. He is also Lecturer on the Diploma in Islamic Psychology at the Cambridge Muslim College. Recently he was Assistant Professor at the Lebanese American University. He has a BA (Hons) in Anthropology & Politics with a focus on multicultural theory and comparative religion, and an MA in Architectural History, Theory & Urban Design with a focus on the traditional townscape from the University of New South Wales, Sydney Australia. He also holds an MPhil in Theology & Religious Studies with a focus on comparative philosophy and aesthetics. He completed a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Cambridge.



Dr. Ayda Succarie brings a robust academic background, holding a PhD, Master of Business administration, and graduate certificate in research studies from western Sydney university. Her research focuses on the intricate connection between professional identity and governance in Australian Islamic Schools, shedding light on effective governance frameworks, methodologies in governance research, and board member well-being. Additionally, she sits on boards and consults for Islamic schools and other Muslim organizations, driving positive change through her social enterprise, ThinkRenewal Pty Ltd.



Mr. William White is a Certified Master facilitator in the Leadership Challenge framework and is passionate about leadership development for Muslim institutions throughout the world. In addition to his work as a school principal, he is the current president of the Council of Islamic Schools - based in North America (CISNA) and is actively involved in providing leadership training to schools and national organizations in the United States. William has extensive international travel and work experience in places such as Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. As a result, he is fluent in English, Spanish and spoken Arabic.



Zeynep Alp is a publishing consultant and educator with over twenty-five years' experience, specializing in content creation, foreign rights management and curriculum development. She currently contributes to Educational Research, Development and Publishing (EDAM) in various capacities and is the founder of the Islamic Curriculum Initiative (ICI), contributing to the global educational sphere. Zeynep has worked with institutions such as the Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet), the Green Crescent Society of Türkiye, the National Young NGOs of Türkiye, the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and many NGOs and educational institutions.



Dr. Abdalla Idris Ali served as imam and director, and founded the first full-time Islamic school in Toronto, Canada. He served as the principal of ISNA Islamic Community School for 17 years. He also served on ISNA's Executive Council, Majlis Ash-Shura, Youth and Education Committee and as president of ISNA for two terms. He is the chair of the Islamic Media Foundation, a member of NAIT Board, a founding member of CISNA, and chair of ISNA Education Forum. Sheikh Abdalla was appointed director for CIENA in Kansas City, Missouri. He served on the board of trustees of IBERR, which serves minority communities. He is currently working as the executive director of ISNA Canada.



Dr. Azlan Abdul Rehman has served public higher education sector for more than 30 years and held the position as Managing Director & CEO of UTMSPACE Berhad, a university subsidiary company running diverse professional and executive programmes in lifelong learning industry. He had served as a full professor at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia from 2009-2022 prior to his retirement. Currently he still holds Chairmanship of Board of Directors Unitechnologies Sdn. Bhd (UTM's subsidiary consulting company).



Dr. Farah Ahmed is Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. She co-convenes the Intercultural and Conflict-transformation Dialogue' strand of the Cambridge Educational Dialogue Research group. Her current project is: Rethinking Islamic education for British Muslim children: a philosophical investigation of dialogue in Islamic educational theory and an empirical study trialling dialogic pedagogy in UK madrasahs (supplementary schools). Farah has published widely on Islamic education and is founder and Director of Education and Research at Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation.



Dr. Nadeem Memon is a Senior Research Fellow and the Program Director for Islamic Education in the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE) in the School of Education at UniSA. Prior to joining UniSA, Dr. Nadeem was the Director of Education at Razi Education, a Canadian education-consulting firm that develops professional development for educators. Dr. Nadeem holds a PhD in Theory and Policy Studies in Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. His doctoral dissertation focused on the history and philosophy of Islamic schooling in North America.



Dr. Leila Shatara is an accomplished educator and researcher with over 30 years of experience, primarily focused on educational leadership and school turnaround initiatives. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Research Methodology from Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Shatara currently the principal and curriculum developer for Al-Hidaya School in New York. She has served as the past president of the Council of Islamic Schools in North America (CISNA). She is a founding member of the Islamic Curriculum Initiative (ICI).



Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed is one of the leading management educationists in Pakistan. Dr Zeeshan is the founding Vice-Chancellor of the recently-chartered Al-Ghazali University. Previously, Dr. Zeeshan served as the founding Dean of Al-Qadir University Project Trust, served as the Rector and Dean KSBL and headed the undergraduate program at LUMS business school. He completed his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University, US in the discipline of Finance and has also passed all CPA examinations. He has also served on the board of country's eminent Islamic Schools.

- 3. Costs** - We have priced the retreat participation at **\$200** (equivalent to 3700 South African Rands). For logistical and financial reasons, we have to cap the maximum number of delegates at the event to 200.

The price includes the following:

- a. Attendance at the retreat for the full 4-day event (including school and university visits)
- b. Coffee and snack breaks
- c. 4 lunch meals
- d. 2 dinner meals, including a pre-retreat welcome dinner on 29 September (Sunday evening) and a Gala dinner.

For registration and payment, kindly use this link: <https://gais.network/retreat2024/>

Delegates will be responsible for airfare, visas, transfers to and from the airport, hotel accommodation and breakfast, any entrance fees for sightseeing and any other personal expense.

4. Proposed Schedule

Saturday 28th September	Sunday 29th September	Monday 30th September	Tuesday 1st October	Wednesday 2nd October	Thursday 3rd October
International Teacher Training Conference (organized by ICEE and GAIS)	Half-day books event (organized by Little Caliph Sdn Bhd and GAIS) + Opening dinner by GAIS	GAIS Retreat Day 1	GAIS Retreat Day 2 + Dedicated leadership session by CISNA and ICEE + Gala dinner	GAIS Retreat Day 3	GAIS Retreat day 4 - School and University visits and Networking Day

5. Planned outcomes of the 2024 GAIS Retreat – Revival Rooted in Tradition

Leadership Track
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic leadership for future readiness of Islamic schools 2. Embracing and leveraging Artificial Intelligence and personalized Learning 3. The art of teaching and the Science of Learning – Neuroscience for teaching and learning. 4. Islamic pedagogy – pathway to realizing our purpose. 5. Integrating Islamic (traditional) values in the current day (21st century) classroom. 6. Role of education in political and social activism in our schools 7. Islamic leadership principles to enhance personal and collective impact 8. Explore leadership behaviours, self-assessment, and value clarification.
Academics Track
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Islamic Worldview - defining, conceptualizing, and mapping implications for curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment 2. Research Translation - making research accessible and impactful for schools 3. Mapping key research contributions, gaps, and opportunities for the next 5 years 4. Research Collaborations - needs and aspirations for early career researchers and PhD students, mentoring programs, reading groups, our own journals, research centers 5. Research findings and advancements in Islamic Education (K-12); Share latest research, innovative practices and methodologies, highlight success models. 6. Identify possible areas for research and collaboration among stakeholder groups. 7. Foster collaboration among academics, educators, and policymakers to advance the field of Islamic Education. 8. Develop joint research projects that address key challenges and opportunities in Islamic education.
Islamic Studies Track
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding the Islamic concepts of <i>Taaleem</i>, <i>Ta'deeb</i> and <i>Tarbiyah</i> 2. Islamic Studies – the what, why and how? 3. Taaleem - Setting global standards for Islamic studies (K to 12); Contemporary issues and topics for secondary schools. 4. Tarbiyyah – Graduate attributes in action; Promote lifelong learning and spiritual development that prepares students for both worldly and hereafter success 5. Fostering and cultivating an Islamic Ethos on campus and in the broader school community 6. Rethinking curriculum mapping in Islamic studies

6. Exhibition – This retreat will also feature an exhibition arena with various exhibitors showcasing educational resources.

7. Dedicated Leadership Day – We plan to have a day within the retreat days dedicated to leadership training. CISNA (Council of Islamic Schools – based in North America) and ICEE (International Centre for Educational Excellence) have both gladly agreed to collaborate with GAIS for this training day.

- a. Leadership training (partially funded by Islamic Development Bank) by CISNA will be based on 30+ years of Leadership Challenge © research authored by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner.
- b. Leadership training by ICEE will focus on needs assessment for leadership especially in schools and how school leaders in various geographies are addressing critical issues in leadership.

8. Two pre-sessions

a. ICEE (International Centre for Educational Excellence) in collaboration with GAIS has planned an International Teacher Training conference on 28 September 2024. Registration fee for in-person attendance is RM 150. Here is a link to register yourself for this event:

<https://forms.gle/rCZQP2QjdDLgn16p9>

b. Little Caliphs Sdn Bhd in collaboration with GAIS has planned a books event on 29 September 2024. Registration fee for in-person attendance is RM 100. Here is a link to register yourself for this event:

<https://littlecaliphs.onpay.my/order/form/284>

c. Both these events will be held at Raja Tun Uda Library in Shah Alam, inshaAllah. (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/xFGcNVMcaSGVY22a8>).

9. Visa letters

Participants who require visa letters for their visa applications are requested to email the following details at education.icee@gmail.com and cc to amin@musleh.edu.my with the subject “GAIS visa letter”.

- a) Full name
- b) Passport number

Visa letters will be issued by ICEE and MUSLEH.

10. Flights to Malaysia

Numerous Airlines fly directly into **Kuala Lumpur International airport** which is the main and the most convenient airport. However, using **Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport** would also be convenient. Check their prices (and layover times) from your country.

11. Airport transfer

Airport transfer to and from the **Kuala Lumpur International airport** can reasonably and conveniently be done through a ride-hailing App, **Grab**. You may download it on Android and iOS.

12. Currency exchange and cards

It is recommended that some currency exchange is done at the airport to have some cash for expenses. However, cards are acceptable at most stores and outlets. Kindly ensure your international merchant acceptance is activated.

13. SIM Card

It is best to purchase the SIM card at the airport for easy and continuous communication.

14. Distribution of marketing material for your organisation

There will be an opportunity for organisations (related to Islamic Education) to distribute their promotional material to participants at a cost. Only approved distributions will be allowed at the retreat. For details, kindly email at fahad.haroon@gais.network.