



Muslim News

15 July 2010 , 2 Shabaan 1431

FIANZ President hopes new generation will reaffirm freedom of self-determination including religious freedom

FIANZ President Dr Anwar Ghani (*photo*) has said he hoped that like the Founding fathers of the United States, this generation and generations to come will reaffirm the freedom of self-determination including religious freedom.



In his speech delivered at the ceremony in Wellington by the US Embassy to mark its independence day, known as the Fourth of July, Dr. Anwar said, "I wish to record my appreciation to the

Jefferson and George Washington (first President) who from the very early stages recognised importance of individual freedom and

foresight and forward thinking of the Founding Fathers of the new nation - Thomas

constituted religious freedom in the American constitution "... the most ample liberty of conscience .. to the Muslims, Jews and Christians" a point that Chief Justice Theophilus Parsons resoundingly affirmed in 1810".

Following is the text of Dr. Anwar's speech:

It is an honour for the Muslim community of New Zealand to be invited to bless this historic

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FIANZ launches Gaza Relief Fund

In conjunction with "Kia Ora Gaza", an Organisation initiated to raise the awareness of the New Zealanders to the plight of the people of Gaza suffering for the last 60 years, the Federation has launched a fundraising appeal to raise money to assist in the humanitarian relief effort for the people affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. It is anticipated that with the funds raised, we would be able to organise Kiwi aid and volunteers to join the international land and sea aid convoys scheduled to begin in mid-September 2010.



to this worthy cause. Imams of Masajid and Islamic Centers are also requested to make appropriate announcements, particularly during Jumah prayers.

The Federation recommends that the Local Associations coordinate the fund raising at regional

level and deposit the money raised into the abovementioned account indicating "Gaza Relief Fund".

Donations are to be directed to FIANZ's Appeal Account as detailed hereunder:

Account Number: 020
500 - 0737236 - 06

Name of Account: FIANZ Appeal Account
Name of Bank: Bank of New Zealand

The Federation requests all members of our community to stand shoulder to shoulder to help out our brethren in Gaza and donate generously

FIANZ participates at World Halal Forum

FIANZ recently participated in the World Halal Forum 2010 (WHF) and World Halal Research 2010 (WHR) in Kuala Lumpur during the annual Malaysian Halal Week. Fianz was represented by the Chairman of the Halal Technical Committee, Tabrez Dean, who besides participating at the above two conferences also represented FIANZ at a meeting of recognised international certification bodies Halal organised by the Malaysian Department of Islamic Development (JAKIM).

Forums such as these not only assist FIANZ in enhancing its profile in the international arena but also provide a valuable opportunity to network with the movers and shakers in the international Halal industry. Secondly it provides an opportunity for FIANZ personnel to update their knowledge on leading edge developments in the global Halal trade.

The World Halal Forum 2010 was themed State of the Industry: Market Access and International Trade. Speakers ranged from various government representatives to researchers and leaders in the global Halal industry. The WHF was opened by the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Mohammed Najib Tun Abdul Razak who highlighted the role of Halal trade and the opportunity it presents. The global Halal Trade in food and beverages is estimated to be US\$660 billion according to WHF Secretariat.

A paper was also presented at the WHF by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority's International Market Access Director Dr Tony Zohrab, on the New Zealand government's involvement and approach in the regulation of the

Halal meat certification for export.

The meeting with JAKIM focused on the new Halal standard MS1500-2009 issued by the Malaysian government dealing with Halal Food production. The changes of note are new guidelines for alternative gas based stunning method and the main change of are the removal of mechanical slaughter of chickens. Their previous acceptance of mechanical slaughter of chickens had caused many



debates and led to polarisation of the Muslim community. By effectively revoking this in the new standard, Malaysia will now be reverting back to non-mechanically slaughtered chickens. This is the stance also taken by FIANZ in New Zealand as well.

The World Halal Research Conference (WHR) was organised by the Halal Development Corporation of Malaysia. This was themed "Inspiring Innovation Through Halal Research."

Various topics of research and development in the area of Halal Food and beverages were presented by speakers from around

the world.

It was pleasing to note there are several institutions in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia dedicated to research in the Halal field. This is an area with new investment and support from various governments of the region who see Halal food production as an area of growth potential. They also want to ensure the highest level of integrity of Halal products, hence the focus on research and technology. There is no doubt South East Asia is leading the field in Halal research and development with its desire to be the Global Halal Hub.

The overall message from these gathering is the Muslim consumer is becoming more and more sophisticated and demanding in their requirement for Halal. And with a 1.8 Billion consumers worldwide they are becoming a major force in the global economy.

The term "Halal" has become the all-encompassing phrase for Sharia-compliant products which are no longer confined to meat and meat products only. Over the last few decades Halal products have evolved from meat and meat products, to product ingredients, to pharmaceutical and cosmetics, to service industries such as Islamic finance, logistics and retailing, to healthcare and tourism. The requirements from the "new" Muslim consumer for products and services that serve to enhance their total Islamic lifestyle is estimated at USD 2.1 Trillion.

No wonder "Halal" products and services have suddenly captured the attention of leading global industry players!

July 14 is 1st of Shabaan

The Hilal Committee of FIANZ is pleased to advise all members of the community that the month of Shabaan 1431H started on Wednesday, 14 July 2010. We also urge the members of the community to sight for the new moon of Ramadhan on Wednesday, 11 August 2010 (29 Shabaan 1431H). Please report any sightings of the moon for Ramadhan to FIANZ office at (04)3878023 or to Sheikh Mohammad Amir of the Hilal Committee at 0212424560.



FIANZ President hopes

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234th celebration of the United States of America Independence Day with a Muslim prayer. ... I begin by acknowledging the God, the most merciful and most compassionate.

Allah, Lord of the seven heavens and the exalted throne, our Lord and Lord of all things, Revealer of the Torah, the Gospel and the Quran, I take refuge in You from the evil of all things.

Allah, You have total mastery and You are The First so there is nothing before You, and You are The Last so there is nothing after you, You are the most high so there is nothing above You, and You are the most near, so there is nothing nearer than You.

God, You are As-Salam (the source of peace) and from You is all peace, blessed are You, O Possessor of all majesty and honour. Please grant peace, justice and freedom to us, our city, our country and to all nations.

Allah, we ask You for knowledge which is beneficial and sustenance which is good, and deeds which are acceptable. Our Lord, grant us the best in this life and the best in the next life.

'All Praise is for God by whose favour good

works are accomplished. We thank you God for granting people of United States freedom of religion and freedom of self determination. We thank you God for making this country "New Zealand" the most peaceful country on earth. God please protect and help those who work for peace and harmony among people.

I wish to record my appreciation to the foresight and forward thinking of the Founding Fathers of the new nation - Thomas Jefferson and George Washington (first President) who from the very early stages recognised importance of individual freedom and constituted religious freedom in the American constitution "... the most ample liberty of conscience .. to the Muslims, Jews and Christians" a point that Chief Justice Theophilus Parsons resoundingly affirmed in 1810. I hope like the Founding fathers of the nation, this generation and generations to come will reaffirm the freedom of self-determination including religious freedom.

FIANZ President's speech was read at the ceremony by Bro Sultan Eusoof, who also made a dua.



The US Embassy in Wellington marked its independence day, known as the Fourth of July, last week. The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand was represented at the ceremony by Bro Sultan Eusoof. On behalf of FIANZ President Dr. Anwar Ghani, Bro Sultan Eusoof read a speech and made du'a.

Write to us

Muslim News is published fortnightly by the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand. We welcome news and information about the Muslim community in New Zealand and the world. Please email to fianz@xtra.co.nz

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News in Pictures: Al-Noor Charitable Trust

The Al-Noor Charitable Trust concluded on 16th July an OSCAR (after school) programme that began on 12th July. The programme was for school children from Primary to Intermediate, and featured sessions and activities such as sports and recreation, life skills and general Islamic knowledge.



Haleema Kindergarten Open Day

IMAN's Haleema Kindergarten in Lower Hutt, Wellington had an open day on Saturday 10 July 2010. Despite a fresh dose of Wellington weather, the open day was well attended.

Among the people who attended were the President of FIANZ Br Anwar Ghani, the mayor of Lower Hutt David Ogden, local MP, Ministry of Education officials and a host of local identities.

Such was the attendance that there was hardly any room to walk inside the Kindy, therefore the open day was a huge success.

Haleema Kindergarten is being run by a standalone trust called Haleema Kindergarten Trust.

Meanwhile FIANZ has approved a \$5000 grant to IMAN to go towards Haleema Kindergarten. IMAN is the first local association to open a kindergarten.

IMAN is pleased to announce a new madrasa service commencing Tuesday 13 July 2010. A teacher employed through Al-Hijra Islamic Education Trust (Newlands based) will provide the madrasa service in Newlands and Kilbirnie.

Human Rights Committee concludes consideration of report on Israeli measures

GENEVA, July 15 -- The Human Rights Committee has concluded its consideration of the third periodic report of Israel on the measures undertaken by that country to implement the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Yuji Iwasawa, Chairperson of the Committee, in closing remarks, said that there was clearly a difference of opinion between the Committee and Israel on the issue of whether the Covenant was applicable in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He was disappointed to see that in their written responses, the delegation did not answer many of the questions, but simply referred to previous answers to different questions.

Malkiel Blass, Deputy Attorney General of the Ministry of Justice of Israel, said "all of these buildings were demolished in Jerusalem based on violation of the building and planning laws.

In the western areas of Jerusalem, building violations almost invariably consisted of additions to a building lawfully

constructed, such as the addition of a room in a courtyard or an attic within a roof space." On the question of the compliance of military forces with international law, Blass said it was the responsibility of the Military Advocate General's Corps to supervise the adherence of the Israeli Defence Forces to law, including international law.

This was done through the use of the military police criminal investigation division, the military courts, and was scrutinized by the civilian law enforcement authorities led by the Attorney General, he said. The decisions of the Military Advocate General were also subject to judicial review by the Israeli Supreme Court, he added.

Regarding the blockade of Gaza, the delegation pointed out that Israel was in a state of armed conflict with Hamas who had used the sea to smuggle arms into the Gaza Strip. A naval blockade was recognized as a lawful wartime measure under international law as long as the ports of peaceful countries were not blocked.

Chinese Muslims Increasing Rapidly In Indonesia

PONTIANAK , W. Kalimantan, July 14 -- The number of Chinese Muslims in Indonesia, particularly in Jakarta, Surabaya and Semarang, has experienced rapid growth, a Chinese Muslim leader said here Wednesday.

"The number of Chinese Muslims in Jakarta alone has reached hundreds of thousands," Antara news agency quoted Budijono, deputy chairman of the Indonesian Chinese Muslims Association (PITI), as saying.

Budijono, whose Muslim name is Nurul Fajar, made the remarks in a dialogue on the development of the multicultural horizons of the Muslim leadership.

He said of the 238 million people in Indonesia, 15 percent were Chinese Indonesians of whom five percent were Muslims.

Budijono said that Islam entered China 1,400 years ago when Said bin Abu Waqos built a mosque in Guangzhou, China. In Indonesia, Islam arrived about 700 years ago.

"So, basically in China, Islam has developed in advance and was embraced by millions of people. If there is an attempt to separate Chinese Indonesians from indigenous Indonesians, that is simply a political move aimed to create disunity," he said.-- Bernama

Converts Dawah and welfare coordinators meeting overview

The seven regional coordinators designated by our constituent associations met at the FIANZ office on 10 July 2010 along with FIANZ President, Br Anwar Ghani to discuss the introduction of a programme for Converts (those embracing Islam) within New Zealand mentioned in the last edition of the Muslim News.

- a. Br Zaid Backhouse-Smith, NZMA
- b. Sr Farzanal Lateef, SAMA
- c. Br Sadiq Nicholson, WMA
- d. Br Abdul Lateef Smith, MMA
- e. Br Hamza Thomson, IMAN
- f. Br Abdullah Drury, MAC
- g. Br Steve Ali Akbar Johnston, OMA

The concept has been socialised for some time at the FIANZ Council level, is based on the Darul Arqam Singapore model and has fully been fully endorsed at the FIANZ Council.

As part of a staged initiative, the first activities that will imbedded in order to better manage Converts throughout New Zealand are:

a. Monthly Introduction to Islam presentations at each regional location. This can be done by the Converts or by Constituent associations but will be with a common structured content.

b. Teaching packages for the Converts – Initially, Essence of Islam

(Darul Arqam), Solah (Darul Arqam tutorial and DVD).

Following these initiatives and after imbedding those core activities outlined above, other initiatives will be identified, discussed and introduced. In an effort to gain wider feedback and support, three additional meetings will be held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch for the Converts, Constituent Associations and any other interested individuals. These meetings will

be advertised locally and take place in the coming eight weeks.

Further events to be introduced will include a two yearly Converts Convention (or Hui) which will follow be based on earlier local initiatives such as the very successful conference in Christchurch a number of years ago. It is anticipated that in the intermediate years, regional Constituent Associations e.g. Palmerston North/Wellington will host their own Converts Convention in a combined regional location.

A key element of this initiative will be that the Converts themselves will manage the programme but will be fully backed and supported by Constituent Association committees and members from each community. Sheikh Anwar Sahib from Auckland has kindly agreed to be the programmes religious advisor



and mentor and will help the Converts, programmes and support teachers/mentors reach its full potential.

The Converts programme is designed to be inclusive, not exclusive. After being imbedded within FIANZ, it will be made available and exportable to any regional satellite association, trust or other Muslim group.