



# Muslim News

9 August 2010 , 28 Shabaan 1431

## Islam Awareness Week Report 2010

The mission of Islam Awareness Week (IAW) is to increase the awareness in New Zealand of Islam and Muslim New Zealanders. IAW has been observed for many years at Islamic Centres and on campuses around the country. These activities are locally organised by the various centres and student bodies.

The week was originally envisaged to enable Muslims living as minorities in mainly western countries to share with the wider society in their host, or adopted countries, their most important asset, Islam.

IAW activities also teach New Zealand Muslims to better understand and respect the many cultures and values that makes up New Zealand's multi-cultural, multi-religious society. This helps dispel any misconceptions Muslims may have about how others feel about them. It also promotes integration and reduces isolation thus

preventing those who feel isolated



government and NGOs as well as supporting initiatives that benefit the wider society. For instance, IAW is supported by the Office of Ethnic Affairs and the Human Rights Commission, as well as a number of local and national organisations. FIANZ is a partner in the Diversity Action Programme led by the Human Rights Commission and IAW represents a major event in its ongoing contribution to the Diversity Action Programme.

### IAW 2010 Theme

The theme for this year's IAW is: "Cultivating Positive Emotions for a Healthy Society".

Islam seeks to improve our well-being by teaching us how to develop positive emotions and avoid negative ones. People with positive emotions tend to be happier, healthier and better members of the society.

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from being drawn to philosophies at the margins of Islam that seek to hijack Islam from the majority of Muslims.

During Islam Awareness Week all our Masajid (Mosques) are open to the New Zealand public and various activities are held throughout the country. These activities enable New Zealand Muslims to engage with their

## Ashraf Choudhry highlights contributions of Muslims to New Zealand economy

Member of Parliament under the Labour Party, Dr Ashraf Choudhry traces the contributions of Muslims to the New Zealand Economy back to the 1860s when the first Muslim migrants arrived into the country from China.

Up to the 1960s and early 70s New Zealand meat export was largely to Europe. The New Zealand Muslim community according to the first Muslim MP in this country, played a central



and important role in opening new and alternative Middle Eastern market for New Zealand dairy products.

In addition to this, Dr Choudhry also pointed at the increasing number of Muslim students in New Zealand universities from countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan etc as yet another evidence of Muslim contribution to the economy.

The presence of Muslims in this country he added, has meant that the emerging

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# News in Pictures: Islam Awareness Week



# New Zealand Muslim Sports wins FANCA USA 2010 in Style

NZMSA Inc. created history in the books of FANCA Federation Sports tournament by being the first nation out of five to win all competitions they participated in on foreign soil.

NZ was represented in the soccer in two divisions; the main (open) grade and Veteran's (masters) grade and also in the tug of war. This tournament was held at Cal State University grounds in Hayward California from the 1st to the 5th of July 2010.

Team NZ Muslim came out with flying colours by being the only undefeated nation at the congregate, by winning all three competitions. The President Br. Israr Shiekh in his speech at the thanks giving and victory celebration function on 24th July 2010 at Papatoetoe Town Hall, said he is proud of the accomplishment as NZ Muslim Sports has created history under his leadership.

He thanked all the brothers who helped in making the tour successfully especially the main group and the veteran's group organizers. These brothers



were not even the executive member's of the Association but still made sure the NZ flag and the NZMSA flag was flying high in USA.

NZ Muslim as a nation picked up 12 out of the 19 special awards up for grabs at the tournament and the most memorable one was the best disciplined participating Nation.

Congratulations to the NZ delegates, Br. Israr Shiekh for being appointed as the Vice president for FANCA Federation

and Mohammed Asaf as the associate secretary during the AGM of FANCA.

The member's while on tour made sure that all the religious requirements were well followed as a separate prayer room was booked for the members. Five daily prayers were performed in Jammah and also Holy Quran was recited by the members.

I on behalf of NZMSA Inc. would like to thank all the individual's who helped in any way to make this tour possible. -- **Mohammed Asaf**

## Islam Awareness Week Continued from Page 1

Islamic teachings will contribute tremendously in this regards.

### IAW 2010 Launch

Hon Peter Dunne, Minister of Revenue and Associate Minister of Health officially launched the IAW 2010 in Wellington on Monday, 2 August 2010 at the Wellington Islamic Centre.

Other VIPs who graced the occasion were Hon Phil Goff, Leader of the Opposition, Dr Ashraf Choudhary, Member of Parliament, Mr Joris de Bres, Race Relations Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission, Ambassadors/High Commissioners and members of the Diplomatic Community. There were also representations from the Office of Ethnic Affairs, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Community Development and the Police.

Dr Mustafa Farouk, Chairman of the FIANZ Dawah Committee represented Dr Anwar Ghani at the launch of the IAW 2010. Br Adam Awad and Asif Koya

were also attended the launch.

There was also the Interfaith Panel Discussions on this year's IAW theme. Presenters from Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist and Islam took part in the discussions.

### Harmony Award

FIANZ instituted the Harmony Awards during Islam Awareness Week to recognise the contributions of New Zealanders to improving understanding and relationships between Muslims and the wider community.

This year, there were two nominations for the Harmony Award. The two successful nominees were:

- Grant Morgan from Auckland
- Joan Buchanan from Wellington.

Hon Peter Dunne presented the Harmony Awards to the successful nominees.

The launch concluded with a sumptuous lunch. Everyone who attended the Launch enjoyed the lunch very much.

# Emotions and wellbeing: Islamic perspectives supported by modern science

By **Mustafa Farouk**, *Chair FIANZ National Dawah and Outreach*

Allah is the creator of all things including our emotions (Quran 39:62; 53:43, 48). Emotions including happiness, love, anger, hate, joy, contentment, anxiety, envy, hope, curiosity, gratitude, compassion, contempt, fear, sadness have all been created by Allah to help us survive and to discharge our responsibilities as vicegerents on this earth. We experience these emotions regularly as we go about our daily activities.

Modern science separated these emotions into two: positive and negative. Positive emotions include happiness, love, joy, contentment, hope, curiosity, gratitude and compassion; while anger, hate, anxiety, envy, contempt, fear, sadness constitute negative emotions. We will use this categorization for expediency only, because, as Muslims, we believe that Allah the All-wise, All-seeing, and Master of creation did not create any of these emotions in vain or to harm us, therefore, to us all the emotions are positive. We are the ones who would determine whether our emotions are positive or negative depending on the purpose and the extent to which we use or express them. Thus, if an emotion is used or expressed for the pleasure of the Creator and for the good of self and other creations, then that emotion becomes a positive one, but if it is done outside the boundaries set by the Creator and/or to harm others then it becomes negative.

In recent years, outcomes of research conducted in various fields of human science have proven what as Muslims we ought to have known, that our emotions have a direct influence on our state of wellbeing; with positive emotions affecting it positively and negative emotions negatively. As all true and good knowledge is from Allah, and Islam is a complete way of life designed to enable us live a full, productive and happy live here on earth and an everlasting one in the hereafter; one would find that whatever modern research discovered regarding the things that are important to our wellbeing, Islam has already dealt with it in the Quran or in the established practices of the Prophet (SAW).

Allah willing, from the next issue of FIANZ

Muslim Newsletter, I will be providing the Islamic perspective on emotions and ways of cultivating such emotions to our advantage. I will also address what Islam taught regarding how to achieve emotional stability under adversity – also known as patience. I will, with the help of Allah, show that the views of modern science on these issues are supportive of Islamic perspective, and that Islam was, is and will continue to be relevant till the day of judgment. Please watch this space.



## References:

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## Islam Awareness Week Manawatu Muslims Association

Following a series of presentations held at Massey University over the past week, an open day was held at the Cook Street Islamic Centre Palmerston North. Unlike previous years, the traditional approach of central presentations during the day was rested and in its place, decentralised interactive displays were conducted to maximise one on one discussion and have more personal contact with those who were present at each

display location.

Numbers attending were very similar to recent years and a number of people attending had been seen at other open days in the past, again making the effort to come along to chat and increase their knowledge and awareness. Feedback from visitors to the Centre was very positive and it was interesting to note that some ethnic groups visiting were doing so for the very first time. A special mention must be made of Br Imran and Br Saifudin the lead organisers and of those Brothers and Sisters who helped ensure the success of the week.

# Leaders Of Islamic Agencies Need To Come Up With More Innovative Programmes

PUTRAJAYA, (Malaysia), Aug 5 -- Leaders of Islamic agencies both at the federal and state levels need to come up with more innovative programmes for the advancement of Muslims in the country, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said they needed to adopt innovative approaches in developing management systems that were more efficient and strategic for Islamic institutions, zakat (tithe collection), benevolent funds, mosques and endowment matters.

"Come up with halal products that are innovative, a better legal and Islamic judiciary system and a more innovative Islamic banking system so as to give a maximum impact to the people.

"Harness our innovative minds to implement programmes that will attract youths to get closer

to Islam and understand its true teachings which will give rise to a new generation that is able to bring the ummah (Muslim community) further forward," he said.

Muhyiddin said this when opening the Islamic Innovation Carnival at the Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin mosque here Thursday night.

Also present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom.

Muhyiddin also said the step taken by the government to make 2010 as the Year of Innovation carried a deep meaning and was not a mere slogan.

It needed to be translated into all aspects of the people's lives, sectors and organisations to make innovation a continuous culture, he said, adding that the government was aware that innovation and creativity were important for continued development and the

people's wellbeing.

"The challenges of globalisation, a more competitive world economy, climate change and rapid development of information communication technology has changed the way things are managed and done and requires us to think and act fast," he said.

He said because the government was aware innovation must become a way of life for Malaysians, it has set a goal for Malaysia to be a high income nation as had been spelt out in the New Economic Model.

"In the spirit of 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now, I invite all Malaysians to together with the government take up the innovation challenge specifically in Islamic innovation which is very significant as Malaysia is a model of a progressive Islamic nation," he added.

## Ashraf Choudhry highlights contributions of Muslims to New Zealand economy

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mosques are not only worship centres but also important pasotral care system.

Dr Choudhry concluded his lecture by acknowledging the harmony existing between Muslims and the wider New Zealand society and challenged Muslims to go beyond creatinh awareness to engagement and participation.

## Ban calls Secretary Clinton to discuss Mideast peace

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 6 -- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon late Thursday called Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton over the phone to discuss the Middle East peace process and efforts to move Palestinians and Israelis to direct talks, his press office said in a statement distributed here. Ban, on an official visit to Japan, also discussed with Secretary Clinton the role of the Quartet - UN, US, EU and Russia - in the peace process, and briefed her on

his recent conversations by phone with leaders in the region, the statement added.

Ban's phone call came in the context of hectic diplomatic activities, earlier this week, to push the process forward, such as the phone call between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his US counterpart Barack Obama and the meeting between King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

## Muslim Students Appeal for Donation

The University of Canterbury Muslim Students Association has currently got about 2000 members. We plan to have daily Iftar in the Musallah throughout the month of Ramadhan. The estimated cost is about \$300 per day. As our resources are very limited we are appealing for donations from brothers and sisters with the means and pray to Allah to reward you all.

Please, send donations to UC-MUSA Accounts as follows:  
ANZ 010811-0090556-00

## HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FUND FOR PAKISTAN – FIANZ APPEAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Assalaam Alaykum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatahu

I pray to Allah (Subhana Wa Ta'ala) that you all are in the best of health and progressing well in the path of Taqwa.

You are all well aware of reports of the recent unprecedented floods in Pakistan caused by torrential monsoon rains. Reports say that Pakistan has not experienced such a calamitous monsoon rains for more than a century. Heavy floods have caused the loss of 2,500 lives and displaced more than 4 million people. There have been great devastation to crops, livestock and infrastructure affecting the livelihoods of people in various parts of the country.

The Federation has launched a fundraising appeal to raise money to assist in the humanitarian relief effort of the people affected by the tragedy. Please help people in Pakistan who are facing very tough times. The Federation requests all to donate generously. Appropriate announcement/request

should be made at Masajid and Islamic Centres, particularly during Jumah. 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 recommends that the Local Associations coordinate the fund raising at regional level and deposit the money raised into the abovementioned account. When depositing the money, please indicate that it is for the Pakistani Relief Fund.

May Allah SWT reward you for your charitable acts.

DR ANWAR GHANI  
PRESIDENT

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## Unicef Appeals For US\$47.3 Million To Help Pakistan Flood Victims

DUBAI, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Unicef is appealing for US\$47.3 million to fund its relief operations for millions of flood victims in Pakistan, including an estimated 1.4 million children.

Its representative in Pakistan, Martin Mogwanja, said the organisation was ramping up its relief operations in the country.

He said that many of the victims were children who were especially vulnerable to disease and the current harsh conditions.

"They need water, medicine, food and shelter urgently. Our immediate priority is to reach all those hit by the flooding, especially those in the most remote areas," he said, according to the Unicef website.

Pakistan is facing the worst flooding in more than 80 years.

Some four million people are reported to have been affected by heavy monsoon rains.

Unicef said its relief operations would concentrate on the critical areas of water and sanitation, health, nutrition, education and child protection.

The largest part of the operation is the provision of water and sanitation systems to head off the outbreak of diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera, especially deadly to children.

Unicef said it was already providing clean drinking water to over half a million people and would bring in emergency food rations and emergency health kits. -- BERNAMA

**"They need water, medicine, food and shelter urgently. Our immediate priority is to reach all those hit by the flooding, especially those in the most remote areas," Unicef.**